Arts & Humanities

5 Pop Culture Podcasts for Your Listening Pleasure

Alumni broadcasters delve into celebrity memoirs, Taylor Swift lyrics, and more.

By
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|
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My Hollywood Story

As a longtime reporter covering show business, Stacey Wilson Hunt ’01JRN has contributed to publications such as *People*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and even *Columbia Magazine*. After hosting the companion podcast for the Netflix show

Inventing Anna as well as National Geographic's *The Making Of*, which takes listeners behind the scenes of the network's popular programs, Wilson Hunt recently launched *My Hollywood Story*. The series, released in May, features intimate interviews with stars including Billy Bob Thornton and Kate Hudson, exploring the synthesis of talent, timing, and grit that makes a Hollywood story a success.

Celebrity Memoir Book Club

Curious about that Prince Harry memoir but too busy or distracted to read it? *Celebrity Memoir Book Club*, a weekly podcast cohosted by comedian Claire Parker '14CC, discusses an array of autobiographies by famous people so that "you don't have to read them." Whether unpacking *Hope* by the late Pope Francis or the new self-help memoir by wellness guru Hilaria Baldwin, Parker and cohost Ashley Hamilton bring close reading and gossipy banter to a genre better known for ghostwriters than gravitas.

AP Taylor Swift

Known as "the podcast for Swifties who love to overanalyze lyrics," *AP Taylor Swift* applies the critical lens of a literature class to the pop songs of Taylor Swift. Cohost Jodi Innerfield '09CC, a marketing consultant with a psychology degree from Columbia College, joins forces with English nerds Maansi Dommeti and Jenn Holcomb to discuss everything from revenge narratives in the album *Speak Now* to the use of weather as a literary device in songs like "Midnight Rain" and "Florida!!!"

Movie of the Year and *The Super Hero Show Show*

A self-described "comic book fiend and movie geek," Mike Gravagno '15GS spent seven years as an Arabic translator for the California National Guard before studying creative writing at Columbia's School of General Studies. Today, he balances working as a content manager with cohosting two podcasts for the website PopFilter. In *Movie of the Year*, Gravagno and his cohosts discuss and rank a variety of films from a given year over the course of multiple episodes, eventually deciding on the

“best” (spoiler: *Fargo* for 1996, *Nickel Boys* for 2024). And in *The Super Hero Show Show*, Gravagno contributes to weekly analysis of TV series adapted from comics.

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