

CULTURE POPS | The Fourcast’s Favorite Restaurants, Movies, Music, TV Shows and More



Now Watch Me (Whisk) ★★★★★

Here’s a pro tip: Do not make any assumptions.

Let me be clear – I am the ultimate crepe connoisseur. I have traveled the world far and wide in search of the BEST crepe – to San Francisco, Austin, New York City and even Paris. To be honest with you, I never would have thought that the best crepe resided in the very city where I live.

So when I stumbled into Whisk, a rather quaint, French café located in a shopping center on Sylvan Ave. in Dallas, I assumed, based on the few occupants sitting at the tables, that I was out of luck.

My search for the best crepe would have to continue.

But as a show of respect, my friend and I stayed and ordered from a plethora of unique crepes. We settled on the cinnamon apple crepe (\$9), lusciously filled with cream cheese, pecans and caramel, as well as the strawberry Nutella crepe (\$10), served with whipped cream, ice cream (your choice of vanilla or chocolate) and topped off with chocolate sauce. If you’re into coffee, I recommend the cappuccino for \$3 – it comes in a small glass and compliments both crepes well.

The service was fast – probably because of the mere four other customers there – and the employees were extremely nice and dedicated to their work. A glass window

separates the kitchen from the dining area, so patrons can visibly see the chef work his magic.

After a small amount of time had passed, the food arrived. Cue the music because I was about to take another trip down memory lane to ‘Cool But Common Crepe City.’

But as I chowed down on these delicious delicacies, only two words came to mind: holy crepe. After years of searching, I had finally found the ultimate French pastry. I was more than pleased.

To top it all off, Whisk uses organically grown ingredients from Texas food producers and distributors in their state-of-the-art crepes. Not only does this make their crepes exquisite, but organic as well.

So, all assumptions aside, I’ll leave you all with this: don’t judge a whisk by its cover.

To find out more about Whisk, visit their website www.whiskdallas.com, like them on Facebook at facebook.com/whiskcrepescafe or follow them on Instagram at whiskcrepes.

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1888 Sylvan Avenue
Tuesday – Friday 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

ERIN THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Yes, that’s right, there are more podcasts than just NPR, and no, podcasts aren’t just for old people. Podcasts tend to be pretty unpopular amongst teens, and I can’t see why. Almost all of them are free (unless hosted by some random hotshot), they’re really accessible (no sketchy websites) and Business Insider says some of them will make you smarter. I promise, if you find the right one, you will be hooked for life. Staff Writer Cheryl Hao reviewed a range of podcasts, and hopefully at least one will intrigue you. Join us in the wonderful world of podcasts. We’re waiting.



Hosted by former Baltimore Sun reporter Sarah Koenig, “Serial” covers a true story revolving around the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee, a popular high school senior who was manually strangled in Baltimore. Adnan Syed, Lee’s ex-boyfriend, was indicted and incarcerated, where he remains today, believing he is innocent and was wrongly convicted. It seems like a very typical “high school love story gone wrong” scenario; the thing is (and what Koenig has spent the past year of her life investigating), there was no tangible proof to indict Syed. So who killed Lee? With “Serial,” listeners go behind the scenes with this investigation – Koenig inserts recordings of interviews and phone conversations she obtained with people who are directly involved with this case. Even though there’s no solution by the end of season one, listeners can make their own decision based on the evidence Koenig uncovers and shares. All of season one and the most recent episodes of season two are online at serialpodcast.org.

★★★★★

If detailed knowledge of strange and random facts equates to money, I would be laying on a beach in the Bahamas, sipping on some tea while looking through my Instagram feed on my iPhone 9 (it’s not available to the general public yet). And I would have “Stuff You Should Know” to thank. This informational podcast, published by HowStuffWorks.com, is hosted by the semi-awkward yet humorous Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant, both writers at HowStuffWorks. Starting with a detailed history and background on the specified topic, the hosts smoothly guide listeners through rarely thought about questions and topics. With episodes titled “Nirvana: Not the Band,” “How Tupperware Works” or “Juggling: What the Heck,” the audience knows exactly what they’re getting into. Because each episode is 40 to 80 minutes, they’re great for a detailed answer on the topic, but it’s nothing a quick two and a half minute Google search can’t tell you. New episodes come out every two days at stuffyoushouldknow.com/podcasts.

★★★★★

Nothing is classier than Ezra Koenig’s (Vampire Weekend) radio show, “Time Crisis.” The Columbia University alum and Grammy Award winner hosts his show every two weeks on “Beats 1 Radio,” a global radio station on Apple Music. Casual conversations between Koenig and his guests and famous friends are entertaining, usually without any structured set up, just Koenig improvising, which makes it extremely genuine. Most conversations revolve around music: an enjoyable segment is Koenig wand his guests analyzing (and bashing) popular songs. His guests include Mark Ronson (episode one), Florence + the Machine (episode two) and Jonah Hill and iLoveMakonnen (episode eight). Each episode is around two hours long because almost half of it is Koenig playing music of his choice, so if you have two hours free to do as you please, Koenig and his friends can keep you company. Find past episodes on SoundCloud or listen live on Apple Music every other Sunday at 2 p.m. central standard time.

★★★★☆

Did you know that Tyler Oakley was a telemarketer before his YouTube fame? I didn’t either. Nor did I really care to know, but if it interests you, check out Grace Helbig’s podcast “Not Too Deep,” where Oakley guest stars. Helbig, a YouTube star herself, has around 2.7 million subscribers. Although she’s already rich and famous, she created this podcast in 2014 to keep her fanbase busy. This podcast lacks depth; not that podcasts need to be deep, but I’ve listened to four-and-a-half episodes and gained nothing. In fact, I may have even lost some brain cells. That might be harsh, but even Helbig describes her podcast as “ridiculous, silly and unapologetically superficial.” That’s when you know it’s a blow-off side project. If you’re ever extremely bored and would like to know what Grace Helbig and her guest star for that episode did that day in detail, listen to “Not Too Deep” on SoundCloud or subscribe in the Apple Podcast App. Don’t forget to thumbs up (or should I say down?) and leave a comment in the description below.

★☆☆☆☆

Brooklyn



Brooklyn
John Crowley
★★★★★

While the psychological argument that where we come from heavily influences who we are might be true, the journey of finding yourself holds just as much merit. “Brooklyn” proves exactly that.

This emotion-evoking film, set in the early ‘50s in the titular borough and in a small Irish town that’s always ripe with gossip, tells a classic immigrant romance tale.

But unlike the typical American Dream melodrama, “Brooklyn,” adapted from the novel by Colm Tóibín, avoids nearly all clichés.

Aside from the seasickness and homesickness that Eilis must endure due to her journey from Ireland to Brooklyn, she learns quickly. Through the assistance of a kind Irish priest (Jim Broadbent), Eilis is promised a sales position at a fashionable department store and a room in a boarding house upon her arrival. Timid and slightly vulnerable at first, Eilis is taught the American way of life by her stern yet motherly landlady (Julie Walters) and the other boarding house residents. However, the most captivating individual that this naive Irish lass meets is an Italian-American gentleman, and future boyfriend, Tony Fiorello (Emory Cohen).

Although Tony’s family somewhat resembles an ethnic stereotype (they love baseball and eat spaghetti when Eilis comes over for dinner), it’s almost impossible not to root for the two lovers. Writer Nick Hornby designs a happy-go-lucky relationship, complete with the perfect amount of passion and awkward tension. While Eilis does rely on Tony to fulfill the loneliness that she feels after leaving Ireland behind, Eilis seems to be in control of the relationship. By the end of the film, she becomes a self-respecting, fearless female character, which makes it difficult not to like her despite some questionable decisions she makes.

The turning point of the film nearly writes itself – Eilis has straight-A’s in her night classes, a good job, a pleasant place to stay and a caring boyfriend. Something was bound to go wrong. And it certainly does, compelling Eilis to return home.

Upon her arrival in Ireland, she is greeted with a dream job and a new suitor. Maybe it’s just me, but I prefer the romantic, Italian plumber over a skinny red-head named Jim Farrell (Domhnall Gleeson). Regardless, her romantic plight is one that you can’t help but have an opinion about.

Perhaps what contributes to the picture’s authenticity is director John Crowley’s clever instruction. The film seems rather apathetic in depicting its two settings; rather, the camera remains focused on Eilis and her experiences. At one point, Eilis and Tony take an excursion to a popular tourist location. While it’s clear that the two are on a date at Coney Island, the camera essentially ignores the surrounding environment, therefore allowing Ronan to use every breath, word, facial expression and movement to passionately yet subtly convey a sea of emotion that absorbs the audience one wave at a time without losing a single drop of heartache, excitement, worry or joy.

It’s clear that Saoirse Ronan has remarkably transformed from a child actor in Wes Anderson’s “The Grand Budapest Hotel” to a brilliant and compelling performer. Love might be the superficial conflict throughout much of the film, but Ronan effectively expresses the true, raw friction that emerges from the contrasting aspects of Eilis’s life – her identity in Brooklyn versus her identity in Ireland. It’s the struggle of letting go and personal discovery that the audience can directly relate to. By the end of “Brooklyn,” Eilis has developed a true sense of self, and it’s a conclusion that feels just like home.

INAARA PADANI
MANAGING EDITOR