



125min - Japanese, Norwegian Twenty years ago, on July 20, 2001, a film that would become one of the most celebrated animated movies of all time hit theaters in Japan. Directed by Hayao Miyazaki and produced by Studio Ghibli, Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi, titled Spirited Away in English, would leave an indelible mark on animation in the 21st century. The movie arrived at a time when animation was widely perceived as a genre solely for children, and when cultural differences often became barriers to the global distribution of animated works. Spirited Away shattered preconceived notions about the art form and also proved that, as a film created in Japanese with elements of Japanese folklore central to its core, it could resonate deeply with audiences around the world. The story follows an ordinary 10-year-old girl, Chihiro, as she arrives at a deserted theme park that turns out to be a realm of gods and spirits. After an overeating incident leads her parents to turn into literal pigs, Chihiro must work in a bathhouse that serves otherworldly customers in order to survive and find a way to return home. Imaginative and inspired, Spirited Away immerses the viewer in a fantastical world that at once astounds and alarms. Many of the deities are based on figures in Japanese folklore, and part of the Japanese title itself, kamikakushi, refers to the concept of disappearance from being taken away by gods. The story is also a tale of resilience and persistence, as Chihiro gradually draws on her inner strength to endure this land where humans are designed to perish. In a 2001 interview with Animage, Miyazaki said he had an intended audience in mind for the film. "We have made [My Neighbor] Totoro, which was for small children, Laputa, in which a boy sets out on a journey, and Kiki's Delivery Service, in which a teenager has to live with herself. We have not made a film for 10-year-old girls, who are in the first stage of their adolescence," he said, as translated by Ryoko Toyama. "I wondered if I could make a movie in which they could be heroines." © 2001 Studio Ghibli - NDDTMSpirited Away would go on to resonate far beyond its target demographic. Immediately upon release, the film broke the opening weekend record in Japan by earning \$13.1 million over three days. It beat previous numbers set by another one of Miyazaki's films, 1997's Princess Mononoke. Spirited Away went on to become Japan's highest-grossing film of all-time, and held the record for 19 years, surpassing \$300 million at the local box office last year after the movie was re-released. (It was eclipsed soon after by Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba the Movie: Mugen Train in December.) . In the years following Spirited Away's premiere, the film traveled widely as it was screened at international film festivals and released theatrically around the world. In 2020, it became available to even more audiences when it entered Netflix's catalog in the U.S. when the platform launched with a Studio Ghibli collection. Two decades later, the story of Chihiro continues to reach new audiences, including through new formats: a stage adaptation of Spirited Away directed by John Caird (Les Misérables) and produced by the Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company Toho, which originally distributed the Miyazaki film in Japanese entertainment company to the Japanese entertai blockbuster to Oscar winner, its U.S. release by Disney following a complicated history between Miyazaki and foreign distributors, and the film's lasting impact on Japanese animation and beyond. The significance of Spirited Away's box office records and awardsSpirited Away's box office records and awardsSpirited Away raked in \$234 million, overtaking Titanic to become Japan's highestgrossing film. Its commercial success helped make animation "a very significant, legitimate film genre in Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Studies" at Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages and author of the chapter "Heart of Japanese Culture. He explains that its popularity had a compounding effect on that of another Studio Ghibli release from four years earlier. "Princess Mononoke was already successful and put animation or anime was more like a niche genre," Yoshioka explainsDr. Rayna Denison, who wrote the chapter "The Global Markets for Anime: Miyazaki Hayao's Spirited Away" in Japanese Cinema: Texts and Contexts and is a senior lecturer at the University of East Anglia, says that while Studio Ghibli films had been growing in Japanese Cinema: Texts and Contexts and is a senior lecturer at the University of East Anglia, says that while Studio released in 1989, Spirited Away was able to reach blockbuster status—surpassing records previously set by movies like E.T. and Jurassic Park. "It's a major shift in the local market proving that films from Japan could be the equivalent of, in blockbuster terms, big Hollywood movies," Denison says. Denison says. acclaim soon followed the film's domestic commercial success. At the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival, Spirited Away was a co-recipient of the Golden Bear, the first animated feature to win the highest prize in the festival's history. In 2003, Spirited Away was awarded Best Animated Feature at the 75th Academy Awards, becoming the firstand to this day, only—non-English-language movie to win the award. "The fact that a non-Western, Japanese animated film would win major awards from two major Western sources was a very big shot in the arm to the Japanese animation industry," says Dr. Susan Napier, author of Miyazakiworld: A Life in Art and a professor at Tufts University. There was also special significance to Spirited Away taking the Oscar win during only the second year after the Best Animated Feature category.) "For so long, cartoons have been seen in the West—America in particular—as kind of childish, vulgar, things that you didn't take seriously, Napier explains. When Spirited Away took home the Academy Award, Napier says, "people were starting to say, wow, what's all this about animation that it's considered a real art form." According to Yoshioka, the Oscar win was hugely important for Miyazaki, Studio Ghibli and Japanese animation more broadly. "It made Japanese animation a more global film genre rather than very niche," he explains, noting that animation was no longer perceived to be content strictly for otaku, a term often used to describe passionate fans of Japanese culture who heavily consume entertainment like anime and manga. Disney's partnership with Studio Ghibli and the complicated history behind itA major component of Spirited Away's global popularity was the partnership between Tokuma Shoten, then the parent company of Studio Ghibli, and Disney. Forged in 1996, the agreement gave Disney the home video rights to a handful of Studio Ghibli films in addition to the theatrical rights for distributing Princess Mononoke outside of Japan. Disney would later acquire the home video and theatrical rights to Spirited Away in North America. But this partnership had a rocky history. Miyazaki was wary of foreign distribution for his films after the director's 1984 movie Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind was infamously edited by Manson International for its U.S. release. A full 22 minutes were cut from the original film, and it was promoted as Warriors of the Wind with posters featuring male characters who
do not appear in the movie. "The distributors edited the film in such a way that it's become almost like a kind of children's adventure story, there's no nuance," says Yoshioka, noting that the movie, which follows the heroine Nausicaä in a post-apocalyptic world, has a layered plot. "The assumption was that American audiences wouldn't understand the storyline, because in the States and in many Western countries, the assumption was that American audiences wouldn't understand the storyline, because in the States and in many Western countries, the assumption was that animation was for children." the U.S. release for Princess Mononoke was in the works, Studio Ghibli producer Toshio Suzuki sent Harvey Weinstein—who led Miramax, which was handling the film's American distribution—a samurai sword with the note, "no cuts." The movie hit U.S. theaters in its uncut form in 1999, but did not perform strongly at the box office—grossing \$2.3 million for the initial release. Napier says it's hard to pinpoint why the film didn't quite catch on. "Maybe at that point people weren't quite ready for it. It was another kind of plot which American audiences tend to expect." By the time of Spirited Away's limited release in the States in 2002, Napier says that Disney was more familiar with Miyazaki as a brand. Another major difference from Princess Mononoke was that Pixar's John Lasseter, who had long been a fan of the Japanese director, was at the helm of Spirited Away's distribution and English adaptation efforts. "That kind of industrial support from people in America that were, at the time, very well respected in the animation world was really important to raising Miyazaki's profile, raising the profile of Studio Ghibli," Denison says. Lasseter and Disney boosted Spirited Away's visibility in America by heavily campaigning for the film to be considered for the Academy Awards, including with a full-page advertisement in Variety. "They were very, very careful to push the film to the foreground to keep it in everybody's minds," she says. "And I think, in no small part, that's one of the reasons it succeeded and won the Best Animated Feature." A "For Your Consideration" ad of "Spirited Away" from DisneyDisneyDrawing in \$10 million, the film did not see huge success in U.S. theaters. But Yoshioka says that, in contrast to Princess Mononoke, it was the first Studio Ghibli movie to reach a broader American audience. It also attracted significant viewership beyond the U.S. grossing around \$6 million in France, for instance, and more than \$11 millio in South Korea. How Spirited Away influenced animated Feature, it's also the only hand-drawn animated film to receive the honor. Nearly all of the other winners are computer-animated film to receive the honor. Nearly all of the other winners are computer-animated film to receive the honor. happening in Japanese animation, and more people are using computers rather than traditional two-dimensional, cel-based animation, "Denison says, referring to the technique in which every frame is drawn by hand. The film incorporated computer animation, "Denison says, referring to the technique in which every frame is drawn by hand. The film incorporated computer animation, but sparingly. "As a viewer, it's very subtle and nicely done. It still looks like 2-D, more traditional film animation," says Dr. Mari Nakamura, a lecturer of modern Japanese studies and international relations at Leiden University. "This is very characteristic of Japanese animation in general—how to have a good balance between 2-D and 3-D." And while many studios have left behind two-dimensional animation over the decades, the style has remained core to Studio Ghibli's style. In an interview with Entertainment Weekly last May, Studio Ghibli's Suzuki talked about the hand-drawing process for Miyazaki's upcoming film, How Do You Live? "We have 60 animators, but we are only able to come up with one minute of animation in a month," he said. "That means 12 months a year, you get 12 minutes worth of movie." It's a painstaking process, but one that has undeniably shaped the singular animation aesthetic of Miyazaki films. There is, indeed, plenty to think about in Spirited Away for audiences of all ages. Napier says that in addition to the aesthetic impact of the film, there has also been a psychological one. "This willingness to see children in a dark and scary world, the possibilities of children having to confront dark and scary things on their own," Napier says, "A number of an important motif in Japanese animation." She draws similarities between Spirited Away and Makoto Shinkai's 2016 film Your Name—Japan's fifth highest-grossing movie of all time—which tells the story of two high school students, one boy and one girl, mysteriously swapping bodies. "Both stories, although they're very different, really are about young people confronting very strange, destabilized worlds," Napier says. Like Chihiro, whose name is taken away by the sorceress Yubaba and becomes "Sen" as she begins work in the bathhouse, the characters Taki and Mitsuha in Your Name lose their identities through the body switches. Napier hypothesizes that these themes relating to uncertainty are connected to a dominant feeling in the 21st century of children being more on their own and feeling at a loss. "I think one reason why these films are so popular is that they do recognize and acknowledge that the world can be scary, and that we don't always know what's going to happen to us," Napier adds. Outside of Japan, Miyazaki has inspired filmmakers from Wes Anderson to Guillermo del Toro. In the case of the latter, Napier says that there are clear similarities between Spirited Away and del Toro's 2006 live-action fantasy Pan's Labyrinth. That movie's main character, 10-year-old Ofelia, is taken to the countryside to a new home like Chihiro was. Napier describes a scene in Pan's Labyrinth's opening sequence, in which Ofelia gets out of the car and enters the forest, as a direct homage to Spirited Away. "She sees a kind of stone image that is so overtly similar to an early scene in Spirited Away, Pixar's Lasseter—who directed films including Toy Story, as a direct homage to Spirited Away." Cars and A Bug's Life and in 2018 left the company after allegations of sexual misconduct—has long spoken of his admiration for Miyazaki's works. In Toy Story 3, the character of Totoro even makes a cameo as a plushie. Napier points to a later Pixar film that she thinks "really clearly shows influences from Spirited Away": the 2015 movie Inside Out. "It's about a young girl who is, as with Spirited Away, leaving her old home for a new one," Napier says. "She's being confronted by a variety of challenges and emotions." Napier adds that it's another example of a female protagonist carrying the film, something that has only become slightly more prevalent in the last decade after Pixar's history of centering male protagonists. Spirited Away embaced as a classic, 20 years laterAs Denison puts it, "This is a film made by a master animation really does set it apart from everything else around it. Nobody else was making films that looked like this or that were as inventive as this was at this time."To Yoshioka, one reason why Spirited Away continues to be adored two decades after its release is its ambiguous nature. "It's not entirely clear when watching for the first time what the story is about," he says, adding that earlier Miyazaki films often had clearer themes. Spirited Away can be interpreted in numerous ways by the viewer. "This sort of elastic or enigmatic feature is key for the film to be loved as a classic," he says. In this way, even 20 years on, Spirited Away is a movie that can be watched and intricately designed visuals washing over you with each new viewing. Welcome to our Colossus Movie Guide for Spirited Away. This guide contains everything you need to understand the film. Dive into our detailed library of content, covering key aspects of the movie. We encourage your comments to help us create the best possible guide. frightening and liberating. As a coming-of-age movie, it captures the essence of the universal transformative journey, not as a mere physical relocation but as a voyage of personal evolution. The film centers around young Chihiro, a modern-day Alice in her own labyrinthine Wonderland, as she grapples with her own transition from child to adolescent The spirit world that traps her is a metaphorical maze of her nascent adulthood, filled with symbols that echo realities she has yet to fully comprehend. This is essentially the meaning of the analytical storytelling term defamiliarization: make the incredibly familiar incredibly unfamiliar. By doing so, you can highlight the aspects of situations that heighten our awareness and emotions. While fear, loneliness, and bewildering chaos pervade her sphere, Spirited Away balances the value of resourcefulness and courage in the face of adversity. Chihiro, initially a symbol of youthful naiveté, gradually matures into an embodiment of moral strength and determination, providing a model for navigating the complex transition of growing up. Concurrently, the film underscores the concept of identity, portrayed through Chihiro's name change to Sen, which becomes part of an ongoing struggle for self-recognition and preservation in a world that persistently seeks to erase personal identities. While traversing this otherworldly realm, the true battle lies in holding onto oneself. Movie Guide table of contents Chihiro Ogino/Sen - Rumi Hiiragi Haku - Miyu Irino Yubaba - Mari Natsuki Zeniba -Takashi Naito Yūko Ogino - Yasuko Sawaguchi Chichiyaku - Tsunehiko Kamijō Aniyaku - Takehiko Ono Kamaji - Bunta Sugawara Hayao Miyazaki - Writer and director Like many titles, Spirited Away has both a literal and symbolic meaning. The literal interpretation is simple: we witness Chihiro, a young girl, being whisked away to an unknown land. Here,
she is forced to fend for yourself without the help of her parents. It comes at a time when Chihiro is scared of moving to a new town with her family and having to make new friends. But the movie ups the ante by forcing Chihiro to make that journey in a fantastical world with absurd rules. Most Studio Ghibli films are fantastic at creating metaphors for coming-of-age experiences. But Spirited Away, a film that fittingly won an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and at one time was the highest-grossing film in Japanese history, might be the most spectacular example of defamiliarization—a storytelling technique that focuses on making the unfamiliar feel very familiar. forces have brought Chihiro to an unknown land that resembles a twisted version real world. The rules are similar vet contorted, and the pressures are amplified. As she matures from a sheltered child this film. Kamikakushi is a Japanese term that translates literally to "hidden by spirits" or "spirited away." It's derived from "kami" which means "fidden." In the traditional Japanese context, this term refers to the phenomenon of people or things mysteriously disappearing, often attributed to the actions of supernatural entities or spirits. This term is reflected in the title of Spirited Away-aka Sen to Chihiro's Spiriting Away." The word "spirit" is where we can begin to peel back the profound layers of this film. Because it isn't just Chihiro's physical body that travels away from the human world to this strange abandoned theme park—it's her inner being, her essence, her very soul. When you're young, life passes by at 100 miles an hour. We're often playing catch-up and trying to keep in step with each passing moment. If we think about the future, we might think about getting old or accruing wealth. We are taught how to best position ourselves to find a job or find love. But absolutely nothing can prepare us for the spiritual journey we all inevitably face. That can feel as crazy and daunting as what Chihiro undergoes in the film: a spiritual metamorphosis. It's a similar formula used by other coming-of-age films, but Spirited Away focuses purely on her metaphysical transformation. Fittingly, Chihiro is given a new name in this world, Sen. She is stripped of her mortal and mundane identity and forced to solely focus on her spiritual growth. She is given a fresh start from the beginning, a blank slate, and tasked with constructing a person who has the power and blossom in this strange new land, she must reflect on the transient nature of our existence. She must accept the inevitability of change. She must learn to be resilient in facing the ceaseless flux of life. At the end of the movie when Chihiro leaves the spirit realm and returns to her parents, she has experienced a spiritual awakening. She is calmer, more empathetic, more compassionate, and mentally prepared for the obstacles of life. Her spirit goes away troubled, but comes back peaceful. As discussed in the title section, Chihiro's physical body isn't just whisked away to a strange land—her spirit's name is Sen. And Chihiro is completely reliant on Sen in order to survive this scary world. She must look to Sen to be strong when she feels weak, to show bravery when she's scared, to resilient when she believes there's no way to win. People who cannot overcome their anxieties and deal with the real world will forever feel stagnant or lost. But Chihiro's persistence in the face of impossible odds displays her transformation from scared and apprehensive child to courageous and confident young woman. Sen is her guide on that journey. Essentially, what we witness is Chihiro's spirit to forge ahead. If her spirit is weak, they rarely defamiliarize the scenario by literally removing one's spirit from our mortal realm. In this new world, Chihiro is entirely reliant on her spirit to forge ahead. If her spirit is weak, then she is weak. But as Chihiro's spirit grows and deepens, her tenacity and willpower break new grounds. As Sen develops, Chihiro watches and learns and strengthens, and her understanding of the world expands. This is the energy she brings back to the real world when she returns to her parents at the end of the movie. She's no longer scared about moving to a new town because she is spiritually centered. Chihiro's spiritually centered. Chihiro's spiritually centered about moving to a new town because she is spiritually centered. narrative that might go unnoticed by those unfamiliar with Japanese traditions. Let's discuss three important facets that will enhance your understanding of the film: Kami, or spirits, forms the fundamental structure of the narrative, shaping the world Chihiro finds herself in. From the very beginning, when Chihiro's family stumbles upon what seems to be an abandoned amusement park, we are actually witnessing a realm deeply rooted in the swamp monster to No-Face-dwell and are revered. The bathhouse, for example is populated by a variety of these Kami, each representing different elements and aspects of nature. They take on myriad forms, from the mysterious No-Face to the radish spirit and the many other unusual patrons of Yubaba's bathhouse. These spirits—which at first seem like monsters to Chihiro—symbolize the profound Shinto reverence for all aspects of nature, highlighting the belief that every natural element, object, or concept houses a divine spirit. Spirited Away presents the concept of Kami not as distant, superior beings, but as entities that exist within the same realm as humans, sharing in their joys and struggles. They display human-like emotions and traits, blurring the lines between the mortal and the divine. aligns with the Shinto philosophy that views the spiritual and physical worlds as interconnected rather than separate. For instance, take the river as a child, underline the protective nature often attributed to Kami in Shinto beliefs. In Spirited Away, the concept of Kami provides a spiritual framework for the narrative. It plays a critical role in shaping the setting, characters, and the themes, infusing the film with a sense of spirituality and natural reverence intrinsic to Japanese culture. The principle of Mottainai, deeply ingrained in Japanese culture, embodies a sense of regret towards waste, valuing the complete utilization of an object or resource. In Spirited Away, this concept emphasizes a sense of respect for resources and a critique of wasteful behaviors. The theme of Mottainai is most evident in the character of the Stink Spirit, who visits the bathhouse. What initially appears as a disgusting filthy creature is revealed to be a river spirit, polluted and choked by waste, a vivid symbol of environmental degradation caused by human negligence and pollution, it is a direct commentary on our wasteful practices. This scene emphasizes the Mottainai principle by showcasing the harmful effects of not valuing and preserving our resources, particularly natural ones. This theme is also reflected in the transformation of Chihiro's parents into pigs after gorging themselves on food in the deserted amusement park. manifests the concept of Mottainai by demonstrating the potential consequences of greed and wastefulness. By incorporating the principle of Mottainai into its narrative, Spirited Away offers a poignant critique of excessive consumption and wastefulness. The principle of On, a key tenet of Japanese ethics that signifies a sense of moral indebtedness, plays a significant role in the character development and narrative progression of Spirited Away. It is through the lens of On that we can appreciate Chihiro's actions and motivations throughout the movie. Chihiro's journey to rescue her parents is initiated and motivated by the concept of On. Haku, the river spirit, helps Chihiro survive in the spirit world when she first arrives, offering her food from the spirit world to prevent her from disappearing. This act of kindness creates a sense of On in Chihiro. She feels a deep sense of obligation towards Haku and, as the film progresses, her actions reflect her endeavor to repay this debt. She risks her own safety to get the medicinal herb to heal Haku, and later, she helps Haku remember his true name, thus freeing him from the witch Yubaba's control. Moreover, Chihiro's treatment of No-Face also resonates with the concept of On. Even though No-Face is an outsider, feared and eventually despised by the bathhouse inhabitants, Chihiro consistently treats him with kindness. When No-Face spirals into a destructive rampage, it is Chihiro who offers him help, primarily motivated by the kindness and courage. It is a testament to the fact that in a world undergoing constant transformation, the values of gratitude, reciprocity, and responsibility hold steadfast. No-Face is rampantly consuming large quantities of food and begins to devour the workers as well. Up in the penthouse, a hidden shikigami transforms into Zeniba, Yubaba's baby to be set a set a set a set a set a se boy, Boh, into a tiny mouse. Chihiro, Haku, and Boh tumble into the boiler room, where Chihiro gives Haku a piece of dumpling that will make No-Face vomit. This leads to Haku throwing up the stolen seal, lifting the lethal curse off him. Determined to return the seal and apologize to Zeniba, Chihiro decides to take Boh along. She faces a bloated No-Face, who confesses his intense loneliness. Chihiro gives No-Face the remaining dumpling, leading him to follow her out of the bathhouse while slowly expelling all he had consumed. Lin guides Chihiro to visit Zeniba's house at Swamp Bottom, and despite Lin's objections, Chihiro encourages No-Face to tag along. Accompanied by the bathhouse while slowly expelling all he had consumed. No-Face and Boh, Chihiro travels using tickets provided by Kamaji. Meanwhile, Yubaba orders the execution of Chihiro's parents, but Haku discloses Boh's absence. In exchange for bringing back Boh, Haku proposes a deal for the release of Chihiro
can successfully accomplish a last challenge. Chihiro visits Zeniba, who creates a magical hairband for her. Haku, in his dragon form, appears, and together with Chihiro realizes Haku's true identity as the spirit of the Kohaku River. Upon arrival, Chihiro realizes Haku's true identity as the spirit of the Kohaku River. claiming that none of the pigs are her parents, who have no memory of events post the initial restaurant visit. The relationship between Chihiro and No-Face evolves from initial fear and misunderstanding to a deeper mutual respect and empathy. This evolution reflects the personal growth Chihiro experiences throughout the story. No-Face initially appears as a silent, mysterious figure who is neither harmful nor particularly helpful. As the narrative progresses, No-Face becomes more dangerous and unpredictable, driven by loneliness, a desire for companionship, and there harmful nor particularly helpful. misguided belief that he can buy affection and attention through consumption and gift-giving. These attributes can be seen as a reflection of unchecked desire, consumerism, and the problems they can create. Chihiro's interactions with No-Face are key in her maturation process. While she initially fears him due to his alien nature, she does not reject him outright. Instead, she shows him kindness, giving him the attention he craves. When No-Face's consumption becomes destructive, it is Chihiro who takes responsibility, feeds him the emetic dumpling, and decisiveness in handling No-Face indicate her growth from a timid, scared child to a wise, brave young woman. In terms of Shinto beliefs, No-Face can be viewed through the lens of Kami (a concept we discussed in the themes section), a term that describes the spirits or phenomena that are worshiped in the religion. Kami can be elements of the landscape, forces of nature, or spirits of the deceased, among others. They are not inherently good or evil but can bring fortune or disaster depending on how they are treated with this concept. He is sensitive to the environment and the behaviors of those around him, taking on the greed and gluttony prevalent in the bathhouse. When treated with kindness and respect by Chihiro, however, he calms down and becomes less destructive. This dynamic mirrors the Shinto belief that maintaining a respectful and balanced relationship with Kami is crucial for harmony. Thus, No-Face's role underscores one of the major themes of the film: that actions have consequences, and treating others with kindness and respect—regardless of who they are or how they appear—is a sign of maturity and wisdom. This understanding is a key part of Chihiro's personal growth and why she's ready for Yubaba's final test. Chihiro and Haku's relationship in Spirited Away is crucial to Chihiro's transformation and self-discovery, representing her progression from dependence to interdependence, and mirroring her journey towards self-empowerment and maturity. When she remembers Haku's true identity as the Kohaku River, it's representative of her spiritual growth and brings resolution to several of the film's themes. Initially, Haku appears as Chihiro's guide, protector, and mentor in the spirit world. He helps her navigate the initially overwhelming world of the bathhouse, instructing her to her tasks, and providing comfort in a scary, unknown world. This dynamic represents Chihiro's initial state of dependence and lack of self-confidence. However, as the story unfolds, Chihiro grows in courage and determination. She begins to take initiative and responsibility for her actions, and this transformation is exemplified in her relationship with Haku. When Haku is cursed and falls into a near-death state, Chihiro becomes his protector, showing initiative and bravery to save him. She takes a perilous journey to Zeniba to return the stolen magical seal, and feeds Haku the medicine that ultimately saves him. This shift signifies Chihiro's progression from a dependent child to a young woman capable of making her own decisions and taking care of others. symbolizes her newfound intuition and spiritual growth, showing her ability to see beyond the surface and perceive the deeper truth. In the film, Haku had forgotten his true name and was under Yubaba's control because of it. The theme of names and identity is a strong motif in the film, as losing one's name equates to losing one's sense of self, and thus, losing freedom. For Haku, being bound to Yubaba symbolizes this loss of personal identity and freedom. Chihiro, in her process of self-discovery and growth, realizes Haku in the spirit world, she has forgotten this incident. It's only when she sees Haku in his dragon form, injured and near-death, that this memory resurfaces. In a moment of intuitive clarity, she remembers not only the incident but also the name of the river: Kohaku. Recognizing this name as Haku's true name, she is able to break the spell over him. The significance of this memory is multifold. Firstly, it represents the deep, forgotten connection between Chihiro's life, and Haku. The Kohaku River, which saved Chihiro's life, and Haku, who guides and protects her in the spirit world, are one and the same. in the spirit world. Secondly, this memory reflects Chihiro's growth and her increasing spiritual sensitivity. Her ability to recall this memory is a crucial moment signifies her heightened intuition and empathy, the result of her experiences and growth throughout her journey. Lastly, the revelation of Haku's true identity through this memory is instrumental in resolving the movie's central themes of identity, memory, and freedom. By helping Haku remember his true identity, Chihiro asserts the power of selfhood against forces of control and manipulation (as represented by Yubaba), underscoring the importance of remembering one's roots and the power of names. Yubaba's final test is indicative of Chihiro's growth throughout the film. At the beginning of the story, Chihiro was a fearful and reliant child who clung to her parents. As she navigates the spirit world, she gains independence, resourcefulness, and intuition. Her assertion that none of the pigs are her parents showcases her confidence and her developed intuitive understanding, qualities that she lacked at the beginning of her journey. This test also brings resolution to the movie's key themes. The theme of identity and selfhood is illustrated here as Chihiro displays her newfound wisdom and maturity. Despite Yubaba's attempt to confuse her, Chihiro stands her ground, asserting her own understanding of her parents' identity. The theme of love, specifically filial love, is evident in this scene as well. Chihiro's unwavering determination to save her parents, despite all odds, reflects her deep love and concern for them. Lastly, the theme of freedom but also the release of her parents. This act symbolizes her triumph over the forces (Yubaba) that seek to control and manipulate others by erasing their identities. With all this context, the very ending of the movie is incredibly satisfying emotionally. When they return to their car, the parents are bewildered that its covered in leaves and branches—a sign that several days (and perhaps weeks) have passed. The parents are consumed by the situation, which seems fairly menial and meaningless given the epic journey Chihiro's spiritual growth: she has met strange and fascinating people, she has broadened her emotional intelligence, and she has grown more compassionate and thoughtful. She seems fairly centered in this moment. As her parents discuss the vehicle, she simply stares back at the tunnel where her journey began. The father calls to Chihiro, "We're off, Chihiro." Then the mother, "Chihiro! Hurry up!" There's something so beautiful about their call, as they have no idea what Chihiro has just gone through. For them, it's simple: it's time to go; we need to hurry. But Chihiro is leaving this fantastical land where she learned to remain still, to slow down and appreciate the world around her. It was in this mental state that she gained confidence and strength. She has experienced an intense emotional journey that's for her and her alone—but that doesn't mean the world stops. It is time to go. She does need to move on with her life. And you fully believe that in this new town, she'll be ready to for the next stage of her growth, her maturation, her evolution. She may be leaving this place, but it will forever remain with her. Spiritually. In Spirited Away, names are crucial to the identities of characters. When Yubaba takes away Chihiro's identity and freedom. When Haku forgets his name, he becomes Yubaba's servant, unable to break free. Chihiro's identity and freedom. When Haku's is a journey of reclaiming their identities. The restoration of their true names represents personal freedom, self-discovery, and independence. It shows the power of remembering one's roots and selfhood against forces of manipulation and control. Environmentalism, though not a direct motif, subtly permeates throughout the film and is closely linked to several of its themes. This motif aligns with director Hayao Miyazaki's known advocacy for environmental motifs is the polluted and full of sludge that the bathhouse workers mistake it is so polluted and full of sludge that the bathhouse workers mistake it is so polluted and full of sludge that the bathhouse workers mistake it is so polluted and full of sludge that the bathhouse. for a stink spirit. Chihiro, through patience and courage, removes a massive amount of trash from the spirit, revealing its true form: a clean and serene river god. This sequence is a powerful commentary on the impact of pollution on natural resources, illustrating how human disregard for the environment can corrupt and disguise the true beauty of nature. It's only through conscious effort and respect for the environment that we can restore its purity. Haku's identity as the spirit of the Kohaku
River, which has been filled in and replaced by apartments, further emphasizes this motif. Haku's loss of home due to human development reflects real-world issues of environmental destruction for urban expansion. The film heavily features the theme of greed and gluttony. Chihiro's parents are transformed into pigs due to their gluttonous consumption of food from the spirit world. No-Face's rampage in the bathhouse is driven by his desire to consume everything. They highlight the destructive consequences of greed and the importance of self-control and moderation. The bond between Chihiro's interactions with other characters like Lin, Kamaji, and No-Face, demonstrate the significance of friendship and mutual assistance. The concept of On-a sense of reciprocal obligationplays out in these relationships. Chihiro's willingness to help others even in dire circumstances underscores the importance of kindness, empathy, and reciprocal respect in building and maintaining relationships. Chihiro's journey from a frightened and dependent child to a resourceful, brave, empathetic young woman is central to the narrative. Her experiences in the spirit world force her to adapt, think on her feet, and act courageously. This motif of transformation is echoed in other characters too: Haku transformations signify personal growth, adaptation, and the inherent potential for change within all beings. No-Face is a spirit character who wears a mask and is initially silent. No-Face's silence and masked identity represent its lack of self and purpose, which it attempts to fill by consuming others to gain acceptance. This becomes an important moment of growth for Chihiro, as she recognizes No-Face's pain and displays empathy by treating it with respect. Chihiro herself felt out of place in this world and needed time to find her voice, so she forms a natural relationship with No-Face. The act of Chihiro remembering Haku's true name and identity as the Kohaku River symbolizes the power of genuine connection and memory in maintaining one's self in a world that tries to erase it. In the ending section, we discussed that by discovering Haku's true identity, Chihiro is able to recall a forgotten memory and reconnect with a lost part of her inner self. As a child, she had fallen into the Kohaku River, and the spirit of the river, Haku, saved her. Their reconnection here serves as a metaphor for Chihiro's kinship with something spiritual that transcends her mortal body. In the context of Spirited Away, names hold power and are tied to one's identity and freedom. By remembering Haku's real name, Chihiro's kinship with something spiritual that transcends her mortal body. In the context of Spirited Away, names hold power and are tied to one's identity and freedom. By remembering Haku's real name, Chihiro's kinship with something spiritual that transcends her mortal body. of liberation and the significance of personal identities. Furthermore, this moment showcases Chihiro's maturity and ability to perceive the truth beneath illusion and deceit. Securing a job in the spirit world. In the spirit world, everything, including existence, is transactional. Without a job, she would fade away and be incapable of rescuing her parents. Her employment symbolizes her stepping into the responsibilities and complexities of the adult world, underscoring the film's theme of growth and maturity. Moreover, the job provides her with an opportunity to gain the respect and trust of the bathhouse's inhabitants, crucial for her journey. Chihiro's human identity is perceived as a threat in the spirit world. Her scent as a human is detectable and alarming to spirits, making her a target of hostility and suspicion. Hiding her human identity reinforces the themes of self-preservation and adaptation in unfamiliar surroundings, mirroring the challenges of transitioning to adulthouse, filled with spirits driven by their own avarice, fuels No-Face's consumption. Unable to handle these desires, it loses control, resulting in a destructive rampage. This event highlights the theme of materialism and its potential to harm individuals and communities. Have more unanswered guestions about Spirited Away? Are there themes or motifs we missed? Is there more to explain about the ending? Please post your questions and thoughts in the comments section! We'll do our best to address every one of them. If we like what you have to say, you could become part of our movie guide! Often hailed as one of the greatest animated films of all time, Spirited Away captured the hearts of a multitude of fans from across the globe with its beautiful story, unforgettable music and unique characters. As great as Spirited Away is, the first installment needs a sequel. Spirited Away undoubtedly checks almost every box -- but that doesn't mean it's without flaws, however minuscule they may be. amazingly written characters and there are those that pull them into a world of vibrance and beauty. In astounding fashion, Spirited Away is able to do both of those things very well -- and at the same time, do one of them very poorly. The bathhouse scenes are so visually pleasing, along with the grotesque pig transformation Chihiro's parents undergo whilst eating the appetizing festival feast. This is a film that has some astonishing settings, but it really doesn't explore the world of the spirits are seen exiting the ferry and preparing to cross over the red bridge, known as Keiun-Bashi. It's almost as if the spirits are on a sort of vacation or something, seemingly enjoying a very festive party on the ferry. It brings up the question as to where these spirits are traveling from and for what reason they're celebrating. It showcases a mystifying culture of sorts that at least exists within that one particular group of spirits. Even the train scene where Chihirc crosses a vast and endless sea that stretches onto what seems like infinity leaves the door open for even more exploration of the real world. There's a chance to see if spirit cultures differ. It would be interesting to see the lives of spirits up close and personal, not through the eves of Chihiro. There needs to be a plot that explores these different settings from the perspective of the spirits that are more like Haku -- there's another river spirit in Spirited Away -- or a sequel could focus on spirits of the innocent and child-like No-Face. There could be other spirits just like him that have consumed a multitude of other spirits and other things -- but instead, they could have chosen to remain as hulking beasts instead of reverting to their normal selves. Of all the bizarre and fun things that Spirited Away exposed audiences to, the film also has a very strong hidden message about how dangerous humans are to nature. Chihiro explains to Haku when his memories return that the Kohaku River in the human world is filled in and replaced with apartment buildings. That's the reason why Haku is in the world of the spirits without any memories. humans. There are things out of the spirit's control that could result in their demise. When the other river spirit in the movie visits the bathhouse, he is a hulking heap of trash, sludge and other human pollution. It isn't until Chihiro helps him release all of the human waste that's been dumped into him during his time in the real world that he's finally able to return to his normal self. It's obvious humans are a danger to the spirits and can ultimately affect their health and appearance in both the real worlds in Spirited Away is so fragile that not only humans -- but human objects as well -- are all capable of passing through. Spirited Away was a marvelous movie that will always be considered as one of the greatest animated films of all time, but there are parts of its universe that could still be explored. There's still a lot of life and story left in what is arguably Studio Ghibli's greatest success. Keep Reading: Hayao Miyazaki Has No Idea What A 'Streaming Service' Is source: GhibliThis July, Hayao Miyazaki's new movie, "The Boy and the Heron," was released. Reflecting on Miyazaki's previous works, audiences will agree that this new movie is highly anticipated. 'Spirited Away,' which was once referred to as 'Japanese animation for children,' has now ascended to the status of a masterpiece, containing numerous symbols and metaphors. And that's not all. Almost all of Miyazaki's works, such as 'Howl's Moving Castle,' 'Castle in the Sky,' 'Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind,' and 'Princess Mononoke,' remain etched in our memories. In celebration of his new creation, I will conduct an analysis of all of Miyazaki's past works. This article focuses on 'Spirited Away.'1. Spirited Away — Basic compositionStarting off with his most recognizable movie, 'Spirited Away', this is my favorite movie among Miyazaki's works, and it is one of my all-time favorite Japanese animations. I saw this movie when I was impressed by the cute characters and the warm-hearted drawing style, but I never felt anything more than that. However, coincidentally, I saw it several times again as a high school student, and after that. Each time, there were different interpretations of the work, and I thought that this movie is not simply a story of a child named 'Sen' who goes missing. However, after establishing my own view through the study of the human unconscious and symbols, a firm perspective on this movie was formed. Please consider this one of the many interpretations out there. The story can be divided into three parts: finding the theme park, working in Yubaba's onsen, and finally returning to normal life. The most important part of this work is the second part, which is about the world ruled by a witch named "Yubaba" who runs a large onsen. In this world, people instantly turn into pigs, and humans have to conceal their own names, only remembering the names given by Yubaba. What kind of world is this? Let's clearly define this world and, through
this definition, discover the various settings of the work and the messages Miyazaki wanted to convey. We can see how Miyazaki describes Japanese society and what is needed there.2. Saussure's Linguistics — Signifiant and SignifiéFirst of all, before discussing this Japanese animation, I believe it is important to address the concepts of signifiant and signifié. While it may initially seem uninteresting, these concepts play a signifie were established by Saussure, a French linguist. In simple terms, the signifiant refers to the sensory aspects of words, such as their letters or pronunciation, while the signifiant in this case would encompass the formal aspects of language, like the letters and pronunciation of the word 'sea', while the signifie would encompass the semantic aspect, meaning that when we hear the word 'sea', we all have the same understanding of what it represents. Now, you may be wondering how Saussure's linguistic concepts relate to Miyazaki's anime and Japanese society. 3. Human beings have no choice but to communicate through signifiant. The signifiant contains the intended meaning (signified), while the signified), while the signified and signified and signifient. (*I am unsure if Saussure also suggested the concept of "signifying" between signified and signifient. However, I want to suggest that there is a signifying stage between signifie and signifie and signifie transforms into a signifiant. We are constantly engaged in 'signifying' in every moment of our lives, through actions such as speaking and moving. For example, honking the horn at the car in front of you while driving is a form of 'signifying' that expresses anger(signifié). Additionally, our choice of clothing can also be a result of 'signifying'. It represents the expression of certain emotions(signifié) through our attire(signifient). Even our eye smiles, facial expressions, and group rules can also serve as signifiant, created through the process of 'signifying' the signifient', furthermore, objects like smartphones, societal laws, and group rules can also serve as signifient. this way, signifiant encompasses not only simple words or symbols, but also a wide spectrum of tangible and intangible and int from human signifie.)4. Humans themselves exist as signifiant to others. Not only in terms of linguistics, but also in reality, each of us exists as signifiant to others. For example, we often express ourselves with business cards when introducing ourselves. Business cards typically display our name, occupation, email, phone number, and so on. To others, these business cards become signifiant. Depending on the person's occupation or the company they represent, we may have positive feelings towards them or not. Consequently, we are drawn to one's signifiant (external and internal conditions but can be recognized). No matter how much we try to create good reasons for liking someone, we cannot go beyond the signifiant that we recognize (appearance, there is no right or wrong in recognizing the world and people through signifiant. Because that is all we can do. Can a business card explain all aspects of a person? Definitely not. However, the reason we still use it is that we cannot write down all of one's contents on paper. Therefore, instead of providing an exhaustive list of all aspects of a vertex of known as the 'law of the disappearance of signifié,' which means that signifiant cannot entirely contain the signifie during the process of signifying. Now, with just a bit more explanation, we can return to the topic of Miyazaki's Japanese animation. Thank you for patiently reading through this complex discussion.5. Because signifiant come from signifié......We communicate with signifiant and believe in signifiant. If that's the case, is the most important thing in the world the signifient over the signifiant over the signifient over the signifient itself? If we prioritize signifiant itself? If we prioritize signifiant itself? societal norms. Although significance will be considered as a means to convey our true feelings and intentions (the significance will be overshadowed, and only superficial significance will be considered. Through the Japanese animation "Spirited Away," we will see how strange a world can become when the aspect of the signifie is completely suppressed by signifiant. Now, let's move on to discussing animation in more detail.6. A world where signifie is completely suppressed by signifiant. Now, let's move on to discussing animation in more detail.6. A world where signifies the strange world controlled by Yubaba, and the reason why Chihiro's parents become pigsOne example of a scene where we can see the signifié being suppressed and only the signifiant being prioritized is when Chihiro's parents turn into pigs, and later on, Yubaba tells Chihiro's parents turned into pigs, and later on, Yubaba tells Chihiro's parents turned into pigs. In the beginning part of the story, Chihiro's parents turned into pigs. stealing food a little bit is generally illegal, there are rare cases when people receive severe punishment because of that. However, Yubaba states that the severe punishment of losing one's dignity occurs merely by violating the simple rule of 'only guests can eat the food at the shop. It is not because Yubaba particularly dislikes theft or Chihiro's parents (there is no setting that Yubaba has trauma related to theft or particularly hates Chihiro's parents), but rather because she reacts with extreme hostility to those who violate intangible signifiants such as laws, order, and rules. Chihiro's parents' intentions (they were hungry and, although they had money, wanted to pay later and eat the food first) were entirely ignored, and only the signifiant, disregarding the signifiant states that Yubaba's world is a signifiant-centric society. After Chihiro's parents transform into pigs, she flees to the riverside where she cries in sorrow for losing her parents. It is at this moment that Haku appears and tells Chihiro, "If you don't eat food from this world, you will soon disappear." This setting signifies that only those who hold signifiant as a "consumer" can survive in this world, while those who lack signifiant, meaning those who do not exist as a signifiant (social titles like consumer or worker, etc) cannot become a certain definite signifiant. Miyazaki skillfully portrays Japan's extremely signifiantcentric tendency in this film.7. Uncertainty and CertaintyAs mentioned earlier, we humans must exist as certain beings for others. We should be trustworthy individuals to some, beautiful women, caring fathers, warm mothers, capable colleagues, and close friends to others. Becoming a certain person for others means becoming someone that others can affirm about us. We all receive affirmation from others as certain beings, and we can say it is a kind of connection between ourselves and various entities in the world. For example, let's consider a person named A, who is a school teacher. However, A wants to be very friendly with the students and uses the same casual language and demeanor as when speaking to friends. If this behavior continues, over time, the students may stop showing respect to her as a teacher, and A may also receive feedback from colleagues or superiors about her tone and manner. This could be seen as A breaking implicit social rules and failing to establish the proper identity for herself as a teacher (one's stance, intonation, and attitude are also part of one's identity). However, when she returns home, she no longer needs to be the 'teacher.' She only needs to be the 'teacher.' She only needs to become specific identities for specific entities, but this can vary depending on the context, and there is no rule that says we must be defined by a single identity. The reason for this is that humans have both certain aspects. Being someone's mother 24/7. Being an employee of a company does not mean you must always act as an employee. Being someone's friend does not mean you must always be their friend in every situation. If someone asks you, as a 'student,' to live every moment for 'studying' to fulfill your social role, it becomes a form of 'violence' rather than advice. We need to live as specific entities for specific purposes, but at the same time, we must also respect and protect our own uncertainties. If humans had no uncertainties, we would become mere slaves or puppets.8. Beings in the Onsen : Humans turned into perfect signifiant, who doesn't have become perfect identities filled with certainty (perfect signifiant). Since this movie is from Japan, we can interpret them as representing settings when the guests, referred to as "gods" in the story, disembark from the boat and head towards Yubaba's onsen. For example, in one scene, the guests, who are referred to as "gods," are initially shown as transparent bodies with big masks. However, as the boat's doors open, their individual forms gradually become visible as the transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. 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can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away. We can interpret this phenomenon as showing that only when these "gods," are initially shown as transparency fades away guests at the onsen, can they exist in Yubaba's world. The director used this scene to convey the idea that Yubaba's world is a place where beings with a 100% percentage of certainty can be accepted, filled with signifiant without any uncertainty. In this world, only social statuses exist as living beings, not just for humans but even for the great forces of nature like the river (referring to Haku's transformation). Haku, before entering Yubaba's world, he had no choice but to find his own social role and eventually became a messenger of Yubaba by learning magic from her. This shows that in the witch's world, not only humans but even natural beings like a river must perform their social roles as a single fixed identity; otherwise, they lose their dignity and the reason for their existence. Therefore, the witch's world is not a place where humans live, but a world where only social roles as a single fixed identity; otherwise, they lose their dignity and the reason for their existence. entities. This could be linked to the reason why the director chose to depict Haku's identity as "a river," providing an even more extreme example of a signifiant-centric world in Yubaba's realm.9. Why is Haku a river? The moment when Haku's identity is revealed is the climax of the entire film, making it the most crucial moment in the entire story. Although it is still a moving scene for us, some sensitive viewers may find it somewhat puzzling. Haku's identity is revealed to be the "Kohaku River," the place where Chihiro lost her shoe when she was a child. While it remains a touching moment, someone might wonder why the director did not go for a more natural setting, such as portraying Haku as another family member from Chihiro's forgotten memories of. The director took this risk and inserted the setting of Haku being the "river" to firmly establish his perspective on the "witch's world," even if it broke the predictability of the story, like for example, Haku is her forgotten lover or something at least not "a river."On the official Ghibli website, we can find information that aligns with this perspective, stating that Haku accepted his body being torn apart as his destiny in accordance with the worldview of "everything must follow the rules." This supports the idea that in Yubaba's world, even more so than humans, all of nature itself loses all uncertainty and

turns into a perfect signifiant, driven by the extreme focus on role-centricity, which is also significant-centricity (as previously mentioned, rules are also one type of signifiant). Just as Chihiro's parents lost their dignity by breaking a very small rule, Haku faced severe punishment for breaking a rule (signifiant). 10. The World Dominated by Yubaba: an extremely signifiant(social role, rule)-centric society, Japanese societyTherefore, all beings in the world dominated by Yubaba exist not as complete humans but only as social roles, functions, and statuses. That is why most of the existing beings who embody both uncertainty and certainty, but in Yubaba's world, they became a kind of 'distorted' existence that had all uncertainty removed and must pursue only certainty. They are beings that are supposed to become complete signifiant. However, as we all know, even though their appearances differ from humans, their actions are just the same as those of humans. Therefore, the appearance of those characters can be seen as a mere metaphor. Furthermore, the more pronounced their distorted from human form, the more pronounced their distorted from human form, the more pronounced their distorted from human form. soot sprites working with him have fully optimized their appearance to match their low social status and the job they do. Besides them, every being in Yubaba's world, except Chihiro, becomes a complete signifiant based on their assigned social functions. Miyazaki expresses this by describing their appearance differently from humans. As this movie is a Japanese animation, we can interpret Yubaba's world as representing Japanese society. Actually, Japan is a society where signifiant plays a massive role in shaping social norms, cultural behaviors, and interactions. For example, we can see that many people follow their family businesses that have been inherited for hundreds of years, and they accept it without any resistance. This is one example that shows how Japanese people obey the significant, rather than following their own significant, rather than following their own significant, rather than by their intrinsic values and desires. Many aspects of Japanese people obey the significant, rather than following their own significant, rather than by their intrinsic values and desires. seen as derived from this significant-centric nature. However, I will omit detailed explanations here. These aspects originated from a collective neurosis that formed over a thousand years when the samurai and their masters ruled. During that time, everyone needed to be devoted to their assigned roles to survive, as samurai had the freedom to commit murder, torture, rape, and other acts. Therefore, people had to be solely devoted to their assigned roles to avoid disturbing the samurai's emotions, as it was the only way for them to survive. However, there are advantages to this signifiant-centric society, but Miyazaki seems to be more focused on its disadvantages. One advantage is that in such a society, there is some degree of trust in the products produced according to signifiant. For example, if you go to a restaurant in Japan, the chances of going to a place that serves bad food are low. In a signifiant-centric society, the level of taste in food, for example, is like a fixed rule, and people can expect a certain high quality of flavor. This extends not only to food but to all products made in the country. Japanese products, regardless of the type, are generally loved and trusted by people all over the world. It is widely known that Japanese products are generally considered to have good quality due to an implicit trust created by the significant-centric society. In addition, when following the manual properly in any task, one advantage is that you are somewhat free from responsibility. In Japanese society, which is centered around guidelines like Japan, there is a kind of 'manualization' even in areas where one would typically rely on individual non-verbal and social skills. Therefore, for relatively passive, introverted individuals, it can be an advantage to be free from responsibility to some extent if you just act according to the manual. However, for active and extroverted individuals, it can feel suffocating and limit their freedom. There is less room for personal discretion and explicit involvement in such a society. emotional expression are restricted. Due to the limitations imposed on the process of 'signifying' (when one's signifying' is a fundamental desires and emotions become signifiant), personal desires and emotions become signifiant), personal desires and emotions become signifiant). kinds of signifiant and communicate with them. Actions, speech, thoughts, and everything are part of the 'signifiant' that comes from our minds. Therefore, the state of not expressing one's significant-centric societies like Japan, many people not only lack freedom but also often find that their emotions are suppressed. This can lead to collective neuroses and, in severe cases, evolve into collective mental illness. In fact, Japan is known for having the highest number of psychiatric beds per capita.()Signifiant typically represents the result of expressing(signifying) desires(signifié). However, in extreme signifiant-centric societies, only signifiant exists by itself, isolated from signifying. Signifiant that is detached from signifying is separated from signifying is separated from the human mind(desires), and this oppresses humans at the unconscious level. In extreme signifiant-centric societies, it is often the case that signifiant(rules) have a high degree of detachment from desires and are not originated from the human mind. This also leads to the guidelines themselves harming humans, causing numerous mental disorders and injuries. If a person gets suppressed by signifiant that has no relation to their own signifié, their identity eventually collapses because the connection between their symbolic world (inner world) and the real world in the movie: 'No Face'. No Face is actually the most severe victim of a signifiant-centric society because he doesn't have any connection between his symbolic world and the real world in the movie: 'No Face'. No Face'. real outer world. So his signifié remains unresolved, accumulating within him until it eventually manifests in sudden, aggressive behaviors without any easily understandable context. People whose signifié and signifiant are disconnected are more likely to have a hard time communicating with others. That is why he ate all the workers and tried to eat Sen like a monster. Moreover, when No Face returns to a normal state, he cannot speak a single word. This detailed portrayal reflects the author's meticulousness because 'word' is one of the most fundamental tools for conveying signifié to others.11. "One's Original Name" and LoveThe only way to escape Yubaba's world is by remembering one's own name. As one loses their original name, the possibility of escaping Yubaba's control approaches zero. In this Japanese animation, one's original name is emphasized as a crucial clue. What meaning does a name hold for us?People have certainty, but we also have infinite uncertainty. Thus, there is no way to define each individual with a single word completely. Any attempt to define a person with a single word is an act of violence and oppression. Therefore, we each create a 'name holds this significance for us.Respecting these names is a kind of affection. It is the respect and consideration of an individual's infinite uncertainty that cannot be contained by a name alone. This is a way of embracing a person's existence as an existence as an existence as an existence itself, and it might be the ideal way of communicating with the world that Miyazaki envisions. Therefore, we must remember our own names more than ever. Those who try to forget their own names or erase them and replace them with other names are not respecting others but instead deceiving and subjugating others beneath their own feet. We communicate through guidelines they hold, and we ourselves should not be completely defined by signifiant created by others. If you enjoyed this article, please consider supporting me for more great articles. Paypal: @jtk111 Spirited Away is a coming-of-age film that explores the fears and anxieties of its young protagonist, Chihiro. The movie focuses on Chihiro's journey to save her parents and how it represents her transition into adulthood. Through symbolism and fantasy elements, the film tackles themes of identity, selflessness, and the fear of the unknown. Hayao Miyazaki and inspired by the 10-year-old daughter of a close friend, Spirited Away follows Chihiro, voiced in the original Japanese by Rumi Hiiragi (Netto Koshien) and in English by Daveigh Chase (Lilo & Stitch), down the Japanese Shinto folklore spirit realm known as Kami. To save her parents from the powerful witch Yubaba, voiced by Mari Natsuki (Nobuta o Produce) and Suzanne Pleshette (The Birds), Chihiro will face more than any story's typical trials along the way: She will face herself. During her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by gods, witches and spirits, a world ruled by gods, witches and anxieties as seen through the lens of its young lead female character, Chihiro. How Chihiro chooses to react to the ever-changing circumstances around her, even the most horrifying fear any child could have, perhaps their biggest fear of all: being separated from her parents. However, it's conquering that fear and finding her parents that spur Chihiro's journey into adulthood. Disregarding Chihiro's warnings of eating food not meant for them, the powerful witch Yubaba punishes her parents by turning them into pigs. Chihiro must venture into the bathhouse and overcome the reality of this new child/adult role reversal to save them. She is not so much tested as she is provided the space to resolve
her anxieties about moving to a strange new town. Mostly, it's concerns of the unknown that prompt Chihiro's journey and metamorphosis — personified by the aberration of finding herself trapped in a spiritual realm that could eventually keep her there forever. When Chihiro first works within the bathhouse under Yubaba to free her parents, she is overwhelmed with doubt. In some of the first few scenes, we see Chihiro trail after her parents, clutching her mother's arm with a firm grip in terror. In the end, it's Chihiro who leads her parents, clutching her mother's arm with a firm grip in terror. cross that metaphorical bridge from childhood to adulthood. With the help of Haku, voiced by Miyu Irino and Jason Marsden, Chihiro's love for Haku is what saves them. She defies Yubaba, risking her own life, by returning the magical seal she stole from Yubaba's twin sister Zeniba, voiced by the same actress who voices Yubaba. Despite being an animated film centered around the practical issues of a young girl's moral ethics and fears, Spirited Away isn't afraid to use horror and fantasy elements to expand these issues. Likely, the most terrifying manifestation of these anxieties is the spirit of No-Face, voiced in Japanese by Akio Nakamura and English by Bob Bergen. No-Face is a multifaceted entity representing so much of Chihiro's fears of abandonment, loneliness, and identity. It is, in its vacant form, and need of friendship, that No-Face mirrors Chihiro's own need to feed her loneliness. 'Spirited Away's Audience Embraces Chihiro rejects the boundless gold No-Face offers her, she expels the fear of being alone on a deeper level, of being unknown to herself and others. By the time the film ends, Chihiro not only saves her parents but gains a sense of selfhood and belief that wasn't there otherwise. who works at the bathhouse. As her last act of resistance and love, Chihiro gives Haku back his identity. Recapturing her and Haku's identity from Yubaba becomes a symbol of autonomy and maturity that crystallizes Chihiro's turn into adulthood, a release from both Yubaba becomes a symbol of autonomy and maturity that crystallizes Chihiro's turn into adulthood, a release from both Yubaba becomes a symbol of autonomy and maturity that crystallizes Chihiro's turn into adulthood, a release from both Yubaba becomes a symbol of autonomy and maturity that crystallizes Chihiro's turn into adulthood, a release from both Yubaba becomes a symbol of autonomy and maturity that crystallizes Chihiro's turn into adultho nature of the narrative but also wanting Chihiro to triumph despite her circumstances. Her resilience is the true driving force behind the film that has withstood the test of time. People go back to this film because it takes them back to their childhoods, where the anxieties of being unloved, abandoned, judged, and criticized were always present. Chihiro's not that different from the child everyone once was. As the weight of Chihiro's ever-changing world festers her anxieties, audiences are invited to that feeling through the nature of their own world. They feel comforted in Chihiro's triumphant final moments, as she crosses the bridge and never looks back. Spirited Away is currently streaming on Max in the U.S. Watch on Max These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. We are thankful for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. Written by Rudolf Pretzler Hayao Miyazaki's masterpiece, which won multiple award, can be seen as one big, weird coming-of-age story. Drawing heavily on Japanese Shinto-Buddhist folktales, the story draws a young girl into a magical world, by no fault of her own. Being robbed of her parents, she finds herself alone, having to work to survive and search for a way out. The characters Chihiro meets are often personifications of natural and psychological phenomena. The story starts out as a unexpected journey of a young family that ends up at a magical restaurant. The parents' greed and focus on consumerism literally transforms them into pigs. This leaves the young heroine alone and afraid. Aided by a river that has forgotten who he is, she finds work and slowly acclimatizes with her surroundings. While at first shocked and in awe of the many spirits she encounters, throughout the movie the young heroine grows more confident and self-asserted. Miyazaki himself stated that he wanted to create a character that overcomes all troubles not through her own name (i.e. identity and childhood) and grows into a confident young woman that ends up escaping the ghost realm. She meets multiple characters, some helpful, while others mostly malevolent. Haku, a river with amnesia, is a benevolent spirit that aids her growth and is in turn reminded of his true self. Yubaba, the owner of the bath house, is greed personified, only looking out for her own wealth, literally binding spirits to her. Her twin sister, Zeniba, at first seems to be a copy of her sisters greed and cruelty, however turns out to be a more compassionate and helpful soul. The twins being mirror images of each other, showing traits that oppose those of their counterpart, is a common theme used in magical storytelling. Other important souls, such as No-Face, who searches violently for a sense in life, or the other river that is choked in trash, can be seen as additional critique of modern Japanese society. Spirited Away allows the audience to delve into a world full of magic and danger. One follows the journey of a very relatable girl that literally fights greed, societal pressure and environmental destruction. She comes out on top and leaves the magical realm, being a stronger and more resilient woman through the experience. You can help us out by revising, improving and updating this section. Update this section After you claim a section you'll have 24 hours to send in a draft. An editor will review the submission and either publish your submission or provide feedback. 2001 film by Hayao Miyazaki For the concept in Japanese folklore which the film refers to, see Spirit away. Spirited AwayTheatrical release posterJapanese nameKanjiモと千尋の神隠しTranscriptionsRevised HepburnSen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi Directed byHayao MiyazakiWritten byHayao MiyazakiProduced byToshio SuzukiStarring Rumi Hiiragi Miyu Irino Mari Natsuki Takashi Naito Yasuko Sawaguchi Tsunehiko Kamijo Takehiko Ono Bunta Sugawara CinematographyAtsushi OkuiEdited byTohoRelease date 20 July 2001 (2001-07-20) Running time125 minutes[1]CountryJapanLanguageJapaneseBudget\$19.2 million[2][3]Box office\$396 Natsuki, Takashi Naito, Yasuko Sawaguchi, Tsunehiko Kamijō, Takehiko Ono, and Bunta Sugawara. In Spirited Away, Chihiro takes a job working in Yubaba's of Japanese Shinto folklore).[8] After her parents are turned into pigs by the witch Yubaba, Chihiro takes a job working in Yubaba's of Japanese Shinto folklore). bathhouse to find a way to free herself and her parents and return to the human world. Miyazaki wrote the screenplay after he decided the film would be based on the ten-year-old daughter of his friend Seiji Okuda, the film's associate producer, who came to visit his house each summer.[9] At the time, Miyazaki was developing two personal projects, but they were rejected. With a budget of US\$19 million, production of Spirited Away began in 2000. Pixar animator John Lasseter, a fan and friend of Miyazaki, convinced Walt Disney Pictures to buy the film's North American distribution rights, and served as executive producer of its English-dubbed version.[10] Lasseter then hired Kirk Wise as director and Donald W. Ernst as producer, while screenwriters Cindy and Donald Hewitt wrote the English-language dialogue to match the characters' original Japanese-language lip movements.[11] Released in Japan on 20 July 2001, Spirited Away was widely acclaimed and commercially successful,[12] grossing US\$396 million at the worldwide box office.[13] It became the highest-grossing film in Japanese history with a total of ¥31.68 billion.[14] It held the record for 19 years until it was surpassed by Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - The Movie: Mugen Train in 2020.[15] Spirited Away was a co-recipient of the Golden Bear with Bloody Sunday at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival and became the first hand-drawn, Japanese anime and non-English-language animated film to win the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature at the 75th Academy Awards. The films of the 21st Century. Ten-year-old Chihiro Ogino and her parents Akio and Yūko travel to their new home. Akio, taking a shortcut, stops in front of a tunnel leading to what appears to be an abandoned resort town, which Yūko insists on exploring over Chihiro's protestations. Upon finding a seemingly empty restaurant still stocked with food, Chihiro's parents immediately begin to eat. While exploring further, Chihiro finds an enormous bathhouse, sees a train pass beneath the bridge, and meets a boy named Haku, who warns her to return across the now been transformed into pigs and she cannot cross the now been transformed into pigs and she cannot cross the now been transformed into pigs and she cannot cross the now been transformed into pigs and she cannot cross the flooded river. Haku finds Chihiro and instructs her to ask for a job from the bathhouse's boiler-man, Kamaji, a yokai commanding the susuwatari. Kamaji instead asks a worker named Lin to bring Chihiro to Yubaba, the witch who runs the bathhouse and cursed her parents, and is Haku's master. Yubaba tries to frighten Chihiro away, but eventually the susuwatari. gives her a work contract. As Chihiro signs the contract with her name (千尋), Yubaba takes away the second kanji in her name, renaming her Sen (千). She soon forgets hers like he once did, she will never be able to leave the spirit world. The other workers, except for Kamaji and Lin, frequently mock Sen. While working, she invites a silent creature named No-Face inside, believing him to be a customer. The
spirit of a polluted river arrives as Sen's first customer. After she cleans him, he gives her a magic emetic dumpling as a token of gratitude. Meanwhile, No-Face demands food from the bathhouse workers, granting gold copied from the river spirit in exchange. However, when Sen declines the gold and leaves, he angrily swallows some workers. Sen sees paper shikigami attacking a dragon and recognizes the dragon and recogni him upstairs. A shikigami that stowed away on her back shapeshifts into Yubaba's twin sister Zeniba, who turns Yubaba's son, Boh, into a magic golden seal from her that carries a deadly curse. Haku strikes the shikigami, causing Zeniba to vanish. Once he and Sen fall into the boiler room, she gives him part of the emetic dumpling to vomit up the seal and a slug that a disgusted Sen kills. Sen resolves to return the seal and apologize to Zeniba. She confronts an engorged No-Face and feeds him the rest of the dumpling to regurgitate the workers. No-Face follows Sen out of the bathhouse, and Lin helps them leave. Sen, No-Face, and Boh travel to see Zeniba with train tickets gifted by Kamaji. Meanwhile, Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals Boh is missing and offers to retrieve him if Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals Boh is missing and offers to retrieve him if Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals Boh is missing and offers to retrieve him if Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals Boh is missing and offers to retrieve him if Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals Boh is missing and offers to retrieve him if Yubaba nearly orders Sen's parents' slaughtering, but Haku reveals reveals that Yubaba used the slug to control Haku. Using his dragon form, Haku flies Sen and Boh back, while No-Face decides to stay with Zeniba. Mid-flight, Sen recalls falling into the Kohaku River (ニギハヤミ コハクヌシ) Nigihayami Kohakunushi). When they arrive at the bathhouse, Yubaba tests Sen to identify her parents among a group of pigs to leave. After she answers correctly that none of the pigs are her parents, her contract disappears and she is given back her real name. riverbed to her restored parents. Shortly before leaving for her new home, Chihiro looks back at the tunnel with her hairband from Zeniba still intact. Character name Voice actor English Japanese English Chihiro Ogino / Sen (ハク) / Nigihayami Kohakunushi (饒速水小白主)[d] Miyu Irino Jason Marsden Yubaba Yubaba (湯婆婆)[e] Mari Natsuki Suzanne Pleshette Zeniba (義婆)[f] Kamaji (金爺)[g] Bunta Sugawara David Ogden Stiers Lin Rin (リン) Yoomi Tamai Susan Egan Chichiyaku (公役) Tsunehiko Kamijō Paul Eiding Aniyaku (assistant Manager) Aniyaku (兄役) Takehiko Ono [jp] John Ratzenberger No-Face[h] Kaonashi (顔無し)[h] Akio Nakamura [jp] Bob Bergen Aogaeru (香蛙)[j] Yō Ōizumi Rodger Bumpass Boh (baby) Bō (坊) Ryunosuke Kamiki Tara Strong Akio Ogino (Chihiro's father) Ogino Akio (荻野 明夫) Takashi Naitō [jp] Michael Chiklis Yūko Ogino (Chihiro's mother) Ogino Yūko (荻野 悠子) Yasuko Sawaguchi Lauren Holly River Spirit Kawa no Kami (河の神) Koba Hayashi [jp] Jim Ward Radish Spirit Oshira-sama (お白様)[k] Ken Yasuda Jack Angel This section relies excessively on references to primary sources. Please improve this section by adding secondary or tertiary sources. (February 2025) (Learn how and when to remove this message) "I created a heroine who is an ordinary girl, someone with whom the audience can sympathize [...]. [I]t's not a story in which the characters grow up, but a story in which the characters grow up, but a story in which they draw on something already inside them, brought out by the particular circumstances [...]. want my young friends to live like that, and I think they, too, have such a wish." —Hayao Miyazaki [16] During summers, Hayao Miyazaki spent his vacation at a mountain cabin with his family and five girls who were friends of the family. The idea for Spirited Away came about when he wanted to make a film for these friends. Miyazaki had previously directed films for small children and teenagers such as My Neighbor Totoro and Kiki's Delivery Service, but he had not created a film for ten-year-old girls. For inspiration, he read the shojo manga magazines (like Nakayoshi and Ribon) that the girls had left at the cabin, but felt they only offered subjects on "crushes" and romance. Miyazaki felt this was not what these young friends "held dear in their hearts", and resolved to make the film about a young heroine whom they could look up to.[16] Hayao Miyazaki had wanted to produce a new film for years, but his two previous proposals—one based on the Japanese book Kiri no Mukō no Fushiqi na Machi (霧のむこうのふしぎな町) by Sachiko Kashiwaba, and another about a teenage heroine—were rejected. His third proposal, which ended up becoming Spirited Away, was more successful. The three stories revolved around a bathhouse that was inspired by one in Miyazaki's hometown. He thought the bathhouse was a mysterious place, and there was a small door next to one of the bathhouse setting of Spirited Away.[16] A Japanese dragon ascends toward the heavens with Mount Fuji in the background in this print from Ogata Gekko. Spirited Away is heavily influenced by Japanese Shinto-Buddhist folklore.[8] Production of Spirited Away commenced in February 2000 on a budget of ¥1.9 billion (US\$15 million).[2] The film was produced in association with Tokuma Shoten, Nippon Television Network, Dentsu, Buena Vista Home Entertainment, Tohokushinsha Film, and Mitsubishi.[17] Disney's 10% investment allowed for the right of first refusal for North American distribution.[18][19][self-published source?] As with Princess Mononoke, Miyazaki and the Studio Ghibli staff experimented with computer animation. With the use of more computers and programs such as Softimage 3D, the staff learned the with Miyazaki working alongside his animators to see if they were getting it just right. [2][self-published source?] The biggest difficulty in making the film was to reduce its length. When production began because it is the story instead of "stealing the show". Each character was mostly hand-drawn, with Miyazaki working alongside his animators to see if they were getting it just right. [2][self-published source?] The biggest difficulty in making the film was to reduce its length. When production began because its length working alongside his animators to see if they were getting it just right. [2][self-published source?] The biggest difficulty in making the film was to reduce its length. When production began because its length working alongside his animators to see if they were getting it just right. [2][self-published source?] The biggest difficulty in making the film was to reduce its length. When production began because its length working alongside his animators to see if they were getting it just right. [2][self-published source?] The biggest difficulty in making the film was to reduce its length. When production began because its length working along the show. Miyazaki realized it would be more than three hours long if he made it according to his plot. He had to delete many scenes from the story, and tried to reduce the "eye candy" in the film because he wanted it to be simple. Miyazaki did not want to make the hero a "pretty girl". At the beginning, he was frustrated at how she looked "dull" and thought "She isn't cute. Isn't there something we can do?" As the film neared the end, however, he was relieved to feel "she will be a charming woman."[16] Dogo Onsen The Takahashi Korekiyo residence in the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum was one of Miyazaki's inspirations in creating the spirit world's buildings. During production, Miyazaki often sought inspiration by visiting the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum in Koganei, Tokyo. He based some of the buildings from the Meiji period that were available there. The museum made Miyazaki feel nostalgic, "especially when I stand here alone in the evening, near closing time, and the sun is setting - tears well up in my eyes."[16] Another major inspiration was the Notoya Ryokan (能登谷旅館), a traditional Japanese inn located in Yamagata Prefecture, famous for its exquisite architecture and ornamental features.[20][unreliable source?] While some guidebooks and articles claim that the old gold town of Jiufen in Taiwan served as an inspirational model for the film, Miyazaki has denied this.[21] The Dogo Onsen is also often said to be a key inspiration for the film, also cites European inspirations and influences in the production of Spirited Away. He specifically invokes the structure of the film as European-inspired due to Miyazaki's own influences by European films such as The Snow Queen and The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep.[23] Main article: Music of Spirited Away was composed and conducted by Miyazaki's regular collaborator Joe Hisaishi, and performed by the New Japan Philharmonic.[24] The soundtrack received awards at the 56th Mainichi Film Competition Award for Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music Award for Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music Award for Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music Award for Best Music Award for Best Music Award for Best Music Award for Best Music, the Tokyo International Anime Fair 2001 Best Music Award for Best named the new version of the song "The Name of Life" (いのちの名前, "Inochi no Namae") which was performed by Ayaka Hirahara.[28] The closing song, "Always, No Matter How Many Times') was written and performed by Youmi Kimura, a composer and lyre-player from Osaka.[29] The lyrics were written by Kimura's friend Wakako Kaku. The song was intended to be used for Rin the Chimney Painter (煙突描きのリン, Entotsu-kaki no Rin), a different Miyazaki film
which was never released.[29] In the special features of the Japanese DVD, Hayao Miyazaki explains how the song in fact inspired him to create Spirited Away.[29] The song itself would be recognized as Gold at the 43rd Japan Record Awards.[30] Besides the original soundtrack, there is also an image album, titled Spirited Away Image Album (千と千尋の神隠し イメージアルバム, Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi Imēji Arubamu), that contains 10 tracks.[31] John Lasseter, Pixar animator and a fan and friend of Miyazaki, would often sit with his staff and watch Miyazaki's work when encountering story problems. After seeing Spirited Away Lasseter was ecstatic.[32] Upon hearing his reaction to the film, Disney CEO Michael Eisner asked Lasseter if he would be interested in introducing Spirited Away to an American audience. Lasseter obliged by agreeing to serve as the executive producer for the English adaptation. Following this, several others began to join the project: Beauty and the Beast co-director Kirk Wise and Aladdin co-producer of Spirited Away, respectively.[32][self-published source?] Screenwriters Cindy Davis Hewitt and Donald H. Hewitt penned the English-language dialogue, which they wrote in order to match the characters' original Japanese-language lip movements.[11] The cast of the film consists of Daveigh Chase, Jason Marsden, Suzanne Pleshette (in her final film role before her death in January 2008), Michael Chiklis, Lauren Holly, Susan Egan, David Ogden Stiers and Johr Ratzenberger (a Pixar regular). Advertising was limited, with Spirited Away being mentioned in a small scrolling section of the film a comparatively small promotional budget.[19] Marc Hairston writing for FPS Magazine argues that this was a justified response to Studio Ghibli's retention of the merchandising rights to the film and characters, which limited Disney's ability to properly market the film.[19] The major themes of Spirited Away, heavily influenced by Japanese Shinto-Buddhist folklore, centre on the protagonist, Chihiro, and her liminal journey through the realm of spirits. The central location of the film is a Japanese bathhouse where a great variety of Japanese folklore creatures, including kami, come to bathe. Miyazaki cites the solstice rituals when villagers call forth their local kami and invite them into their baths.[8] Chihiro also encounters kami of animals and plants. Miyazaki says of this: In my grandparents' time, it was believed that kami existed everywhere - in trees, rivers, insects, wells, anything. My generation does not believe this, but I like the idea that we should all treasure everything because there is a kind of life to everything. [8] Chihiro's archetypal entrance into another world changes her status as one somewhere between child and adult. Chihiro also stands outside societal boundaries in the supernatural setting. The use of the word kamikakushi (literally 'hidden by gods') within the Japanese title, and its associated folklore, reinforces this liminal passage: "Kamikakushi is a verdict of 'social death' in this world, and coming back to this world from Kamikakushi meant 'social resurrection.'"[33] Additional themes are expressed through No-Face, who reflects the characters who surround him, learning by example and taking the traits of whomever he consumes. This nature results in No-Face with the emetic dumpling, he becomes timid once more. At the end of the film, Zeniba decides to take care of No-Face so he can develop without the negative influence of the bathhouse.[34] The film has been compared to Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, as the stories are set in fantasy worlds, involve disturbances in logic and stability, and there are motifs such as food having metamorphic qualities; though other developments and themes are not shared. [35][36][unreliable source][37] Yubaba has many similarities to the Coachman from the 1940 film Pinocchio, in the sense that she mutates humans into pigs in a similar way that the boys of Pleasure Island were mutated into donkeys. Upon gaining employment at the bathhouse, Yubaba's seizure of Chihiro's true name symbolically kills the child, [38] who must then assume adulthood. She then undergoes a rite of passage according to the monomyth format; to recover continuity with her past, Chihiro must create a new identity. [38] Spirited Away contains critical commentary on modern Japanese society concerning generational conflicts and environmental issues.[39] Just as Chihiro seeks her past identity, Japan, in its anxiety over the economic downturn occurring during the release of the film in 2001, sought to reconnect to past values.[38] In an interview, Miyazaki has commented on this nostalgic element for an old Japan.[40] Japanese philosophy plays a huge role in Spirited Away, specifically through concepts like Kami and principles like Mottainai and On.[41][self-published source?] The concept of Kami, for instance, involves various spirits that each represent different elements and aspects of nature. The principle of Mottainai, which is deeply ingrained in Japanese culture, embodies a sense of regret towards waste, valuing the complete utilization of an object or resource. While the principle of On, a key tenet of Japanese ethics that signifies a sense of moral indebtedness, plays a significant role in Chihiro's character development.[citation needed] Similar to the Japanese concept of On, the film can be partly understood as an exploration of the effect of greediness and Western consumerism on traditional Japanese culture.[42][unreliable source?] For instance, Yubaba is stylistically unique within the bathhouse, wearing a Western dress and living among European décor and furnishings, in contrast with the minimalist Japanese style of her employees' quarters, representing the Western capitalist influence over Japan in its Meiji period and beyond. Along with its function within the ostensible coming of age theme Yubaba's act of taking Chihiro's name and replacing it with Sen (an alternate reading of chi, the first character in Chihiro's name, lit. 'one thousand') can be thought of as symbolic of capitalism's single-minded concern with value.[39] The film's setting encapsulates Miyazaki's commentary on modern Japanese values and the erosion of cultural heritage. The bathhouse, situated within an abandoned theme park, symbolizes Japan's distorted cultural identity. This once-traditional locale is marred by neon signs and Westernization, exemplifying cultural identity. culture. The failed theme park serves as a metaphor for the unsuccessful fusion of ideologies. The Meiji design of the park is the setting for Chihiro's parents' metamorphosis - the family arrives in an imported Audi car and the father wears a European-styled polo shirt, reassuring Chihiro that he has "credit cards and cash", before morphing into literal consumerist pigs because of their bad habits.[43] Miyazaki has stated: Chihiro's parents turning into pigs symbolizes how some humans become greedy. At the very moment Chihiro says there is something odd about this town, her parents turn into pigs. There were people that "turned into pigs" during Japan's bubble economy (consumer society) of the 1980s, and these people still haven't realized they've become pigs. Once someone becomes a pig, they don't return to being human but instead gradually start to have the "body and soul of a pig". These people are the ones saying, "We are in a recession and don't have enough to eat." This doesn't just apply to the fantasy world. Perhaps this isn't a coincidence and the food is actually (an analogy for) "a trap to catch lost humans".[42] The bathhouse of the spirits cannot be seen as a place free of ambiguity and darkness.[44] Many of the employees are rude to Chihiro because she is human, and corruption is ever-present;[39] it is a place of excess and greed, as depicted in the initial appearance of No-Face.[45] In stark contrast to the simplicity of Chihiro's journey and transformation is the constantly chaotic carnival in the films of Miyazaki. In Spirited Away, two major instances of allusions to environmental issues have been noted. Pam Coats, for example, a Vice President of Walt Disney Feature Animation, describes Chihiro dealing with the "stink spirit", who, it turns out, is actually a river spirit but is so corrupted with filth that one cannot tell what it is at first glance. It only becomes clean again when Chihiro pulls out a huge amount of trash, including car tires, garbage, and a bicycle. This alludes to human pollution of the environment, and how people can carelessly toss away things without thinking of the consequences and of where the trash will go.[46] The second allusion is seen in Haku himself. Haku does not remembers that he used to be the spirit of the Kohaku River, which was destroyed and replaced with apartments. Because of humans' need for development, they destroyed a part of nature, causing Haku to lose his home and identity. This can be compared to deforestation and destruction of nature, causing Haku to lose his home and identity. demolish animals' homes to satisfy their want for more space (housing, malls, stores, etc.) but do not think about how it can affect other living things.[47][48] Spirited Away was released theatrically in Japan on 20 July 2001 by distributor Toho. It grossed a record ¥1.6 billion (\$13.1 million) in its first three days, beating the previous record set by Princess Mononoke.[49] It was number one at the Japanese box office for its first eleven weeks and spent 16 weeks there in total.[50] After 22 weeks of release and after grossing \$224 million in Japan, it started its international release, opening in Hong Kong on 13 December 2001.[51] It was the first film that had grossed more than \$200 million at the worldwide box office excluding the United States.[52][53] It went on to gross ¥30.4 billion to become the highest-grossing film in Japanese
history, according to the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan.[54] It also set the all-time attendance record in Japanese history, according to the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japane.[54] It also set the all-time attendance record in Japanese history. box office has since increased to ¥31.68 billion, as of 2020[update].[56][57] In February 2002, Wild Bunch, an international sale rights for the film outside of Asia and France.[58] The company would then on-sell it to independent distributors across the world. On 13 April 2002, The Walt Disney Company acquired the Taiwanese, Singapore, Hong Kong, French and North American sale rights to the film, alongside Japanese Home Media rights.[59] Disney's English dub of the film, supervised by Lasseter, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on 7 September 2002[60] and was later released in the United States on 20 September 2002. The film grossed \$450,000 in its opening weekend from 26 theatres. Spirited Away had very little marketing, less than Disney's other B-films, with a maximum of 151 theatres showing the film in 2002.[19] After the 2003 Oscars,[61] it expanded to 714 theatres. It ultimately grossed around \$10 million by September 2003.[62] Outside of Japan and the United States, the movie was moderately successful in both South Korea and France where it grossed \$11 million, respectively.[63] In Argentina, it is in the top 10 anime films with the most tickets sold.[64][failed verification][unreliable source?] In the United Kingdom, then independent based film distributor Optimum Releasing acquired the rights to the movie from Wild Bunch in January 2003.[65][failed verification][non-primary source needed] The company then released it theatrically on 12 September 2003.[66][67] The movie grossed \$244,437 on its opening weekend from 51 theatres, and by the end of its theatrical run in October, the movie has grossed \$1,383,023 in the country.[68] About 18 years after its original release in China of My Neighbour Totoro in December 2018.[69] The delayed theatrical release in China was due to long-standing political release in China of My Neighbour Totoro in December 2018.[69] The delayed theatrical release in China was due to long-standing political release in China of My Neighbour Totoro in December 2018.[69] The delayed theatrical release in China was due to long-standing political release in China was due tensions between China and Japan, but many Chinese became familiar with Miyazaki's films due to rampant video piracy.[70] It topped the Chinese box office with a \$28.8-million in China, and was second only behind Spider-Man: Far From Home that weekend.[72] As of 16 July 2019[update], the film has grossed \$70 million in China,[73] bringing its worldwide total stands at US\$395,802,070.[a] Some of this section's listed sources may not be reliable. Please help improve this article by looking for better, more reliable sources. Unreliable citations may be challenged and removed. (February 2025) (Learn how and When to remove this message) Spirited Away was first released on VHS and DVD formats in Japan by Buena Vista Home Entertainment on 19 July 2002.[75] The Japanese DVD releases include storyboards for the film and the special edition includes a Ghibli DVD player.[76] Spirited Away sold 5.5 million home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units in Japan by 2007,[77] and holds the record for most home video units the same day with a new HD master, alongside several other Studio Ghibli movies.[79][80] In North America, the film was released on DVD and VHS formats by Walt Disney Home Entertainment on 15 April 2003.[81] The attention brought by the Oscar win resulted in the film becoming a strong seller.[82] The bonus features include Japanese trailers, a making-of documentary which originally aired on Nippon Television, interviews with the North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and The Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by and North American voice actors, a select storyboard-to-scene comparison and the Art of Spirited Away, a documentary narrated by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Marsden.[83] The movie was released on Blu-ray by actor Jason Mars 16 June 2015.[84] GKIDS and Shout! Factory re-issued the film on Blu-ray and DVD on 17 October 2017 following the expiration of Disney's previous deal with Studio Ghibli in the country in North America.[85] On 12 November 2019, GKIDS and Shout! Factory issued a North-America-exclusive Spirited Away collector's edition, which includes the film on Blu-ray, and the film's soundtrack on CD, as well as a 40-page book with statements by Toshio Suzuki and Hayao Miyazaki, and essays by film critic Kenneth Turan and film historian Leonard Maltin.[86][87] Along with the rest of the Studio Ghibli films, Spirited Away was released on digital markets in the United States for the first time, on 17 December 2019. In the United Kingdom, the film was released on DVD and VHS as a rental release through independent distributor High Fliers Films PLC following the film's limited theatrical release. It was later officially released on DVD in the UK on 29 March 2004, with the distributor High Fliers Films PLC following the film's limited theatrical release. It was later officially released on DVD in the UK on 29 March 2004, with the distributor High Fliers Films PLC following the film's limited theatrical release. It was later officially released on DVD in the UK on 29 March 2004, with the distributor High Fliers Films PLC following the film's limited theatrical release. the DVD was reissued as a single-disc release (without the second one) with packaging matching other releases in Optimum's "The Studio Ghibli anniversary Collector's Edition, similar to other Studio Ghibli anniversary editions released in the UK, was released on 25 October 2021.[90] In the United States, the 2015 Blu-ray release grossed \$9,925,660 from 557,613 physical units sold as of 21 February 2021[update].[91] In the United Kingdom, the film's Studio Ghibli anniversary release appeared several times on the annual lists of best-selling foreign language film on home video, ranking number six in 2015,[92] number five in 2016,[93] and number one in 2019,[94] The film was aired on Nippon TV (NTV) in Japan, on 24 January 2003. It became NTV's most-watched film of all time with a 46.9% audience rating, surpassing the 35.1% record previously set by Princess Mononoke in 1999.[95] In the United Kingdom, the film was watched by 670,000 viewers on BBC2 in 2010. This made it the year's most-watched foreign-language film on BBC, and the year's second highest foreign film on UK television (below the Indian Bollywood film Om Shanti Om).[96] Spirited Away was later watched
by 300,000 UK viewers on BBC2 in 2011, making it the year's most-watched foreign-language film on BBC2.[97] Combined, the film drew a 970,000 UK television viewership on BBC2 between 2010 and 2011. On reviews, with an average rating of 8.6/10. The website's critics consensus reads, "Spirited Away is a dazzling enchanting, and gorgeously drawn fairy tale that will leave viewers a little more curious and fascinated by the world around them."[98] The site ranked it 28th on their "300 Best Movies of All Time" list in 2025.[99] On Metacritic, it has a weighted average score of 96 out of 100 based on reviews from 41 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".[12] Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times gave the film a full four stars, praising the work and Miyazaki's direction. Ebert also said that Spirited Away was one of "the year's best films", as well as adding it to his "Great Movies" list.[100] Elvis Mitchell of The New York Times positively reviewed the film and praised the animation. Mitchell drew a favorable comparison to Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass, and wrote that Miyazaki's "movies are as much about moodiness as mood" and that "the prospect of animated figures' not being what they seem - either spiritually or physically - heightens the tension".[37] Derek Elley of Variety said that Spirited Away "can be enjoyed by sprigs and adults alike" and praised the animation and music.[101] Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times praised Miyazaki's direction and the voice acting, as well as saying that the film is the "product of a fierce and fearless imagination whose creations are unlike anything a person has seen before."[102] Orlando Sentinel's critic Jay Boyar also praised Miyazaki's direction and said the film is "the perfect choice for a child who has moved into a new home."[103] In 2004, Cinefantastique listed the film of all time.[105] The film is also the ninth highest-rated film of all time on Metacritic, being the highest rated traditionally animated film on the site. The film ranked tenth in Empire magazine's "The 100 Best Films of World Cinema" in 2010.[106] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, Rotten Tomatoes ranked it as the thirteenth-best animated film on the site, [107] and in 2012, as the seventeenth.[108] In 2010, [108] In 201 animated films.[109] The film was ranked at number 46 on Time Out magazine's list of "The 100 Best Movies of All Time".[110] The film is listed within the top ten on the British Film Institute's list of "Top 50 films for children up to the age of 14".[111] In 2016, it was voted the fourth-best film of the 21st century by the BBC, as picked by 177 film critics from around the world, making it the highest-ranking animated film on the list.[112] In 2017, The New York Times ranked number 75 critics from around the world, making it the highest-ranking animated film on the list.[112] In 2022, the film was ranked number 75 on Sight & Sound's greatest films list, being one of two animated films to make the list (alongside Miyazaki's own My Neighbor Totoro).[115][116] In his book Otaku, Hiroki Azuma observed: "Between 2001 and 2007, the otaku forms and markets quite rapidly won social recognition in Japan," and cites Miyazaki's win at the Academy Awards for Spirited Away among his examples.[117] For a more comprehensive list, see List of accolades received by Spirited Away Won [118] Best Animated Film Spirite Film Spirited Away Won [120] Best Animated Feature Spirited Away Won [121] 30th Annie Awards Best Animated Feature Spirited Away Won [121] 30th Annie Awards Best Animated Feature Spirited Away Won [121] 30th Annie Awards Best Animated Feature Spirited Away Won [121] 30th Annie Awards Best Animated Feature Spirited Away Won [120] Best Director Hayao Miyazaki Won 29th Saturn Awards Best Animated Film Spirited Away Won [123][124] 57th British Academy Film Awards 2004 Best Film Not in the English Language Spirited Away is frequently regarded as one of the best films of the 21st century as well as one of the greatest animated films ever made.[127][128][129] Comic Book Resources wrote that the film "set the bar extremely high for all anime movies that followed it - including Studio Ghibli's" and further explained that "It's a movie many people re-watch due to its comfort and nostalgia, and since Netflix brought the Ghibli movies to North America last year, it's become even more accessible".[130][unreliable source?] Swapnil Dhruv Bose from Far Out Magazine declared the film to be "the greatest animated film of all time" and explained that it "resonated with audiences all over the world despite the existence of cultural barriers is because of its brilliantly devised universality" and has the ability to "generate fascinating multiplicities which morph according to the film industry, he wrote "The influence of Spirited Away can be easily observed in Disney productions like Brave and Frozen, thanks to John Lasseter's (the Chief Creative Officer of Pixar) efforts to introduce it to Western audiences".[131][132] Vice also declared Spirited Away to be the all-time best animation can be" that "Pixar, Disney, and other mainstream animators have still failed to genuinely realize 15 years later".[133] Film director Steven Spielberg said that Spirited Away might be "better than any Disney films" he has ever seen.[134] Rayna Denison, professor of film, television, and media studies, told Time that "This is a film made by a master animator at the height of his powers and it is one where the quality of the animation really does set it apart from everything else around it. Nobody else was making films that looked like this or that were as inventive as this time".[135] The film has been cited as influence for various Disney and Pixar animated films. feelings elements to utilize them in Coco.[136] Co-writers Ken and Ryan Firpo cited the film as one of the influences that helps them explore "ideas of morality and humanity" in Eternals.[137] Turning Red's director Domee Shi named Spirited Away as one of her favorite animated films and one of the influences for her film.[138] According to Time, Spirited Away "arrived at a time when animation was widely perceived as a genre solely for children, and when cultural differences often became barriers to the global distribution of animated works" but it "shattered preconceived notions about the art form and also proved that, as a film created in Japanese with elements of Japanese folklore central to its core, it could resonate deeply with audiences around the world". Denison emphasized that John Lasseter and Disney "boosted Spirited Away's visibility in America by heavily campaigning for the film to be considered for the Academy Awards", and cited it as one of the reasons why it won Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.[139] Writer han Clements, whose published works revolve around East Asian culture, anime, and Japanese television dramas, emphasized that the film's Oscar win was "a wake-up call for a lot of people in the film business who had been disregarding Japanese animation for years".[140] Susan Napier, professor of Japanese studies at Tufts University, called Spirited Away's wins at major Western award shows "a very big shot in the arm to the Japanese animation industry". She further explained that cartoons in the West have often been seen as "childish, vulgar, things that you didn't take seriously" but after the film took home the Academy Award, people were starting to see animation as "a real art form".[141][page needed] A stage adaptation of Spirited Away was announced in February 2022. It is written and directed by John Caird, with Toho as the production company, with Studio Ghibli's blessing. The role of Chihiro is played by both Kanna Hashimoto and Mone Kamishiraishi. [142][143] In August 2023, it was announced that the production would have its European premiere at the London Coliseum from April 2024,[144] with most of the cast reprising their roles.[145] Main Cast Character name Actor (Double Cast) Chihiro (千尋) Kotarou Daigo Hiroki Miura Kaonashi (顔無 し) Koharu Sugawara Tomohiko Tsujimoto Rin (リン) Miyu Sakihi Fuu Hinami Kamajī (釜爺) Tomorowo Taguchi Satoshi Hashimoto Yubāba (湯婆婆) / Zenība (銭婆) Mari Natsuki Romi Park Anime and manga portalSpeculative fiction portalJapan portalSpeculative fiction por grossing films in Japan Noppera-bō: Japanese "no-face" spirit ^ a b Spirited Away's Worldwide Box Office: Original Run including re-release in Spain - €186,772[5] (US\$222,070 (equivalent to \$257,686 in 2024))[6] ^ Japanese: 千と千尋の神隠し, Hepburn: Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi; transl. Sen and Chihiro's Spiriting Away ^ Lit. "none thousand". ^ Lit. "flourishing swift-flowing amber [river] god". ^ Lit. "bathhouse granny". ^ Lit. 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Archived from the original on 7 February 2022. {{cite book}}: CS1 maint: DOI inactive as of November 2024 (link) Wikimedia Commons has media related to Spirited Away at the TCM Movie Database Spirited Away at the Japanese Movie Database (in Japanese) 75th Academy Awards Winners | Oscar Legacy | Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Retrieved from " 2Annual Annie Awards ceremony held in 2003 (USA) 30thAnnie Awards February 1, 2003 Best Feature Film: Spirited Away Best Television Program: The Simpsons Best Home Video Production: Rolie Polie Olie: The Great Defender of Fun Best Short Subject: The Tortoise and the Hare The 30th Annual Annie Awards honoring excellence in the field of animation of 2002 were held on February 1, 2003, in California, USA.[1] Best Animated Feature Best Cimarron - DreamWorks The Simpsons - Gracie Films in association with 20th Century Fox Television Kim Possible - Walt Disney Television Kim Possible - Walt Disney Television Animated Home Video Production Best Animated Short Subject Rolie Polie Olie: The Great Defender of Fun - A Nelvana Limited/Sparkling* Co-Productions The Star of Christmas - Big Idea Productions The
Tortoise and the Hare - Ray Harryhausen & Screen Novelties International Night of the Living Doo - Cartoon Network The Groovenians - Cartoon Network Studios Best Animated Television Commercial Best Animated Television Produced for Children Courage - Cartoon Network Arrow - Lugz Shoes - Psyop Catch - AT&T - Acme Filmworks Don't Mess - Dodge - Renegade Animation Every Move You Make - Sinai Hospital - Acme Filmworks Rolie Polie Olie - A Nelvana Limited/Sparkling* Co-Production Kim Possible - Walt Disney Television Animation The Proud Family - Jambalaya Studios Rocket Power - Klasky Csupo Stanley - Cartoon Pizza, Inc. Character Animation Character Design in an Animated Feature Production Doug Sweetland - "Monsters, Inc." John Kahrs - "Lilo & Stitch" Sergio Pablos - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grangel - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron" Peter de Sève - "Ice Age" Carlos Grang Design in an Animated Television Production Directing in an Animated Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Powerpuff Girls - "Members Only" Shannon Tindle - "The Prove Found Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Powerpuff Girls - "Members Only" Shannon Tindle - "The Prove Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Powerpuff Girls - "Members Only" Shannon Tindle - "The Prove Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Prove Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Prove Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Prove Feature Production Lynne Naylor-Reccardi - "Samurai Jack Episode VI" Alex Kirwan - "Time Squad" Dave Kupczyk - "Ozzy & Drix" Paul Rudish - "The Prove Feature Prove Fe Miyazaki - "Spirited Away" Ron Clements, John Musker - "Treasure Planet" Dean DeBlois, Chris Sanders - "Lilo & Stitch" Pete Docter, Lee Unkrich, David Silverman - "Monsters, Inc." Chris Wedge (director), Carlos Saldanha (co-director) - "Ice Age" ^ "Annie Awards :: 30th Annie Awards 2017. Retrieved February 1, 2015. Official website 30th Annie Awards at IMDb This animation-related article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vte Retrieved from " 3 The following pages link to 30th Annie Awards External tools (link count transclusion count sorted list) · See help page for transcluding these entries Showing 50 items. View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500) Spirited Away (links | edit) The Fairly OddParents (links | edit) The Zeta Project (links | edit) The Fairly OddParents (links | edit) Annie Awards (links | edit) Chris Sanders (links | edit) SpongeBob SquarePants (links | edit) AsifA-Hollywood (links | edit) List of Annie Awards (links | edit) List of Annie Award for Best Animated Feature (links | edit) List of Annie Awards (links | edit) List of Annie Awards (links | edit) List of Annie Award for Best Animated Feature (links | edit) List of Annie Awards (links | edit) List ceremonies (links | edit) 33rd Annie Awards (links | edit) edit) June Foray Award (links | edit) Night of the Living Doo (links | edit) List of VeggieTales videos (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entertainment Production (links | edit) Annie Award for Best Animated Home Entert Production (links | edit) Kim Possible (links | edit) 37th Annie Awards (links | edit) 27th Annie Awards (links | edit) 38th Annie Awards (links | edit) 38th Annie Awards (links | edit) 37th Annie Awards (links | edit) 38th Annie A (links | edit) Annie Awards (links | edit) 42nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 42nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 42nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 32nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 42nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 32nd Annie Awards (links | edit) 42nd Annie Awards (link The Groovenians (links | edit) 43rd Annie Awards (links | edit) 21st Annie Awards (links | edit) 20th Annie Awards (links | edit) 20 rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentWhat is the streaming release date of Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi (2001) in Canada?AnswerYou have no recently viewed pages Hayao Miyazaki is widely regarded as one of Japan's greatest animation directors, earning the nickname of "The Japanese tay a content whether the streaming release date of Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi (2001) in Canada?AnswerYou have no recently viewed pages Hayao Miyazaki is widely regarded as one of Japan's greatest animation directors, earning the nickname of "The Japanese tay a content whether the streaming release date of Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi (2001) in Canada?AnswerYou have no recently viewed pages Hayao Miyazaki is widely regarded as one of Japan's greatest animation directors, earning the nickname of "The Japanese tay a content whether Walt Disney". His films are known for their entertaining plots, the compelling characters, and the "breathtaking" animation in them. Hayao Miyazaki has several trademarks that are present in almost all of his films, including having a young protagonist or children play significant roles in the plot, references to environmentalism and pollution created by humans, including flying in the action sequences, and having the human protagonists enter an unusual land that is inaccessible or forbidden to the outside world. Additionally, there are often set in European cities with Japanese influence added, and there are also scenes involving labor or recognition towards working-class people with women and children offering assistance. Therefore, Spirited Away can be categorized as a typical movie for Hayao Miyazaki, as it includes every one of these trademarks that are constant within his work. One very important theme that was a major plot point of this movie was the importance of one's name. Yubaba taking away Chihiro's name signified her initial enslavement at the bathhouse, as a way of stripping her from her identity. However, remembering one's name was the key for Chihiro's escape, and Haku tells her that if she doesn't she will be trapped in the spirit world forever. The power of a name is that it is the one word that defines a
person, and although Chihiro had lost that by becoming Sen, she needed to hold onto that in order to remember the qualities that make her who she truly is. Haku is used as an example of the danger that comes with forgetting one's identity, and only through Chihiro is he able to regain his identity and become free. Names are a fundamental factor of the power struggle in the spirit world, as the people with the inner strength to hold onto their own identities will be able to set themselves free. The power of words also plays a big role to the characters in this strength to hold onto their own identities will be able to set themselves free. film. When Chihiro is first introduced to the spirit word, she is warned repeatedly by Haku to use her words to get herself a job and not get distracted. Chihiro insists her way into a getting job by not listening to how many times she got denied, and she learns to use her words carefully in order to get what she wants from Yubaba, and essentially saves herself in the process. Additionally, by only saying the right things, she was able to successfully save others by not disclosing that the assistance that Haku, Lin, and Kamaji gave her. This importance placed on one's words shows how powerful they can really be, and how careful you must be when choosing them. Another important thematic aspect of face of the second shows how powerful they can really be, and how careful you must be when choosing them. Spirited Away is the way the film blurs the line of good and evil. At the start to see the other sides of these characters in how they influence Chihiro's pursuit to escape. Characters like Haku and No-Face appearing to be good when we first encounter them, but end up reveling their evil qualities later on. Meanwhile, characters such as Zeniba, Kamaji, and Lin seem to be unpleasant at first, but eventually play a big role in helping Chihiro escape. The characters such as Zeniba, Kamaji, and Lin seem to be unpleasant at first, but eventually play a big role in helping Chihiro escape. he eats people, then back to good again as Chihiro brings him to Zeniba's house to live with her. Even the clearest cut of characters seems to show different sides to themselves, when the main antagonist Yubaba showing a lighter side to her as she cares for Boh, her baby. This thematic decision is not usually used in the animated film genre, as these movies usually show a clear divide between good and evil. Being able to blur these lines of good and evil and challenge the first impressions we make of these traits in the real world, which is incredibly important for the young target audience to understand. Spirited Away also subtly explores the shock that comes with the transition from childhood to adulthood. Chihiro's experience in the bathhouse represented her immediate transition into the life of an adult by throwing her into the world of work. Being inactive and idle is a luxury that comes with childhood, and both Chihiro and Boh demonstrate these traits before they experience any major events. For Chihiro, it's her laying in the backseat of her car as her parents drive her, and for Boh it's always laying around in his pile of pillows while his mother goes out to do her work. These characters both seem to be incapable of doing things independently, and they both have the tendency to complain or whine. When Chihiro first becomes Sen and needs to start her job, she proves herself to be slower and less effective than the other workers. Lin confirms this behavior by saying Sen must have never worked a day in her life. But just like people adjust to the life of work and improve their skillsets, Sen is able to take on challenging tasks such as washing the stink spirit. This is another theme that is typically not addressed strongly in films at this age range, making it a unique aspect of Spirited Away. An important lesson that this film teaches is that everyone makes their own choices that will define who they are. Much of the plot of Spirited Away is influenced by the internal decisions that Chihiro makes to help others, which were her own personal choices that created additional challenges for her to face. At the start of the film, Chihiro is entirely motivated by fear by the unfamiliar and tough environment that she is thrown into. As the plot progresses and other motivations like love and compassion for others come into play, she starts to face additional problems. She starts to face resentment from others due to her desire to not follow the invariable way of life in the bathhouse, which comes from her profound love for Haku. She chooses to confront the dangerous obstacles she faces with compassion, which is an entirely internal decision, despite the danger she puts herself in. The most important thing about these actions that Chihiro makes is the fact that she doesn't entirely remember these decisions and the danger she put herself in during those situations. This symbolizes to the audience that everyone has the power within themselves to show this same kind of compassion and love in their lives, and even if no one remembers you or your actions, it still matters. One of the most intriguing characters in this film was No Face, the spirit who Chihiro allowed to enter the bathhouse. No Face goes through the greatest transformation of all of the characters throughout the film, starting off as seemingly innocent and friendly, changing into a monster who eats people, and then back to innocent and friendly when Chihiro saves him. He defining traits that No Face has are that he reacts to emotions and obtains the physical and personality traits of those he ingests. Hayao Miyazaki explains this character to be a metaphor, essentially a libido that everyone secretly possesses, as all of the actions we make are influenced by what is around us. An interpretation of No Face starts out by simply following Chihiro around, seeking approval from her by offering her many bath tokens for her task, as she repeatedly turns him down. However, as No Face starts to interact with the other workers at the bathhouse, he starts to experience first-hand their greedy nature, as they all quickly jump at the opportunity to collect the gold that No Face leaves on the floor. The more he interacts with these greedy individuals, the more their nature starts to wear on him, as he inherits their selfishness. This escalates to the point where he evolves into a monster, consuming everyone and everything in his way. Later on however, No Face is able settle down to be more like his initial nature, due to spending time with Chihiro and Zeniba, characters who portrayed selflessness and kindness. These qualities are very similar to that of a child, as No Face essentially reflects and imitates the nature of the people around him. As shown by the bathhouse workers and their effects on No Face, the role of greed is significant in Spirited Away. Greed is also portrayed to Chihiro through her parents, and the transformation they go through turning into pigs. These examples play into the larger theme of temptation, which is shown through the bathhouse, her first major shocking revelation is that her parents were turned into pigs when they decided to eat the food they had found. By giving in to the temptation of the food they found, Chihiro's parents gave into greed instead of thinking selflessly like Chihiro, who claimed the food wasn't meant for them. In the movie, this transformation into pigs was initially irreversible for Chihiro's parents, reflecting the nature of greed in the real world, as that kind of lifestyle can Chihiro was able to determine during her challenge that none of the pigs in the pen were her parents due to the fact that her mindset had changes through everything she experienced at the bathhouse. Greed was also a very evident factor power over everyone. Through this powerful theme, Hayao Miyazaki was trying to show that everyone can be consumed by greed, as long as they are enticed by the right thing. Another theme that is shown in Spirited Away that is common throughout all of Hayao Miyazaki's work is environmentalism. All throughout the film, the consequences of harmful actions towards the environment and the damage it does to people and society is frequently addressed. Two characters in particular, the stink spirit arrives to the bathhouse, all of the staff tries to drive it away unsuccessfully, as it makes itself into the largest bath. Chihiro then notices something sticking out of the it, discovering that rather than a monster, it was really a river spirit that was corrupted by the extensive pollution from his river. After removing the stick, an enormous amount of human trash poured out of spirit (including a bicycle), freeing him to fly away like a dragon. Hayao Miyazaki says the stink spirit represented his own personal experience cleaning out a river (which also contained a bicycle), in which he helped restore it to be clear and habitable for fish to live in. The stink spirit not only serves as a reminder for how harmful our pollution can be to the environment, but also teaches us that we are capable of repairing this damage we've created if we really try to fix it. Secondly, the character of Haku has a big role in representing environmentalism in Spirited Away. Haku's struggle to reclaim his identity and escape the spirit of the Kohaku River, a river that had been destroyed through human settlement. It is explained that where the river once was now turned into apartments, proving that human's demolition of nature was the reason Haku lost his name forever. Chihiro's father mentioned early in the film that the bathhouse was right next to an abandoned theme park, and talks about how frequently theme parks were being developed everywhere until they all closed, due to an economic downturn. This explanation provided even more evidence for this environmentalist theme, as it showed how poorly land was managed, with large areas
of land being destroyed just to build structures that wouldn't last. Even to a lesser extent, Chihiro's parents transforming into pigs was a form of self-pollution, as they feasted on the food that was meant for the spirits to consume. This showed that they had become victims of their own irresponsible actions, and were punished in consequence. While Spirited Away does not explicitly promote environmental awareness, it offers an insightful examination of human-created pollution, one that people can look to gain a perspective on the issue. Keep in mind: This is only a sample. Get a custom paper now from our expert writers. Spirited Away is an incredibly complex film with so many underlying themes within it. This masterpiece by Hayao Miyazaki delves into the meaning and power that words and names hold, the ambiguity of good and evil compared to our initial expectations, the dangers of greed and temptation, and the horrors of the human effects on the environment. It is incredible that a movie centered around a young viewer audience can have so many deep themes that are integrated into it, and provides lessons for people of all ages to learn from. It is no surprise that this film received all of the critical acclaim that it did, as it is clearly one of the most unique and captivating animated films of all time. Overall, this film by Hayao Miyazaki was able to captivate millions through its stunning visuals, it's exciting plot, its diverse and intriguing characters, and the deep themes that it provides that people of all ages can learn from. Works Cited: Feldman, M. (2019). The art of the music video. Routledge. Fiske, J. (2010). Understanding popular culture. Routledge Gilligan, C. (1982). In a different voice: Psychological theory and women's development. Harvard University Press. Hooks, B. (1994). Rocking around the clock: Music television, postmodernism, and consumer culture. Routledge. Kolker, R. (1990). The alterity of music video Quarterly Review of Film and Video, 11(1), 21-40. McRobbie, A. (2013). The aftermath of feminism: Gender, culture, and social change. Sage. Messaris, P. (1994). Visual "literacy": Image, mind, and reality. Westview Press. Sharma, S. (2013). Ariana Grande's "God is a woman" music video is an empowering take on femininity. . Wallis, C. (1995). I shot Andy Warhol. Screen, 36(3), 261-267. I'm of the opinion that there hasn't been an animated film as good as Spirited Away. It's hard to find many non-animated films as good as it. It is nearly impossible to find a single person who dislikes it and those that do still respect it as a piece of art. However, I do know plenty of people who simply dismiss it as a children's film; a really good one, but still something less than. That's just wrong. There's so much to Spirited Away that it's themes what we should expect from animation (traditional or digital). The second part will dig into the film's themes and ideas to see how Spirited Away not only entrances us with its visuals, but also be a third part. It will consist of me typing in caps and demanding Disney release the movie on Blu-ray in the U.S. Much of what I'm about to say about Spirited Away's animation stands true for many of Studio Ghibli's films. There's a reason that the studio's movies are a cut above almost everything else out there and those reasons are epitomized in Spirited Away. As of now, this is the studios best film and thus can easily be used to exemplify what Ghibli is all about? Bringing animation to life. The one thing that is most impressive about there and those reasons are epitomized in Spirited Away. Spirited Away is how alive almost every frame of animation is. Even the hand drawn backgrounds, which are devoid of actual movement, sparkle with life. This "life" is clearly present in large scenes like hundreds of different and creative spirits are congregating. Every aspect of a big scene like this throbs with motion, creating an animated film that feels more alive than most non-animated ones. We're thrown into a massive world of ideas, but the attention to detail on every subject we see is stunning. It's actually this detailed view of the world that separates Spirited Away's animation from all others. Large scenes, like the introduction to the bath house, play out in animated films all the time, but the smaller scenes that are routinely present in Spirited Away do not. Take the Susuwatari (tiny, living dust balls who man the bath house's furnace). While they play a role in the film, many of the scenes are almost completely irrelevant to the actual plot. Instead of attempting to move the story along as fast as possible Miyazaki pushes instead to establish a world by paying attention to (admittedly adorable) minutia. Most animation work, but Spirited Away not only puts extra animation into pivotal scenes, but also adds entire scenes that are not "needed." In this way Spirited Away doesn't just tell a story, it creates a world. It's an amazing world to look at, too. Miyazaki understood this and it's so blatantly clear from the film, but once again it's the less obvious scene that make the point. Take Chihiro's family's first steps into what they think is an old amusement park. The family walked into what looks like a small train station or waiting room. Instead of a quick establishing shot to the outside of the building to show where they are, the camera slowly pans across the beautifully painted background as if it is savoring every brush stroke. It then cuts to a shot of light streaming through one of the room's windows. It's not a special window and it doesn't have any real purpose, but it might be one of the most important shots for establishing tone in the film. This devoted focus on presenting the art behind the film is not only a testament to Ghibli's love of the medium, but creates a deeper world for the viewer to get lost in. If you're invested in what sunlight looks like streaming through a window, how invested are you going to be in your characters' faces than the team behind Spirited Away. I'm not talking perfect reproduction here. That doesn't capture emotion nearly as well as this film's animation. No, it is in fact the ability to bend the rules that makes Spirited Away's characters seem so much more alive than some motion-captured bit of CGI. From the exaggerated expressions and wrinkles on Yubaba's over sized head to Chihiro's steadily maturing face, Spirited Away depicts more emotion in a single frame than you can get out of any other film. Watch Yubaba fly into a rage and how the attention to detail on her face's wrinkles and eyes creates an image that you could understand no matter what language it was in. Beyond becoming fully immersed in the world, what is there to understand? Surprisingly, a lot. Even more surprising, for a film released in 2001, a lot of relevant issues crop up today. Looking at Spirited Away at its most basic level we see an adventure about a girl. Peeling back that level the film opens up to two other interpretations. The first is pretty easy to notice: growing up. Taking a cue from Alice in Wonderland, Spirited Away turns the awkward move from childhood to adulthood into a fantasy metaphor. Anyone with even a cursory viewing of the film can easily see Chihiro's growth from a scared girl crying out to her parents to a mature child growing into herself. She falls in love, learns about loss, and through her interactions with the spirits in the bath house discovers that the world isn't so black and white. Played against the foil of Yababa steals Chihiro's name effectively killing her child grow up in contrast to Chihiro, who is forced to. That metaphor is pretty obvious the foil of Yababa steals Chihiro's name effectively killing her child grow up in contrast to Chihiro, who is forced to. That metaphor is pretty obvious the foil of Yababa steals Chihiro's name effectively killing her child grow up in contrast to Chihiro, who is forced to. though as it's part of the plot as well. What stood out for me upon my re-watching of the film this time around is how much it speaks to societies flaws, the burned economy and the constant pull between the past and the present. I'm sure these things have been noted before, but it's incredible how much more appropriate they seem today after our current financial crisis. In 2001, Japan's economy was already crumbling so many of the economic themes of the film relate back to that originally, but are now all the more appropriate post Great Recession. The bath house in general can easily be interpreted as the pre-recession economy as it explodes in wealth and luxury. No Face, a creature who are now all the more appropriate post Great Recession. usurps the identity and actions of those around it, sees the overwhelming consumption he destroys the very house that is feeding him and yet no one thinks to stop him until it is too late. Sound like any pre-2008 country you know? On a side note, and this is obviously just by chance, it's interesting that the magic dumpling that Chihiro uses to cure No Face is given to her by the cleaned up spirit of a polluted river. If we continue down the path of No Face is given to her by the cleaned up spirit of a polluted river. environmentally friendly infrastructure. As anyone who has followed President Obama's attempts to repair the US economy knows, that is actually one of the major aspects of his plan. You read it here first: Obama's economic recovery plan entirely based on Spirited Away This interpretation of the film puts Chihiro squarely in the role of the "next generation." Much like a college student graduating into a depressed economy where they've been promised a job, she comes kicking and fearful into the bath house unsure of what or where she is supposed to go. However, she eventually recognizes the issues with the culture of the place she is in and realizes that personal sacrifice and growth are the only way to change what is happening around her. Her
maturation as a person is what the film believes society needs to do to move beyond where we are. While the film has a clear and obviously, since Spirited Away was released in 2001 none of these current metaphors are even more relevant today than they were in 2001 (at least outside of Japan). I've spoken a lot about metaphors, the economy, growing up and other issues here. Maybe too much (seriously, the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street were in a previous draft). Really though, those are side things to what make it a classic. It's a rare film that comes along that you can mute and still enjoy just as much as you would with the sound on, but Spirited Away is one of them. ... But don't actually mute it. The score is too amazing. And now as promised: WHY HASN'T DISNEY BROUGHT THIS OUT ON BLU-RAY YET? The following contains spoilers for Spirited Away is one of Studio Ghibli's most famous and beloved movies, both in Japan and abroad. The story and characters have captivated the hearts of so many people over the years, and its popularity has not died down no matter how many of the characters and themes in the movie are actually based on characters from Japanese mythology and folklore? Understanding their inspirations and origins can help bring a whole new level of understanding to Spirited Away's already heartwarming and charming story. While in Japan, most people would be able to instantly make the connections between these characters and their cultural counterparts, others who are less familiar with Japanese folklore may miss the deeper meanings behind them. Nearly all the characters at the bathhouse that Chihiro's Journey The very premise of Spirited Away, the story of a young girl who is taken in by gods and works for them in their bathhouse, is based on the traditional Japanese belief of "kamikakushi." This idea believes that sometimes spirits take away children, and throughout history has been used as a comfort for parents who lose their children. Believing that they were taken by the gods is better than accepting a far darker reality of where their child has gone. Another small detail important to Chihiro's journey is that she both enters and leaves the spiritual realm through a tunnel. According to Japanese superstition, traveling through tunnels can lead people into another world. The tunnel serves as the gateway between the human world and that of the spirits, and when Chihiro finally exits through it once again she is able to go back to her regular life. One of the most memorable characters in Spirited Away is Yubaba, the old lady who runs the bathhouse and entraps Chihiro and her parents. Yubaba is depicted as a huge old woman with magic powers, who cares greatly for her giant baby and will do anything to protect him. She is also shown as cold and unforgiving to everyone else, and threatens to eat Chihiro's parents, whom she has turned into pigs, if Chihiro is not able to choose them from a group of other pigs. Yubaba is based on the legend, yamauba." According to the legend, yamauba." According to the legend of a Japanese mountain witch known as "yamauba." which is exactly what Yubaba does to Chihiro's parents. On the flip side, yamauba are also nurturing mothers who have children many times a year and care very deeply for their families. This trait is shown in how much Yubaba cares for her baby, and how she does everything she can to care for him despite her attitude towards others. One of the most popular characters in Spirited Away around the word is Haku, the boy who helps Chihiro at the start of the movie - and whom she eventually helps in return. While Haku can take the form of a human boy, his true form is revealed to be a flying dragon. What's more, near the end of the film Chihiro realises he is actually the embodiment of the Nigihayami Kohakunushi, the "god of the swift amber river" (simply called the Kohaku River in the English dub). Nigihayami Kohaukunushi is likely a reference to the old Japanese tale of Nigiyahahi, a man who betrayed his brother-in-law and took the side of the emperor. Haku is also set up to betray everyone at the beginning of the movie, hoping to learn Yubaba's magic for himself at the cost of his friends, especially the trust of Kamaji. He is also a known thief, stealing from Yubaba's sister. However, this is where the mythos and the movie part ways, because Haku's path is changed by Chihiro's positive influence. Kamaji is the many-limbed man who works the boiler room at the bathhouse, and who helps both Chihiro and Haku when they are in trouble. He is based on a spider-like yokai, a Japanese spirit, called "tsuchigumo." This term has also been used throughout Japanese traditional literature to refer to people who are lesser, defy Imperial authority, and are often depicted as living in pits. In Spirited Away, Yubaba can be seen as the Imperial authority, living at the top of the bathhouse while Kamaji works hard in the basement. He does not openly fight against her, but he does defy her by helping Chihiro and Haku. In the background of the bathhouse, there are a lot of other spirits you can see. Many are based on designs inspired by many yokai traditions, though most have been changed a bit according to Hayao Miyazaki's creative vision. One of the most memorable ones, known as the Radish Spirit in the English dub, has a very different name in Japanese - Oshirisama. While Oshirisama is the name of a god of agriculture in the Shinto belief, the character is likely based on a very different set of traditional Japanese dolls. They look nothing like radishes, however, and are instead connected to the story Tamaya-Gozen, and look like a horse and a woman. The Radish Spirit is just one example of how the original folklore has been changed for the story, but the roots are still there. There is a lot that we can learn from watching Studio Ghibli films, and Spirited Away specifically teaches us a bit more about Japanese traditional stories and myths. Understanding the superstitions and beliefs behind some of these concepts and characters can add a whole new level of understanding to the film. And knowing how Miyazaki also diverted from and reimagined the traditional story to create his own is significant, too! The next time you watch Spirited Away, keep your eyes open for how many yokai you can see, and what details in the story now make a little more sense since you know their origin. MORE: The Best Ghibli Songs, Ranked Sources: FilmSchoolRejects, CMU.edu, Anime Herald, Syfy Gillen: Tom Williams—CQ-Roll Call, Inc/Getty Images; Mamdani: Madison Swart—Hans Lucas/AFP/Getty Images"I am not a socialist. I am a Democrat," Rep. Laura Gillen of New York tells TIMEby Nik Popli Pari Dukovic for TIME Omar Havana—Getty Imagesby Massimo Calabresi/The HagueThe day's top headlines, curated by The Brief June 26, 2025Updates on Trump and Netanyahu, NATO, and moreNewsletters Kelsey McClellan for TIMEMoments before I hop into my first Waymo in Austin, Texas, the driverless car is already locked in a standoff with a human rival. I've hailed the car in a tricky triangular parking lot in the middle of a big intersection, hoping to hitch a ride downtown. After about six minutes of waiting, I see...Read MoreEntertainmentIdeasEntertainmentClimateByAndrew Luttrell and Jake Teeny Allison Bailey/Middle East Images Getty Images Getty Images Getty Images Getty Images Photo-Illustration Chloe Dowling for TIME (Source Images Aringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Andrew Caballero-Reynolds-Getty Images Stringer/Anadolu/Getty Images Strin Reynolds—Getty Images It's exciting news for fans who grew up with his show. New York Times bestselling author Thea Guanzon brings Jester Lavorre's favorite book from Critical Role's campaign 2 to the page. Godzilla: Escape the Deadzone #1 is unlike anything the franchise has seen before, and underneath all its brutal horror is a truly intriguing the franchise has seen before. mystery. Ironheart star Dominique Thorne delves into the shocking cliffhanger that rounded out the first half of the new Disney+ MCU miniseries. Retrocrush announces a limited-time exclusive re-release for a classic disaster anime produced by BONES (My Hero Academia) and Kinema Citrus. 2:16 With both Attack On Titan's manga and anime officially over, what exactly happened in the end? Actor Anthony Carrigan was able to bring something special to the role of the villain Metamorpho in James Gunn's upcoming Superman movie. The Simpsons fans have cried foul over a recent episode killing off a beloved family member. Marvel is teasing a gory new series featuring fan-favorite undead variants as they rip their way through important moments in Marvel history. Ben Affleck and Jon Bernthal's sequel to The Accountant puts up numbers on the global streaming charts as a third movie remains on the horizon. The popular Prime Video series is undergoing some cast changes. Pedro Pascal is known for playing Joel in The Last of Us TV show, but he played a key role in another video game. Tracker has already been renewed for a third season at CBS, but Justin Hartley and Jensen Ackles fans are moving the show up streaming charts. A certain Star Trek captain can be heard in the newest Disney & Pixar Movie. 24 years after it was first released, Steven Spielberg & Tom Hanks' WWII miniseries manages to beat the iconic Saving Private Ryan in 1 major way. The BuffyVerse is thriving. Disney's Moana 2 makes a unique change to the titular heroine as she undergoes a difficult mission against
the sinister duo of the anime adaptation of Junji Ito's horror story. Prime Video scores another hit, as Amazon's latest drama series based on a best-selling 2014 novel achieves significant streaming success. A Marvel producer talks about how the studio decided to assemble its newest Disney & Pixar Movie. 24 years after it was first released, Steven Spielberg & Tom Hanks' WWII miniseries manages to beat the iconic Saving Private Ryan in 1 major Guardians of the Galaxy stars will appear in his upcoming Superman film. Here's everything we know so far. The BuffyVerse is thriving. Disney's Moana 2 makes a unique change to the titular heroine as she undergoes a difficult mission against the sinister duo of Nalo and Matangi. Toonami's co-creator and executive producer of Uzumaki hints at the troubled production of the anime adaptation of Junji Ito's horror story. EXCLUSIVE: A sneak peek at episode 103 of Revival reveals a couple's struggles to accept their daughter as a "Reviver." Prime Video scores another hit, as Amazon's latest drama series based on a best-selling 2014 novel achieves significant streaming success. A Marvel producer talks about how the studio decided to assemble its newest superhero group. For years, fans have wondered how an Emperor of the Sea lost ar arm to a small sea king, but One Piece Chapter 1152 hints at the reason. Fans will soon get to see something that's never been released for the big screen before. Skybound's red-hot Transformers #25, with two all-star creators joining the title The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films are the only fantasy movies that Peter Jackson directed, but he once set his eyes on another franchise. The original Frasier aired for 11 seasons and won 37 Emmy Awards. July 2 is going to be a sad day for McDonald's fans. Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning One of the highest-rated movies of Tom Cruise's illustrious acting career becomes a streaming hit again years after its release. The sci-fi series, which debuted on the platform in 2021, is set to return to Apple TV+ in July. A fan-favorite character from the Avatar. The Last Airbender universe was originally supposed to betray Team Avatar. King of the Hill is one of the most appreciated animated sitcoms of all time but some fans view certain seasons as better than others. Brad Pitt might be looking at a new hit with F1 based on the early reactions. Page 3 The live-action remake of that. If you've been itching to get your friends into anime, these are the best series to show them. The critically acclaimed series is back with a new season, with better reviews. A handy guide to the filler arcs littered throughout Sailor Moon's original anime series and movies, and notes on each story's qualities. Five years after Supernatural, Jensen Ackles is back on the small screen with a new show that is already blowing up on Prime Video. The Fantastic Four: First Steps The latest Fantastic Four trailer debuts Ben Grimm with a spout of facial hair, and this small detail could hint at an interesting comic storyline. Players are known to be especially difficult to defeat. Beth's move in Yellowstone Season 3 set off a chain reaction that ignited her feud with Jamie and reshaped the Dutton legacy. Hello Kitty fans have no shortage of merchandise to enjoy, but the franchise's new birthday cake cookie dough is something for everyone to eat up. Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom It may not be every fan's favorite movie, but this billion-dollar hit starring Chris Pratt is climbing the streaming charts eight years later. The world of manga is so diverse that there's something to appeal to everyone, including fans who prefer to read real books. Season 3 might have abandoned what made The Bear so great in the first place, but a standout episode in Season 4 is a reminder of what good TV is. Sailor Moon's epic story is full of moonlight battles and gorgeous transformation sequences — but dark theories hint at a more sinister story. Fans send the series up the streaming charts after Ray Romano and Patricia Heaton talked about a potential reboot. who may even beat Spike. One of Sheridan's biggest hits following the end of Yellowstone continues to dominate the streaming charts. The good, the bad, and the ugly of The Bear Season 4 unintentionally mirrors the namesake restaurant's struggles to keep the lights on. The release of a fan-favorite JoJo's story finally brings the manga to U.S. readers in a new and official digital format. With slow motion and rapid montage, The Wild Bunch marked a turning point for the genre, changing how violence was shown on-screen. Thanks to their overwhelming strength, these powerful anime characters nearly came out on top. Page 4 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit SVU fans have been waiting 25 years (and counting) for this. In a CBR review of Ultimate Spider-Man #18, see how Peter Parker's son being a superhero creates a very dangerous situation More mature anime on streaming. The final season of Pokémon has some of the best episodes in the entire animated series franchise, meaning these are the best of them all. Firefly was a sci-fi western that burned briefly, but 38 years ago, Marshal Bravestarr blazed his own trail on Saturday mornings. There have been many excellent Superman stories in recent years, but arguably none come close to this elseworlds tale from 2004. Haymitch Abernathy has plenty of pithy one-liners in the Hunger Games movies, but his book counterpart gets some even better quotes. The Walking Dead hooked audiences with its eerie opening, as Rick Grimes wakes up to a post-apocalyptic world, but this 2002 horror film did it first. Dragon Ball DAIMA was an exciting change of pace for the shonen franchise, but it's also a major improvement from Dragon Ball Super in many respects! Carmy Berzatto makes a big career change at the end of The Bear Season 4, handing the fate of the restaurant to Sydney, Richie and Natalie. canon from then on. Francie Fak has been hilariously haunting Natalie Berzatto's narrative on The Bear for a while, and now it's time for them to face the past. Superman has gone through a lot of iterations and changes over the years, from the character's powers and origins. But which version is the strongest? There were rumors about why Shannen Doherty's Prue left Charmed after Season 3, but Doherty finally revealed the real reason she left the show. The Far Side is known for its creative and sometimes darker takes on the world, and even Disney characters are not safe from Larson's mind. Akira Toriyama's Dragon Ball Super has no shortage of exceptional characters, but some of their power completely trumps the competition. Mobile Suit Gundam GQuuuuuuX has many flashes of brilliance, but it's easily the most frustrating and disappointing Gundam anime of recent memory. There's good news for international Oshi no Ko fans, with the official movie now becoming available to stream for the first time. Actor Clint Eastwood once thought about a different career after starring in this 1958 Western, which left him feeling "really depressed." The Bear has captured the hearts and minds of audiences, but there's another Hulu show that is even better and deserves much more attention. Page 5 DC's Earth One gave creators the freedom to explore popular characters like Wonder Woman in bold new ways, though Grant Morrison embraced her origins. Norman Reedus & Guillermo del Toro have both become icons of horror in their own ways, but their 1st collaboration is one that deserves more love. Crime shows remain iconic even now, but with so many hits, it's easy to miss one of Netflix's most underrated and hidden offerings. An often overlooked aspect of Gollum's story in The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring proves just how strongly he desired the Same day as they air next month on Hulu. Recasts happen all too often on TV and Blue Bloods ended up recasting Nicky Reagan very early on in the series. Indie games are known for hitting players where it hurts, and these ones will make you laugh, cry, want to stare at the wall for an hour and more. An exciting name has been attached to direct the next James Bond movie for Amazon MGM Studios. Though Scooby-Doo is best known for his appearences on TV, there have been a ton of feature films made featuring Scoob and the rest of Mystery Inc. From Scissor Seven to Psychic Princess, these donghua didn't get the spotlight, but they've got the style, story and heart to rival the best. 30 years ago, Kevin Bacon lent his voice to the animated Spielberg production, Balto, which has developed a fine legacy despite initially flopping. Vampire Diaries co-creator Julie Plec reveals the simple step it would take for another spinoff to happen. The next Animal Crossing game needs to remove certain Nintendo Switch Online requirements that restrict what players can do. Based on early reactions, James Gunn's Superman will use a surprising element from Star Wars to help set up the DCU quickly. Dark Souls might have set a standard for difficulty in gaming, but plenty of retro RPGs are just as brutal as FromSoftware's magnum opus. Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning honors not just the previous Mission: Impossible films, but the original television series from 1966. The Apothecary Diaries ushers in the summer season with a brand-new promo image, which showcases fan-favorite characters Maomao and Jinshi, Gene Wilder's Young Frankenstein is getting rebooted, 28 Days Later may be Danny Boyle's most lauded film, but his other movie with Cillian Murphy and Chris Evans, Sunshine, is the most underrated. In "The Road Trip to Harvard" episode in Gilmore Girls, there's a character by the name of Erika Hilson Palmer who sheds light on Lorelai's character. Page 6 From elevated existing games to upcoming new adventures, these Nintendo Switch 2 games make it worth the wait. The Walking Dead: Dead City needs something to keep the series fresh, and one element from another hit spinoff could be
just the thing. While Garfield has shown a preference for sticking around the house, he has had many outdoor adventures, including timelessly hilarious camping trips. Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon for a brand-new audience. Horror might not be for everyone, but essential movies like The Conjuring and Poltergeist are must-watches for any film buff. Pedro Pascal still feels indebted for his casting in the role, which made him a fan favorite despite limited screen time. From Master Roshi to Sanji, nosebleeds when aroused are a familiar trope to anime fans. But are they possible in real life? The Social Network, the Oscar-winning chronicling of how Mark Zuckerberg started Facebook, gets its sequel, but with a big change. This 2016 film is a beautifully poignant and unsettling fairy tale that employs supernatural elements to explore themes of grief and trauma. Lazarus Episode 13 will mark the series' epic finale as Axel settles his score with Soryu, and the group closes in on Dr. Skinner's location. The Walking Dead Universe boasts a massive cast across its multiple series. However, over the years, some characters overstayed their welcome. From Software's Elden Ring is home to some of the most challenging bosses the Soulsborne genre has ever seen. Scream is almost 30 years old, and still iconic, with a special ability to make fun of itself, and apparently spoil its own twist in the first scene. Dragon Ball GT had its moments, but as a follow-up to Dragon Ball Z, it just didn't deliver on the level most fans hoped it would. The Vampire Diaries may have already ended, but there are more than a few alternate endings that could've changed everything. Dandadan may have won anime fans over with its outrageous comedy, but these supernatural manga can be just as crazy. A new addition to the cast of Chicago Fire for Season 14 has been revealed. Game of Thrones' finale has gone down in infamy over the years, and the one thing the franchise could do to fix that isn't happening. Top Gun 3's plot gets an update from franchise director Joseph Kosinski, who hints at what will happen with Tom Cruise's Pete "Maverick" Mitchell. There are some Pokémon Video games, including Pokémon Crustal and Pokémon Crustal and Pokémon Crustal and Pokémon Crustal and Pokémon Snap, that even some of the most diehard fans have forgotten about. Page 7 Sanrio and Moonbug -- the owners of Hello Kitty and CoComelon -- team up for a new crossover show starring beloved characters from both universes. IDW Publishing's Star Trek: Red Shirts is far from anything fans of the franchise have ever seen before. The new series comes from the creator of Vikings and Vikings: Valhalla. Goku's rivals were cooler, scarier and way more fun as villains. They were always better as bad guys and lost their edge when they went soft. Ahead of the start of production on Road House 2, Amazon and Jake Gyllenhaal secure the rights to a Stephen King-approved short novel. With Daredevil: Born Again Season 2 set to premiere in March 2026, here are some of our predictions for Matt Murdock's MCU future. Fear Street: Prom Queen exposes a growing problem in modern horror franchises, where recycled plots and weak characters lead to franchise fatigue. They didn't meet in Mystic Falls, though. teenage mutant ninja turtles (comics) The first collection of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' return to New York City is out and CBR has an exclusive look at the origin of the new series Pokémon Go Fest 2025's new Adventure Effects for Generation 8's Zacian and Zamazenta are some of the most powerful added to the game to date. Despicable One Piece villains like Charlotte Katakuri and Admiral Kizaru are compelling enough to warrant a redemption arc. In an interview with CBR, Please Don't Feed the Children director Destry Allyn Spielberg discusses her directorial debut and her future in din directorial debut and her future in directorial deb just cool futuristic stories — they're mental rollercoasters that will leave viewers questioning everything. Spider-Man: Brand New Day, though he isn't exactly the best partner for the family-friendly hero. While Disney prepares to reboot Holes with a new cast, original movie actor Khleo Thomas is opening up about the highs and lows of playing Zero. Another Blumhouse monster movie wraps production with the hope being that it will be far better received than Wolf Man was earlier this year. Ballard stars Maggie Q, Courtney Taylor and John Carroll Lynch open up to CBR about the highly anticipated next chapter of Amazon's Bosch franchise. Handling the controversial in a quiet and respectful way is one of The Apothecary Diaries best qualities! Quotes from dark anime stars like JJK's Mahito are utterly iconic. Page 8 The best of the Mad Max movies is set for a major streaming debut, amid talk of a long-gestating sequel finally making it to the big screen. Timothy Olyphant took on the role of an iconic video game character. The shows The Sopranos inspired are some of the best series on television. Each is worth watching. Toonami's co-creator opens up about the controversial aspects of the Lazarus English-dubbed anime series on Adult Swim. Chainsaw Man's ending lies in the hands of Tatsu Fujimoto, leaving the anime's conclusion to still be a mystery. Jensen Ackles responds to the popular fan campaign for him to play the DCU's Batman. Stick actors Marc Maron and Mariana Treviño talk to CBR about the charming dynamic between Mitts and Elena, and what they love on the Apple TV+ show. Brad Pitt's racing movie F1 is set to have a big opening weekend at the box office during its head-to-head showdown with horror sequel M3GAN 2.0. Criminal Minds: Evolution has been a series full of surprises, and one of the biggest ones yet could lead to the return of a beloved character. Squid Game is coming to an end, but that doesn't mean a spinoff can't happen. The 1978 war epic won an impressive five Academy Awards. The Fantastic Four: First Steps Marvel Studios debuts the final trailer for its next entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, The Fantastic Four: First Steps. Many of the most popular anime were surprisingly inspired by real-life novels. East meets West in Takashi Okazaki's Afro Samurai steelbook, available now in the Crunchyroll store. Anticipation is high for the next series of highly acclaimed drama The Pitt. Sega and Sanrio are ready to include even more beloved characters in an adorable upcoming release, with Cinnamoroll and My Melody joining the lineup. While anime quality can be subjective, most fans agree that the likes of Neon Genesis Evangelion, and One Piece rank among the best. This classic Western epic will debut on a new streaming platform soon. Alan Ritchson's Prime Video series Reacher climbs the charts as fans eagerly await Season 4 of the hit show. Come July, Netflix subscribers will be able to stream Kristen Stewart and Jon Favreau's forgotten Jumanji spinoff. Page 9 James Gunn gives fans a new look at the mysterious villain Ultraman from the upcoming Superman movie starring David Corenswet. The New Film marks the directorial debut for Matthew Loren Oates. The Power Rangers franchise has many great fighters, but some of the best are also exceptional sword wielders. Channing Tatum's new crime comedy movie Roofman shares its first trailer ahead of its release date later this year. Modern fans who revisit early Pokémon today are going to find several things deeply confusing. M3GAN 2.0 attempts to reprogram a horror-sci-fi parable into a bombastic action-comedy and high camp franchise to redeem its witty title character. Fans weren't impressed with the BBC's actions after the most recent Doctor Who finale. It's been 6 years since Kingdom Hearts 3 was released, but with KH4 in development, fans are wondering where the series could possibly go next. The Fantastic Four: First Steps The Thing grows a beard and refuses to say "It's clobberin' time" in the final trailer for Marvel Studios' The Fantastic Four: First Steps. Skull Island and MonsterVerse fans have a new project to look forward to that dives back into the deadly location that started it all for King Kong. An underrated action movie starring Liam Neeson, made after the actor's box office hit Taken, will be added to a free streaming service next month. These classic video games have everything it takes to be turned into some of the best anime ever. This 1998 swashbuckler action film paved the way for one of Disney's most successful movie franchises, which launched just five years later. Breaking Bad had some incredibly dark moments, but one of the darkest remains a scene that Bryan Cranston still loves even now. Rainn Wilson still remembers when Steve Carell stopped playing Michael Scott. Fans of the Mobile Suit Gundam GQuuuuuuX anime series don't appear likely to ever see a Season 2. Scott Snyder just broke great news for fans of DC Comics' Absolute Universe, and it could mean that big things are in store for Absolute Batman. Looking for more KPop Demon Hunters? Check out these anime next. The current movie season has been a wild one, with plenty of exciting new releases. With so many films in theaters, which are actually worth watching? The Pokémon franchise is filled with many talented Trainers, yet there are some who are nothing short of legendary. Page 10 Lee Byunghun teases what to expect from The Front Man in the highly anticipated third season of the hit Netflix thriller drama. Ironheart introduces Ezekiel Stane, son of Obidiah from Iron Man, played by Alden Ehrenreich and there's some differences from his comics counterpart. Despite its inaccuracies, this 2024 Guy Ritchie war film showcases the director's signature style, a star-studded cast, and lots of action. Sailor Moon's story features some outdated romances and censored queer storylines — and a modern remake would likely change or cut them entirely. Pixar doesn't believe the movie itself is to blame. Statham fans have a lot of streaming options,
and they will be getting a creature feature soon. Since its release, Netflix's new crime series has been extremely popular. Nolan came that close to directing the movie, but went on to work on The Dark Knight Trilogy instead. Characters in Tower of God are some of the most powerful in anime, but classic was highly praised upon its release in 1986, and it received a glowing review from Roger Ebert at the time. Optimus Prime gets ready to transformers MPG-17 toy line. Dragon Ball DAIMA is full of exhilarating action and brutal battles, but there are certain narrative choices in the anime that just fall flat. While the Fantastic Four can always rely on each other, Marvel's First Family has built a strong connection of superpowered friends they can call on. Dragon Ball Super: Broly features an extended prologue that drops major revelations that cast DBZ's Saiyans in a new light. Presumed Innocent proved that even a well-known story can feel new again. Dexter Morgan kills his sister in the final episode of the original Dexter series, but not everyone understands motivations. Frieren: Before Journey's End isn't the only creative high fantasy anime with demons, extensive folklore, and beautiful, ethereal visions of nature. From

The Americans to Patriot, these flawless slow-burn character-driven dramas are perfect for fans of Better Call Saul who miss the show. Richard Donner's version of the classic film. Dragon Ball offers many parallels to its past fights in Super, paying homage and showing the evolution of key characters. Page 11 Zombies are one of the most popular horror subgenres, but films like Shaun of the Dead and One Cut of the Dead and One Cut of the Dead are must-sees for fans. Ash meets several powerful Pokémon during his overall journey, with many who appear to be nearly invincible, even in the toughest battles. In a recent podcast, Ryan Condal confirmed the inclusion of a conceptual episode in an already short Season 3 NCIS: Tony & Ziva should be an exciting spin-off, but I am disappointed that it will be breaking a 1,000 episode trend without much justification. Some classic JRPGs, like Dark Souls and Final Fantasy VII, took the genre from a niche hobby to the mainstream. The X-Men have dealt with a fair share of controversy from a few different superstar creators over the years, but these comics left an indelible mark. Toonami's co-creator opens up about the recent addition of English-subbed anime on Adult Swim, such as Lazarus, as a reflection of modern times. Aragorn belonged to a race of Men known as Dúnedain, which gave him an extended lifespan, but how many Dúnedain were there in The Lord of the Rings? Martin Kove offers a public response after it was alleged that he'd bitten his Cobra Kai co-star Alicia Hannah-Kim. From brand-new breakout hits to classic fan favorites, Crunchyroll has a ton of great anime for fans to stream right now. Hulu's Mid-Century Modern is witty, heartfelt, and fresh. Although Season 1 has finished, there are plenty of other great sitcoms to fill the void. War movies stay popular because they tell moving stories, but films like Apocalypse Now and Pearl Harbor struggle to stand the test of time. the 1980s, and it boasts a high level of realism. Ironheart gets its debut Rotten Tomatoes score, and the audiences don't see to agree. The best Sailor Moon quotes are a mix of both overt and subtle life lessons, and many of the most memorable are emotionally moving. Game of Thrones is a masterclass in television, but to rewatch the show, there are more than a few episodes that must be skipped. Several Game Boy Advance classics are long overdue for a return, especially with the potential of full 3D remakes on modern hardware. Some fans may be surprised to learn which film earned action movie legend Arnold Schwarzenegger his biggest paycheck. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes leaves one major mystery unsolved, but the next Hunger Games story can finally reveal the truth. Ironheart introduces a new chapter in the MCU, delivering a story that audiences won't see coming and a finale that changes everything. Page 12 The Walking Dead: Dead City Wrapped up its second season, and many of the characters were left at a fork in the road, with fans wondering what's next. Ubisoft says that the Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time remake is still in the works, but that doesn't necessarily mean the franchise is doing well. The final villain in an anime should be a perfect opponent for the protagonist, but sometimes they're just the opposite. Anime's next. favorite ninja heads to the ballpark this July for MLB's upcoming 'Anime Day,' which will feature exclusive Naruto-style apparel. In a time when everything seems to be getting sequels and remakes, there are some family movies that need to continue to standalone. The beloved Mr. Krabs reportedly died in a SpongeBob SquarePants episode, according to a bizarre rumor, but not everything is quite as it seems. That breakout role also gained him a cult following. Denzel Washington will step into the legendary actor. The recent One Piece chapter confirmed that Supreme King Haki will be a fundamental aspect of the final battle, which is why these characters need it. In Harry Potter, the Golden Trio sought to destroy Voldemort's 7 Horcruxes hidden in Hogwarts and the series' lore runs deep, but these legendary Pokémon duos & trios have some of the most interesting backstories of all. Mobile Suit Gundam GQuuuuuuX's finale will be fun and nostalgic for older fans, but it's still a frustrating conclusion to Gundam's newest anime. Marvel's dramatic new direction for Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until Amazing Spider-Man will also include a special series of variant covers counting down until for a single narrative arc. The Raid is an action-packed trip into the world of Indonesian police squads, grossing eight times its small budget worldwide. Doug Liman's next project will be a Stephen King adaptation. Star Trek: The Next Generation, actor Patrick Stewart's favorite story is a must-watch because it's unique. While anime is more accessible than ever, some movies are still out of reach of fans. Gary Larson's The Far Side comics showcase his comedic view on society, including one of America's favorite games, football, and its larger influence. Luca Guadagnino is set to direct the remake of American Psycho, but he'll need to include a few key elements to make the film successful. Page 13 Gilmore Girls still charms, but a 2025 rewatch uncovers deeper issues behind the fast-talking wit and mother-daughter magic. Brad Pitt had to start at the bottom when he embarked on his acting journey. Yixuan offers a unique playstyle and ignores enemy defenses with the new Rupture role in Zenless Zone Zero's 2.0 update. A brand-new release looks to Sailor Moon as a leading source of inspiration for its unique gameplay. There are many Western movies that may have been seen as Rotten when they were released, but with time, fans have realized they are worth watching. Almost every Invincible from the multiverse turned evil and joined Angstrom Levy during the Invincible War, but some are way worse than others. The Simpsons has had some iconic episodes, but the best of them all also has an alternate ending that few have seen. While he didn't take on that franchise role, Michael Cera is currently starring in The Phoenician Scheme from writer-director Wes Anderson. Known for SNL and brilliant comedies like Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Steve Martin's career took an unexpected turn with this 1997 crime drama. From Batman: Caped Crusader to The Legend of Vox Machina, Prime Video delivers many quality, animated shows that have something for every audience. Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't beating around the bush when he explains the why behind his pick for the worst Terminator movie. Vegeta is a crucial character who is often in Goku's shadow, yet there's s a strong case to be made as to why he's Dragon Ball Super's secret weapon! Horizon: An American Saga Amid the uncertainty surrounding Horizon: An American Saga's future the Western film series gets a hopeful update from one of its actors. In a CBR review of Superman Unlimited #2, see the Man of Steel's brand-new superpower in action In an exclusive interview with CBR, Webtoon creator Wendy Martin talks Castle Swimmer Season 4, print adaptations, and her next series. Sci-fi isn't for everyone, but I think there is one series in the genre that is so good that everyone should check it out, even the haters. Liam Hemsworth is becoming popular on Netflix before taking the lead role in The Witcher. These 2010s anime series received significantly more praise from fans than they deserve. Marvel Cinematic Universe The Avengers have led the MCU for the better part of a decade, but it's time for Marvel's First Family to take the reins for the universe's future. The new attention the film is getting on streaming might lead to a sequel, which has been caught in development hell. Page 14 Adolescence had a difficult journey to become the worldwide hit it is. Deliberately or not, some Pokemon don't look like they could exist in the real world at all. Jason DeMarco reveals how Toonami brought Bleach back after years off-air, ending Hulu's exclusive run and marking a major win for the anime block. Sailor Moon has been popular since 90's but the English dub made many changes to the original anime giving the US audience a different experience. Vertical debuts the official trailer for the Kevin James-led action movie Guns Up. Comedian Kevin James tries to leave the mob in the first trailer for the action-packed movie Guns Up. While the Sailor Moon anime has many memorable fights, some
of the best of them are non-canon. Netflix's latest Western romance series has divided fans and critics, but the streamer confirms that the show will be coming back for Season 2. Pokémon Scarlet & Violet's Paldea region expanded the Pokédex to over 1000 species of Pokémon — some of which are incredibly powerful, like Miraidon. Lionsgate debuts the official trailer for the second chapter in The Strangers reboot trilogy. Shortly after its 40th anniversary, Clint Eastwood's Western with a supernatural undertone is heading to streaming for free. F1 director Joseph Kosinski goes into effusive detail about his collaboration with star Brad Pitt on Apple's highly anticipated racing movie. Avatar: The Last Airbender and The Legend of Korra have introduced six avatars, and each one of them had their own elemental preferences and power. Skybound Entertainment is about to introduce one of the smallest, most unassuming Decepticons of all time, and they might just be the worst. With the limited number of Devil Fruits in One Piece, the Straw Hats may need to rely on Haki in order to power up for their next big fight! Paramount is making a significant change to its Paramount + premium tier as it becomes the latest streaming service trying to overhaul its image. Netflix unveils Cillian Murphy in his next role. Chainsaw Man Part 2 has been accused of "falling off" more than once, but Asa Mitaka's latest feat in Chapter 206 proves that's actually a good thing. Pedro Pascal has never seen one particularly heartwrenching scene from The Last of Us season two. Five years later, the fantasy-horror show is as popular as ever. Page 15 A set photo reveals the first look at Samuel L. Jackson's character. Terminator fans will soon be able to stream the best entry in the sci-fi action franchise for free. Mark Gatiss recently got talking the first look at Samuel L. Jackson's character. Terminator fans will soon be able to stream the best entry in the sci-fi action franchise for free. Mark Gatiss recently got talking the first look at Samuel L. Jackson's character. about the smash hit detective show Sherlock, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. The creator of Cowboy Bebop and HBO Max's anime streaming hit, Lazarus, addressed the many challenges the animation industry faces today. Yellowstone has always been about legacy—now with spin-offs on the way, Sheridan may be setting up the Duttons' next generational shift. 28 Days Later is immediately a hit on streaming as fans are eager to see how Cillian Murphy will return in the 28 Years Later movie trilogy. While countless action anime are content to simply rip-off DBZ, others are far more original. Tanya's death was a huge shock in The White Lotus and even now it's something fans talk about, raising many questions in the grand scheme. Solo Leveling Season 3 will adapt some of the manhwa's best arcs, but there are some specific details from the source material the anime should revise Actor Dominique Thorne reveals who she could see Riri Williams meeting post-Ironheart, even selecting someone who could "humble Riri in a cool way." Charlie Cox's performance as Gustave in Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 was met with high praise, which came as a shock to the Daredevil actor. 28 Years Later has revived the Rage Virus, but are the Infected the same as traditional Zombies from other franchises? The popular actor has a new exciting projects away from his Jack Reacher character. The show, based on the Zen book series, won a Peabody Award in 2021. Blade reboot star Mahershala Ali addresses the progress report for the long-gestating film, and his update won't be what MCU enthusiasts want to hear. The Strangers are back to finish what they started with Madelaine Petsch in the second installment of the horror franchise's reboot trilogy. Romano's classic sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond aired for 9 seasons on CBS. There's good news for fans of one of Netflix's most divisive live-action anime series of the year, with Bet getting a surprise streaming update. After a very long wait, Netflix is finally giving My Life With the Walter Boys fans something to look forward to. The Fantastic Four: First Steps The Fantastic Four: First Steps star Pedro Pascal is all too aware of why fans think he shouldn't be playing the MCU's Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Mission: Impossible -- Dead Reckoning Part One delivers all the terrific action and spy thrills but also includes some surprisingly thoughtful quotes. Pedro Pascal isn't afraid to stand up for his transgender sister, even if that means going up against a billionaire. Sitcoms go through many backstage issues, but for Seinfeld, one feud led to a character's exit that fans haven't forgotten. X-Men '97 creator Beau DeMayo reveals a cut ending from Season 1 that introduced two of Marvel's most iconic mutants. The Ironheart executive producer talks about how the series connects to Doctor Doom and the upcoming Avengers: Doomsday movie. One of Hello Kitty's most adorable friends sports a 'nerdy' new look as part of Sanrio's official Glasses Series -- and he pulls it official for the series connects to Doctor Doom and the upcoming Avengers: Doomsday movie. perfectly. The actor has one pretty lofty wish for the upcoming revival series. The Fantastic Four: First Steps has been updated again on theater websites, but this one is here to stay. Rachel Zegler got a lot of hate for playing Snow White in the live-action Disney remake. Tabletop gamers have been on pins and needles, waiting for D&D 5e's first adventure anthology, and the wait for Dragon Delves is finally over! The 2024 adventure horror film is finally heading to a streaming platform. In the final years of his life, the author of The Lord of the Rings published one of his least-known stories, and it deserves more recognition. The list of axed DC projects spans several decades. From True Detective to The Terror and Stranger Things, some TV shows from the 2010s delivered 10/10 episodes making them true masterpieces. Shutter Island may be Martin Scorsese's most recent horror film, but his 1991 debut genre movie, featuring a stellar cast, remains his most iconic. Superman's live-action movies aren't always so hot, but the original superhero has a collection of animated movies that are considered hidden gems. Will Ferrell's Land of the franchise that it failed to reboot. Horror fans who enjoy 28 Years Later should also check out great zombie movies like Day of always been the most powerful of the Z-Fighters, but a lot of them didn't deserve all of the positive attention they got. MHA fans may be surprised to learn which fan favorite character ended up at the top of the Hero Rankings. These anime women make a huge difference in their world through their manifold scientific, magical, diplomatic, leadership, and scholastic skills. While The Boy and the Heron is a great film, several issues prevent it from being the best Studio Ghibli movie. Series like Demon Slayer, Dragon Ball Z, One Piece, and more show why action anime are among the best in the medium. Many war movies struggle to gain recognition, but films like Green Zone and G.I. Jane have achieved cult status years after their release. 1994's The Fantastic Four isn't a superhero movie every comics fan has seen, but it's worth a watch if they can find it. Dwayne Johnson may be a movie icon, but he also knows TV, and one surprising choice is also one of his favorites. Many fantasy anime have featured high-stakes wars that involve droves of powerful combatants. These popular anime characters were beloved when they first aired, but they haven't necessarily aged well. Diego Luna looks back on Andor's key moments, including a mission that helps lay the groundwork for his relationship with a pivotal rebel leader. Ballard is coming soon and with it, it's missing a key element that helped make Bosch: Legacy so beloved. Square Enix might be most well in the trailer that it had to be included in the film. MCU fans and critics often immediately dismiss certain casting choices and crossovers as nostalgia or fan service, but that's almost never a bad thing In 2005, Brokeback Mountain changed how cinemagoers looked at cowboys and was a breakthrough for same-sex romance on screen. Today, it's a classic. Jensen Ackles' new show debuts on Prime Video this week. While Sailor Moon might be known for its flashy transformations & colorful vibes, the shojo also had some heart-breaking moments that captivated fans. Page 18 Titus Welliver teases his next TV role with a first look photo. While there are strong rangers that have existed in the Power Rangers franchise, it's the duos that make certain shows stand out. These Gundam characters all went through a long list of heartbreaking tragedies. Despite starring one of the most popular comedians of the era, this 2001 comedy flopped hard, but that didn't stop it from becoming a cult classic. From Dragon Ball to Naruto, anime's shonen series tend to be some of the most popular in the medium. But which are the best of them all? These polarizing Sopranos episodes pushed fans too far, with dream logic, tonal shifts and slow pacing driving some to play before the MGS3 remake drops. Devil Fruits have served as the basis for some of One Piece's most notable scientific achievements. My Hero Academia: Vigilantes Episode 12 sends Knuckleduster down a dark path in the fight against Hachisuka while Pop Step shines at her biggest show. Borderlands 4 looks to be an amazing entry for the beloved Gearbox series, but the lack of a true minimap could be problematic for the game. Studio Ghibli's official store gets fans ready for travel with a collection of travel bags and even a suitcase featuring iconic mascot Totoro. Lord of the Rings redefined the fantasy genre and the early 2000s was full of other films trying to get in on its success, but always coming up short. Several of anime's most important questions remain unanswered, literal years after they were first posed.
From high school kids fighting an alien invasion to dealing with zombies in the historical era, the best South Korean survival series have it all. shares what he knows. Daredevil: Born Again took a few story ideas from the Devil's Reign series, and it still has lessons to teach Hollywood today. Even though it takes place in the modern day, there are a lot of different ways Pokémon Legends: Z-A could include Pokémon introduced after Gen VI. The Walking Dead: Dead City Negan burns (mostly) everything to the ground and Maggie attempts to end a longstanding feud once and for all in the Season 2 finale of Dead City. This Brandon Cronenberg sci-fi horror film, praised for its originality, depicts a terrifying world with devastating technology. Page 19 Many Sailor Moon couples tragically never got the happily ever after they deserved, and some well-written love interests have unrequited crushes. Martin Kove was reportedly asked to leave the convention after the alleged bite. Donal Logue co-starred in 7 episodes of Sons of Anarchy, and fans were hoping that he'd become one of its defining villains until Vikings interfered. These frightening anime are a great choice for fans looking forward to the release of Stranger Things Season 5. Stephan Pastis's Pearls Before Swine comic strip is known for featuring characters who love to break the fourth wall, and they do it fairly often. Guillermo del Toro is a master of genre filmmaking, but one very grounded Martin Scorsese movie is "perfect" in his eyes, and he's got a point. HBO's Game of Thrones became known for shocking deaths, and despite these characters' limited screen time, their losses hit fans of the series hard. One of the best new superheroes of the MCU's Multiverse Saga disappeared after Phase 4, but there's a simple fix for fans and Marvel Studios. Although these iconic anime were massively influential, they don't hold up to the modern eye. Although war epics often dominate the box office, releases like The Patriot and American Sniper don't always age well. movies in July. Macaulay Culkin faces off with Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern in the first two movies. Classic examples of Gary Larson's humor, the greatest stories from The Far Side comic strips make readers chuckle while giving them plenty to ponder. ever approached? Pennywise is a shapeshifter who can take any form. IT: Welcome to Derry could be a faithful adaptation of King's novel by exploring this fact. Anime characters like Anya from Spy x Family and Reigen from Mob Psycho 100 have become fan favorites. Ironheart actor Dominique Thorne reveals why Riri Williams may not be the "ideal superhero" that everyone expects in the Disney+ miniseries. The anime industry is filled with legendary directors whose series and films will never disappoint. The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum can finally bring a forgotten Hobbit from the books back for his big-screen debut. Creator Hwang Dong-hyuk is going all in with Squid Game Season 3's ending. Frieren: Beyond Journey's End VIZ Media reveals a surprise return date for the original Frieren: Beyond Journey's End, which has been on hiatus since January 2025. Page 20 Some fans might have forgotten just how chilling moments in DBZ could get. "Stress Relief" is not only one of the highest-rated episodes of The Office, but it features the fire drill—one of the most iconic cold opens. The Walking Dead's Scott M. Gimple discusses the possibility of a Glenn return following the Dead City Season 2 finale. These Jujutsu Kaisen fan theories are a little out there, but it would be amazing to see them come true. Although Sung Jinwoo is currently the most recognizable shadow monarch in anime, One Piece's main antagonist is arguably even more powerful. Fantasy anime can touch our hearts or be incredibly generic, but this unassuming anime on Amazon Prime is perfect for scratching the fantasy itch. There's positive news for those who have been waiting for an official return for Ladybug and Cat Noir after two years away. Some more details about Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey have also made their way online. The Street Fighter reboot may have found its Balrog. The Dragon Ball anime often strays from Akira Toriyama's vision, so anime-onlys might have missed some crucial details about Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey have also made their way online. The Street Fighter reboot may have found its Balrog. shares some themes and similarities with another new procedural fans will love. A Marvel insider has just given fans a conflicting report about the future of the Ultimate Universe, and they can only hope he is right. Audiences who have enjoyed 28 Years Later now finally have the opportunity to stream the original movie 28 Days Later for free on a new platform. The Alpha Zombie in 28 Years Later was played by Chi Lewis-Parry, and he's got a lot of stories to tell. Amber Heard has lined up her acting comeback three years after her infamous legal battle. Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt are reunited over three decades after co-starring in their hit vampire film. Vertical debuts the official trailer for the Liam Neeson-led action sequel, Ice Road: Vengeance. The Elder Scrolls has known some truly sinister villains of the years - but which is the most evil of all? The Naked Gun isn't the only action franchise Liam Neeson fans will see the actor in this year, as a trailer for another sequel has been released. Off the Grid tries to position Josh Duhamel as the next action star, but it struggles to land all of its punches. Page 21 Ralph Fiennes' character looks like he'll be returning for 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple, and the actor has let slip some details about the sequel. From bittersweet endings of all time. Legendary's highly anticipated Street Fighter reboot has found an actor to portray fan-favorite character whose incredible growth during his youth sets up his later years for surprising depth. Toonami's fan-favorite anime tribute, Megas XLR, was almost revived after 21 years, but David Zaslav's takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery killed it. Marvel Cinematic Universe The MCU is a lengthy, action-packed story that drew fans in over the years with those traits, as well as a unique capacity for humor that stood out. Hellboy actor Ron Perlman is returning to the horror genre with a new, more comedic role in the movie Horrified, opposite an original Dexter star. Pokemon Trading Card Game A trailer for the Pokémon T powerful 'Mons. New and crafty Transformers collectibles are more than meets the eye. Outlander: Blood of My Blood. Goyer says Marvel turned down his offer to help with its Blade reboot. 28 Years Later has hit an impressive benchmark with its box office opening numbers, as Danny Boyle's thriller also enjoys critical success. One of Taylor Sheridan's best series that isn't in the Yellowstone universe is climbing up the streaming charts. Warner Bros. drops a new trailer for filmmaker Zach Cregger's upcoming horror-thriller. Emily Blunt and Colin Firth receives an exciting update from screenwriter David Koepp. A widely derided Disney live-action adaptation knocks off Brave New World from the top of the streaming charts. Unused footage from Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones reveals that Mace Windu's fight with Jango Fett was once going to be more violent. Ahead of Happy Gilmore 2's release on Netflix, a different streamer will add a beloved 2000s sports comedy from Adam Sandler to its library. An entire classroom of children disappears without explanation in the new trailer for Zach Cregger's Weapons. Page 22 I Know What You Did Last Summer The actor is having a lot of fun ahead of her return as ulie James. Audiences are very divided over the unexpected ending to 28 Years Later. The author has expressed many times that she doesn't care about the backlash she receives. After two recent hits, Jason Statham will soon return with a mysterious action thriller. The new action thriller series starring Jensen Ackles on delivers both character drama and spectacle in a fun way. From Jake Gyllenhaal's Donnie Darko to Keanu Reeves' Point Break, YouTube's library of free movies has something for everyone. Jake Sully and the Na'vi will return in the comics long before Avatar 3 hits theaters with an untold tale that promises to reveal even more secrets. It looks like Marvel Studios is going to keep its Thunderbolts* title gag going when the film arrives on home video next month. Michael Shanks, who played the fan-favorite Daniel Jackson, left Stargate SG-1 after season 5 due to creative differences but returned in season 7. Marvel told Daredevil: Born Again's creative team not to watch one surprising series when bringing Matt Murdock's adventures to the MCU. The crossover would've been a major event on Tumblr in 2014. Sanrio takes its most famous mascot to the grocery store with a brand-new merchandise line that's perfect for at-home play or on-the-go practicality. 28 Years Later ended on a big cliffhanger, but who is Jimmy, and how does he affect the upcoming sequel, Bone Temple? Romano did everything he could to get the name changed, but to no avail. This week, catch brand-new episodes of Resident Alien, The Gilded Age, The Mortician, SpongeBob SquarePants, Wylde Pak, and more tonight. Three weeks after its explosive Season 1 finale, Paramount+ reveals the future of Guy Ritchie and Tom Hardy's crime drama series. Sons of Anarchy star Kim Coates shares his thoughts about one major part of the hit FX series' story that people get entirely wrong. The Right Stuff, Philip Kaufman's epic historical film, continues to stand the test of time due to its realistic depiction of space exploration. The new teaser for Zach Cregger' film gives viewers some clues on what to expect from the horror thriller. There's great news for Tokyo Revengers fans, with the anime getting a major production update as Season 4, the Three Titans Arc, is revealed. Page 23 The X-Files perfectly blended horror and science fiction.
Mulder and Scully investigated many weird cases, but the following are the most terrifying. Dragon Ball Z is a classic, but that doesn't mean it didn't frequently falter with its story. Lacking any of Dragon Ball and DBZ's emotional depth, Dragon Ball Super typically only cares about hype moments and aura. A theory suggests that one of Disney's most cherished franchises may have originated from the Twilight Zone These contemporary anime characters deserve way more praise from fans. One Piece's Egghead Arc has been spectacular, but its anime filler specials may be a sign of a stark change in the series' production schedule. While a ton of amazing titles are returning for another season, there are also a lot of other brand-new anime title's to check out too Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba The Demon Slayer franchise has produced a wide variety of figures that every collector should check out. The Man in the High Castle comes highly recommended by Stephen King and is still one of the best dystopian shows to stream. to check out a few of these classic and modern Superman comic books. Modern Disney movies can be thrilling, but certain aspects set them apart from classic films, making it difficult to overlook when rewatching. A former CIA clandestine officer breaks down the Mission: Impossible franchise's most realistic scene—and it's not what fans would think. One Piece uses flashbacks and backstories to explain character motivations while expanding worldbuilding, but some are far more tragic than others. The Street Sharks once dominated a sea of mutant-inspired media, and now the Ninja Turtles need to watch out as they prepare to surface again. Derek Haas revealed the episode names for Prime Video's Countdown have special meaning. Countdown stars Jensen Ackles and premieres June 25th. DBD x FNAF is a match made in gaming heaven - here's everything you need to know about the new Freddy Fazbear's Pizza map. The X-Men's Krakoa Era was game changing for Marvel's mutants, but it also stirred many controversies in its five-year run. The Walking Dead: Dead City The Walking Dead's Chief Content Officer Scott M. Gimple talks to CBR about the Dead City Season 2 finale and the secret to the thriving franchise. Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire featured intense and epic battles, but only one stands to victor as the strongest Titan in all the MonsterVerse. Peter Jackson often incorporated the actors' ideas when creating his The Lord of the Rings film trilogy, and that was especially true of Bernard Hill. Page 24 Batman Begins screenwriter David Goyer just dropped an insightful piece of criticism on modern superhero movies (and he's absolutely right). Doctor Strange is Marvel's Master of the Mystic Arts and isn't always seen as its friendliest face, though he still has several memorable team-ups. FBI: International co-creator Derek Haas explains why he has come to terms with the spinoff series' recent cancellation at CBS and Wolf Entertainment. Ezra Miller has resurfaced, revealing the planned project that could serve as a Hollywood comeback. The Walking Dead: Dead City Kim Coates talks to CBR about Bruegel's fiery ending on The Walking Dead: Dead City, and why the second season needed the villain. The 2000s were a great era for action RPGs, giving players timeless classics like Mass Effect, Diablo 2, and Tales of Symphonia. The Walking Dead: Dead City Lauren Cohan spoke to CBR about The Walking Dead: Dead City Season 2 finale, where Maggie sacrifices her relationship with her son to protect Negan. Sanrio solidifies its dominance in the world of anime-style mascots in a new Japanese "Gen Z" survey ranking popular trends in media and pop culture. The Alien franchise wouldn't be the same without the iconic inclusion of this actor's role, which is more significant than fans realize. The Walking Dead: Dead City In TWD: Dead City Season 2 finale, Maggie finally has the perfect opportunity to kill Negan. Meanwhile, Negan takes care of his Bruegel problem. Despite its polarizing reception years ago, the underrated Terminator movie is finding new streaming success. Before gods and multiverses, the '90s DBZ era had its own power kings, and characters like Vegeta and Gohan were the top dogs. Star Trek's first show, Strange New Worlds can end the series in one of three ways, but the most controversial one could be the best. Inspired by true events, this 2016 crime drama featuring Michael Fassbender has remained under the radar since its release. Everyone loves the Fellowship of the Ring, but Lord of the Rings heroes like Bilbo and Arwen can hold their own, too! From Anya Forger to Yuji Itadori, these anime characters are relatable Gen Z icons who are awkward, real and just trying to survive. Bridgerton Season 4 won't be out for a while, but from Dickinson to My Lady Jane, fans have plenty of other shows to fill the void. 26 years ago, Roger Ebert predicted the ongoing controversy behind David Fincher's critically acclaimed thriller movie, and his prediction was right. Pseudoscience and mystery are abound in two very different shows, but with similar approaches to how they unfold their plots and arcs. Larson uses musicians many times in The Far Side, with a drastic change occurring halfway through the series. The unluckiest of which prove hilarious. Page 25 3 years after The Walking Dead's epic, nostalgia-filled finale, fans may finally have a series to help fill the void with SYFY's Revival. Some modern JRPGs, like Nier: Automata and Persona 5 Royal, have stories that rival the classics. Whether it's for their charisma or their sympathetic motives, anime fans will root for villains in Lord of the Rings, there were still some deadly villains beyond the Dark Lord and Wizard. War movies are usually big hits at the box office, but some soldiers believe that even the most accurate depictions of conflict have their flaws. Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning Mission: Impossi this major character's death was important for the latest instal Jennifer Love Hewitt joined Criminal Minds Season 10 as new agent Kate Callahan, but why did she only last one season on the hit CBS crime drama? Robert De Niro is one of the greatest film gangsters of all time, but even he couldn't save this unfunny gangster comedy from mediocrity. Twin Peaks is a sci-fi series that is still held in high esteem even today, but its sequel series is even more impressive and how youth can blind her to "what's in front of us at the moment." Buffy the Vampire Slayer is an amazing series with a loyal fandom, which allowed the story to continue on in comic book form for years. They weren't meant to be funny, but somehow, anime movies like Akira and Princess Mononoke had viewers cracking up anyway. Johnny Depp fell into acting and he can still remember when he first started feeling "miserable" in the profession. James Gunn recently teased death will be permanent in the DCU, a direction that fixes a major misstep the MCU has taken with its characters. Fan-favorite ghost boy Hanako will soon return to Hulu for Season 2, Part 2 of Studio Lerche's supernatural anime hit, Toilet-Bound Hanako-kun. This three-season Netflix series is the perfect teen drama for Gossip Girl fans to watch next because it might be the best show in the genre. Tite Kubo is a masterful artist who brought Bleach to life with astonishing panels featuring Ichigo Kurosaki, Rukia Kuchiki, and others. Not only does Scorsese's Cape Fear pull from the original it is based on, it also references another great Robert Mitchum classic from 1955. a beloved character on Criminal Minds, but one of his best storylines has yet to get any follow-up. That's high praise from an actor who played one of cinema's most iconic anime characters have earned their place in the hall of fame. Donkey Kong Bananza takes the series in a new direction with a 3D action adventure game that could have ties with Super Mario Odyssey. DreamWorks' first traditionally animated feature, which starred Val Kilmer, remains one of the best animated films of all time. Anyone looking to return to Kanto in Pokémon Red & Blue should seek out these powerful 'Mons for their team, as they'll trash the competition. Hulu recently announced a reboot of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, exciting slayer fans around the world. These characters must return in some capacity. Each anime, yet there are some series and movie that truly stand the test of time with their beautiful visuals. Nightmare Alley is a classic piece of noir cinema, yet the nearly forgotten Del Toro remake might be even better. Dandadan Chapter 198 spotlights Jiji's devastating power in beautiful detail, and the artistic execution takes the sequence from fun to unforgettable. Dragons are a recurring character-type in Fire Emblem, and these are the standouts Robert De Niro also stars alongside Scott Eastwood and Jamie Foxx in the new film that is streaming internationally. Anyone looking to feel the same tension as Tombstone must see NBC's classic Bonanza series. One of the most underrated World War II films of all time has found some major streaming success more than a decade after arriving in theaters. Spirited Away director Hayao Miyazaki and his production company have a fascinating roster of what-ifs. The Lord of the Rings trilogy is known as one of the best trilogies ever, but there are still some mistakes that continue to haunt the movies. Gon has defeated some noteworthy characters with his Nen, but some of the HxH characters he has not faced would be challenging opponents. The duo worked together on the 2000 Oscar-winning film, Gladiator. The anime girls of Demon Slayer, One Piece, Bleach and more competed for the title of cutest Shonen Jump heroine, but which one took home the crown? Alfie Allen shows his acting range in the historical drama SAS: Rogue Heroes as Jock Lewes, after portraying Theon Greyjoy in HBO's Game of Thrones. A knight and a dragon team up to take
down a corrupted king in this 90s fantasy classic. Every event in To Be Hero X Episodes 1-12, told in chronological order. Synopsis 10-year-old Chihiro (Daveigh Chase) moves with her parents to a new home in the Japanese countryside. After taking a wrong turn down a wooded path, Chihiro and her parents discover an amusement park with a stall containing an assortment of food. To her surprise, Chihiro's parents begin eating and then transform into pigs. In this supernatural realm, Chihiro's parents begin eating and then transform into pigs. parents. Director Hayao Miyazaki Producer Donald W. Ernst, Toshio Suzuki Screenwriter Hayao Miyazaki Distributor Walt Disney Pictures, Tokuma Shoten Rating PG (Some Scary Moments) Genre Fantasy, Adventure, Animation Original Language Japanese Release Date (Theaters) Sep 20, 2002 Wide Release Date (Streaming) Dec 19, 2019 Box Office (Gross USA) \$10.0M Runtime 2h 5m Sound Mix Dolby SR, DTS, Dolby Stereo, Surround, Dolby A, Dolby Digital Aspect Ratio Flat (1.85:1) Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licenser cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the licenser endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrict others from doing anything the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Spirited Away is one of my personal favorites, but I wanted to hold off on writing about it until now. It was the first film from Studio Ghibli that I had seen; this was back in 2002, shortly after it was released in the United States. I was ten years old at the time, and to be honest, everything about this film terrified me and put me off of Studio Ghibli films for a good while. It wasn't until I was thirteen that I decided to give it another watch, and I'm very glad I did; I've been enraptured by Studio Ghibli films ever since. Synopsis Spirited Away is a 2001 fantasy film directed by Hayao Miyazaki. It is, arguably, Studio Ghibli films ever since. an Academy Award. The story is set in modern-day Japan, with a young girl named Chihiro's father decides to take a detour and the family winds up in a strange world of spirits. The resulting tale is very much like Alice in Wonderland, but with a Studio Ghibli twist. Analysis Spirited Away is stuffed to the brim with all kinds of themes such as growing up, rebirth, present and past, identity, greed, love, and of course, the environment. The most prevalent themes in the film, however, would probably be the themes of growing up and identity. Spirited Away focuses on the coming-of-age of the main character, Chihiro, and her transition from a young, whiny, selfish girl to a hardworking young woman. The film opens with Chihiro being upset over the move, and when her parents take a detour and come across what appears to be an abandoned theme park, she clings to her mother and gives her parents a difficult time. Many people have drawn comparisons between Spirited Away and Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and it's really no surprise. Both girls are young and pre-pubescent, and they both end up in a strange world. In Ando Satoshi's article Regaining Continuity with the Past: Spirited Away and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, he compares Alice and Chihiro, stating that they're both going through an identity crisis. He also makes the statement that girls' transitional periods are recurring themes in Miyazaki films. Another film by Hayao Miyazaki that immediately comes to mind is Kiki's Delivery Service- a film that follows the story of a thirteen year old witch-in-training named Kiki and her journey to come into her full powers as a witch. However, Spirited Away takes the loss of identity a step further. Not only is Chihiro frustrated and unsure of herself at the beginning of the film (she is being uprooted from her old hometown and is moving to a new place; on top of that, Chihiro is on the cusp of adolescence), she literally loses her name when she enters the world of spirits. The majority of Spirited Away takes place in a bathhouse for spirits that is run by a witch named Yubaba. Yubaba is corrupt and greedy, and she controls her employees by signing a contract to work at the bathhouse, she becomes 'Sen'. This is Chihiro's symbolic "death" her life as a whiny, petulant, sheltered girl is over, and she must now become this new person who is hardworking and strong (her symbolic "rebirth"). Her new identity is that of 'Sen', and she must now become this new person who is hardworking and strong (her symbolic "rebirth"). greed and corruption. In the beginning of the film, Chihiro's family comes across what they assume is an abandoned theme park (when in reality, it's the entrance to the world of the spirits). Chihiro's dad makes the offhanded comment, "I have credit cards and cash", meaning everything will be okay as long as he has money) and start gorging themselves on it. They transform into pigs, which highlights not only their gluttony, but also their greed. Yubaba, who runs the bathhouse in the spirit world, is also greedy; she makes comments throughout the film about money and gold, and how much Sen's transgressions are costing her. The bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse. Sen makes the comment that "being in the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and this becomes obvious when a spirit called No-Face goes crazy (he feeds off of the greed that pervades the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and the bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt. The bathhouse atmosphere itself is very corrupt, and the bathhous the bathhouse with gold, and everyone in the bathhouse is eager to please him and be at his beck and call because of this wealth. Spirited Away is laced with environmental themes, much like a few of Hayao Miyazaki's other films. In the film, a grotesque, smelly spirit that is in need of replenishing visits the bathhouse. The inhabitants of the bathhouse eventually find out that this spirit is actually a powerful river spirit that was nearly overcome by the pollution and desecration of its river (in a scene from the film, the bathhouse spirits are busy removing the debris and waste that coats the river spirit. Among some of the waste removed is fishing wire, tires, household items that were thrown away, and even a bicycle). The plight of Haku is also an example of the presence of the environmental themes in the film. It is eventually revealed that Haku is actually the spirit of the Kohaku River, a river that has long since been destroyed in the name of human settlement (Chihiro remarks that the Kohaku River is "all apartments now"). Because of this, Haku lost his home and his identity and, with no place to go, came to the bathhouse, where he became Yubaba's apprentice. It wasn't until Chihiro returned his name to him did Haku remember his true identity. Conclusion Spirited Away can be interpreted in many ways, and there are a large number of themes that are present in the film. This analysis has barely scratched the surface. However, the themes that are most obvious are growing up, identity, greed and corruption, and the environment. Like with Kiki's Delivery Service, Spirited Away resonates with audiences because the character of Chihiro is relatable; In a 2001 interview, Miyazaki stated that he aimed to create a film that spoke to girls Chihiro's age). There are many messages that audiences can take away from the film, as it is rich in detail, storytelling, and depth. Satoshi, A. (2008). Regaining Continuity with the Past: Spirited Away and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature 46(1), 23-29. The Johnson Hopkins University Press. Retrieved April 25, 2014, from Project MUSE database. Miyazaki, H. (Interviewee). (2002). Hayao Miyazaki, H. (Director). (2001). Spirited Away [Motion Picture]. Japan:
Studio Ghibli World of Warcraft offers players a glimpse of what they can purchase at the Trading Post throughout July, including a new mount and various ensembles. Shanks is the Child of Destiny, and Oda reveals why in One Piece. The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion Remastered Oblivion Remastered players can unintentionally hinder their experience by failing to complete two questlines before starting Knights of the Nine The Boys star Jensen Ackles finally opens up about the idea of playing the Dark Knight in the DCU Borderlands 4's marketing campaign is in full swing, and a recent gameplay breakdown shows one area in which the sequel could even top Borderlands 2. The finale of Cobra Kai could have been very different for one long-standing character if an alternate ending to their story hadn't been cut. Everybody's Golf Hot Shots The Bandai Namco-produced Everybody's Golf: Hot Shots is the latest game to be developed using artificial intelligence tools. The publisher of one of the best role-playing games appearing on Xbox Game Pass in 2022 announces the release date for its upcoming DLC. Many fans thought Wano would be Zoro's arc, but Oda confirmed it will be Elbaf in One Piece. The Greedy Emissary Diablo event is returning to World of Warcraft with new rewards and significant changes to how players participate in it. A new Genshin Impact leak reveals details about the storyline players can expect in Nod-Krai, along with a major change to Archon Quests. If there is a new Super Smash Bros. for the Switch 2 in the future, it might be thanks to Masahiro Sakurai working on the upcoming Kirby Air Riders. Death Stranding 2's Sam Porter Bridges, portrayed by Norman Reedus, is something of a poster child for current-gen graphics, but is this warranted? FBC: Firebreak reaches an impressive player count across all platforms, achieving the milestone just over a week after the game's roster even more. An insane battle is about to happen in Elbaf. This battle will be legendary in One Piece. Medieval Dynasty's Echoes of Nature DLC has a number of cosmetic items players can use to decorate their village. Monopoly GO players can win many awesome prizes during the Quantum Coaster event. Here's everything you need to know. Hades 2 has four romances that already can be played in early access, but Supergiant may be saving a surprise romance for its full launch. Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 Season 5 of Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 is set to have some major Zombies implications, with leaks around the new map painting an exciting picture. Page 2 The Sims 4 Enchanted by Nature sharing more gameplay details about the upcoming The Sims 4 expansion. The title of World's Strongest Swordsman is one of the most coveted on the Grand Line, but here's why it isn't Mihawk or Zoro! One viral Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 image makes the perfect case for Resident Evil 2 available to wishlist on Xbox storefronts, which could indicate better, more substantial things to come soon. There are several items in PEAK. Some may be beneficial, but others may have drawbacks, like the Big Lollipop. Rematch developer Sloclap promises that a controversial exploit recently discovered by the players will be fixed as soon as possible. An incredibly talented Pokemon fan creates a stunning stained glass depiction of Charizard, one of the most popular creatures in the first ones the game has received in more than 2 years, and they hopefully won't be the last. Today, Game Rant Editor-In-Chief Anthony Taormina unboxes the Switch 2 SanDisk MicroSD Express Card. Fans have been waiting to see the next season of From, the MGM+ horror series about characters stuck in a horrifying and creepy small town. Let's look at some of the strangest, most mysterious, and most criminally underrated horror games in existence. Although it's great that Diablo 4 is making its way to PlayStation Plus, its release on the service paints a worrying picture for the game's future. Palworld's Tides of Terraria update introduces Moon Lord as a raid boss, but he's missing one feature that players would have loved. The final season of Squid Game goes live on June 27. This guide contains a worrying picture for the game's future. the official release times for every major region. Prepare your Wanzers (mechs) with the best gear possible to get a tactical advantage early on in Front Mission 3: Remake. Call of Duty: Warzone developer Raven Software announces the return of Battle Royale Solos after its controversial removal late last month. While the variety of the events going on in Pokemon GO makes it easy for players to find something they enjoy, the way players access them needs work. Players can customize their village like never before by moving structures in Medieval Dynasty The final season of My Hero Academia will premiere in a few months, but perhaps it could adapt a bit more than the original manga. Obsidian Entertainment enlisted the help of fellow Xbox team Halo Studios in ensuring one aspect of The Outer Worlds 2 feels right. Page 3 Nintendo, a company with a long history of rare accessories. Action Points are needed to complete social activities in Persona 5 Phantom X. Here's when they'll be restored each day and how to get more. Techland reveals patch notes for Dying Light 2: Stay Human's Summer Update 1.23, introducing new events, gameplay improvements, and more. Today, Game Rant Editor-In-Chief Anthony Taormina unboxes the PNY Duolink V3. With creative input from Johnny Knoxvillé and (fingers crossed) some inventive stunts, we could possibly be in for the best Fear Factor yet. Ace all of your classroom questions in P5: The Phantom X by using our helpful strategy guide. A new rumor teases Luigi's Mansion 4 for Nintendo Switch 2, giving some hope for fans of the franchise, which has had no new games since 2019. The Comp can help you find your way in PEAK, but is it really worth carrying? Here's a look at the pros and cons. The Infinity Castle movies are about to show fans just how much Tanjiro has grown. Is he finally ready to surpass Yoriichi? A comedic actor and Scott Pilgrim star reveals that they once turned down a Harry Potter role for fear of becoming too famous. Among the new weapon types revealed for Destiny 2's The Edge of Fate expansion, one of them already seems like the new clear meta pick. Overwatch 2's new Season 17 brings a ton of new cosmetics, including a new bundle for Kiriko that features a neat detail in one weapon skin. Little Nightmares 3 is promising chilling level design, but upcoming competitor Reanimal can still set itself apart with its characters. The Epic Games Store reveals \$40 worth of free titles that its users will be able to claim over the week-long period starting July 3. As the Fable reboot's launch date approaches, Playground Studios would do well by fans by taking a look at the franchise's weirdest side quests. Mario Kart World's physical sales in Japan achieve a major milestone, further cementing the success of the Switch 2's flagship launch game. Steel City Interactive releases the 1.4 content update for TV twice, and instead of another movie, this haunting loe Hill story should be a film. One of modern gaming's greatest features has been confirmed for Black Ops 6 Season 4 Reloaded is right around the corner for Black Ops 6 and Warzone. Here is when to expect Season 4 Reloaded to release. Page 4 Following Semiwork's recent tease, REPO finally rolls out its first major update as a surprise, bringing a bunch of new content for players to gain new Personas and new Phantom X offers several different "contracts", allowing players to gain new Personas and new Phantom Idols to aid them in battle. Solo Leveling season 3 might give fans something they've been wanting to see for a long time. The Dire stage of Stygian Onslaught in Genshin Impact is incredibly difficult for F2P players as it's catered as a challenge for spenders. Like most Gacha games, Persona 5 Phantom X includes a Pity System. This is what players should know about it. Tides of Terraria now allows players to fish for Pals in Palworld, granting them epic Passives and Alpha Pals with some luck. Here is how. Persona 5: The Phantom X passes an impressive Steam milestone within less than a day of the Persona 5: The Phantom X passes an impressive Steam milestone within less than a day of the Persona 5: The Phantom X passes and Alpha Pals with some luck. gothic director in mind. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players may have noticed a 'Pretend You Won' option that appears after losing to a boss in Death Stranding 2. Here's what happens if you choose it. Sonic the Hedgehog is getting yet another exciting crossover this year, with Sega announcing a new partnership that is over 30 years in the making. MindsEye's lead actor, Alex Hernandez, comments on the game's rather disastarous launch and gives his opinion on what needs to change in the industry. A tragedy is at the root of Shinobu's hatred for the Upper Moon Two. If not even television miniseries can manage to adapt the entire story successfully, how is a film supposed to do so? Players who enjoy the satisfaction that comes with delivering things will love what the following games have to offer. 28 Years Later star explains their heartbreaking final scene and that "primal" yet hopeful train moment. Death Stranding 2's terrain is brutal. But with these 10 structures help Sam's deliveries and survive in Mexico and Australia. The upcoming Nintendo Switch 2 title Drag x Drive, which will utilize the system's mouse functionality, appears to
be missing a certain feature. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide Following Warh complaints. Koby and Zoro are two of Luffy's first allies who are often implied to be on a similar level, so which one of them is stronger? Rebounds off the back wall in Rematch are a common occurrence and difficult to deal with, but there are ways to stop them. Page 5 Hasbro and Legendary Entertainment's live-action Magic: The Gathering movie receives an exciting update connecting to a former Power Rangers project. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach With the Monorail in Death Stranding 2, players can transport significantly more cargo than ever before. Here's where to find all Tides of Terraria locations in Pocketpair's Palworld and how to reach them. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket The Eevee Grove expansion adds a new secret emblem to Pokemon TCG Pocket, but this one comes with a rather interesting twist. According to one Buffy the Vampire Slayer star, after the series ended, their fan-favorite character was meant to appear on Firefly. The Demon Slayer: The Infinity Castle Arc trilogy will conclude the anime series, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's all over. Rune Factory: Guardians of Azuma Learn how to romance Ulalaka in Rune Factory: Guardians of Azuma, from building a friendship to dating and eventually marrying her. Radiant Phantasm unlocks some weapon skins in Genshin Impact; here's how to get and use them. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Following the game's lengthy production period and launch, Hideo Kojima thanks Death Stranding 2: On the Beach players for their positive feedback. Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer Saber Interactive releases a new Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine I Developer 40,000: 2: On the Beach The first Death Stranding is packed with cheeky references, and the role of DS2's Dollman brings even more fun-filled Easter eggs. The developer behind the Life is Strange series, Don't Nod, suffers more layoffs in 2025, reports Lost Records' cinematic artist. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach As Sam crosses into Australia in Death Stranding 2, he can run into some beautiful wildlife animals that can be brought to a sanctuary. Game Rant chats with Diablo Immortal developers about the new Druid class, a versatile hybrid that can transform into various animal forms. old era! Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Before setting out to complete their first few orders in Death Stranding 2, players should be aware of some things they will want to avoid doing. Funcom releases the patch notes for Dune: Awakening Version 1.1.10.0, bringing a host of gameplay improvements, QoL features, and bug fixes. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket Pokemon TCG Pocket's Eevee Grove expansion introduces two unique cards unlike anything seen in previous sets, and both might soon become meta. Frustrated Mario Kart World players are asking Nintendo for changes following the release of the racing game's latest update. Mummy as the reboot gets a huge filming update. Page 6 Kaido is very powerful, but this new One Piece character could beat him. Death Stranding 2 to cross bodies of water. Here's how players can build them. Dying Light has a busy few months ahead, and it might have just kicked off a 'Hot Zombie Summer' for the rest of the gaming industry. Aren's Light Armor is one of the best light armor sets that players should get early on in Dune Awakening, here's where to find it. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The Otter Hood in Death S simple journey. Rockstar Games releases a new weekly update for Grand Theft Auto Online, which adds plenty of new vehicles for players to check out. The relationships between the characters are a huge part of why fans love Stranger Things, and these pairings prove it. Game Rant interviews Dune: Awakening composer Knut Avenstroup Haugen about his process for giving the harsh deserts of Arrakis a musical voice. Xbox Game Pass expands the catalog of the subscription service with another day-one launch title and three classic Blizzard games. Here's everything you need to know about the next Tycoon Express season in Monopoly GO. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide Smash through the hordes of Chaos with this melee and CC-oriented build for Arbitrators in Darktide. Here's a list of all major and minor quests in Warframe to help players progress through the game more smoothly. Make the most out of Oraxia's kit with this mid-high level build guide for Warframe. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket Pokemon TCG Pocket's new Eevee Grove set is out, and one Uncommon card is already proving to be a powerhouse. Rip and tear with the Valkyr's reworked kit and this Hysteria-focused build for Warframe. These short horror games are great for one sitting. They are full of horrors, chills, and dread that stay with players long after the credits roll. Schedule 1 developer TVGS releases a brand-new content update for the popular crime simulation title, adding a new item for players to obtain. Death Stranding 2; On the Beach Fighting while driving a vehicle can help give Sam the edge against many enemies in Death Stranding 2; here's how to do so. No, I'm Not a Human has many achievements for players to try and acquire, so here's how to get each trophy available in the game. A Fortnite player, who was taken to court by Epic Games last year for cheating, receives a hefty fine and a permanent ban from the battle royale. Page 7 One of Stephen King's classic films shares quite a few obvious connections to AMC's The Walking Dead. Marvel Mystic Mayhem is a tactical RPG just released for mobile, and it already shares some similarities with NetEase's other ongoing Marvel game. Ever wondered what happens to your answer. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket fan offers an interesting solution to a long-standing quality-of-life issue, and fans seem to love it. Persona5: The Phantom X is available on mobile and PC; here's how to link your account and play on both devices. These open-world games let you do what you want without the mayhem. Don't miss the official teaser trailer for Longtail!!, a story-driven metroidvania-style action-adventure game developed by Hologram Monster. Here's everything players need to know about the next sticker album and its release date in Monopoly GO. Developer Steel City Interactive reveals the 'Mexican Monster' DLC fighter pack for Undisputed, which will launch alongside a new content update. Check out the official launch trailer for Second Chances, a turn-based RPG developed by Deadpixel. Watch the official teaser trailer for
Crabmeat, a point-and-click survival-horror game developed by Nicholas McDonnell and Mitchell Pasmans. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Other players can request items, weapons, and materials in Death Stranding 2 with Aid Requests. Here's how you can give them what they want. Don't miss the official early access launch trailer for Grifford Academy, a story-driven coming-of-age RPG developed by LandShark Games. Connections is a daily game that gives you sixteen seemingly random words to put into secret categories. Here's how to solve the June 27 game. Light and Heavy Compressors are crafting components required for fabricating some Aluminum-Tier and above weapons in Dune: Awakening. Stygian Onslaught in Genshin Impact is a challenge that rewards the Dust of Enlightenment item. Check out the official gameplay trailer for Fatal Run 2089, a post-apocalyptic vehicular combat game developed by MNSTR Studio. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will be carrying huge amounts of cargo in Death Stranding 2: On the Bea Here's how to increase each stat. Some One Piece characters vanished a long time ago and haven't been seen since. Out of them all, these are the most important. Page 8 Death Stranding 2: On the Beach, but where are the best places to find resources? Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket A complete list of everything that's coming soon in Pokemon TCG Pocket, including new expansions, features, and events. Fans interested in Yuri manhwa can't go wrong with highlighting the best ones you should use. Nintendo officially reveals how much space will be necessary to download and install a particular Switch 2 exclusive games are great for resting in short bursts. They provide peaceful gameplay, excellent vibes, and feel-good moments whenever you want. Players can find other people to trade with in this Pokemon TCG Pocket trade request thread. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket and information on how to get them. To get the Mycology Badge in PEAK, you need to eat 4 different mushrooms in one run. Here's everything you need to know Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket A complete Eevee Grove card list, with information about all 107 cards that players can find in Pokemon TCG Pocket's fifth themed booster pack. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach, but they can be difficult to find in large quantities. These Final Fantasy heroes are remembered for the emotional depth of their stories and the tragedies they endured. There are all sorts of interesting characters in Date Everything, including a rubber ducky named Rebel; here's how to find and date them. strategy, they could be making the game harder than it should be. The Bugle of Friendship is a useful item that can help your entire team in PEAK. Here's everything you need to know about it. These Resident Evil characters may return one day, but Resident Evil characters may return one day. just companionship and are highly capable in their own right. Want to unlock every achievement in PEAK? To help you out, here's how to get every trophy available in the games take that inspiration and create something incredible. Almost 10 years after its original release, the beloved farming-sim Stardew Valley achieves an incredible history-making milestone. Page 9 Board game night enters the digital age thanks to these fantastic games available on Steam. The Cursed Skull is one of the mysterious items in PEAK. Here's everything you need to know about it. Final Fantasy is a vast and sprawling series, including titles that even longtime fans might not even be aware of. The number of games now offering romance elements has been growing over the years, as slice-of-life gameplay can blend these elements smoothly. If you're looking forward to catching legendary Pokemon in Legends: Z-A, these powerful monsters will probably make an appearance. These RPGs were either overlooked or lambasted at launch, but managed to redeem themselves in the eyes of fans. Warframe's latest massive expansion is now live, returning players to Duviri with a bunch of new story missions and other content. Roblox is ending the use of Star Codes in favor of an upcoming new program that will give creators better earning opportunities and incentives. Avatar: The Last Airbender These shows take on tricky subjects in a way that's kid-friendly, yet they never talk down to their young audiences. Silent Hill 2 Remake (2024) An artistic Silent Hill 2 player shares a look at what the iconic survival horror game would look like with a pixelated graphic style. Blizzard shares good news with the Diablo 4 community, and reiterates that July 1 is a date players should mark on their calendars. Death Stranding 2 dives deeper into its characters, and with that comes compelling stories filled with both beauty and heartbreak. A new leak sheds light on the Fortnite Crew Pack exclusive DLC skin coming in July 2025 for players signed up to the subscription service. A married couple shares their cosplays of Final Fantasy 10 protagonists Tidus and Yuna, one of the franchise's most iconic pairs. Minecraft drops a surprising update, adding new items to the game based upon A Minecraft Movie, including one of its biggest memes. After years of little to no progress made on a new James Bond film, Amazon is seemingly heading in the right direction. New details have been revealed detailing the future of Blitz Royale in Fortnite, and it's great news for fans of this game mode. The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim Grab a sword and all the courage you can muster. The dragon fights in these

games are everything a fantasy fan could dream of. Soon, there will be 12 Squid Game skins for fans to collect in Fortnite as well as a bunch of other fun cosmetics - here are all the details. Blood Message, the newly revealed action-adventure game from China, might hit the shelves sooner than some might expect. Page 10 Helldivers 2 has deservedly put squids on a pedestal, and there's an argument to be made that they should continue to lead Major Orders and events. Genshin Impact shares a detailed overview of the Stranding franchise isn't known for its scares, but this new chapter brings forth unexpected horror-inspired moments. One of the most highly anticipated Xbox Game Pass releases of summer 40,000: Space Marine II With Warhammer 40,000: Space Marine 3 in the works, fans of the franchise have plenty of incentive to jump back into another recent Warhammer game. It's an exciting time for fans of the Dying Light series, but Nintendo fans may be unhappy to hear the latest news from its developer. The Nintendo fans may be unhappy to hear the latest news from its developer. P: Overture isn't all tragedy and grief; in fact, one of the DLC's best moments of warmth comes from one of the base game's notorious enemies. Taking care of your Sims 4. Tarl Cutteray is the best Cutteray in Dune Awakening, with stats that make it better than the MK6 version, here's how you can get this unique tool. Leaks suggest that Helldivers 2 will deploy players on the Automaton homeworld in the future, and that's the perfect twist in the ongoing war. Ahead of the Season 6 launch, Activision reveals a new Gundam collaboration for Call of Duty: Mobile with new events, rewards and a limited-time mode. Warhammer 40,000: Rogue Trader Warhammer 40K: Rogue Trader fans can pick up some useful in-game items as Twitch Drops to celebrate the release of the Lex Imperialis DLC. As players gear up for GO Fest 2025, Pokemon GO makes changes to both item storage and Pokemon storage limits, but the response is mixed. These impactful fights were some of the most important in the history of My Hero Academia. An upcoming Nintendo Switch 2 exclusive game is going to launch at a super cheap budget price when it releases in August. Many Final Fantasy protagonists have some amazing cards for the Magic: The Gathering crossover. Guerrilla Games' upcoming Horizon 3 may release in August. continue to feature a divisive aspect from Horizon Forbidden West's new factions and machines. Despite giving players free rein of the map, these games still manage to create tension by making them feel trapped. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Death Stra relaxing atmosphere is still intact. Page 11 There are many different forces available on the Russian side of the battle in Broken Arrow, making it difficult to find the best deck. This knockout Amazon deal gets you a 65-inch OLED TV with 120Hz, Dolby Vision, and Filmmaker Mode for under \$1,000. Skylar is Dateable 1, and walks players through all the rules in Date Everything; here's how to date the Dateviators themselves. A Halo fan game that's already got the community excited receives the official blessing to continue its development and release from Halo Studios. Boruto Uzumaki is strong, but he is still no match for this character. Moon Lord makes a nostalgic and epic appearance in Palworld's Tides of Terraria update. Here's how to beat this tentacle-ly raid boss. The Stand, Stephen King's beloved novel about it. Our interactive map for Shibuya in Ghostwire Tokyo. All the locations, services, items, and more found in the game. RPGs can be pretty massive. These are the 10 best ones with over 100 hours of content. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Miis have been a Nintendo staple since the Wii, but after a recent Super Smash Bros. Ultimate update, I'm concerned they've become an afterthought. The Tainted Spice is the last of a long series of missions for the Atreides faction in Dune: Awakening, and here's how to complete it. Persona 5: The Phantom X's Wonder shares some similarities with P5's original protagonist Joker, but seems to avoid falling into one controversy. Great open-world games use their worlds to tell a rich, believable story, establishing a foundation for a future story in the game's franchise One Piece's Elbaf is a peculiar country, where time might flow differently. For those looking to aid the Harkonnens in Dune: Awakening, here's how to complete the Test of Treachery contract. A new quality-of-life improvement from World of Warcraft Patch 11.2, Ghosts of K'aresh, is a game-changer for fans of the Delves feature. The cast of the upcoming Street Fighter reboot movie continues to grow, as the roster grows with an actor reportedly set to play Balrog. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket's new Eevee Grove expansion is about to add one card that is dead on arrival in the current meta. As a primary music video guy, Jake Schreier displays a knack for emotional narratives and wellchoreographed violence. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Episode 17 in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Timefall can damage the contents of the cargo players carry in Death Stranding 2. Here's how to avoid it. PlayStation Plus shares some hard news for subscribers seeking first-party games despite a glowing report on Premium customer growth. The Epic Games Store continues to provide free games through its digital storefront, with Neil Newbon's haunting performance elevating every moment. This guide will show Blue Lock fans how to recreate Isagi in Rematch, including two of his iconic kits. Luffy will get a new power-up soon, but this one character remains superior in One Piece. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach, including two of his iconic kits. should you tell him to use the voice of Heartman, Deadman, Lockne, or Die-Hardman? Senua's Saga: Hellblade fans who buy the atmospheric sequel's Deluxe Edition on PlayStation 5 later this summer are in for an extra set of goodies. The Resident Evil franchise has had a storied history, and one of its oft-overlooked games could be fitting for some modern audiences. Cooperative multiplayer has cropped up several times in the Resident Evil franchise, though not all these experiences are created equal. Meta's brand-new Meta Quest 3S Xbox Edition leaves much to be desired in regards to one critical feature for Xbox's step into virtual reality. which heroes are getting G.I. Joe skins in the upcoming collaboration. Shanks is central to the One Piece story, possibly just as important as Luffy. According to some leaked plot details, Pokemon Legends: Z-A may be more of a sequel to Pokemon X rather than both Gen 6 games. There are six Detergents available for players to make use of in Crime Scene Cleaner, but some are a little better than others. Marvel Cinematic Universe Ironheart, the latest Marvel Cinematic Universe series that has been released on Disney+, stars Dominique Thorne as Riri Williams. Overwatch 2 reveals its GI Joe collaboration, adding new character skins like Cobra Commander, Snake Eyes, Destro, and more. Little Nightmares 3 is arriving just in time for 2025's spooky season, and it's putting co-op front and center, albeit with a big asterisk attached. Blizzard reveals how the launch of World of Warcraft: Mists of Pandaria Classic will be spread out throughout the entirety of July. Nintendo Switch 2 Joy-Cons are reportedly popping off the console's magnetic connectors when using one third-party grip casing. Page 13 Luffy is the main character of One Piece, but he could be a huge villain. PlayStation Plus management features. Frostplume is one of the most elegant-looking Pals found in Palworld but they're not easy to find. Here's how to add this Pal to your collection. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide sees a major surge in players following the recent "Battle for Tertium" update, which introduced a lot of new content. A major recent update for Assassin's Creed Shadows introduced a big difficulty change, offering intense gameplay for fans who want a challenge. Assassin's Creed Shadows releases a big update for June 2025, introducing a new ally, story pack, and difficulty setting, among many other novelties. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Here's a rundown on how to unlock the Music Player, build playlists, and customize your soundtrack for Sam's deliveries in Death Stranding 2. Legendary Final Fantasy composer Nobuo Uematsu says that Square almost 'collapsed' after the franchise's creator left in the early 2000s. PlayStation is known for high-quality exclusives, but some games still manage to surprise even the most loyal fans. Whether through bold reimaginings, emotional storytelling, or groundbreaking design, these titles surpassed all expectations. Nami will be essential in the Final Saga of One Piece. She will help in the defeat of the Holy Knights and the Five Elders The director of Doom: The Dark Ages responds to rumors surrounding the game's QuakeCon update and elaborates on some of the planned upcoming changes. Polyphony Digital rolls out a brand-new Gran Turismo 7 content update for June 2025, adding new cars, events, and more. Death Stranding 2 doubles as a stage for him to celebrate his favorite pieces of media. The CEO of S-GAME and creator of Phantom Blade Zero shares additional details about the gameplay and differences from other action games. Bandai Namco announces release date for Little Nightmares 3, Destiny 2 reveals the new Dark Matter ability, and FBC: Firebreak is struggling on PC. Squid Game season 3 is coming to Netflix soon, and creator Hwang Dong-hyuk shared his spinoff idea. Game Rant sat down with Blizzard Entertainment to talk about Overwatch 2's collaboration with the legendary G.I. Joe franchise. Sanji fans shouldn't lose hope as there is a good chance the Straw Hat will get a new power-up soon in One Piece. The Monopoly Metropolis event has many fantastic rewards on offer in Monopoly GO. Here are all the key details PlayStation Plus has a great line-up of free games for July 2025,
including one that shows Xbox is still committed to putting its games everywhere. Page 14 Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 Black Ops 7 Black Ops 7 Black Ops 7 Is rapidly approaching. Here are the best multiplayer maps that should return for the upcoming Call of Duty title. Pack, adding a former World Heavyweight Champion, a TNA star, and NBA greats to the roster. Marvel Rivals gives ranked players an easier way out when dealing with annoying smurfs and throwers who deliberately ruin matches. You will need to use the Scoutmaster Bugle to summon the Scoutmaster in PEAK. Here's how to do so both in multiplayer and solo play. Digimon Story: Time Stranger Digimon Story: Time Stranger Digimon Story: Time Stranger blisher Bandai Namco Entertainment reveals new details for the next game in the Digimon Story: Time Stranger blisher Bandai Namco Entertainment reveals new details for the next game in the Digimon Story: Time Stranger Digimon Story: Time Stranger blisher Bandai Namco Entertainment reveals new details for the next game in the Digimon Story: Time Stranger Digimon Story: Time Stranger blisher Bandai Namco Entertainment reveals new details for the next game in the Digimon Story: Time Stranger Digimon Story get their hopes up about its price, in spite of recent events. Capybaras are the only animals you will encounter during if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering if they can head back to Mexico in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering at the stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering at the stranding 2: On the Beach Players might be wondering at the stranding 2: Rant caught up with Blizzard to break down some of the challenges of transforming Overwatch 2's heroes into popular G.I. Joe characters from each are now associated with the same piece of internet history. The Date Everything cast list features some of the most talented video game voice actors of all time, as well as big names from anime, film, and TV. More details about Borderlands 4 surface online, and Amon, The Forgeknight, may have one fundamental flaw. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Check out the first hour of Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Check out the rookie LAPD officer John Nolan, ended its seventh season in May 2025. Broken Arrow players have a range of US units to choose from, but these are arguably the best of the bunch. In a rare move, Sony shares an update on PlayStation Plus profitability that the company's investors are likely to see as good news. Can Tanjiro defeat an Upper Moon alone? A key element of the Horizon franchise, expanded in Horizon Forbidden West, could be the albatross around its neck, and a third game could scrap it. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Voidouts are extremely deadly in Death Interactive CEO Hakan Abrak unveils post-release plans for 007 First Light, a single-player retelling of James Bond's origin story. If you're waiting around for Persona 5 spinoff to whet your appetite a bit. Game Rant recently spoke with Blizzard to understand how Overwatch 2's collaboration with G.I. Joe was the perfect fit for both parties. Marvel Cinematic Universe DC star John Cena has revealed how he'd like to join the Beach Nintendo appears in the credits for an upcoming PlayStation 5 exclusive, despite there being no sign of it coming to Nintendo hardware. There has been a ton of speculation about Loki joining the Straw Hats, but here's how him doing so would create the Sunny's next upgrade! Monster Hunter Wilds is the best entry point for series newcomers, but Title Update 2 is one for long-time fans. Pedro Pascal can't watch one scene from The Last of Us Season 2 as it's far too heartbreaking for him. Spice Residue is one of the crucial components used to craft advanced products in Dune Awakening, here are all the ways you can get it. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the
Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Everyone falls in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Every Stranding 2: On the Beach Facilities can get players rewards for increasing their connection leveling process works in Death Stranding 2. Senua's Saga: Hellblade 2 Fans of Ninja Theory's 2024 action-adventure sequel Senua's Saga: Hellblade 2 should circle August 12 in their calendars for an exciting launch. Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 and Battlefield 6 could end up going head to head later this year, and Black Ops 7 already has a leg up in one key area. Scott Gimple recently teased the idea of bringing Glenn back to The Walking Dead franchise, but that would be a mistake. This week on Gamers Said, we asked you what Nintendo game would push you to finally get a Nintendo Switch 2, with you all giving great answers! Sony's PlayStation Plus Extra subscription offers something for just about anyone, and that includes co-op! The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim Fans' desires are illuminated by a relatively recent Skyrim project, but this could spell trouble for future Bethesda games, if it continues to gather Solo Leveling season 2 is best remembered for the Jin-Woo and Ant King fight, but this A-rank fight scene could have been epic as well. Senua's Saga: Hellblade 2 finally confirms the release date for its upcoming Enhanced Edition update and PS5 launch. S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2: Heart of Chornobyl Stalker 2 releases a major new update for June 2025, bringing significant gameplay improvements, new content, and performance enhancements. Page 16 PlayStation Plus is celebrating its 15th anniversary soon, and Sony reveals a number of things for players to enjoy during the event. Legend Abyss) about how his addition began with a phone call a year ago. Arnold Schwarzenegger became famous after starring in the first Terminator movie, but another film earned him a huge amount of money. Digital Extremes is bringing players back to the floating kingdom of Duviri in a new major update for Warframe called Isleweaver. Little Nightmares 3 is introducing a spine-chilling new location with Carnevale, but one clear enemy type could make or break it. Capcom celebrates the end of Year 2 for Street Fighter 6, recapping all of the stats, content, and more that happened over the past year. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Death Stranding 2 has a huge arsenal, featuring handguns, rifles, grenades, and more. Here's a full guide for every weapon and how to unlock them. Ralph Fiennes has broken his silence on what it feels like to replace Donald Sutherland in the world of The Hunger Games. The latest tease for Destiny 2 The Edge of Fate shows off the new Dark Matter abilities players can use while battling enemies and exploring Kepler. The Simpsons decided to kill Marge, which proves that the show is still willing to make bold calls at this stage. Game Rant speaks with WWE Producer Chris Park, better known as Abyss, about his inclusion in the WWE 2K25 Dunk and Destruction DLC. Winter Crew Studios' Fallen Tear: The Ascension has a new demo that goes a long way toward positioning it as the next great Metroidvania. Sony announces PlayStation Plus is receiving a variety of stellar free games for July 2025, to celebrate the subscription service's 15th anniversary. Arena is a chaotic game mode in which League of Legends players form teams and fight. For those hoping to win, here are the best duos to consider. There's a trade market in Dune Awakening where players, or buy items from the Otsutsuki clan, but in a different way from the Uchiha, Uzumaki, and Senju clans. Dune: Awakening is making a major change to its endgame, and it could be the key to keeping the game alive for years to come. Dying Light developer Techland shares good news for fans of the original game, giving players an excellent reason to jump back into the 2015 title. 28 Years Later actor who plays the massive Alpha, reveals horrible on-set accident and possible backstory on Samson. Among all the weapons in SCUM, these are the ones that benefit players the most. Page 17 Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 Clair Obscur: Expedition expanding the game with new creatures, mechanics, and improvements. Here's where to find the Ex-Caliber Rifle and land a direct hit on an opponent for Fortnite's 14 Days of Summer quest. Solo Leveling has a massive fanbase, but without the release date of Season 3, fans are moving to Lord of Mysteries. Following the Battle for Super Earth's win, a trusted Helldivers 2 leaker reveals what seem to be Arrowhead's plans to add a new Automaton homeworld. Here are the 10 best things the novels did better. Warcraft III: Reign of Chaos A Warcraft 3 player turns the high fantasy RTS into a kart racing game, and the gaming community is nothing short of impressed. Vampire: The Masquerade - Bloodlines 2 Paradox Interactive updates fans about the status of Vampire: The Masquerade - Bloodlines 2 after confirming a round of layoffs at the company. Remedy Entertainment's newest first-person shooter FBC: Firebreak is struggling to pull in PC players just over one week since its launch. In an alternate universe where the Ant King Beru ate Jin-Woo, fans believe these outrageous things will happen. Borderlands 4 is going to have more unlockable skills than any other game in the series, but that isn't necessarily a good thing. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide Here are our recommendations for players looking for the best weapons for the Arbitrator class in Warhammer 40K: Darktide. Here are some must-watch titles among the Summer 2025 anime season releases. The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker Veteran Wind Waker fans are already familiar with its best practices, but its Nintendo Switch Online port has added a couple more. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players can lose their cargo and backpack in Death Stranding 2. Here's how to recover them. This tier list ranks all of the romanceable characters in Palia, from must-try romances to those that fall short of amazing. Deltarune's new chapters have set the stage for what comes next, and while the adventure can sometimes be unpredictable, foreshadowing is abundant. Steel City Interactive reveals a free new content update for Undisputed, which will release for PS5, Xbox Series X/S, and PC later this week. Dead by Daylight's streak of horror crossovers can open doors to include 28 Years Later's most terrifying creature as a Killer in the future. Palia players both newbies and veterans, utilize this passive income strategy to earn money while focusing on other gameplay elements. Page 18 Since Resident Evil Requiem's announcement, several rumors have popped up about its leads, but more attention should be focused on other aspects. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide Impact is a crucial stat for many builds in Warhammer 40K: Darktide. Here's how it works. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide If you're feeling fickle with how you've named your Reject in Warhammer 40K: Darktide If you're feeling fickle with Dune: Awakening's composer about how playing The Elder Scrolls 4: Oblivion set him on the musical track he's still on today. Warhammer 40,000: Darktide Here are all four of the different Stimpacks you can find while running missions in Warhammer 40K: Darktide. The Witcher author promises new books while giving George R.R. Martin some harsh words for his Winds of Winter delay. One major player request in Final Fantasy 14 is finally coming true, and it's already changing how characters look and feel. Watch the official release date trailer for Phantom Squad, a 1-4 player tactical top-down shooter developed by Ctrl Freak. Don't miss the official announcement trailer for Phantom Squad, a 1-4 player tactical top-down shooter developed by Ctrl Freak. Death Stranding 2, but they're not immediately marked on the map. Here's where to find them. The enemies in these role-playing games are no mere mortals, but divine forces that the players must defeat. A Cookie Run: Kingdom player shares a curious discovery they came upon while out shopping that made them feel a little unsettled. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Like most modern games, Death Stranding 2 has a photo mode with a ton of options for players to experiment with. Here's how to use it. Date Everything isn't exaggerating; you can literally date everything in the game, including some very strange and unexpected household objects. Riftbound: League of Legends Trading Card Game Game Rant chats with game director Dave Guskin to talk everything Riftbound, from its inception to card design and its unfolding meta. Don't miss the official launch trailer for Crown Gambit, a story-driven tactical card game developed by WILD WITS. Borderlands 4 has a confirmed playable Siren in Vex, but there is actually a second "hidden" playable Siren. Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Nintendo releases the small Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Version 13.0.4 update for June 2025, addressing minor issues both offline and online. Check out the official release date trailer for S.p.l.i.t, a short psychological horror game developed by Mike Klubnika. Xbox Series X/S users can now download and install files for Grand Theft Auto 6,
but there's one catch that fans need to be aware of. Page 19 Qubit chips are important in The Alters to allow you to get more alters and continue to upgrade and expand your base, team, and items. The Little Nightmares franchise is about to become even more immersive. Watch the teaser trailer for Little Nightmares VR: Altered Echoes here. These female-led horror games may have fallen by the wayside, but they still deliver plenty of scares for players. Borderlands 4's Harlowe has just had their Action Skills revealed, and the perfect endgame build might already be staring fans in the face. Check out the official announcement trailer for Harma a retro roguelike deckbuilding game developed by INDIRECT SHINE. Zenless Zone Zero featured banners always come with one S-Rank (5-star) and two rate-up A-Rank (4-star) and two rate-up A-Rank (4-star) and two rate-up A-Rank (5-star) and two rate-up A-Ran years, gamers are still finding secrets in Batman: Arkham Knight, from Harley's character growth to an event that triggers once a year. Ju Fufu sest W-Engine. Looking for some guidance for the Connections puzzle of June 26, 2025? Look no further. Here are all the hints and answers you need to solve it. Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 An unexpected server outage causes numerous Call of Duty titles, including Warzone and Black Ops 6, to go offline for a short period of time. With One Piece's massive lore, fans would be forgiven if they forgot these characters actually ate a Devil Fruit. A newly announced Little Nightmares game offers an unprecedented take on the franchise, offering the most immersive experience up to now. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' trophy in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach The 'Making It Your Own' here's how to romance her and get a Love ending. Putting together boxing combos is the key to success in UFC 5. Here are some of the best. Indie games often have more freedom to push boundaries and explore possibilities, and the gaming medium has evolved because of them. Sasaki and Miyano is a brilliant "boys love," or BL, anime. For fans of the show and the genre, here are some other series worth checking out. In addition to the usual climbing hazards in Peak, you can also encounter ticks in the second region of the game that will slowly damage you. The Sound Recorder is one of the creepiest yet most important equipment additions in Phasmophobia. Here's how to use it against any ghost. Page 20 Ju Fufu is a Stun Agent who has buffs for her team comp in Zenless Zone Zero. These action games know how to nail a set-piece sequence, even if they throw realism out the window! When it comes to melting high health enemies in Warframe, Condition Overload-style effects can be a Tenno's go-to choice for builds. Ju Fufu needs various stats in Zenless Zone Zero, so Ju Fufu's build in ZZZ will differ based on what players have. These Maruto villains have some glaring weaknesses that ultimately contributed to their downfall. Drysdale and Washford are an interesting pair in Date Everything, and so here's how to romance both of them. These manhwa series are filled with immensely powerful characters, which makes them more thrilling to read. Deenah is a unique Dateable in Date Everything that players may have trouble locating, so here's where to find them. Rune Factory: Guardians of Azuma? These open-world games might not be the greatest in the genre, yet their memorable characters alone could be enough to keep players going. Little Nightmares fans eager to jump back into the horror series' dark and twisted world should circle October 10 on their calendars. Marvel Rivals players can earn Magik's Will of Galacta Skin & Collectibles bundle for a limited time. Find out how in this guide. Getting a perfect investigation is no easy feat in Phasmophobia, but it's always worth it. Here's how to get everything required for the bonus. For a limited time, Marvel Rivals players can earn a free Future Foundation skin for Human Torch. Find out how in this guide. Fans of the Warhammer universe have plenty of fun FPS games to choose from! New details about Destiny 2: Edge of Fate reveal the special features of exotic armor that's included with the expansion and how the armor works. Farming materials in Warframe takes time, and when it comes to getting Corrupted Holokeys, players will need more patience than usual. Join Anthony Taormina as he unboxes and tests the Saramonic Air Microphone System. Many well-known and beloved games came out during the mid-2000s, and some of them still hold up to this day. Pokemon GO announces new Adventure effects for Zacian and Zamazenta, and players can further expand the power of the Gen 8 legendary duo. Page 21 Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Getting caught by a BT can mean the end for Sam in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach; here's how to dodge to avoid enemy attacks. Overwatch 2 players can earn an OWCS Home Skin for Kiriko and adorable Showdown Selfie spray for a limited time. Find out how in this guide. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Lou is Sam's adorable baby in Death Stranding 2, and if players want to check on her and soothe her for likes and to stop his fear of BTs, here's how. Ahead of the game's official announcement, a leaker reveals several new playable Icons that could potentially be introduced in EA Sports FC 26. Blizzard shares a preview of a big World of Warcraft quality-oflife change planned to debut as part of the game's 11.2 update Death Stranding 2: On the Beach them is right for your playstyle, and what will it affect? Game of Thrones didn't hold back when it came to heartbreak. These scenes defined the tone and fate of Westeros in the most emotional ways. Too much hype can hurt an adaptation, but these anime more than managed to live up to their source materials. A discovered exploit is reported to be repurposing real Discord invites to steal users' data, passwords, and even crypto wallets. Death Stranding 2: On The Beach, but what exactly does it do? Jurassic World Evolution 3 Frontier Developments responds to the backlash surrounding generative AI in Jurassic Evolution 3, giving encouraging news to fans. Ironheart isn't the least consequential series from Marvel Studios, but it feels like a remnant of an era that is thankfully over. Diamondine Dust is a late-game resource that players will need to craft high-tier equipment in Dune Awakening, here's where to find it. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Order 6 of Death Stranding 2: On the Beach features the game's first boss fight against a giant BT. Here's how to beat it. Of the many new Mega Evolutions rumored to appear in Pokemon types seem to be especially left out of the spotlight. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Player built structures in Death Stranding 2 function the same as they did in the first game, and that includes customization. World Events are rare occurrences that have a huge impact on your expeditions in Elden Ring Nightreign, offering unique challenges and great rewards. Britain has been a major source of inspiration for many video games over the years. Page 22 With so many options on Xbox Game Pass, here are our picks for the best RPGS live on the platform right now. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Order 5 of Death Stranding 2 pits you against BTs for the first time, and you'll need to use some new equipment to dispatch them for good. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Death Stranding 2: On The Beach will have players juggling all their heavy cargo; here's how to increase Sam's carry capacity. A Pokemon Trading Card Game player opens a booster pack and has a big surprise when they pull one of the most coveted cards of the year. A Mario Kart World glitch is making the rounds as players discover a way to keep flying through the air far longer than originally intended. Predicting how Genshin Impact's next playable characters. Getting every type of media during an investigation in Phasmophobia is crucial for getting that big score. Here's how to collect them all. Borderlands 4 developer Gearbox Software confirms a feature that's been highly requested by fans will make its way into the game. While this new Punisher skin is sure to
excite the Marvel Rivals community, it also highlights a glaring omission within the game. Phasmophobia introduces an overhaul of its evidence system, new progression rewards, and many more changes in one of its biggest updates to date. These indie survival games are some of the toughest out there, built to test your patience, planning, and grit. From freezing wildernesses to zombie-infested towns, they throw players into relentless scenarios where every mistake can be fatal. If you're looking for a real challenge, these indie games will give you a run for your money. The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom's Depths are a remarkable expansion of BotW's map that may leave a mark on the grand scheme of Zelda games. the Hunter: Call of the Wild the Hunter: Call of the Wild has a list of challenges for players to overcome and many trophies/achievements for doing so. The Xbox 360 receives an unexpected update nearly a year after the beloved seventh-generation console's marketplace was shut down. Valve surprises Team Fortress 2 fans with the reveal that the game is going to be getting an update soon, and players can help out. Players can add a miniature Reboot Van to their lockers in Fortnite - here's how to get this adorable back bling. Throughout Warframe, players have encountered many interesting side characters. Pokemon fans put their creative talents to work and share their efforts with clever designs for Mega Umbreon and Mega Espeon. There are a few methods to cure poison PEAK players can use - but the best way to avoid poisoning is to stay away from poison sources. A new leak for Pokemon TCG surfaced online, and it seems to paint a clear picture regarding the trek to the top of the mountain much easier for you and your team. When someone becomes downed or dies, you can revive teammates in PEAK for the first time. Microsoft reveals a new Xbox styled Meta Quest VR headset, Aggro Crab comically laments the success of Steam sleeper hit Peak, and Donkey Kong Bananza Players can unlock the Squid Game Games Guard skin in Fortnite for free and before it even hits the Item Shop - here's how. A game-breaking glitch with the Perks system in Overwatch 2 Season 17: Powered Up is giving a whole new meaning to the major update's title. A lot is currently happening in the Boruto manga, and a fan favorite character might make his return. FBC: Firebreak is branded as a first-person co-op shooter, but it borrows from a variety of genres, and it's at its best when channelling MMOs. Pokemon Trading Card Game Pocket Pokemon Trading C shelf life long after other expansions follow it. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt's gwent culminates in a tense and tough gwent tournament, and The Witcher 4 should consider one of its own. The MCU's Blade reboot appears to be in so much trouble that not even the daywalker himself, Mahershala Ali, seems to know what Marvel is doing. CookieRun: Kingdom is set to undergo brief maintenance as developer Devsisters prepares to implement some changes to the hit game. When you're climbing in PEAK, you'll eventually see a message on-screen saying 'The Fog Rises.' Blizzard reveals several exciting new features and changes coming soon for all players in Diablo 4 Season 9: Sins of the Horadrim The multiplayer genre is evolving at a breakneck pace, and FBC: Firebreak is the latest in a long line of games that drop the ball on one feature. Date Everything players have discovered that some objects can be paired together in-game - while they wish certain others could. Horikoshi has commented on Ochako and Deku's relationship - and he confirmed they are canon in MHA. GIANTS Software and Studio4 officially announce the release date for much-anticipated racing sim Project Motor Racing, formerly known as GTR Revival. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach By getting more APAS Memory in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach By getting more APAS the Beach Here is how players can complete Order No. 4 in Death Stranding 2 and acquire the Chiral Density Gauge from the bandits. Page 24 Overwatch 2 Season 17: Powered Up is officially live, meaning there is a new set of Twitch Drops players can score without even booting up the FPS. Harry Potter: Hogwarts Legacy Romance has been a heavily requested feature for Hogwarts Legacy 2, but there's reason to believe that it should be left on the cutting room floor. Sarah Michelle Gellar recently spoke about Hulu's Buffy the Vampire Slayer reboot, and it sounds exciting. Following the Atreides quests in Dune: Awakening, players will have to make a difficult choice, and here's whether to give the wine to Ambrose or not. Climbing to the top of the mountain in PEAK requires a lot of energy, so maintaining your stamina is the key to success. A completely free content update is coming to one of the best Switch 2 launch titles just a few weeks after its worldwide debut. The Epic Games Store has now given away over 500 free games since 2018, and gamers are celebrating with their favorite deals and offers. One of the stars of Cobra Kai was involved in a pretty bizarre act of violence. The incredible backstory of Harald, the King of Elbaf, begins in One Piece 1153. Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 to live up to one major claim. Power Efficiency is key to success in Dune: Awakening, so this guide will teach players how to control energy output in their bases. Fallout 76 has brought players two major updates this year, and it may be hard for the rest of 2025 to meet these new expectations. Pokemon often gain or lose a type during Mega Evolution, and some of the leaked new forms for Pokemon Legends: Z-A could follow this trend. The closing moments of 28 Years Later have divided audiences, and many find the finale jarring and out of place despite being brilliantly constructed. A talented Pokemon fan artist showcases seven light-themed designs for the popular Bulbasaur, the Grass-type starter from Gen 1. Animal Crossing: New Horizons One creative Animal Crossing: New Horizons player transforms a section of their in-game island into a historic Viking boat cemetery. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Stealth knockdowns are an important part of stealth in Death Stranding 2. Here's how players can perform them. Squid Grounds is dropping for Fortnite Reload, and players can get themselves Squid Game Twitch Drop rewards to celebrate. Here is how. Zoro is gaining in power in the Final Saga of One Piece. He might soon be on Mihawk's level. A Pokemon fan artist shows their interpretation of what the Gen 3 creatures Zangoose and Seviper would look like if they could evolve into new forms. Page 25 There are tons of great Mario games to play on your new Nintendo Switch 2, but these Mario titles are just a bit better than the rest. Overwatch 2 Season 17: Powered Up is officially live, adding new maps, features, and balance adjustments to Blizzard's free-to-play hero shooter. FBC: Firebreak borrows from a wide range of gameplay genres, and the combination helps it to stand out from the crowd in a few key ways. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with
MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with MP bullets in Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Players will encounter many weapons armed with to get exclusive items for free. Preparing a Deep Desert expedition? Follow this gearing-up guide to prepare for every situation, to make the most out of every run. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Death Stranding 2 is stirring something unexpected in me as a father, reshaping how I see Lou and making it harder than ever to leave her behind. Rick and Morty season 8 continues to make fans laugh and think, and the next episode brings back a great character. Assassin's Creed 4: Black Flag (2013) With rumors of a Black Flag (2013) With rumors of a Black Flag remake on the rise, one of its core aspects being redesigned and upgraded could pay dividends for certain players. Two Throne and Liberty devs give players a deep dive into the 12-player Altar of Calanthia raid, including boss details, difficulty options, and more. Shanks has a scar from Blackbeard, and Oda finally reveals how he got this scar in One Piece. Nintendo's current anti-piracy policies make hunting for used Switch 2 consoles a lot more complicated than it might seem at first. Most items in PEAK will make climbing rocks easier or cure status effects; here's a look at all the items in the game and what they do. The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion Remastered Modders create a settlement placing system similar to the one used in Fallout 4 for The Elder Scrolls 4: Oblivion Remastered. NBA 2K25 rolls out the new June 2025 update, introducing a range of gameplay refinements and performance improvements across multiple modes. Microsoft shadow-drops an Xbox-branded limited edition of the Meta Quest 3S VR headset, with the bundle including lots more goodies too. Some action games carry themselves entirely on their gameplay, but others choose bring a great narrative to the table as the cherry on top. Death Stranding 2: On the Beach Some Preppers offer huge advantages early on. Here's which ones to connect with first in Death Stranding 2 and why they're worth it. Beast Gohan is Gohan's most powerful transformation, but will there be anything beyond it or is would that just be too much? South Park video game fans don't have much to be excited about right now, but there is hope on the horizon. Page 26 Frieren: Beyond Journey's End Brieren: Beyond Journey's End manga is set to return in July 2025. The Rookie season 8 will premiere in January 2026 and should include one particular kind of episode. A man in Oakland is arrested after being accused of stealing about \$10,000 worth of Nintendo Switch video games from the local libraries. PlayStation 5 owners have at least thirteen notable new game releases to look forward to in July 2025 Ahead of Edge of Eternities' launch later in the summer, some cards have been revealed to give players a glimpse of what to expect in Sothera. FromSoftware announces the next Everdark Sovereign boss, a version of a difficult centaur enemy, in the co-op spin-off Elden Ring Nightreign. According to a new report, Microsoft is unfortunately planning to lay off more employees in its Xbox division as soon as next week. The weekly reset for Destiny 2 is live and here are all of the new details including Nightfall strike, seasonal missions, challenges, and much more. This character will be extremely important in Dandadan Season 2. Diablo 4 has a famously difficult-to-spot Treasure Goblin, but its rarity isn't its only drawback—it has another Call of Duty entry that's about to be lapped. Paracelsus emerges as a key figure in the evolving world of Lies of P, hinting at a larger role in the sequel's narrative and design. Final Fantasy Tactics: The Ivalice Chronicles The writer of Final Fantasy Tactics shares some details about the updated script of the upda movie adaptation, The Life of Chuck, is an emotional story starring Tom Hiddleston and directed by Mike Flanagan. Marvel is reportedly set to change things up in the MCU for the next saga, but it's a risky decision. A consumer group in the Netherlands files a class-action lawsuit against Sony for allegedly inflating digital game prices on the PlayStation Store. The Borderlands franchise may be an intricately weaved web, but there are a few simple rules for players to follow for an enjoyable experience. World of Warcraft will join other industry giants in attending the annual Gamescom video game trade show in Cologne, Germany, later this summer. One death in the trilogy will give fans nightmares. The Alters has many ways to experience its story and make tough decisions, and my story with Jan Miner didn't go the way most likely did.