

Reviews

SOS: SZA's Viral Album by Tallah Laban, '25



On December 9, 2022, SZA dropped a new album called "SOS" that, till this day, is still often played. With 23 songs, it has been No.1 on the "Billboard 200" for around seven weeks.

Since her last album drop in 2017, "CTRL," people have been waiting for her to drop an album and new songs.

"Kill Bill," the second track on the album, went viral on TikTok, forcing more people to listen to it. It's currently the most played song on the album, with over 394 million streams.

SZA is going on tour in the US and Canada from the end of February to the end of March. According to Stylecaster.com, most of the good seats for her tour have been sold out and it's kind of hard to find some.

I have listened to the album countless times and it's hard for me to pick a favorite. Many

people like me and Aniyah Racine, a sophomore at Wyoming Valley West, agree that the best song on the album is "Ghost in the Machine" that features Phoebe Bridgers.

Even though "SOS" blew up almost everywhere, that wasn't the album that made SZA famous. She's dropped many hit singles like "Good Days" back in 2020, and "Broken Clocks", from 2017.

She has also collaborated with many famous artists like Doja Cat, with "Kiss Me More" and Kendrick Lamar, with "All The Stars."

SZA's real name is Solána Imani Rowe. She was born on November 8, 1989, which makes her 33 now. She was born in St. Louis, MO and raised in Maplewood, New Jersey.

The actual name "SZA", stands for "sovereign" or "savior", "zig-zag" and "Allah."

She grew up Muslim, which is why she used "Allah" in her name.

For many reasons, SZA gained popularity and is loved all around the world. She is known for her incredible lyrics and soothing voice.

Her music has gone viral on TikTok so many times, which brought a lot of attention to her music. The genre of her music is R&B, which stands for rhythm and blues.

Till this day, SZA still gets millions of streams on Spotify, with a whopping 68 million monthly streamers. Many people believe that her fame won't stop anytime soon.

The Last of Us: A Tv Show Review

By Bethany Blockus, '23

A new show was released recently to HBO called "The Last of Us." It's based on a video game of the same name released in 2013. We follow the two main characters, Joel Miller and Ellie Williams.

Ellie is a 14-year-old girl who we find out is immune to the fungus Cordyceps, which takes control over the host's body.

Joel plans to smuggle Ellie because the leader of the group that wants her called the Fireflies, plans to give him more guns and other things for his survival. On this trip, he also plans to find his brother Tommy, a retired Firefly that stopped responding to any messages a few weeks beforehand.

The game and show closely follow the same plot except for some small changes to help with continuity. Such changes are that instead of the show happening in 2013 it's set in 2023.

Another change was making the first big city they went to Pittsburgh in the game and changing it to Salt Lake City for the show.

This is what keeps many fans of the original game series coming back. From what I've seen online the closeness to the lines, events, and cinematography of the game gives fans a sense of nostalgia as well as a love for the new series.

As a fan of the game, I feel the same way about the series. I believe that with other series

based on video games, directors will try to change things too much for viewers.

The change almost always makes no sense and is easily seen as a money grab from the developers of the game. The show gives fans what they want in the sense of familiarity while bringing a new and real view to something they love.

Even with the casting of the characters, it's obvious the show put so much effort into making it as accurate as possible. With Pedro Pascal playing Joel and Bella Ramsay playing Ellie the two look and can achieve the same father-daughter-like dynamic on screen.

The many emotional scenes so far this season have proven them to anyone weary of the two actors.

Overall, this show is a great example of bringing video games to life. The amount of care given to the game as well as its fans are something I find admirable.

Many shows and movies have made adaptations of something that fandoms find scary. The Last of Us is an amazing example that when given the correct care to detail, it can be something great for everyone involved.

