



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

Last week I mentioned my plan to see *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Here's what I knew going in: the movie was directed by Scorsese, starred DiCaprio, was adapted from highly regarded source material, and it had something to do with the genesis of the FBI. That was it, and when I am anticipating a work of art like I was eagerly anticipating *Killers of the Flower Moon*, I try to know as little as possible. I avoid trailers and reviews; I even turn my head away from movie posters. I try to encounter the work with as little bias as possible. Then afterwards, I dig into all of the secondary material and use that to help me articulate my own thoughts and feelings. The rest of this letter will lay out those initial thoughts, without revealing any plot points. So, if you haven't seen the movie yet and are like me, beware.

The movie did not disappoint, the acting especially. DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, and Lily Gladstone, were exceptional. As I said, I hadn't seen any previews and had assumed that DiCaprio was going to play the hero/FBI investigator. Instead, he turns in a chilling performance as the somewhat dimwitted naif, Earnest Burkhart. We first see him upon his arrival to a small town. He seems to take delight in the "wild west" style violence around him, and we hear him declare a love of women and money. These three vices will plague DiCaprio's character throughout the film, and when combined with the character's dimwitted nature mark him as easy prey for his uncle, played by De Niro.

De Niro's King Hale is a genial demon. Last week my Contemporary Issues class read Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown." In the story, Goodman Brown goes to the woods to meet a man who looks like his father but is clearly the devil. The class discussed why such a figure would be more difficult to deny than the more classically drawn devils we will see this Halloween. De Niro captures this type of familiar Satan better than anyone I've seen on screen, slowly dripping poison into Burkhart's ear.

While De Niro and DiCaprio turn in some of their best performances, they are outshined by the subtlety of Lily Gladstone's Mollie. Dana Stevens in her [review of the movie for Slate](#) notes that, "Mollie is quiet, watchful, reserved—but never stoic or pitifully long-suffering in the style of a stereotypical onscreen 'Indian.' We see her experiencing longing, lust, grief, suspicion, forgiveness, and fury, even as she's obliged to conceal her true feelings—and the extent of her awareness of the deceit all around her." What I find remarkable about Gladstone's performance is that she communicates everything Stevens suggests with very few lines, compelling the audience to watch her face as she reacts to the world around her.

I've only touched on the performances. The film is also stunningly beautiful. If you have the stamina to sit in a theater for three and a half hours, I strongly recommend it.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

October 27

Pizza Lunch: The cafeteria will be closed on Friday. If students didn't order a pizza lunch in advance, they need to bring a bag lunch.

October 29

Open House: The school will be open to prospective students and families. Many of our current students and parents will be on campus to give tours and answer questions.

October 30

No School

Basketball Tryouts: Even though we do not have school, Basketball tryouts begin on Monday. Please check with the coaches for tryout times.

November 1

All School Mass: We will have an all school mass to celebrate All Saints Day. **We will not have a late start on Wednesday** to accommodate the mass schedule. As usual all of our families are welcome to attend.

Home District Soccer: Duchesne is hosting the District Soccer Tournament. Our boys take the field at 5:00 on Wednesday. If they win that game, they will play for the district championship at 6:00 on Thursday.

November 4

District Choir Concert: 7 of our students (Grace Kelly, Trinitee Rainey, Alejandro McAndrews, Michale Weber, Gabi Ulrich, Hannah Rimmey, and Amanda Bronner) are singing in the district choir concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on UMSL's campus. The concert is at 4:30 and is free of charge. Anyone may attend, so get there early if you would like a good seat.

November 6

Swim & Wrestling Tryouts: The Swim and Wrestling seasons start on Monday. See you coaches for more details.



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November 8

Grandparents Day: This day is one of our favorite traditions. Grandparents and Honorary Grandparents are invited to spend the morning with their grandchildren at Duchesne. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 10/31: [Grandparents Day](#)

