

The Torch

November/December

Welcome Back!

Table of Contents:

Page 1: Opening Statement

Page 2: Song of the Month: Hadestown

Page 3-4: Myth of the Month: Saturnalia

Page 5: Latin Quote

Page 6: Quis Sum

Page 7: Horoscopes

Page 8: Announcements

Page 8: Get to Know You!

Page 9: Contact & Follow NDJCL!

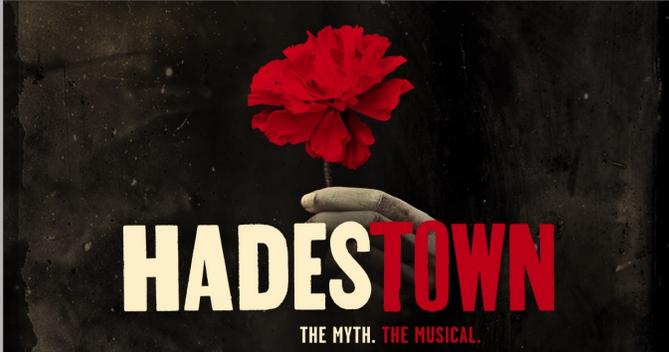


Opening Remarks

Christmas is just around the corner. It's always great to have the time off, and I'm always sad when it ends. This feeling of reveling in the good times and dreading the bad (or at least the return to 'normal') must be a feeling that spans generations because a quote from Seneca the Younger from almost 2,000 years ago shares the same sentiments. Seneca said, "Non semper Saturnalia erunt [it will not always be Saturnalia.]" He's warning that Saturnalia, a time to be carefree and happy, would not always last. Time moves on. Such is life. Unfortunately, this year probably has most feeling the opposite. I think we all want 2020 and this time of COVID to be done as soon as possible. This quote also applies to the bad things in life. They too will pass. Life goes on. Non semper Corona erit. Merry Christmas and here's to a hopefully better New Year.

Song of the Month: HADESTOWN

By Kim Kadrmas



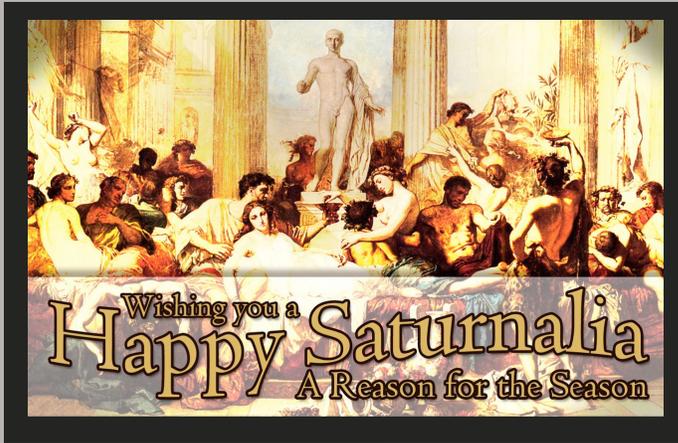
If you're not aware, the musical "Hadestown" has been on Broadway since April 2019. This musical is based off of the myth Orpheus and Eurydice, and everyone absolutely loves it. Sadly, due to the pandemic, Broadway has been shut down for over 6 months now, but hopefully this show will be back on soon for more people to experience. If you're like most people who cannot just attend Broadway shows, go listen to the album online! The music is amazing to listen to, even without seeing the whole production.

For this month's song, I chose "Epic II," which is by far the favorite Epic in the soundtrack. For those who still aren't very familiar with this musical (I promise it's worth the listen!), the musical has three "Epic" songs (Epic I, Epic II, Epic III respectively). Through the three Epics, they tell the story of Persephone and Hades from Hades perspective. In "Epic II," Orpheus sings about Hades and how sad and worried he is when Persephone leaves him for half the year, fearing she will never come back. Orpheus also explains why Hades "built the wall" between Elysian Fields and his section of the Underworld

.This song, along with the other two epics, offers a new perspective we hardly ever hear in anything: the perspective of the "bad guy." It reminds me a lot of the movie Maleficent, which shows how Maleficent became this wicked, evil person on the surface, but she originally was a good person with good intentions. In my opinion, this is very similar to Hades in the epics of "Hadestown." Most people only see Hades as being this terrible person who kidnapped an innocent girl and punished her to live with him half the year, but Hades doesn't see it that way. In "Hadestown" especially, you see how much Hades loves Persephone in his own unique way. It's overall just a great song and wonderful reminder that we should always think about the other perspectives within every event.

Myth of the Month: Saturnalia

By Laura Simmons



Saturnalia is celebrated from December 17-23, but what are the origins of this Roman holiday? As you could have probably guessed, its origins are shrouded in mythology. But first, let's start at the beginning. The very beginning.

Saturn was staring down at his new child. The baby was cute. This was a moment that would fill most parents with happiness. Instead, Saturn was troubled. He remembered his own past, especially the day he himself overthrew his father, Uranus.

Now Saturn feared that one of his own children would overthrow him as well. Now the child was cute, but Saturn couldn't envision a happy future with it. All he could see was the child turning on him. Saturn cleared his throat. Ops, his wife, looked up from the child whom she was lovingly gazing at to see Saturn's troubled eyes.

"What's wrong?" Ops asked. "Aren't you happy?"

"Well..." Saturn didn't quite know how to break it to her. "You see, I don't think this was a good idea." Saturn said as he gestured to the child. "I don't think this is going to have a happy ending."

"Whatever do you mean?" Ops asked in surprise and a slightly growing fear. She hugged the newborn child ever more tightly.

"Well, do you remember that day when I overthrew my own father Caelus? I'm worried history could repeat itself. Especially because of the prophecy. The one saying that one of my own children will overthrow me. I think there's only one way to solve this problem." Saturn said confidently as he scooped up the newborn child and swallowed it. Ops stared at Saturn in horror.

This scene would be repeated five more times. However, the last time would be slightly different. Maybe Ops just grew slightly tired of having all of her children swallowed by Saturn. With her sixth child, Ops decided to deceive Saturn. She hid her youngest child from him and instead gave Saturn a rock for him to swallow. Luckily, Saturn was inexperienced with children, having swallowed all of his own, therefore he was unable to distinguish a rock from a child.

The youngest child, Jupiter, grew up away from his father. When Jupiter was old enough, he came back to overthrow Saturn.

“Hello great ruler of the Titans. I have come to give you a gift. Here take it. Drink it right now. It is the best wine in the world and it is not tainted with a potion that will make you regurgitate your five children that you swallowed. Wait! Six. I meant six. I don’t know why I said five. That last one was most certainly not a rock. Anyway. Drink. It’s safe. I should know. I made it.” Jupiter said with an awkward smile on his face.

Luckily, Saturn did not have much experience with discerning truth from lies. Maybe if he hadn’t swallowed his children, he would have. Saturn drank the wine and regurgitated his children. Then the regurgitated children along with Jupiter fought Saturn. It was probably an epic battle. It ended with Saturn being overthrown.

Interestingly, this seems to be a self fulfilling prophecy. Maybe if Saturn hadn’t been so worried about his children overthrowing him, then he wouldn’t have been overthrown.

Well, anyway, what does this story have to do with Saturnalia?

After Saturn was overthrown, he moved to Rome. While he ruled over Rome, life was perfect. The Romans were happy. They devoted their lives to things that filled them with joy. Their lives were long. Death was not feared. Unfortunately, all this ended when Saturn left. Saturnalia is a holiday devoted to remembering the happy golden age when Saturn ruled over Rome. Happy Saturnalia!

Source: redlandsdailyfacts

HAPPY

SATURNALIA!

LATIN QUOTE

NON SEMPER
SATURNALIA
ERUNT

It will not always be Saturnalia

Quis Sum?

By Laura Simmons

This man was a Roman philosopher and statesman who lived from 4 BCE-65 CE. Interestingly, he was born in Spain, but ended up being one of Rome's leading intellectual figures. He studied philosophy and later he went into politics and law. Unfortunately, the emperor Caligula did not like him and wanted him killed. Caligula decided not to kill this man only because Caligula believed this man would die soon as his health was poor. However, Caligula ended up dying in 41 CE (~24 years before the man he wanted to kill. Psyche!) However, I guess this man was just destined to not be liked by Roman emperors because the next emperor, Claudius, banished this man to Corsica. Luckily, this man's ban was lifted and he returned to Rome to be a praetor. Eventually he'd rise to the top of Politics along with his friend Burrus. Together they introduced fiscal and judicial reforms. However, this man retired after Burrus' death in 62 AD. During the years before his eventual death, this man continued to write philosophical works. Some of his famous works include *Ad Lucilium Epistulae Morales* (Moral Letters to Lucilius), *De Brevitate Vitae* (On the Brevity of Life), *De Ira* (On Anger), and *De Clementia* (On Mercy). Unfortunately this man was accused of conspiring to murder Nero and was forced to commit suicide.



Do you know who this man is? If so, send me an email at editorndjcl@gmail.com

Horoscopes

By Laura Simmons

Aries: You will find a black cat walking across your path. Does this signify something? Well, it could be bad luck or the final inspiration you need to adopt a kitten from your local pet store!

Taurus: Finances, finances, finances. The only thing on your mind. Money woes have finally found you and chased you down. These money woes may be the existential idea of college debt or the lunch money you owe. Have no fear. It will capitally work out in the end!

Gemini: A famous quote from the quirky multi corporate tycoon Nike; Just do it! Grab some snacks and binge that new show that you've been putting off! **Cancer:** Take a walk, you have been under a lot of stress lately. A good way to calm down and relax is going on a hike; but, if you live in Fargo, your hike may be a little flat.

Leo: You're going to buy black nail polish! You have decided it is time for new changes and your usual look has gotten a bit drab. Watch out though! Your new beginnings may convince you to get a face tattoo.

Virgo: You will find out *Ecce Romani* spoilers! Dunh, Dunh, Duhhhhh. This could either be a good or bad thing. If finding out what happens to Uncle Titus is bad for you, then you may have to delete your memory.

Libra: You will eat a lot of pasta this month. So much so that you will dream of rigatoni and penne. In fact, you will turn into linguine.

Scorpio: This month you will have the sudden urge to steal something and commit murder. Note: For legal reasons this is a joke, the Torch and Co. do not advocate violence.

Sagittarius: You will suffer from senioritis. This condition does not discriminate on gender, grade level, or for those who have pre-existing conditions. Side effects may include extreme levels of procrastination and the feeling of dropping out.

Capricorn: This month you will be extremely happy. You will buy some flowers, dance on rainbows, fly with unicorns, and have great success. Until next month, it all goes downhill!

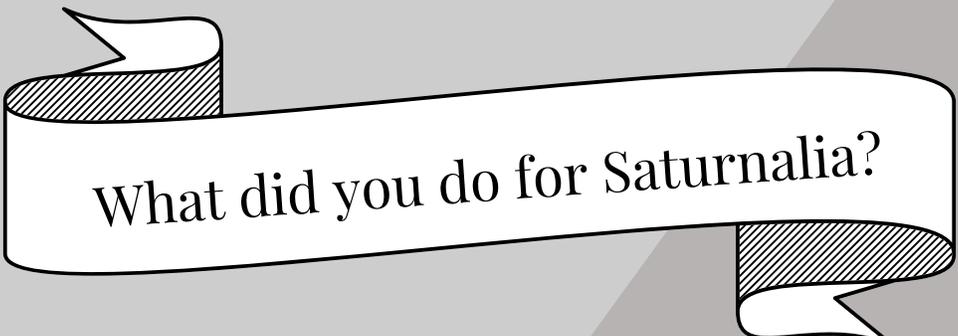
Aquarius: You will be accepted to Hogwarts. Just kidding, it's not September 1st, but that's ok! There is always next year!!

Pisces: It is your turn to become the old person that sits by the fire, knits a sweater, and complains about the temperature. Don't worry! It's just a month, and it'll be Libra's turn in 30 days or so.

Announcements

Would you (or do you know someone who would) like to submit articles/materials to the Torch? If so, send them my way! The Torch values all kinds of variety: art, writing, puzzles, memes, etc. Anyone can contribute, and we'd love it if that anyone was you.

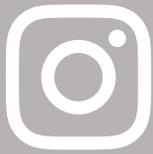
Get to Know You!

A decorative ribbon graphic with a question inside. The ribbon is white with a black outline and has a shaded, hatched pattern on its ends. The text is written in a black, serif font.

What did you do for Saturnalia?

*Your answer could be featured in the next Torch!

Contact & Follow NDJCL!



[ndjcl](#)



[NDJCL](#)



[NDJCL](#)



[NDJCL](#)



President Kim Kadrmas: ndjclpres@gmail.com



1st VP Julia Ross: ndjcl1stvp@gmail.com



2nd VP Adam Bitz: ndjcl2ndvp@gmail.com



Parliamentarian Anika Arifin: ndjclparli@gmail.com



Secretary Spring Ma: secretaryndjcl@gmail.com



Historian Norah Johnston: ndjcl.historian@gmail.com



Editor Laura Simmons: editorndjcl@gmail.com



Webmaster Jaron Dufault: webmasterndjcl@gmail.com



Entire NDJCL Board: NDJCLboard@gmail.com

V
a
l
e