

"DAYS OF OUR LIVES" MAY SWEEPS STARTS!

By Donald Thompson

HOLLYWOOD—I was really hoping the Devil storyline would be done after Marlana had an exorcism performed on her in 2021 on "Days of Our Lives." Well, America, I was so wrong. The Devil has been lurking for a few more months, and again almost all of Salem seemed blind to what was going on. First, it jumped from Marlana to her grandson Johnny, who wrecked all kind of havoc before the evil jumped into his twin sister, Allie who has been causing all sorts of chaos.



Chloe and Brady are unaware that Leo plans to get his revenge for their role in his wedding fiasco on "Days of Our Lives."

So it looks like the culmination is upon us and guess what America: I'm happy. Why? The writers dragged out this story far longer than what they should have. Instead of becoming riveting it became stale. Johnny dumps Chanel, hooks up with Gabi, fractured her relationship with Jake as she took over DiMera Enterprises, just as EJ DiMera is sent to the slammer.

Since all that has transpired, EJ is out of jail, Johnny was near death with Ben courtesy of a back from the dead Andre DiMera people. Johnny had finally been freed from the evil and after being rescued by his father, EJ and grandmother, Susan, Johnny was hospitalized for injuries he sustained courtesy of Andre. Ben was a madman trying to find Ciara who had been kidnapped by Allie. Making the situation more

complicated was the fact that Ciara was under the impression courtesy of Evan that Ben had been murdered.

Look, Ben and Ciara are poised at some point to become the next power couple on "Days of Our Lives," but I am tired of seeing them on my TV screen and part of every damn story that transpires in Salem. Now that we know that baby boy is on his way I'm hoping Ben and Ciara gets the happily ever after they deserve and the writers give us a break from these two so we can focus on other characters in Salem for a change please.

I found it so ironic that Johnny was first with Chanel, then lost her, and now she has gotten closer to Tripp, who was with Allie, but they broke up when he discovered she slept with Chanel. Yeah this four-some is damn complicated,

but I feel like Tripp and Chanel might become an item and Johnny and Allie will be left out in the cold, even if 'The Devil Made Them Do It' motive is pushed.

Now that the Devil is still lurking secret is out, EJ, Marlana, Jake, Rafe, Samantha and the entire town of Salem is rallying to rid the town of evil once and for all. However, that is NOT the only tale people. Eli has finally come out of his coma, and Lani is ecstatic, but you know who is NOT: TR. For reasons I cannot understand, Paulina has bought this guy's charm and suspects that he is reformed. Paulina, c'mon you cannot be this gullible. TR is hoping reframing this love affair would save him from the consequences of his actions.

TR made a move that involved Beth being beaten to a pulp to prevent her from

spilling the tea about Eli's shooting. FYI Eli cannot recall exactly what transpired people. However, Abe senses something is off about TR and considering that Abe used to be the Police Commissioner if he has a hunch it is for a reason people. Xander is working overtime to get that serum to treat Sarah after Gwen swapped the real one with something that scrambled Sarah's brain.

He pleaded to Gwen to understand the predicament she has placed him, Sarah and a ton of others in Salem in. Gwen tearfully professed her love to Xander before handing over that serum. She seemed remorseful, but Abigail is pushing her buttons and the fact that Gwen now has nothing to lose makes her dangerous.

While that was happening the sibling rivalry between Gwen and Abigail will continue just as it became aware that Gwen did indeed murder Jennifer's mother. So Abigail has more ammunition against her foe, but the question becomes what will Abs do with this information and how can this change everything? Leo begged Craig for another chance, but he sent him to the curb, just as Chad got news about a double life that was exposed courtesy of Leo. Hmm, looks like Leo is out for revenge against Chad and Sonny for blowing up his world. This could be interesting "Days of Our Lives" fans!

"HADESTOWN" TURNS UP THE HEAT

By Beverly Wilkerson

UNITED STATES—Hadestown, the 2019 Tony-Award winning musical, has hit the Ahmanson, and it is hot. It took Anais Mitchell (Music, Lyrics and Book) 13 years to get it to come to fruition on Broadway, once it was developed with and directed by Rachel Chavkin. It garnered eight Tonys, including Best Musical and Best Original Score, along with a Grammy, and now, as the pandemic lifts a bit, it is finally on the road. It was an emotional night. I didn't know how great the impact of seeing a professional live theatre performance would be on me after this way-too-long period of limited contact and isolation that living with Covid has brought upon us.

I was rollicking along with the showstopping number of "When the Chips Are Down," brilliantly choreographed by David Neumann. And then, pow...tears filled my eyes during "Wait For Me," a quieter, yet powerful number, with swinging lamps even synched perfectly, the effect like that of being on a sinking ship in a storm. The intricate lighting (Bradley King) and miasmic, vertiginous swirl of the fog, the ever-moving set and its design (Rachel Hauck), luscious vocal arrangements (Liam Robinson) and lush orchestrations, with a taste of New Orleans, and an occasional off-note Honky Tonk smattering (Michael Chorney/Todd Sickafoose), the weathered costumes (Michael Krass). It all drew me in, into the eye of the hypnotic eddy of theatrical art. And then came the Wall. "Why We Build the Wall" was only the second song in the conception of Hadestown, written as early as 2006. Its weight and irony are not lost in closing Act One.

There are just a few small bumps along the journey. The audience doesn't get to see Andre De Shields, Broadway's Hermes. From what clips I have seen of him and what I knew



Belen Moyano, Morgan Siobhan Green, Nicholas Barasch, Bex Odorisio, Shea Renne. Hadestown National Tour 10/1/21 Photo Credit: T Charles Erickson © T Charles Erickson Photography tcharleserickson@photoshelter.com.

of him from my days in NYC, he is an undeniable legend. But although the original cast seems to have been quite spectacular overall, this cast, like pets and children, are all equally lovable or, in their own way, maybe even more special than their predecessors. Levi Kreis surprisingly and confidently does get the moves of Hermes, and he sets the tone suavely. The Pates (Belen Moyano, Bex Odorisio and Shea Renne) blend soul-chilling harmonies with their a cappella tones. Orpheus (Nicholas Barasch), with a piercing tenor that first seems off putting, then gets under your skin and grows on you.

His love Eurydice (Morgan Siobhan Green) captures both the innocence of youth and the torture and demands of the streets she's had to survive on alone, and Persephone (Kimberly Marable) is a powerhouse from her first moment on stage. Marable dances like she carries the depths of hell, while reaching for the heavens. Hades' deep voice (Keyvn Morrow) lifts the rafters. The Work-

ers Chorus (Lindsey Hailes, Chibueze Ihuoma, Will Mann, Sydney Parra, Jamar Johnson Williams) in all their various sepia hues color the stage and the story. The amplification was hotter than I like it, but...well, it is Hades' town, after all. Go with it. Act Two was not quite as powerful as Act One, but we were already sold, so we sit back and enjoy the ride that the actors continue to take us on, be it Hadestown below or the world above.

Hadestown was "inspired by" the Greek Mythology of Orpheus, a muse of poetry accompanied by his lyre, or guitar in this case. Orpheus falls in love with Eurydice and follows her to the Underworld, ruled by Hades, who is married to Persephone, the goddess of the seasons, flowers, fruit and grain. She is destined to spend half of the year in the world above, where she brings the spring and summer, and half below...when she leaves that same world barren and cold.

These two stories, or relationships, are intertwined as the audience

is carried above and below, along with the characters. Hermes conducts the way, and the Pates insightfully give commentary, while the chorus chimes in like the back-breaking proletariats that they are. It is a story that we still want to believe can end happily. We want to hear Orpheus finish his love song. We want to see Eurydice come back to life in his arms, in his love.

We want to see Persephone spring eternal in all her earthly gossamer greenery. But Hermes reminds us, "it's a sad song, it's a sad tale, it's a tragedy. But we sing it anyway." And it's in the singing that we find joy. In the staged performance of tragedy, such is fine art. Hadestown is art in its purest form. Worth remembering. Well worth the journey down, as it lifts us up.

HADESTOWN
Through May 29, 2022
Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre At The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012

Tues.-Fri. at 8pm; Sat. at 2pm and 8pm; Sun. at 1pm and 6:30pm
EXCEPTIONS: NO MONDAY performances/NO 8pm performance Thurs. May 5/NO 6:30pm performance Sun. May 29/ADDITIONAL performance 2pm on Thurs. May 26
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Deaf community information and charge: visit CenterTheatreGroup.org/ACCESS Center Theatre Group Run Time and Intermission: 2 hours and 30 minutes including one 15-minute intermission.

"SURVIVOR 42" RECAP: 'TELL A GOOD LIE, NOT A STUPID ONE'

By David Miller

HOLLYWOOD—Whew, last week's episode of "Survivor" was intense as two players got the boot and we witnessed perhaps one of the most emotional Tribal Councils I can recall seeing in years. With that said, we are down to our final eight and this week's "Tell A Good Lie, Not A Stupid One" witnessed plenty of scrambling people. Mike was NOT happy having to betray Rocksroy and was concerned about potential jury votes and made it clear to Omar he didn't like feeling pressured.



The latest Immunity Challenge on "Survivor 42" which was all about balance. Photo courtesy of "Survivor" Facebook page.

Hmm, Omar and Hai are playing hard and I think they are about to find themselves in trouble very soon. The other tribe returned with Jonathan letting it be known that Tori was booted. Drea was quite emotional after the Tribal Council and realized she still has advantages to play in the game if she wants to make it far. Lindsay spilled the tea to Omar about what happened at Tribal Council and Omar was peeved a bit.

Lindsay realized an idol might be in play because two were just played and she went searching and was literally a touch away from the idol people. OMG! So Maryanne, who just played her idol, found another idol people. How freaking crazy is this! She decided this was one idol she was NOT sharing with anyone. Yeah, that is quite smart to say the least. The weather was downright brutal:

windy and wet and Jeff offered the final eight an opportunity to compete for reward as it was apparent they were in dire straits. Pizza, cold beer and warmth was on the table for the victor in the challenge which was all about maneuvering.

I really do NOT want to see Jonathan win this challenge people, anyone but this guy and it was Lindsay who was victorious people. She chose Omar and Mike to go to the Sanctuary and enjoy pizza and beer people. I wonder if Jonathan is upset at the choice, as Lindsay made it clear this was all about strategy. We got a bit of a backstory of Hai's upbringing, just as Lindsay pointed out she wanted to take a shot at Jonathan. Voices started to be heard by Lindsay, Mike and Omar and it was images of their family that soon became a discussion where Omar threw Hai under the bus and it was a

brilliant lie. Looks like Lindsay, Omar and Mike are ready to target Hai, and it was brilliant, but the problem is if Omar's lie comes back its going to bite him hard in the butt.

Lindsay disclosed the amulet that allows them to have an extra vote, steal a vote and a hidden immunity idol. Lindsay that was NOT information you shouldn't have shared. It looks like this could be a very interesting Tribal Council depending on who wins the Immunity Challenge. This was all about balance people, and it was Lindsay and Jonathan battling it out. C'mon let Lindsay win people, but Jonathan is a literal competition beast people, but Lindsay managed to win and Hai was happy, but NOT sure if Hai realizes he is in trouble people.

Hai wanted to targeted Jonathan and chatted to Mike about making the move, not re-

alizing that Mike was about to stab him in the back. Drea and Lindsay wanted to take out Hai making their amulet more powerful for the twosome. Wow, looks like Hai is about to be blindsided and has no idea of the move people. Ok, so this becomes a boring Tribal Council, but Hai is playing and lied to Jonathan noting that he has an idol. Jonathan realized that Hai was lying to him. Omar realized the fact that everyone wants Hai out and he should be utilizing Hai who is loyal to him. It feels like a misdirect by the editors to make us think Jonathan is in trouble, when it's really Hai people.

So we have Tribal Council with 10 minutes left in the game, I don't think we are getting fireworks tonight people. Hai was aware that Lindsay, Mike and Omar definitely talked strategy when they were on the reward challenge people. Jonathan threw out a bomb that had a few people rattled, which had Hai respond potentially putting a larger target on his back. Looks like a true blindsided is coming for one of the players in "Survivor 42" for the first time in a very long time people, and Hai was shocked by the outcome. However, I think a mistake was made by the tribe for NOT taking out Jonathan when he was vulnerable people.

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TOP TECH TRENDS FOR 2022

By Staff

UNITED STATES—Understanding the patterns of technology usage of different people can be a good indicator of people's character. These patterns can even

If you're interested in discovering which technological generation you fall into, take this funny ExpressVPN's tech age quiz and find out.

Technology has steadily become more integrated into our daily lives, and its rapid development will likely shape our future in unimaginable ways. To keep you updated, we prepared a list of top tech trends for 2022 that we'll most likely see more of in the years to come.

Edge computing The growing demand for greater amounts of data swiftly resulted in local storage options like hard drives simply being less than ideal. Soon enough, we started keeping our valuable data in clouds. Aside from being able to hold much more data than local storage solutions, cloud technology proved to be a safer and more accessible option. However, like all types of technology, cloud software needed an upgrade to better manage time-sensitive data. This is how



There are quite a few tech trends for 2022.

edge computing was introduced. Edge has similar features to the cloud, but as the name suggests, it's located at the edge of the network, contributing to less connectivity loss and quicker response times.

Artificial intelligence Artificial intelligence is already being implemented in gadgets and technologies we use daily, but it is believed that it will completely transform our tech-related habits in the future. Aside from being the driving force behind our virtual assistants and smart devices, AI will revolutionize health care systems, the automotive industry, banking, and e-commerce. For instance, artificial intelligence will enable a more comprehensive analysis of

stored medical records; it can help identify potential health risks patients are exposed to and automate specific procedures and tests.

Extended reality Extended reality (XR) is a term that covers different types of immersive technology like virtual (VR) and augmented reality (AR). While we currently associate these technologies with highly entertaining and addictive games, XR will hold a crucial position in transforming our world and bringing us closer to a future where the boundary between humans and technology is blurred. For instance, immersive and interactive product presentations have a strong potential for reshaping our consumer behavior, and it al-

ready has a strong influence on medical rehabilitation and training in numerous industries.

Blockchain technology Blockchain is the backbone of the cryptocurrency revolution, and it is expected that the blockchain industry will reach a staggering \$36 billion by 2025. Since it's decentralized and consensus-driven, meaning that there isn't a central authority that validates the transactions, cryptocurrencies based on blockchain tend to be much safer and less prone to cyberattacks than traditional currencies. Many banking institutions have already started welcoming blockchain into their business models to keep up with the market trends.

Conclusion As technology becomes more sophisticated and complex, we need better security strategies. Hence, research every piece of technology you want to implement into your life and develop a flexible and buildable cybersecurity plan that will keep your personal data protected at all times. If you're not tech-savvy, ask an expert for advice and never treat your online security as an afterthought.



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