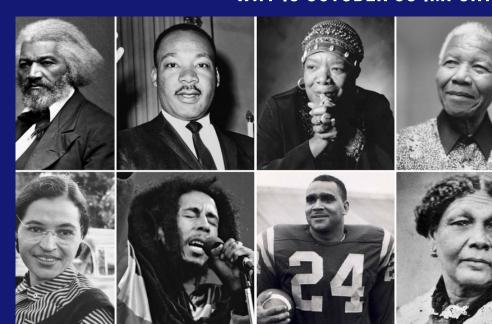




THE AGE OF CHANGE

WHY IS OCTOBER SO IMPORTANT?



hilst October is often associated with falling leaves, pumpkin spice and spooky season, the 1st of October also signifies the beginning of a month dedicated to celebrating Black History. Widely regarded as one of the most pertinent cultural movements of recent history, the Black Lives Matter Movement gained increased media traction in the spring of 2020 upon the coldblooded murder of George Floyd. Two years on, and whilst significant progress has been made, the impacts of prejudice and discrimination still prevail, alongside the pernicious and deeply injurious effects of generations of institutionalised racism. This month, perhaps more so than any, serves as an opportunity for the black community to talk, and for the rest of society to listen.

Whilst it may seem like Black History has been talked about sufficiently, that is simply not true; just because you don't experience racial violence, doesn't mean it isn't occurring in our own towns and communities. As an opportunity to appreciate the black community, there are many things that each of us can be doing this month.

Originating in the USA in 1969 and proposed by black educators at the Kent State University, the first ever Black History Month was celebrated in 1970, a decade after the Civil Rights Movement. Perhaps the most important aspect of this special month is giving black people the ability and space to share their personal stories, as well as seeking to educate those in society who haven't experienced it themselves.

Black history month is not a predecessor for

Christmas nor is it an excuse to monetise the phrase "BLM" (as many big businesses do). October is predominantly a month of accepting that we all play a role in racism, and allowing people of colour to encourage change in our own behaviour.



Use the following month to take a hard look at our society, and to make the small-scale changes we'd hope to see globally.

Below is a list of some things you can do to support the black community this month and every month:

- · Support black-owned businesses where possible
- · Educate yourself by reading some books by authors of colour e.g 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo or 'The Vanishing Half' by **Brit Bennett**

·Immerse yourself in some cultural celebrations (London has an array of different activities to take part in https://www.blackhistorymonth. org.uk/listings/region/greater-london/)

Aoife Judge

#TRUECRIME

Sexuality and race over decades have become concepts so categorised, viewed as two separate issues that it makes the infamous case of Jeffrey Dahmer so complex, causing uproar for black and queer communities throughout the US.

Jeffrey Dahmer, whose extensive criminal record spanned from 1978-1991, mercilessly killed 16 men and boys-typically queer and black. Many of his later murders becoming increasingly more harrowing, involving necrophilia, cannibalism and bodily preservation.



His final victim- the survivor

On July 22 1991, Jeffrey Dahmer set out for his final attack. Under the guise of "taking pictures", Dahmer invited 32-year-old Tracy Edwards back to his apartment, claiming to be a professional photographer and offering Tracy \$100. Immediately put off by the rancid smell and horrifying mess of Dahmer's apartment, Tracy made his attempt to leave; turning to the door only to be met by a pair of handcuffs around his wrist. This was the final error Dahmer would make, he only managed to cuff one wrist! Forced to endure four hours with his soon-to-be-murderer Edwards build up trust, until he was able to make his escape by asking to use the bathroom. He took the opportunity to punch Dahmer in the face and flee for his life.

From there Edwards was able to run out the front door and at 11:30pm, with the clock ticking. Tracy Edwards, fortuitously flagged down two Milwaukee police officers: Robert Rauth and Rolf Mueller. The two officers

noticed that Edwards had been handcuffed. However, after their attempts failed to open them up, Edwards agreed to go with the officers back to Dahmer's apartment, returning to the place where he fought for his life in the hopes that law would be on his side. Unlike Dahmer's past victims who were disregarded time and time again. It was in this moment where the horror unfolded; police finding an extensive collection of photographs depicting Dahmer's heinous crimes, bodies at various stages of dismemberment. Edwards claiming: "He underestimated me. God sent me there to take care of the situation."

The aftermath

One of the factors that causes fascination with Dahmer, aside from the cannibalism and necrophilia, arises from the notion that there were elements of racism and homophobia surrounding every part of Dahmer's life, as well as in the subsequent revelation of his murders. The coverage of Dahmer's case opened a new perspective for the world, it stressed his homosexuality in a way the other killers were never examined, expressing his homosexuality as the reason he killed. This ignorance from the media created rage in a whole new form for the LGBT society.

Alice Hannan

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN



The allusive history of Halloween is one much speculated upon, however, below the surface, a definitive history of the year's scariest event can be uncovered.

Halloween is recognised to have begun with Celtic harvest festivals, possessing pagan roots and first being celebrated in Gaelic communities. These Celtic festivals consisted of aptly spooky activities, including the lighting of bonfires and the donning of costumes to ward off ghosts, before later shifting to incorporate the traditions of a then new Catholic holiday- All Saints Day. These traditions originate from the Celtic belief that, on October 31st, the borders between the worlds of the living and the dead become blurred, causing trouble to crops as well as making it easier for the Druids to predict the future.

Over time, the way in which we celebrate Halloween has shifted slightly away from being a 'sacrificing animals' event thanks, in part, to the arrival of Halloween in North America. There, Halloween was used as an opportunity to talk of the dead and tell fortunes as a community, largely inspiring the community spirit that the event is now known to promote.



However, North America is also to blame for discouraging any excessively frightening activities to take place on Halloween, meaning that, as the early 1900s approached, the day slowly lost the superstitions that had once been so closely tied to it. As the world progressed into the mid-1900s, Halloween quickly became a more secular holiday targeted towards the young, with the influence of this shift still incredibly prevalent in Halloween celebrations today.

Whilst the intentions behind Halloween have greatly evolved over the centuries, the ghoulish and eerie energy of the day still lurks in the background...

Zoe Mudd

Michael Kiwanuka - a joyous noise

Laced with adventurous textures and warm, unwavering lyricism comes Michael Kiwanuka, bearing a host of awards (Grammy Nomination, Mercury Prize) and an international indie hit in 'Cold Little Heart' after the now-renowned vocals were selected as the theme song for HBO's hit series 'Big Little Lies'. Michael was born to Ugandan parents who fled from Idi Amin's regime, settling in Muswell Hill in North London.



It is Kiwanuka's blend of prog-rock and soul and his proud individualism that defines his music - it is at once both joyous and emotionally-stricken, with softly woven lyrics and the unmistakable hum of electric guitar backing in almost every song. In the first track of Kiwanuka titled You Ain't The Problem, the audible celebration of his culture and heritage is found in the West African influence and modernised take on soulful tone. To begin the the album with such an exuberant tribute to his identity makes him a solid role model for young black musicians facing adversity from a still very white-oriented industry.



Though the album as a whole is a colorful aural portrait of Kiwanuka's musical diversity, standout single 'Hero' pays incredible homage to Fred Hampton, late president of the Chicago division of the Black Panther party. Beginning with 'I won't change my name/no matter what they call me' the song plays as a haunted acoustic before transcending into a

spiral of electric guitar and motif'Am I a hero? Am I a hero now?' reverberating through the song until it's very end.

Kiwanuka's influences are also evident in his music, managing to accommodate both a slight folk twist of Bill Withers to the psychedelic guitars and visuals of Pink Floyd, particularly in the lengthier pieces where ample time is given to experiment with a variety of genres.

Whilst his rise to fame has been growing exponentially with his songwriting development, bouncing between 1970s soul to modern R&B, Michael Kiwanuka has not yet risen to a deserving level of fame, which makes it all the more anticipated what he will accomplish next.

Olivia Burgess

POET'S CORNER

Excerpt from 'The Hill We Climb' by **Amanda Gorman**

But one thing is certain:

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change, our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.

With every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.

We will rise from the golden hills of the west. We will rise from the wind-swept north-east where our forefathers first realized revolution. We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.

We will rise from the sun-baked south.
We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.
In every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country,
our people, diverse and beautiful, will

our people, diverse and beautiful, will emerge, battered and beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

CRISTINA TROUFA

Cristina Troufa seeks to reflect the internalised world she experiences rather than the external surroundings through her expressive figurative acrylic paintings. Troufa is a Portuguese portrait and figurative artist who works on textured canvas with acrylics, expressively capturing self-reflection within her dynamic and engaging compositions. During these pieces, the "self" consistently features as the muse as a way of expressing the journey of self-understanding and realisation as Troufa explores her personal beliefs regarding, ultimately, the meaning of life.





A key element present in the composition of the paintings is the existence of negative space, removing both time and space, features that are irrelevant in the context of her artwork which aims to represent her internal monologue, not the physical and tangible environment. Not only is atmosphere removed from her work but the negative space bleeds into the figures; perhaps this is a conveyance of the lack of relationship between the self and the physical setting.

Additionally, the frequent use of multiple self-portraits within one piece, interacting with one another is an explicit visual example of the inward conversations and relationship with oneself. The muse can be seen conversing and communicating with herself, exploring her own beliefs and relevance to both the world and life. Her work encourages viewers to dwell on these topics personally and, overall, their perspective on themselves.

Skylar Sebastiano

Curating Your Own Legacy

"Nothing will get in the way of this legacy." Everyone craves confidence but where does one start?

Living in a world where opinions, judgements and beliefs tower over our heads makes it difficult for us to express who we are as individuals. The way in which we present ourselves, from the way we talk to the way we dress is largely restricted by our own self-doubt. We live in a world of 8 billion people. Most of whom don't even know our names, so why should we worry about how people will judge us based off of such trivial things like what we wear.



Going on our phones, scrolling tirelessly through social media and seeing all of our 'friends' with their significant others can make us feel lonely and question our self-worth. At the end of the day, the only person you can devote your time and energy to is yourself. Before entering a relationship with another person, work on being the best version of yourself possible. This will take weeks, months or even years to curate but the person that will always be there by your side is yourself. You are in control of your own happiness and self-love so it is ultimately futile to dwell on what others appear to have.

Like I said... "Nothing will get in the way of this legacy"

Miguel Caprio

INCANDESCENT ADOLESCENT

Arctic Monkeys are finally back on tour after four years. Enraged fans complain of long queues and multiple website crashes as they scramble to secure their place to watch the returning band perform. Fans have begun to complain, saying that they were logging on to

buy their tickets, but due to high demand they became unavailable within mere seconds. This then resulted in some fans pre-ordering their newest album 'The Car' in order to access tickets. Having been directed back to the notoriously bad Ticketmaster page, they discovered that standing tickets plus 'The Car' CD bundle had extortionate prices, standing tickets costing upwards of £79 with the additional £10 for the CD. Fans also noticed the large disparity between ticket prices some of which reaching ridiculous highs of £283 on resale websites such as Viagogo. Furthermore, those who waited in (online) gueues since the crack of dawn were deeply disappointed as it seemed that they were still unable to get tickets due to the sheer magnitude of Alex Turner's fan base. Standing tickets, as a result of being the most popular, make the tickets more expensive. Whilst many fans bet Turner 'looks good on the dancefloor,' more will be out of pocket as a result.

A war is raging between self-proclaimed "OG fans" and those who have listened to approximately one song as they battle (potentially to the death) for front row tickets to Turner's 'dancing shoes.'



Although some fans were annoyed by the nightmarish situation, some decided to poke fun at it and said that the group should change the name of their new upcoming album from 'The Car' to 'The Queue.'

Jess Gannon





