

# THREE YEARS LATER

REFLECTING ON APRIL 30  
READ MORE ON P. 3

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Content warning: This issue contains photos of the April 30 shooting aftermath that could be triggering to some readers. Please read with caution.

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

# LIVES LOST AND HONORED

## *Ellis “Reed” Parlier and Riley Carl Howell*

by Emily Kottak and Elizabeth McGuire  
Arts & Culture Editor, Asst. Video Editor

**Content Warning:** This article briefly recounts the shooting on April 30. Skip the paragraph below to continue reading about Reed Parlier and Riley Howell.

Three years ago, on April 30, 2019, a gunman entered Kennedy 236 and indiscriminately opened fire. He wounded four—Rami Al-Ramadhan, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescaro—and killed two. This year, we at the Niner Times send support to those wounded and all those affected. Above all, we honor the lives of Reed and Riley, both of whom became heroes on that traumatic day two years ago.

**The articles below were published as part of a one-year anniversary special edition in 2020. We invite you to read them again to reflect on the amazing lives of Riley and Reed.**

### Ellis “Reed” Parlier

Ellis “Reed” Parlier was only 19-years-old when he tragically lost his life on April 30, 2019. Reed was born in Charlotte on October 2, 1999 to Julie and Brian Parlier. Reed has a younger sister, Mallory, who is now a senior in high school. Reed’s real name is Ellis Reed Parlier, “Ellis” being Brian’s mother’s maiden name and “Reed” being Julie’s maiden name. However, Reed’s family never referred to him as Ellis.

In 2019, Reed was a sophomore at UNC Charlotte and was studying Computer Science in hopes of becoming a video game developer. Computer Science was a fitting major for Reed considering his love for video games. Early on in high school, Reed built his own gaming computer. He attended Central Academy for Technology and Arts (CATA) in Monroe, NC where he studied in the information systems program.

In an interview with the Charlotte Observer, Reed’s family discussed how much Reed enjoyed playing video games. From Nintendo games on the Wii to “Guitar Hero” to “World of Warcraft,” Reed could

spend hours playing. However, unlike most teenagers, Reed’s family has said that he was happy even without a screen in his face.

Many of Reed’s closest friends were also gamers. When the Parlier family had a celebration of life service for Reed, the service was privately streamed online so that Reed’s gaming friends could be there.

A scholarship has been created in Reed’s honor called the Ellis “Reed” Parlier Memorial Scholarship. The fund will be administered by the College of Computing and Informatics and the recipients will be selected by a scholarship committee based on who best meets the criteria that was established by the donor. The scholarship was made possible by contributions of friends of the Parlier family as well as an anonymous donor. The scholarship criteria as well as information on how to apply can be found on [ninerscholars.uncc.edu](http://ninerscholars.uncc.edu).

A memorial for Reed was established outside of CATA to honor his memory. Students from that school will receive preference for the scholarship.

In another interview with the Charlotte Observer, Reed’s family describes him as



Photo of Reed Parlier  
courtesy of Niner Remembers

quiet, thoughtful and observant. They explain how he rarely talked negatively about others and was very loving. On her Twitter account Julie posted, “My beautiful, kind, loving son should be on this earth spreading his intelligent, kind, loving soul to the world.”

### Riley Carl Howell

Riley Carl Howell was a 21-year-old junior at UNC Charlotte where he lost his life on April 30, 2019 tackling the gunman that opened fire on his classroom. He saved an indeterminable number of lives and was awarded a military funeral, the ROTC Medal of Heroism and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society’s Citizen Honor Award for Valor, the “Single Act of Heroism” award.\*

Riley was born on December 13, 1997 in Haywood County, North Carolina where he grew up with his parents, Thomas and Natalie Howell, younger sisters, Iris and Juliet Howell, and his younger brother, Teddy Howell. Riley was in a five-year relationship with Lauren Westmoreland who told the Niner Times that the couple planned to live one day in a small home on some large land.

Growing up in the mountain town of Waynesville, Riley developed a deep passion for the outdoors that might only have been matched by his affinity for everything car-related. Much of his knowledge on these subjects was self taught as he valued learning new things outside the classroom. In a Niner Times interview, Iris Howell referred to him as a “jack-of-all-trades kind of person” who knew a little bit about everything.

Riley’s siblings remember him enjoying “everything nerdy,” especially Batman, The Hobbit and comic conventions. However, he is most often recognized as an avid Star Wars fan. Teddy says he owned several Star Wars Lego sets and told ABC News that Riley was “the only 21-year-old who would willingly fight his lightsaber with [Teddy].” Riley now lives on symbolically in the franchise’s official storyline as a new character, Jedi Master Ri-Lee Howell.

After attending A-B Technical Community

College in Asheville, Riley came to UNC Charlotte excited to experience big-city life. At Charlotte, he was a student employee and CrossFit club member. In an article published by the U.S Army, Riley’s ROTC instructors said he embodied the perfect army officer. Though he was still deciding his career path, he planned on majoring in environmental science and minoring in geology. Riley’s family saw him potentially working with wildlife.

“He taught me to take life a little less seriously,” recalled Lauren Westmoreland to the Niner Times. “To laugh even when I didn’t want to, to forgive readily and to love freely and without abandon.”

The world will remember Riley as the everyday hero who, on April 30, 2019 instinctively tackled the gunman firing on his class. Those who knew him will remember Riley as a kindhearted individual that everyone could look up to. He was a hero and a man of many talents. He was a friend, boyfriend, brother and son.

“He was just a normal guy,” says Iris. “He was my big brother. He was special to us in his own way.”



Photo of Riley Howell  
courtesy of Niner Remembers

# UNC CHARLOTTE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO BE HELD ON APRIL 29

UNC Charlotte will host events to honor those affected by the campus shooting three years ago

by Jessica Ceballos  
Asst. News Editor

***TW: This article mentions a past shooting on campus on April 30.***

UNC Charlotte is hosting its third annual Day of Remembrance to recognize the campus shooting on April 30, 2019, that took the lives of two students, Riley Howell and Ellis “Reed” Parlier, and injured four others: Rami Al-Ramadhan, Sean DeHart, Emily Houpt and Drew Pescaro.

The shooting on campus took place in the Kennedy building, room 236, at approximately 5:40 p.m. To know more about the shooting, read the Niner Times’ initial coverage.

To remember this event, UNC Charlotte offers the Day of Remembrance. The following events will be held on April 29, 2022, across the UNC Charlotte campus.

The wreath-laying ceremony will take place in front of the Kennedy building at 5:40 p.m. on April 29 and will be removed and placed inside the building at 5:40 p.m. on April 30.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Sessions will be held at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

and 3 p.m. in Cone University Center, Room 112. These sessions have a registration link that is required to attend. According to the Niner Nation Remembers homepage, the sessions are designed to “allow participants to reflect on their feelings and experiences that day, and how they personally have coped with that experience.”

Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Kennedy Building, people can share messages on the April 30 Message Boards. There is also an online platform where people can share.

In UREC, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the 4.9 Remembrance Day Challenge is taking place. People can walk, jog, or run 4.9 miles and post to their social media in remembrance.

Also in UREC, CAPS and UREC staff are hosting a virtual Restorative Yoga and Mindfulness session 1-2 p.m.

CAPS is hosting the Niner Community Art Mural from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. outside UREC.

The UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens staff and the Department of Art and

Architecture have created a structure made of Remembrance Stones. These stones have messages on them written in 2019. The stones were then taken and integrated into a sculpture. The sculpture is located in the Asian Garden area of the Botanical Gardens. According to the Niner Nation Remembers homepage, the memorial is here “to commemorate the community’s solidarity and fellowship in the face of tragedy.”

According to a Niner Times article published in September 2021, the April 30 Memorial was set to break ground on April 30, 2022.

The Niner Times spoke with Brook Muller, dean of the College of Arts + Architecture, about the status of the Remembrance Memorial construction.

According to Muller, the construction is currently waiting on global delays with construction and supplies due to COVID-19. However, since the quality of the memorial is vital, short delays are necessary to preserve the quality, said Muller.

“I think the aftermath demonstrated the strength of this university community and the larger one,” said Muller. “And so this memorial is being asked to do not just one thing, but many.”

Muller stressed the importance of the landscape and the arts working together to convey the tragedy and offer a place to remember and reflect.

According to the Niner Insider, posted on April 23, 2020, a proclamation was released by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners that April 30, 2020, would be the one-year anniversary “Day of Remembrance.” On April 19, 2022, “Mecklenburg County Commissioners announced that April 30, 2022, will be honored in a ‘Day of Remembrance,’” according to WBTV.

There will be a follow-up article to provide an update on the construction of the Remembrance Memorial.

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## CAR BREAK-INS OCCURRING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CAMPUS

More than 20 cars in the South Village parking lot were broken into

by Kathleen Cochrane  
Contributor

On April 15, 2022 over 20 cars were found broken into in the South Village parking lot.

Dave Broaddus, third-year, was on his way to work when he noticed his passenger window was broken.

“I didn’t know that my car had been broken into or any other cars had been broken into, said Broaddus. “I was going to work; it was about 9 a.m. when I got to my car. That’s when I found out my window was broken.”

When Broaddus called the police to report the event, he found out that they already knew this had happened without informing the residents.

“I called the police to fill out the report, but there was already a report that I didn’t know about. So they just took my license plate and told me that my car was already involved in the report,” said Broaddus.

According to the April 20 Niner Notice, “In the past week, the University has experienced

a series of auto break-ins in the area of South Village Deck. All of the break-ins have occurred in the overnight hours and in tandem with similar incidents in the University City area.”

After Broaddus called the police, he tried to contact other residents to let them know that they needed to check the parking lot.

“I texted people who live in my residence hall, and I told them to come check on their cars because cars have been broken into. I was a little concerned that there was a police report out, and there was no message or anything put out, just like the general people subsidies to make sure that their cars were okay,” said Broaddus.

“I just wanted to make sure that other people knew that this was going on. Then other people started coming to see their cars or people were chasing other people, just checking their cars and making sure they were okay,” said Broaddus.

In the Niner Notice, the University outlined ways to increase security to deter events like this from happening again.

“In addition to standard surveillance of all parking areas on campus, UNC Charlotte police have increased security protocols in that area—including the addition of a police tower and increased police patrols, among other measures, to deter criminal activity,” said the Niner Notice.

The Niner Notice listed how students could be safer in the parking lots.

“Park in well-lit areas if possible. Lock your vehicle when you leave it. Remove all valuables from your vehicle. If you must leave valuables in your car, place them inside your trunk and out of view. Immediately report suspicious activity by calling 704-687-2200 or using the LiveSafe App.”

This is not the first time multiple car break-ins have occurred. According to the Police

Log on Dec. 8, 2021, the log references 27 vehicle break-ins in the South Village parking deck.

Off-campus residential areas are also experiencing car break-ins and theft.

On March 17, 2022, University Crossing Management sent the following email to residents about car break-ins.

“We were notified that over the past few days several catalytic converters have been stolen from vehicles parked on property. One of the incidents was reported to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and they are investigating the incident.

In response to the incidents, we will be increasing courtesy officer patrols. Please lock your vehicle when parked and remember to remove personal items from your vehicle. As a reminder, if you see any suspicious activity, please notify the police immediately by dialing 911.”

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# THREE YEARS: REFLECTING ON APRIL 30

The aftermath of a tragic day in UNC Charlotte's history

Photos of the UNC Charlotte community following April 30, 2019  
courtesy of Niner Times file photos



# TWO FRIENDS, ONE LEGACY

Jennifer Rosenberg and Charlotte Lafourcade leave a legacy of positivity and leadership



by Bryson Foster  
Asst. Sports Editor

Photos of Charlotte's Lafourcade & Jennifer Rosenberg  
courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

The senior duo of Charlotte Lafourcade and Jennifer Rosenberg brought a wealth of experience to the Charlotte women's golf team this season. Both players found their way to Charlotte through the transfer portal, leaving a legacy of positivity and leadership that will live on with their teammates.

The 49ers started the season with an underwhelming 13th place finish in the Sam Golden Invitational in Sept. 2021. The team turned things around with multiple top-five finishes in the Bryan National Collegiate, Evie Odom Invitational, River Landing Classic and the Ironwood Invitational. The 49ers ended the season with an outstanding third-place finish in the Conference USA (C-USA) Championship.

Lafourcade shared her thoughts on the team's accomplishments.

"We all have worked hard to get where we ended, which I am the proudest of," said Lafourcade.

Fueled by a passion for golf from a young age, both players credited their competition for pushing them to the next level. Rosenberg reflected on her origins in the sport and her family's role.

"It isn't one person who is an inspiration, but my grandparents and dad got me into the sport," said Rosenberg. "I was drawn to it because of the competition and how close the golf family is. It is unique and requires so much mental toughness. Even though it was hard, it drew me to the sport and fueled me to be better."

Lafourcade added how her support on the international stage empowered her as a player.

"Playing internationally and meeting different people motivated me," said Lafourcade. "The competition has fueled me, and I was lucky enough to have so many people support me, which allowed me to play confident golf."

A New York native, Rosenberg played at Tulane University, where she was a standout. Her time with the Green Wave spanned four seasons before jumping to the Queen City. Rosenberg immediately felt comfortable at Charlotte, which contributed to her decision.

"The first phone call I had with her [Head Coach Ryan Ashburn] felt like I was talking to a coach and a close friend simultaneously," expressed Rosenberg. "We had a comfort level right off the bat."

Lafourcade, hailing from Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France, committed to playing golf at Maryland in 2017. She spent four years with the Terrapins before deciding to transfer to Charlotte. Lafourcade credits Ashburn for her choice to compete for the 49ers.

"Coach Ashburn didn't convince me to come here, but rather the relationship between us did," said Lafourcade. "Charlotte is great academically, and previous coaches had high expectations, which drew me to come here. Without Coach Ashburn, I wouldn't be here right now."

The bond between Rosenberg and Lafourcade is tight-knit as both come from similar backgrounds. Both

players fit into the leadership role of the team. Each player reflected on the importance of their friendship.

"We are best friends, and we are on another wavelength because we have been through it," said Rosenberg. "We have been each other's supporters like no other. I wouldn't have gotten through this year without her [Lafourcade]."

"We bonded very fast," Lafourcade added. "If she doesn't laugh, I will feel bad, and we have been there for each other. I don't know where I would be without her [Rosenberg]."

Rosenberg and Lafourcade brought a sense of veteran leadership to a young 49er squad. The team learned from their mistakes through uncertain circumstances, and both players shined in their new roles. Rosenberg shared her philosophy on guiding the younger pool of talent.

"You learn from mistakes whether you are a young or older player," said Rosenberg. "You learn from experiences, and that's what I took away from this season. I will also take it passed college."

Rosenberg grew as a player and person while battling through adversity throughout the season. She feels that surrounding herself with the right people changed her mindset completely.

"I had a tough year injury-wise. I dealt with adversity, and I wouldn't have gotten through it without my team and coaches," said Rosenberg.

"Surrounding yourself with people that care helps everything. Being optimistic and keeping a smile on my face is so important."

Lafourcade took multiple lessons away from the season, such as picking yourself up when you hit rock bottom. She believes that her coaches and teammates contributed to her positive attitude.

"I pulled myself out thanks to my coaches and teammates. When you hit rock bottom and have people there to support you, it makes it easier to get back up," said Lafourcade. "No matter what comes your way, you have to keep that smile."

Both players reflected on their legacies. They hope that they have given the underclassmen tools to become leaders. The halls of Charlotte will forever be changed because of their positive attitudes.

"It goes back to picking somebody up when they are down, and when you are on a team that laughs, it is great. I hope they take my laughter and sarcasm and run with it when I am not here," said Rosenberg.

Lafourcade's playing days are over, but she plans to stick around and help take the program to new heights by advising the next generation.

"I want to stay around and help the younger players with leadership and just being a friend," said Lafourcade.

What's next for both players? Rosenberg plans to pursue golf professionally as she looks to cut the U.S. Women's Open in May. Lafourcade's goals are academic, as she is one semester away from earning her MBA and plans to work at Charlotte after graduation.

# NEARLY PERFECT

## Charlotte women's and men's tennis almost win conference championships

by Joey Ellsworth & Bradley Cole  
Staff Writer & Sports Editor

After finishing 16-6 at the end of the regular season, Charlotte's women's tennis team is ranked No. 51, heading into the Conference USA (C-USA) tournament. The Niners went 2-2 in conference games and held the third seed in the C-USA Championship.

### First Round (Vs. UTEP 4-0)

The No. 51 Niners started the

tournament hot, taking down UTEP easily. They took command early, getting the doubles point with dominance. The duo of Schech and Sawhney finished first, dominating their opponents 6-0.

Next to finish were Maquet and Quiterio, taking the 6-2 win. Safont and Petruzelova did not get to finish their bout but were on the brink of taking the win since they were leading 5-2.

The singles matches finished similarly. The Niners took over and quickly grabbed the three points they needed to take the win. Schech kept the Niner's momentum and took down her opponent, only giving her a single point.

Quiterio brought the Niner lead to three with a quick two sets. She won her first set 6-3 and followed it up with an even better 6-1 set win. Safont solidified the win, taking a 6-0 win in the first set and a 6-3 set win in the second to send the Niners to the Quarterfinals.

Petruzelova and Sawhney didn't get to finish their matches, but both beat their opponent in the first round and were leading in the second.

### Quarterfinals (Vs. Marshall 4-1)

The Niners followed up their dominant doubles performance in the previous round with another in the quarterfinals. They took the doubles point without much trouble.

Maquet and Quiterio took the first win 6-2, and Schech and Sawhney took their match 6-4 to give the Niners their doubles point to start. Safont and Petruzelova again did not get to finish but were leading before their match ended.

In the singles, the Niners didn't have a clean sweep as they did in their previous round but still won with few issues. Petruzelova gave the Niners their first singles point, doubling the Niner lead, but Schech was beaten right after to bring the Niner lead back down to one.

Quiterio answered, winning her match and putting the Niners just a point away from victory. Maquet sealed the deal allowing just two points in each set to send

the Niners to their first C-USA semifinals.

Safont and Wilkins did not get to finish their matches but took their first sets and were on pace to take the second.

### Semifinals (Vs. No. 41 FIU 4-1)

Next up on Charlotte's journey to the championship was No. 41 FIU. FIU held the two seed in the tournament and finished 17-4 on the year and 3-0 in C-USA games. Charlotte had a tough obstacle to overcome with FIU but was not deterred.

The Panthers put up a fight in the doubles. They took the first doubles match, taking down Schech and Sawhney 6-4. Safont and Petruzelova finally got a chance in the tournament to finish their matchup, and they capitalized on it with a 6-4 win.

With the doubles matches tied, Maquet and Quiterio came through in a neck and neck match, taking the 7-6 win. This gave Charlotte the doubles point for the third straight time in the tournament.

Quiterio came again to start the singles matches, taking the first match and only allowing her opponent to score a single time. Quiterio may have come through in the singles matches but her doubles partner, Maquet, did not. Maquet fell to her opponent, allowing FIU's only point of the day.

Wilkins finished her first match of the tournament, taking down her opponent with a 6-4, 6-3 and bringing the Niners to game point. Safont shut down any FIU hopes of a championship, taking her thirteenth singles win of the season, only losing once in January against No. 2 the University of North Carolina.

Safont's win gave Charlotte their



Photo of from Charlotte vs. Coastal Carolina  
courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

fourth point to send them to their second championship game ever, with the last being in 2006 when Charlotte was part of the Atlantic 10.

The Niner victory over the Panthers was their second time beating a ranked opponent in eight days, with the last win coming against No. 60 VCU. Prior to the tournament, Charlotte was 1-5 against ranked teams but could get it done when it mattered.

#### C-USA Championship (Vs. No. 33 Old Dominion 3-4)

It was Charlotte's first time in the C-USA Championship, and they fought like a team that deserved to be there.

ODU was the team to beat in the tournament, sitting ranked 33 nationally and the first seed of the

tournament following a 20-6 season.

Old Dominion took the advantage early, taking down Maquet and Quiterio in doubles 6-1. The Sawhney and Schech duo evened up the score taking their match 6-4.

Safont and Petruzelova sealed the deal to take the doubles point after a 6-4 match.

Maquet fell quickly against Yuliia Starodubtseva, tying the game at one. Quiterio took down her opponent, allowing just four, but ODU immediately evened the game back up.

After a match loss from Petruzelova and a match win by Schech, the game was tied with everything relying on Safont. Despite Safont's incredible season, she fell to her opponent, giving ODU the 4-3 victory.

This loss ended a historic season for the Niners, falling in their second-ever championship. They ended their season

19-7 and ranked nationally at No. 51.

#### Men's

Like the women's team, the Charlotte men's tennis made a run at a conference title.

#### First Round, (Vs. Rice 4-3)

The 49ers got everything they could handle in the first round with a close 4-3 victory.

Stefanos Savva and Vasco Prata earned a doubles win 6-2 early for Charlotte. Mikhail Sokolovskiy and Savva each earned a singles win to help give their team an advantage.

Abhimanyu Vannemreddy earned a come-from-behind win to send Charlotte to the next round.

#### Second Round, (Vs. FAU 4-0)

After just getting by Rice, Charlotte cruised to a win over Florida Atlantic as they won two doubles matches to kick things off. Coy Simon, Savva and Sokolovskiy earned single wins to put the 49ers comfortably ahead.

With little issue, Charlotte made it to the Conference Championship for the first time since they did it in the A-10 in 2007.

#### Final Round (Vs. MTSU, 3-4)

Charlotte's run came to an end against Middle Tennessee, who had won the last two conference championships. With wins on courts one and three, the Blue Raiders came out hot for a 1-0 lead.

MTSU kept things rolling with two singles wins. Sokolovskiy and Savva kept things interesting as they both earned singles wins. However, it wasn't enough as the Blue Raiders found their way to another championship victory.

Charlotte finished the season 17-7 and await its fate for the NCAA Championships.



Photo of from Charlotte vs. Coastal Carolina courtesy of Charlotte Athletics

## SCOREBOARD

### BASEBALL

April 19:  
Charlotte 11, Coastal Carolina 3

April 22: Charlotte 6, UAB 3

April 23: Charlotte 8, UAB 1

April 24: Charlotte 3, UAB 2

### SOFTBALL

April 23:  
Georgia Tech 3, Charlotte 2 (10)

April 23:  
Georgia Tech 8, Charlotte 2

April 24:  
Georgia Tech 7, Charlotte 4

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

Conference USA Championship

April 21: Charlotte 4, UTEP 0

April 22: Charlotte 4, Marshall 1

April 23: Charlotte 4, #41 FIU 1

April 24: #33 Old Dominion  
4, Charlotte 3

### MEN'S TENNIS

Conference USA Championship

April 22: Charlotte 4, Rice 3

April 23: Charlotte 4, #43 FAU 0

April 24: #18 Middle  
Tennessee 4, Charlotte 3



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## THEATER REVIEW:


 The logo for "Disney Princess The Concert" features the word "Disney" in its signature script font at the top, followed by "PRINCESS" in a large, bold, serif font, and "THE CONCERT" in a smaller, bold, serif font below it. The text is enclosed in a decorative border of small circles.

## Grab Your Tiaras, We're Reliving Our Childhoods

by Julianna Peres  
Staff Writer

“I won’t say I’m in love,” but ‘90s babies and Disney superfans should all prepare for the next time that “Disney Princess: The Concert” is back in N.C. Anyone who’s ever wanted to see “The Lion King,” “Aladdin” or “Beauty and the Beast” on a Broadway stage would be enchanted to witness the magic that was Susan Egan (Megara in “Hercules” and the first Belle in Broadway’s “Beauty and the Beast”), Arielle Jacobs (Princess Jasmine in Broadway’s “Aladdin”), Annaliese van der Pol (the final Belle in Broadway’s “Beauty and the Beast”) and Syndee Winters (Nala in “The Lion King”) as they serenaded a roaring crowd for two hours this past Sunday.

Growing up, I watched van der Pol in “That’s So Raven” on Disney Channel, where she played the ditzzy, funny best friend, Chelsea Daniels. In the early 2000s, I never anticipated that she would have such a powerful singing voice with such an intense vibrato. For me, one of the highlights of the show was hearing van der Pol sing, ironically, a non-Disney song: “Journey to the Past” from the animated film “Anastasia.” I can honestly say that the creators of this show knew what the audience wanted to hear. The song “Speechless” from the live-action version of “Aladdin” was also included in the setlist, as was, surprisingly, a gorgeous rendition of “Touch the Sky” from the film “Brave.” Now, I have to confess that I did see this show about four years ago when it was called “The Broadway Princess Party.” This tour, however, has an almost completely different cast and is sponsored by the Walt Disney Company. It can’t be helped that I compared just about everything from this

performance with the previous show.

The two constant performers from “The Broadway Princess Party” were musical director and self-proclaimed “Fairy Godfairy,” Benjamin Rauhala and Susan Egan. Even though I’d seen Egan perform the song “I Won’t Say I’m in Love” from the film “Hercules” nearly half a decade ago, I grew every bit as emotional this time around. At the back of the stage, there rested a giant film screen. A film clip or bit of scenery was projected onto that large screen during each song. I cannot express the magic that I felt in my chest when Egan’s voice synched up with the movement of Megara’s lips on display behind her. The other three princesses acted in the role of the Muses for the sake of the performance and did a phenomenal job as well.

Overall, the choreography was minimal, but Winters truly shone as

the most proficient in dance. She and the guest performer/prince were able to electrify even the older crowd with a fun, goofy delivery of “Love is an Open Door” from the movie “Frozen.” However, my favorite song was Winters’ powerful execution of Nala’s song “Shadowland” from “The Lion King.” Of course, not many kiddos knew what the lyrics “let your prayers be my guide. I cannot stay here, my family, but I’ll remember my pride” meant, but I certainly appreciated hearing that song for the first time being sung by one of the most promising up-and-coming Caribbean Broadway performers. My fiancée’s favorite performer, other than Egan, was Jacobs, who belted out “Reflections” from “Mulan” and “Colors of the Wind” from “Pocahontas.” According to my fiancée, Jacobs has

incredible

control of her vocals and “pipes for days.” Despite the exquisite talent of each and every “princess,” there were some things that I didn’t necessarily enjoy about the show.

The first, and most persistent irritant for me was that “Disney Princess: The Concert’s” merchandising company sold light-up “wands” in the lobby before the performance. These wands were long and bright. Unfortunately, there was also a pulsing function that was unbelievably distracting to any nearby audience members. It also looked extremely painful for the children whose siblings persistently smacked them with said wands. The only song choices that I felt were strange or otherwise unnecessary were “In Summer” and “Let It Go,” both from the movie “Frozen.” “In Summer” just felt a bit childish, and the graphics projected onto the large film screen were rudimentary and cheesy. “Let It Go,” on the other hand, was beautifully constructed into a four-part harmony. Regardless, I wish it wasn’t the tune to round out the show. Perhaps I’m a bit biased, but when I attended the “The Broadway Princess Party,” the song that ended the entire production was “God Help the Outcasts” from “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” which was surprising and moving and memorable, whereas “Let It Go” wasn’t.

Nevertheless, I would highly recommend “Disney Princess: The Concert” to any theater-goer, Disney channel devotee, Egan admirer, or Broadway aficionado. It’s a fun time for kids, adults and twenty-year-olds alike. Let’s “Akuna Matata,” or “seize the day,” and sing along to some of the greatest melodies of the ‘90s and 2000s!



Photos of Disney Princess Concert  
courtesy of Disney Concerts

# SHOWS TO BINGE WATCH THIS WEEKEND

## TV shows that have been exciting to watch in 2022

by Gabe Lalapombella  
Staff Writer

Over 550 shows premiered throughout 2021. We're still in the early stages of 2022 and have already been bombarded with too many titles to choose from. Sifting through the content, I wanted to spend some time talking about what shows I've been watching lately. Thanks to the folks at studios and television companies like HBO, Prime Video, Starz and AppleTV+ who allowed me to view some seasons in their entirety for review. My opinions definitely vary with each show listed below, so let us dig in!

### "The Gilded Age" (HBO)

Period pieces are one of the most popular shows on television today. Audiences were drawn into the lurid fantasy between shows like "Bridgerton" and "Downton Abbey." Julian Fellowes, the creator of "Downton Abbey," is also the mind behind HBO's latest period drama "The Gilded Age." Set in New York City during the 1880s, we follow a variety of families vying for power amongst socialites. The show is really nothing more than an organized look at the power dynamics of the era. This is where Bertha Russell (Carrie Coon), as the lavish wife of a railroad tycoon (Morgan Spector), stood out for me. Their sharp banter is so incredibly funny and engaging that you could not help but cheer for them to succeed. What lost me with the "Gilded Age" was the character of Marian (Lousia Jacobson). Because she is the niece of two wealthy matriarchs (Christine Baranski, Cynthia Nixon), we get funny sequences between them. The problem is that those comedic moments are fleeting, and we're bogged down in Marian's needless romances. They are just never very interesting and take away from what made the show fun. The focus of these subplots really holds the show back from being something to recommend.

**Rating: 5/10**

### "Winning Time: The Rise of The Lakers Dynasty" (HBO)

My knowledge of sports is little to nonexistent. I have some knowledge of

football and hockey but know absolutely nothing about basketball. "Winning Time: The Rise of The Lakers Dynasty" follows the professional and personal lives of the players, managers and owners during their massive prominence in the 1980s. My interest in the series came from the involvement of executive producer Adam McKay. His work with films like "The Big Short," "Vice" and the more recent film "Don't Look Up," took true stories and applied unique stylistic choices. If you're not a fan of flashy editing with graphics and quick camera cuts, this won't be for you. The same could be said if you're a die-hard Lakers fan, where not much of the narrative is surprising. What makes "Winning-Time" a success are the fantastic performances, particularly from John C. Reilly and Quincy Isaiah. Reilly as Buss, the Lakers' owner, and Isaiah as the young Magic Johnson are absolutely magnetic. No matter who they come across in the stacked supporting cast, they're charismatic and engaging. Of the eight episodes given to the press, I feel pretty comfortable saying that this show is a classic case of "style over substance." Your mileage may vary in terms of it being a good or bad thing, but I found it quite enjoyable.

**Rating: 7/10**

### "Slow Horses" (AppleTV+)

The spy genre has taken an entirely different style and tone over the years. There are plenty of James Bond stories, but also slow and more methodical entertainment like "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy." Both that film and AppleTV+'s latest series, "Slow Horses," star academy-award winner Gary Oldman. "Slow Horses" follows a team of British Intelligence agents in the dumping ground department of MI5. Led by Jackson Lamb (Oldman), this team of misfits tries to make it in the spy game while forming their own relationships. Two of the series' biggest selling points are Gary Oldman and Kristin Scott Thomas, who share a history in the agency. Every time they're on screen together, it's absolutely electric and entertaining. Both actors get more of

a chance to shine later in the season, while we're introduced to a younger supporting cast of actors like Jack Lowden and Olivia Cooke. It's a fun spy thriller that takes time with its journey, making the destination worth it.

**Rating: 8/10**

### "Outer Range" (Prime Video)

The western genre has been majorly redefined over recent years. Between films and shows like "Sicario," "Hell or Water" and even "Yellowstone" audiences are craving these stories. "Outer Range," starring Josh Brolin, attempts to bridge both the sci-fi and western genres. Our story follows the Abbott family, ranchers in Wyoming who discover a life-changing mystery in the fight for their land. Brolin is captivating in the lead role, and his dynamic with a mysterious stranger (Imogen Poots) who arrives on his land is the show's highlight. The problem I had with this eight-episode season is that it's a lot of set-up. The central mystery will hook you in, but the payoff is nothing more than a tease for what's to come.

**Rating: 6/10**

### "Gaslit" (Starz)

Everyone remembers the Watergate scandal as a dark and twisted time in political history. We've certainly been treated to dramatizations in film, but never in a detailed television format. "Gaslit" tackles the scandal from many different angles that haven't been put on film. In the one episode I had the privilege to preview, its pacing can be best compared to a political thriller. Julia Roberts and Sean Penn are dynamite in the roles of Martha and John Mitchell, but the standout is actor Shea Whigham. His portrayal of lawyer G. Gordon Liddy is hilarious, scary and entertaining. Like any first episode of a television show, the primary goal is to establish our characters and their story. With this episode being any indication, I feel comfortable saying we're positioned for a great season.

**Rating: 8.5/10**

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Photos of TV shows  
courtesy of IMDB.com



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PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK:

## clementine



VASILIKI GKOULGKOUNTINA  
MANAGING EDITOR



# Congratulations!

## Who's Who Among Students at UNC Charlotte



Sharmily Ambrose  
Kennedy Beaver  
Richard "Dick" Beekman  
Dorian Benjamin  
Shaneice Board  
Ryen Boleware  
Madison Brooks  
Kaitlyn Burleson  
Angelique Butler  
Alexandria Bynum  
Liam Caldwell  
Christina Carbonell  
Tyler Cook  
Allison Cummings  
Casey Denbow  
Merel Devaney  
Faustina Edwin  
Evelyn Espinoza  
Karissa Ewing

Drew Fitzgerald  
Rachel Hayes  
Gabrielle Hitchcock  
Enosh Ishman  
Amy Kidder  
Lauren King  
Dara Kinkopf  
Brianna Kolsin  
Danyal Mahmud  
Christina Mayo  
Maggie McCabe  
Sarah Melos  
Justice Montgomery  
Chloe Nicola  
Dawson Overby  
Claire Patrick  
Dawn Peaks  
Katelyn Perez  
Kelsey Raley

Anastasia Risch  
Ulani Robinson  
Meredith Rodden  
Krista Romaine  
Morgan Russ  
Sreya Santanam  
Benjamin Shackelford  
Miles Shen  
Ayanna Silver  
James Simpson  
Niyathi Sulkunte  
Annie Sung  
Kevin Tan  
Krista Tang  
Victoria Torres  
Veronique Umelo  
Elliott Venson  
Kaela Williams  
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