

THE RAIDAR

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Charlottetown Rural High School

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October Editorial: The Psychology of Fear

Why, why, how time does fly?

In the blink of an eye, here we are, already in October. How's school going, everyone? Are you acing every course, or hanging on by a thread in your studies? There is no shame either way as long as you're trying. But guess what? Why don't we put our phones and books down for a moment and enjoy the crisp fall breeze while embracing the advent of Halloween?

When we think about October, our minds often jump straight to the last day of the month - Halloween. This is the time when people openly celebrate fear: putting on masks, watching horror movies, and going trick or treating. Many teenagers, including a good number at Rural, are in fact fans of horror movies. But why are scary movies such a big deal when all they seem to do is... well, scare us? **Today we are exploring the psychology of fear.**

Why do we like horror movies?!

According to researchers at Johns Hopkins University in the States, "stimulation" is the major driving factor behind our love of scary films. The jumpscare, supernatural beings, and demonic occurrences trigger a rush of intense negative emotions, such as fear, anxiety, and unease. But, here's the twist: they also unleash equally intense positive emotions like excitement and joy.

To put simply, there is a complex mix of emotions of both positive and negative feelings. Just like when you are on a roller coaster, no matter how nervous we get waiting in line, we still crave the rush of that first drop. Horror gives us access to extreme emotions, while being safe in real life. For example in the famous movie "Shining", in one scene the camera creeps closer and closer to the twins with braids. Our nervousness builds as the tension rises, until suddenly the scare hits, and our fear and excitement instantly explode.

Well...you are not the only one who loves horror movies...

But here's the real question: does loving horror mean you enjoy torment? Isn't that, well... kind of pathetic? Actually, no. Most people watch horror for escape. First, we know the terrifying things on-screen won't happen in real life (at least, let's hope not), so we feel safe behind the screen. Second, horror offers detachment from real-life stress, like piles of calculus worksheets or your mom yelling in the living room. And third, some people love the feeling of "being in control" when they manage to stay calm through the jumpscare. There are certainly a lot of reasons why a person enjoys horror movies, so you are definitely not alone.



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However, studies do show that people with less empathy tend to enjoy these movies more, since a lot of the time they don't only provide a sense of fear, but also a satisfaction for the dark side of humans. Those who are not so empathetic, are proved to enjoy horror more often than those who empathize more.

Watching horror movies is an excellent date!

So what are the actual benefits of watching horror movies? Guess what, I got some great tips for you all. Watching horror movies with your family and friends is a great way to bond, the feeling of fear facilitates stronger family relationships and affinity. For you teenage love birds out there, even though it is quite cliché and old school, watching horror movies with your crush and lovers not only add excitement to the date, but also a sense of romance and love towards each other, where you both co-experience the same makeup dilemma. Finally, most people experience the ultimate surge of endorphins post-horror, or the relief.



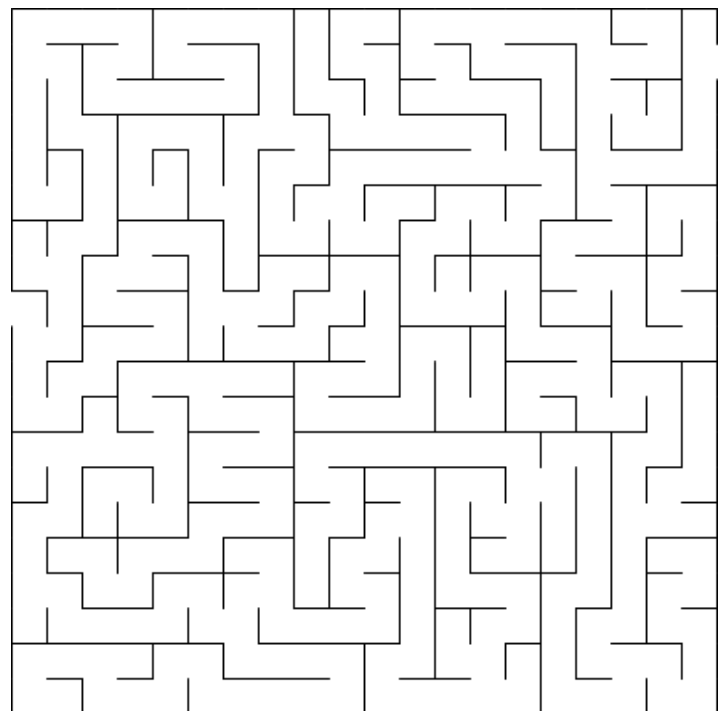
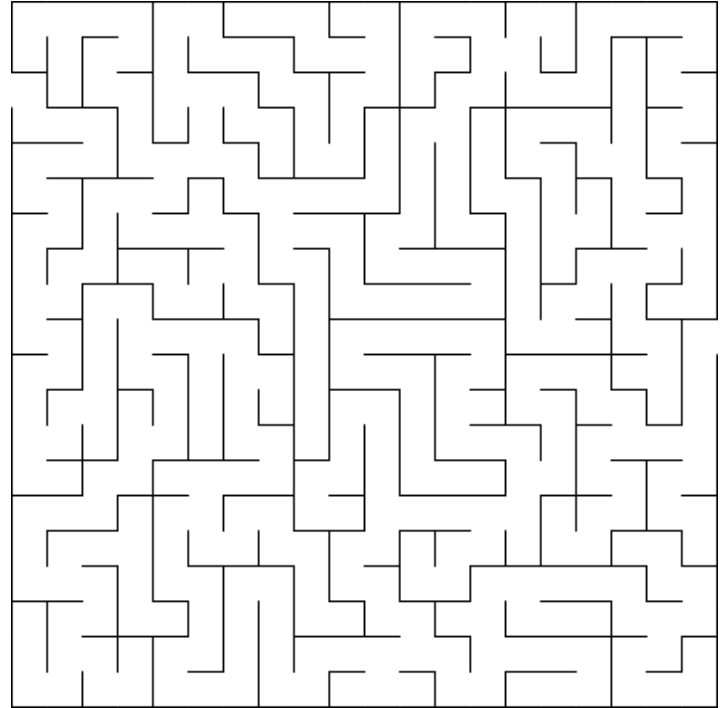
Photo by: Etsy

The psychology behind why we love or hate. By Dr. Haiyang Yang and Kuangjie Zhang
<https://hbr.org/2021/10/the-psychology-behind-why-we-love-or-hate-horror>

Why do we enjoy horror? Science Explains. By Dr. Haiyang Yang
<https://carey.jhu.edu/articles/research/why-we-enjoy-horror-science-explains>

By: Leonie Lam - Editor-in-chief

Mazes & Puzzles



By: Reuben VanGurp - Puzzle Maker

October Editorial: The Myths of Halloween

As the celebration of ghosts and mischief, Halloween is associated with an abundance of supernatural myths. These myths speak words that send shivers down the spine of young children and keep them awake all night. As young adults, we are no longer terrified by such stories; nevertheless, the myths of Halloween still remain as fascinating tales. So please my friends, proceed if it pleases you and learn about the ancient Irish festivals that were the genesis of Halloween; the pumpkin-headed spirit illuminating the darkness of the late autumn night; the nameless knight who patrols the streets; and the unspeakable feasts held by witches at desolated corners of the living world.

The Christian festival known as Halloween originated from the Celtic Mythology in Ireland and the traditional holiday named Samhain. Samhain was considered to be the end of summer and the beginning of winter. It is important to note that the Celtic culture did not celebrate spring and autumn; they celebrated the light season(summer) and the dark season(winter). The Celts believed that during Samhain — the separation of light and dark — doors open that lead toward the “other worlds”, allowing monsters to enter ours.

During Samhain, otherworldly creatures have the ability to enter our world; the Celtic Mythology spoke mostly about ghosts and unpredictable “Little People”. To prevent violence and mischief from these creatures, the Celts developed many traditions: foods are placed outside as offerings to the creatures; masks are worn to scare off the creatures; and skull-candles are hung in trees to lure the creatures away from civilization. Some of these traditions are adopted by Christianity and are still prevalent today.

The Jack-O-Lantern is perhaps the most celebrated symbol of Halloween. The Jack-O-Lantern originated from the myth of Stingy Jack. Legend has it that there once was a clever man named Jack who managed to trap the devil in tangible form. He released the devil in exchange for a promise: the devil would not take his soul for an elongated period of time. Nevertheless, his time eventually ran out, and the devil punished him for his trickery. He was turned into a pumpkin-headed creature and ordered to forever roam earth.

Interestingly, the Jack-O-Lantern isn't entirely a made-up concept. In nature, the phenomenon known as “marsh gas” takes place when methane gas is rapidly combusted. Bright rays of light are emitted, almost like those of a fire. In the old days, this phenomenon was called “ignis fatuus”, or “false fire”. The occurrence of this phenomenon was another origin of the Jack-O-Lantern.



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Apart from spirits and mythological creatures, Halloween was also associated with witchcraft. It was believed that on the night of Halloween, witches from around the world would gather in an uninhabited area and hold a ritual known as a Sabbath. Witches travelled to the Sabbath through flight; legends have it that the witches can achieve flight using special ointment, riding animals, and riding broomsticks. Many nameless rites were held during the Sabbath; witches danced naked or covered in blood, and the rituals also involved sacrifices that acted as pleas toward the supernatural. It was also believed that the magical power of witches is significantly heightened on Halloween.

The touch of mythological tales makes the feast of Halloween infinitely more interesting; not only do they give way to costumes and entertainment during the holiday, but they also open a passage back in time, allowing us to learn about the origins of this ageless celebration. As we begin to enjoy and celebrate Halloween, it is equally important for us to learn and acknowledge the history that defines our cultures today. Only through doing so can we truly appreciate the wonders of our present lives.

Carnegie Museum of Natural History. "The Jack-O-Lantern's Origins." Carnegie Museum of Natural History, [carnegie.mnh.org/the-jack-o-lanterns-origins/](https://www.carnegiemnh.org/the-jack-o-lanterns-origins/). Accessed September 25, 2025.

"Headless Horseman (folklore)." Villains Wiki, [villains.fandom.com/wiki/Headless_Horseman_\(folklore\)](https://villains.fandom.com/wiki/Headless_Horseman_(folklore)). Accessed September 25, 2025.

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By: Tomas Wang - Co-Editor-In-Chief

Hogwarts Sorting Quiz

What's your favorite subject in school?

Math or Science

Art or Music

Gym or Drama

Business or History

How do you spend your free time?

Reading, puzzles, or learning something new

Hanging out with friends

Playing sports

Working on goals or side projects

What's your dream job?

Researcher, professor, or engineer

Teacher, nurse, or community worker

Athlete, actor, or firefighter

CEO, lawyer, or politician

How would your friends describe you?

Smart

Kind

Brave

Ambitious

If you win a group competition, what makes you happiest?

Learning what worked best

Celebrating with everyone

The thrill of winning

Beating the other teams

Mostly A → Ravenclaw (Knowledge + curiosity)

Mostly B → Hufflepuff (Kindness + loyalty)

Mostly C → Gryffindor (Bravery + boldness)

Mostly D → Slytherin (Ambition + drive)

Short Story : Nick's New Necklace

CONTENT WARNING: VIOLENCE/ DEATH

It was Christmas. The living room in the Robinson home was full of life and joy, with a fire blazing and a great, sparkling pine tree in one corner. The room was packed with aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents, but of all the joyous people celebrating the snowy holiday, none was happier than young Nicholas Robinson. Nick had just opened his gifts, and found two very special boxes.

Earlier that year, Nick had suffered a terrible loss. His uncle Tom, his role-model and idol, had died. Uncle Tom had been a legend in the Robinson family. He was the sort of crazy daredevil who everyone insisted they disapproved of, but secretly envied the no-limits lifestyle he led. Uncle Tom had done it all, from skydiving to snakewrestling, roller coasters to sharkdiving. He had died the way he had lived, driving home on a Friday night on his Harley motorcycle, slightly drunk, and making a close acquaintance with the front of a semi truck.

Nick had been devastated. Even though his parents disapproved, he had always followed Uncle Tom's adventures closely, always trying to emulate his beloved idol. Uncle Tom's death had been a crushing blow to the aspiring daredevil.

Now, Nick had found two very special gifts under the tree. The first, coiled in a small blue box, was Uncle Tom's sharktooth necklace. Nick was overjoyed. The necklace embodied his uncle's daring spirit, and had enormous sentimental value.

The other gift came in a tiny, flat, green box, no larger than a pack of gum. Nick carefully undid the bow and lifted the lid. Inside was a single metal key, gleaming silver in the firelight. Trying to suppress the crazy hope he felt rising in him, he turned to his dad and asked, "Is this what I think it is?"

"It's the key to your Uncle Tom's snowmobile," said his dad. "He left it to you, but he wanted us to wait for Christmas. Your mom had some reservations, but I think you've grown up enough now to handle it."

"Does that mean I can come on the Christmas Ride with the adults tonight?" asked Nick.

"It sure does," his dad said with a smile. "Be safe, alright? We're trusting you. Don't make us regret it."

"I won't!" Nick promised, excitement racing through him. He had watched for years as, every Christmas, all the adults in the family left to go snowmobiling. It was a family tradition, and for as long as he could remember, Nick had wanted nothing more than to go with them. This year, it seemed, he would get his wish! You should always, however, be careful what you wish for.



Short Story : Nick's New Necklace

Nick had waited in agonized patience all day, thinking of nothing but the thrill ride that awaited him that night. He had barely tasted the huge Christmas dinner that he normally loved so much. His dessert had been wolfed down, and he had waited, watching the minutes crawl by, as the adults had chatted on and on about boring things he couldn't bring himself to care about. He had waited and waited, but finally, the moment had come.

Now Nick stood astride his late Uncle's snowmobile, dressed warmly against the cold, practically shaking with excitement. Not even the embarrassment of wearing a helmet — which his parents had insisted on — could dampen his spirits. One by one, the engines of the snowmobiles ahead of him came on. As his turn came, his hand now clearly shaking, Nick turned the key and felt the machine under him roar to life.

No words could possibly explain how Nick felt in that moment. Finally, after years of waiting, he was riding a snowmobile. Now he could ride with the adults, and follow the path of his idolized Uncle Tom. As the adults ahead of him started forward, Nick followed as fast as he could, just waiting for that moment when he could gun it down the hill.

The small convoy of snowmobiles travelled across the Robinson's small side field. Here they encountered a rope fence. This marked the property line between their farm, and that of Old Farmer Brown. Old Farmer Brown was a miserly old codger. He had expressly forbidden anyone to snowmobile in his fields. He had put up the rope fence, posted NO TRESSPASSING signs all across his property line, and sent letters to all of his neighbors. Still, he was just an angry old man, sour after his wife made him give up alcohol, and depressed after her death.

If he had been thinking straight, in his younger years, he wouldn't mind the Robinsons using his field. It was, after all, the best field for snowmobiling for miles in any direction. It had a long, sloping hill, with a road right beside it for coming back up.

This is what the Robinsons were thinking as the leader of the convoy, Uncle Bill, produced a pair of shears and cut the rope.

Laughing and whooping, the convoy sped into the field, accelerating down the hill. As Nick passed through the cut fence, he felt a surge of joy. This was his moment! He gunned the engine, shooting forward. Faster and faster he went, until he was leading the pack, ahead of any of the adults. It was the best moment of his life. Nick shot down the hill, hurtling over the snow.

It was dark out, and going as fast as he was, he couldn't see very much ahead of him. Old Farmer Brown, as it turned out, had meant business. Nick's parents had made him wear a helmet.

Helmets are very good for protecting your head, but they do very little for your neck.

Nick never saw the wires.

Book Review: Ball Lightning

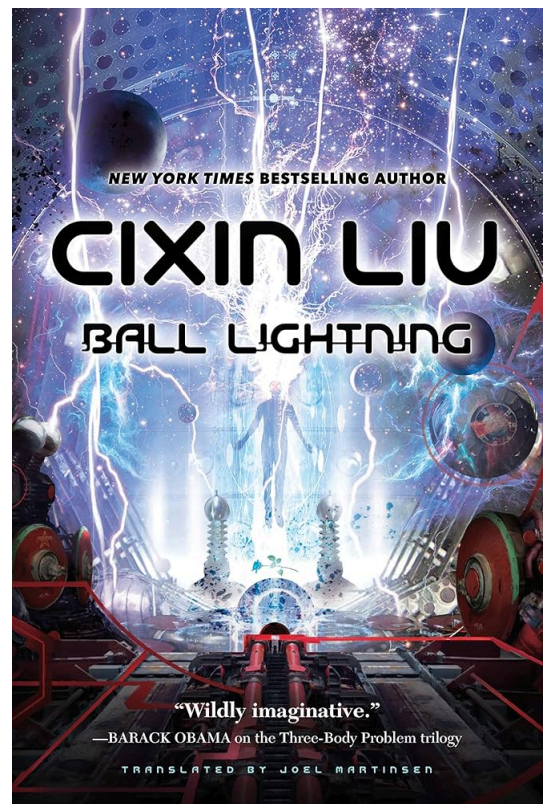
The novel *Ball Lightning* is written by author Liu Cixin, a famous sci-fi author in China. *Ball Lightning* was considered a prequel to his famous trilogy, *The Three-Body Problem*. In this novel, Liu uses literary devices such as symbolism and foil characters to explore the intersection of personal trauma with intellectual pursuit and the relationship between technology and morality.

The novel is written in the first-person narrative perspective. The reader never gets to know the last name of the protagonist, which increases the reader's sense of immersion and leads readers to consider the issue held in the story. The driving force of the protagonist is the death of his parents (His parents were killed by a ball lightning on his birthday when he was young). In the first couple of chapters of the book, the author gives his opinion on the truth of life: find something you are obsessed with and set that as a life goal, without worrying about the result, just keep going. Ironically, the protagonist was obsessed with what destroyed his family – ball lightning.

Foil characters played an important role throughout the story. The female protagonist, Lin Yun, had a similar childhood to Dr. Chen (The protagonist). Her mother was killed by bees that were trained to be used in war. Likewise, she also had a huge passion for weapons and even reached an inhuman level.

In contrast to Dr. Chen, she committed to turning ball lightning into a weapon, no matter the cost. This is clearly shown in the section where she uses her relationship in military relations to let two pilots participate in a scientific experiment with a high chance of being fatal.

That is the conflict between her and Dr. Chen; they both obsess on technology, an equal amount of curiosity, but Dr. Chen will consider more of a human since he has a moral bottom line and fear. Dr. Chen refuses to turn his scientific research into a weapon that can kill human beings. The conflict between them officially emerged in a child kidnapping case involving a nuclear reactor. Lin once again uses her influence in the military to make the commander order to eliminate both terrorists and the hostages. Liu uses them to discuss the boundary of morality in scientific research. Dr. Chen holds a really idealistic view on science, he thinks that it is something more transcendent, pure and flawless that won't be contaminated. However, Lin seems to be the one with the correct view. As a quote in the book "sometimes ploughshares can also be made into swords", Dr. Chen soon finds out his research on tornado forecast, something that was meant to save lives, was turned into a weapon against his own country. His decision to rejoin the military shows the ethical compromises of science.



Book Review:

Ball Lightning

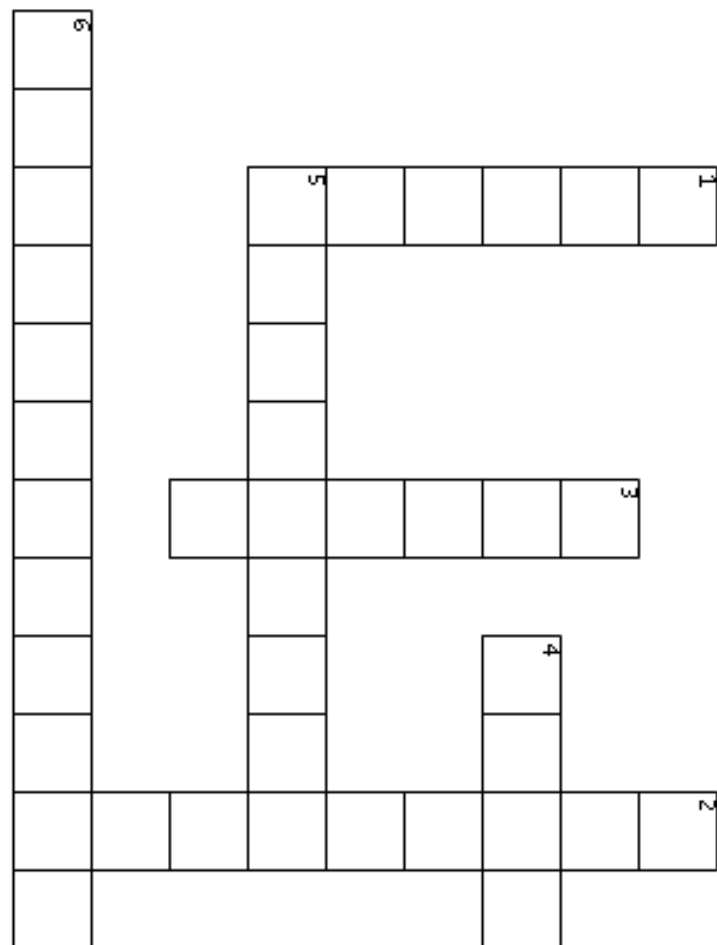
Another interesting foil character is Ding Yi. He is a genius scientist who fits the stereotype, casual and ignorant of worldly matters. His love for physics is just as much as Lin's love for weapons. In contrast with the protagonist, he doesn't view physics as a tool; physics is his goal, and exploring the unknown is his purpose in life (He refused to get on the helicopter with those two pilots because he doesn't want his life to end, stop exploring physics). Unlike the protagonist and many other characters, his attitude toward ball lightning was pure rationality, without any glorification. That is why he is able to make all the breakthroughs. He also doesn't consider any ethical issues of his research; the results are all that matter to him. He is a symbol of science itself in the story, as Dr.Chen, being the symbol of humanized science, is affected by personal experience, driven by emotions.

Ball lighting connects the whole story as a central symbol. It is elusive yet close is a good representation of the truth. Liu uses this to emphasize that the truth always exists, but may be difficult to understand for the normal person. The act of militarizing it as a weapon and observation of the quantum state of ball lightning make it a 100% accurate weapon show his beliefs on the destructive tendencies of mankind. "Quantum ghost" was a metaphor for memory and trauma from the past. They were not there, but they always affect the present, forever changing people who remember them. At first, the protagonist was terrified and did not admit its existence, just escaping. But in the end, he reconciles with the trauma and carries on his journey.

In conclusion, Liu Cixin's ball lightning is far more than a sci-fi; it also discusses some issues as the relation between morality and technology. By using literary devices like symbolism and foil characters, he shows that science as a tool is natural, but it will never be when being used. Besides all this, Ball Lightning is also a really great sci-fi book and is worth reading.

By: Asher Fong -Editor

Mazes & Puzzles



ACROSS

4. A season
5. Usually in a field to ward of birds
6. Holiday based around an abundance of food

DOWN

1. turns colour in the fall
2. Holiday where people dress up
3. A popular fruit

By: Reuben VanGurp - Puzzle Maker

Fraser's Film Review: Jason and The Argonauts

This month's review is for the movie Jason and the Argonauts. This movie is based on an ancient Greek epic about a group of adventurers aboard the ship Argo. They travel the seas in search of the golden fleece, a magical sheep's skin.

This movie is one of the most revolutionary movies in the world of special effects. Even though the effects are all the way from 1963, they still hold up well. Ray Harryhausen, the creator of special visual effects, is an unimaginably talented artist. He did an astounding job stop-motion animating the monsters. In one scene, he had to animate seven skeletons interacting with real actors at once. I would recommend this movie to anybody interested in special effects and the art of movie-making.

Much like Siskel and Ebert or Statler and Waldorf, these reviews also have two hosts.

Fraser Jr.

Enjoyment: 7.5 / 10

Critically: 8.5 / 10

Fraser Sr.

Enjoyment: 5.5/10

Critically: 6/10

“Argus’ toga looked like a diaper.”

-Theo Fraser

“Extra points for the guy with the funny eyebrows.”

-Steven Fraser

By: Theo Fraser - Editor

Trivia & Fun Facts

Ray Harryhausen, inspired by King Kong, animated for It Came from Beneath the Sea and The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms. The director, Don Chaffey, also directed Mission Impossible, the TV show. During one of the scenes on the ocean, you can tell that Miniatures were used because of the water surface tension, the water droplets are too big, and the people, if zoomed in, look like dolls. This movie was shot on the recently developed Eastman Kodak colour, which replaced the previous Technicolor film. If you've seen some movies like The Wizard of Oz, you may notice they have very bright colours, which was done by combining three coloured filmstrips. This new method just had one filmstrip that would be processed and turned into colour, which was released shortly before this movie was filmed.

Thank you for reading this article. See you next time, and stay classy, Charlottetown.

