

# WOKSAPE

"The Wise Book"

## Spike Jonze's New Film, *Her*, Doesn't Disappoint Viewers



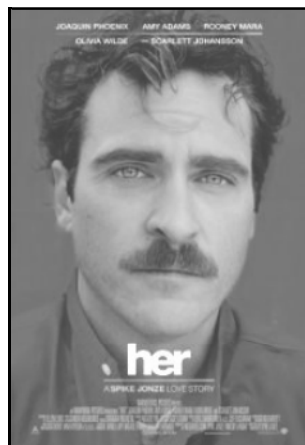
BY HUNTER KOCH

Spike Jonze is one of my favorite directors, especially among those who have emerged in the past fifteen or so years.

Jonze broke onto the scene with *Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation*, both written by Charlie Kaufman, but Jonze's newest film, *Her*, is his second film as both writer and director, and in it he shows his skill.

The premise of the film is simple: sometime in the near future, a man falls in love with his operating system.

At face value, one could assume that Jonze is exploring a disconnection between humans. Indeed, reviews have drawn this



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theme from the film, and it's easy to do so, especially with increased cynicism in regards to technology.

However, while watching this film, I couldn't make the same conclusion. Rather, this film is about love and, to a degree, self-identity. The operating system is not representative of technology in general; if it

was, I'd accuse Jonze of lazy filmmaking. The system is instead a vessel through which Jonze can explore the mechanisms of love and a relationship. This is especially evident within the context of the entire movie.

The main character, Theodore Twombly, was in a struggling marriage, and we learn that his problem was that his wife was somehow not emotional enough for him. Theodore didn't readily share his feelings and emotions with his wife, and the marriage was ultimately one sided. This is flipped in Theodore's relationship with his operating system: Theodore shares everything about himself and everything in his life, while the operating system absorbs the information and mostly listens. Even when the OS

does start learning and having a life of her own (the OS is essentially human in terms of learning capabilities and expression), she does not share her experiences or thoughts with Theodore.

Jonze effectively conveys the idea that there needs to be communication on both ends of a relationship, and when two people attempt to share a life, there needs to be equal give and take.

The characterization and even the color palette are all connected to this central idea, and I could go on forever about this film. I say this in most of my articles, but I truly mean it now: see *Her* at some point. This is tied for my favorite film of the year, and I honestly believe it's one of the best films to come out of Hollywood this year.

### Editor's Note

As winter advances, I grow increasingly more eager for spring to arrive. Especially this week, with its freezing temperature, wind, and flurries, I anticipate the inevitable warming. Most people I know do not like the winter, but my friend Devin Clark claims to enjoy it. "It's bracing. I love it!"

Though I think the snow is pretty, I can't agree with Devin. Personally, I like the sun and warm weather. I can grow flowers, ride my bike, and do all sorts of outdoor activities. In the spring and summer, there are bees, birds, and other creatures. In the winter there are overcast skies, snow, and roads that are a pain to drive on. Plus, you can't really do anything outdoors. Maybe you can go sledding, but as of now, there's not much snow, —just a lot of ice, and even more wind. It's not really enjoyable to go outside.

Perhaps another reason I dislike the winter is that it is the middle of the school year. After four years of high school, I am ready for the summer to come. With snow comes the realization that there is still much time until graduation. The spring and summer bring the ability to ride my bike, but they also give me time to do other activities. Once the warm weather arrives, I have fewer responsibilities, less homework, and more free time.

Some people, like Devin, may like the cold weather, but I'm sick of it. Bring on the spring. (Unfortunately, we'll have to wait another six weeks, as the groundhog did see his shadow. Thanks a lot, Punxsutawney Phil!)

*Hunter Koch*

## Everything Leather Makes A Comeback, Is Fashionable For 2014



BY BETH PEARSON

It's like a flashback from the 80's: leather pants, jackets, skirts, and trimmed blouses are reappearing in storefronts everywhere.

Taking on a more sophisticated look these days, the supple fabric is being punched, colored and printed. Leather production has increased 52% since last year according to commercial data and won't be going away any time soon.

A versatile fabric, leather has its place in all seasons. Leather is almost a cohesive word with jacket, so it's no surprise that jacket production has gone through the roof since early last year too. Usable in spring, fall, and winter, it's an investment to own one.

And summer isn't left out of this trend either! Leather shorts came off the runway hot this season raising the increase in leather short production by 8%. Trends don't end with pieces of clothing but also reach into the world of trimming and detailing. Adding a rebellious twist to a classic blouse with leather ruffles or leather paneling is the perfect way to be trendy, professional, and classy.

Stay on trend with leather without breaking your bank by investing in shirts or skirts with leather detailing or trimming. Real leather can be expensive, so the fashion industry came up with affordable alternatives. For instance pleather, a manmade polyester blend, is available to everyone at a low, affordable price, so



PHOTO BY BETH PEARSON

Kendyll Albrecht, Lindsay Larson, Marisa Stucky, Kristen Steiner, and Maggie Wallis are shown sporting leather jackets and footwear. Leather is fashionable for 2014.

it's no surprise that faux-leather has been making such a splash.

A high-end high-fashion interest among the average consumer has led to a drop in prices making leather more readily available. And leather won't be slipping off the market anytime soon—with its classic, edginess, consumers have never craved the look so much!

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## Arctic Monkeys' Album Is Best Of 2013



BY DAVID ALLEN

The fifth album by English indie-rock band Arctic Monkeys is by far one of the best albums I have listened to that was released in the year 2013.

Produced by James Ford, *AM* brought extravagant lyrics and beautiful harmonies that were song throughout the whole album. I truly have nothing bad to say about this musically superb album.

Arctic Monkeys showcased their jingly 60's psychedelic rock riffs with 80's college rock reverb and modernized distortion by mixing it all together to make a batter for the most delicious of musical brownies.

"Do I Wanna Know?" is the lead single off of the album and is a perfect choice for it.

The song grasps everything that is great about the album: the lyrics, simple riffs, and beautifully harmonized back up vocals.



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"Do I Wanna Know?" was number one on *Billboard's US Alternative Songs* charts and appropriately deserves it.

"Why'd You Only Call Me When...?" is the third single off of the album. It brings forth the bands 60's psychedelic ventures but still stays straight to their blues rock rhythms and lyrics.

*AM* was the second fastest selling album this year next to Daft Punk's *Random Access Memories*. It was number one on the UK Albums Chart selling a total of 157,329 copies in its first weeks. In the US *AM* has sold 197,000 copies.

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