

COMMUTER

VOL. 51 EDITION 26



JUNE 3, 2020



UNRESTFUL DISCUSSION

EDI Hosts Protest Discussion and Corvallis Residents Demonstrate at Town Hall



STORY BY
CALEB BARBER
[@CALEBBARBER12](#)

On Monday, May 25, Minneapolis man George Floyd was killed during an altercation with police that ended with officer Dave Chauvin pinning Floyd to the ground by the neck. The pressure of Chauvin's weight on Floyd's neck caused Floyd to asphyxiate and ultimately die. Now, protests are being held nationwide demanding policy change to better keep police accountable for the violence they commit.

On Monday afternoon, June 1, the Department of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion hosted a Zoom discussion open to all LBCC staff members, faculty, and students who wished to speak out about these current national events.

A maximum of 37 individuals joined the meeting at one time, and once the meeting started, Department Director Javier Cervantes began his role as moderator with a question:

"How are people feeling?"

"Seven years ago in my community, a young man was shot and killed in the back by police," said Kristen Jennings of LBCC's College Skills Zone. "COVID isn't just in the background, it's pushing this even further. I'm ashamed I haven't been to any protests."

The consensus during the

discussion was that the protests and outrage are warranted, but many feared for the health of those protesting in large groups.

"I think this is all very scary," said student Katie Bieker, "There are so many people congregating in one place, it's almost like we've forgotten about COVID."

At this point in time there have been protests in all 50 states against the killing of George Floyd. Portland has seen the largest protest turnout in Oregon, ranging in the thousands, and a smaller organization of students and community members demonstrated in Corvallis on May 31. Another protest was held in Albany on Tuesday, resulting in a peaceful turn-out upwards of 1000. ([See photos here.](#))

"We have faith in our system to self-correct," said English faculty Tristan Striker during the EDI Zoom discussion. "What's hard to confront is that maybe our system is not equipped to correct itself. There might be systems in place that perpetuate dysfunction."

When asked about the goal of Monday's event, EDI Admin Support Heather Morijah emphasized the importance of discussion during such a troubling time. "I think it's about leading by example," said Morijah, "And thinking globally/acting locally. Best put, 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.' It's not enough to talk about it: we have to think it, believe it and feel it at a core level. What's on one's lips is



PHOTOS: KATIE LITTLEFIELD

The Corvallis courthouse flooded with signs and chants Sunday evening protesting in support of this movement. There were hundreds of people present all wearing masks while listening to an array of black speakers sharing their stories and experiences. After sharing five minutes of silence in remembrance of Floyd, the chants began and people filled the street. It was quite a sight and surely not the last.

not necessarily what's in one's heart."

With the success of Monday's discussion the EDI has planned for another similar Zoom conference to be

"What can I do?"

Register to Vote:

It takes less than two minutes!
([Click Here](#))

Call and Demand Change:

- [Oregon State representatives](#)
- Call Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and demand accountability: 612-673-2100

Petitions:

- Text FLOYD to 55156
- [Charge All Four Officers](#)

Donate:

- [Black Lives Matter](#)
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- [PDX Protests Bail Fund](#)

held on Thursday, June 4, at 2 p.m.. The next discussion will be more focused on the question "What can we do?" [Here is the link to that Zoom conference.](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

GRAPHICS: [FREEPIK.COM](#)



THOMPSON'S ADULT HOME **SEE PAGE 2**



Q&A WITH DANNY AYNES **SEE PAGE 3**

UNORTHODOX REVIEW **SEE PAGE 5**



THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to:

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GOOD DEEDS, GOOD HEARTS

Harold Thompson Cares for Adults with Disabilities at His Family Adult Home



Thompson's Adult Home for the physically and mentally disabled adults is run by Harold Thompson and his family. This home has been there since 1999 in Albany Oregon. Thompson knew he wanted to be an adult care homeowner when he was a manager at a different care home, and enjoyed working there with the community and the people in the homes. At his care home, he has six employees, two of whom are his children.

STORY AND PHOTOS: **CHRISSEY VEACH**

Many issues he handles at this home are staffing challenges, behavioral issues, plenty of documentation that is required by the state and county, and serving medically fragile populations. He has six patients who live in the house full time with a range of different disabilities



Many issues he handles at this home are staffing challenges, behavioral issues, plenty of documentation that is required by the state and county, and serving medically fragile populations. He has six patients who live in the house full time with a range of different disabilities


Linn-Benton
Community College

Please join Institutional Equity, Diversity & Inclusion for

STUDENT LEADER CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

What did they learn?
What worked well? What didn't?
What were their challenges?
Where will they go from here?

Friday, June 5
2-4 PM in the Virtual EDI

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/93758562974>
Meeting ID: 937 5856 2974

THE FUTURE OF LBCC

A Q&A With the Associate Dean of Academic Foundations Discusses LBCC's Future Plans Relevant to its Students

STORY BY
ERIKA DONNER

I first met Danny Aynes a couple of weeks ago in a Zoom video conference call. Dressed in a suit and tie while working remotely, he spoke of the new normal that exists within college life during a worldwide pandemic. Across the nation, institutions of higher education are managing discussions centered around how to move forward given many unknowns. There remain challenges and opportunities. As the associate dean of Academic Foundations, Aynes holds a large role in the operations of Linn-Benton Community College, where over 18,000 students attend class each year. Seventeen community colleges are located throughout Oregon and LBCC is the sixth largest.

What are your responsibilities at Linn-Benton Community College and how long have you worked here?

I became the Associate Dean of Academic Foundations a year ago, and that includes admissions, registration, graduation, and Adult Basic Skills, which is the English Language Acquisition and GED program. Prior to this, I was the director of Enrollment Services and registrar for 11 1/2 years.

Tell us a bit about your own education and background.

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications from Arkansas Tech University and received my master's degree in college student services administration at Oregon State University. Before joining the team at LBCC, I worked at Eastern Oregon University and at Southern Oregon University. My wife and I live in Philomath with our two sons.

This is a big time right now, historically speaking. What did you think of the impact moving forward with how the coronavirus pandemic would affect students?

It was coming at the end of winter term and I wasn't too connected to the news so I didn't think it would be as big as it was. I wasn't resistant to what I was hearing, but just assumed in a couple weeks we'd be back to normal. Then it got bigger and bigger. I was surprised at how fast everything happened.

We haven't lived through something like this before. We're all in reactive mode.

It's caused us to change really fast and to go with the flow in a way we're not used to. It requires lots of teamwork and being comfortable with change.

LBCC was very responsive from the beginning by sending out communication to the community, the staff and the students while keeping everyone up-to-date as the information was coming in. Did you experience any difficulties while sharing the news regarding the closure of LBCC and the subsequent reopening?

It's great to hear that a student feels we were communicating well. An interesting thing that came up during this time is what qualifies as "all-student communication." It caused us to discuss and question whether something merits being sent out to everybody, or should an announcement just be on social media? How should we communicate? Is this an email? Is this a text message? That type of thing. We used to send out items that were announcements for the good of the order. The type that are informational; but we worried about sending too many emails and over-communicating -- when things that are sent out now are so much bigger.



How has the pandemic affected transitions in maintaining curriculum standards in regards to collaboration with high school partnerships through the College Now program? High schools shut down for two to three weeks at the beginning of the pandemic, and there are many schools with whom LBCC partners (over fifty).

Our high school partnerships director, Virginia Mallory, has done a great job working hard and communicating with all of the partners. The enrollment has stayed pretty steady. We were worried about that. But I think with so much time at home, students have stayed interested. We have been flexible with drop dates. The partnerships program is doing well with enrollment.

I noticed that the grading scale this term has changed to a "pass/no pass" mode by many high schools who partner with College Now. How might this translate into standards for certain courses? For instance, with Math 111, Math 112, and Writing 121? Have there been adjustments?

Yes. We have not changed all classes to "pass/no pass" because it wasn't an option when the course was created. So, we've opened up where students can change the grade mode, but not all courses have the same grade modes. It's caused us to do a lot of questioning about our system and how things are built and discussions for a catalog and how we would do things moving forward. What will a "pass" do for transfer students? It is hard to say. How will every school take it? Every school is so different. A "pass" -- what will they bring it in as? And a "no pass?" A "no pass" versus a "D." A "D" will count in some places and a "no pass" won't. It's all tough.

What is your student enrollment for spring term? Did you see a huge drop?

We are down about 11 percent in our credit and degree-seeking programs. There was a time during the quarantine where Community Education was put on hold until we figured out what we could do. A lot of those courses were canceled, so they came back with a smaller offering of online courses which meant they took a big enrollment hit. With the Career Technical Education programs, some of their courses have to be in person.

That's probably one of the biggest concerns right now -- well, there are lots of big concerns -- figuring out some of the programs, like nursing. How do they finish? That is a question I don't know the answer to. The community colleges are asking the governor: could certain programs have social distance classes that are considered end points, where they could finish this summer? I don't know if they have an answer for that yet.

Otherwise enrollment hasn't dropped as much as we thought.

That stands to reason. People still have time and were enrolled already. What is the impact of moving to an online format this term?

From all sides, it caused everyone to change and move online whether they thought they could or couldn't, everybody had to do it. And there are benefits -- everyone is learning Moodle and other different technologies ... figuring out what's possible when we have to change.

Do you see this might be a model for the future? For non-traditional students who have perhaps an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. type of job? Many in our community may benefit greatly from online courses offered through LBCC.

This is causing colleges to go another layer deep into defining what an online course is. I do think it will result in more of our classes having different options versus campus or distance. The academic program I'm involved with for scheduling is the ELA and GED. They had never done an online format before and they hope to continue it moving forward, because it is a flexible option for people. I do think some instructors are finding they really like it, and I do think some things will continue. It's led to three definitions of online courses: virtual, hybrid, and fully online. Instructors have asked for specific times when students know they have to do something online (such as in Zoom meetings). They're working right now with getting this type of information added to the class schedule where students can know what type of online course they're signing up for.

For fall term?

For fall term, yes.

That's exciting to hear!

Community colleges seizing an opportunity to build upon the accessibility, affordability, and equity for members of our community.

Community colleges are a great model. Things we're hearing is that the state budget issues are coming up. And so, preparing and trying to figure out what that looks like for us... typically when there's a budget crisis, our budget goes down and we have more students, like when we've had an increase in the past. For example, when the statewide budget is bad and there's a recession, and more people are going to community colleges -- it makes it a tough time.

There may be many individuals who will need to reinvent themselves.

I could imagine, based on my time at community colleges, that when we do come out of this if certain jobs don't come back, there will be some kind of fund or benefit for people in those jobs to go to school. Sometimes there are benefits for people to go to school.

LBCC raised a large amount of funds with the Day of Caring which coincided with the Federal CARES Act. Could you share a bit about both of those?

Yes. I was involved in one challenge that if we raised \$600 I would wear a suit to all Zoom meetings for the rest of the week. So we did, and now I've had to do this. The best challenge was a guy in the business office who said if we raise a certain amount he would shave his beard and he had a beard probably like, down to here. He definitely looks like a new person! It added some fun to it.

So, you don't always wear a suit and tie while working from home?

No, I don't. Usually shorts and a t-shirt.

Or, I thought you were dressing

up for our interview.

I could have let you think that the whole time...

The Federal CARES Act has started to be implemented. The money was given and then different criteria kept being added. It has taken a while to shift into "This is what this is." There are guidelines the government has given us, and there have been changes as the days have gone by.

Were the guidelines not clear from the federal government or from the state government?

I think the money might have come as they were developing guidelines. And so each college had to put together a process -- there was some freedom in how each college has been able to handle it. The criteria is it can benefit all eligible students. If you qualify, you get something, and it looks at categories such as expected family contribution. There are three different criteria for level: most, medium, and then least need. Those funds just started going out.

To supplement the Federal CARES Act, the LBCC Day of Caring collaborated with the LBCC Foundation to help pool together funds, is this correct?

Yes, and that is a type of emergency fund for students. Over the years the fund has grown. Each year it helps with items such as car repairs, bikes, rent -- basically a short-term crisis fund to help students.

That is great support. Let's talk a little about your plan for this year's commencement ceremony.

We are working on a keepsake mailing to go to students that will have caps and tassels and some other things, such as a letter from the college. There is a lot we can't do that we'd like to, which would be having people come to campus, but we just can't do that yet. So, along with a package that goes to students, there will be a website that honors graduates and has a message from the college. Also, this year's graduates will be involved in next year's graduation. It will be a double commencement ceremony.

What is one college course you wish you would have taken?

I was going to be a football coach, but then I decided I wanted to go into higher education, so I changed to communication. I ended up working in a position at a school where I had to have technical skills. So, I wish there was a college course that was called something like "Workplace Technical Skills," and for me, it'd involve something like SQL (SQL is a domain-specific language used in programming and designed for managing data). Something else that would be helpful would be basic website editing, and also tools and tricks with Excel. There are things that are helpful and useful for everybody. But they probably all wouldn't be contained in the same course!

Rather, you have to learn on the job.

You have to teach yourself and use YouTube to figure it out.

What does LBCC's future look like? We know summer term classes will be online.

Yes, and I think face to face is still an option for fall. The assumption that I've heard is that some sort of distancing would be in place. If we expect to be face to face, there would be certain criteria, but we don't know about that yet. My hope is that we'll definitely be coming together, being able to get somewhere close to normal. We just don't know when.



SLC UPDATE

Hello LBCC students from your Student Leadership Council Vice President for the years 2020-2021! My name is Nia Alvarado and I am a computer science/engineering student both here and at OSU. A few of my roles as Vice President is to assist our SLC president (Angie Geno), make sure all SLC actions are in accordance with our guidelines, chair the Judiciary Board (student led board for making important LBCC decisions), attend meetings, interact with students, participate in events, and much more. Student Leadership is led by students who have pledged to be a voice for

students and make their LBCC experience a great one. My job is to be a mediator between SLC, LBCC, and students. I, as well as all other members of SLC, am able to gain leadership experience through being on the SLC team, as well as make connections with LBCC faculty, learn skills such as speaking, communication, decision making, and accountability. I am a primary contact for anything regarding information about events, student government, or any question you may feel pertains to my role. If I can't answer your question, I can guarantee that I can find someone who can. Our

goal is to make sure that students know about the Student Leadership Council and are informed on the ways we are able to be there for them, as well as be informed of the ways that they too are able to be a part of the team through volunteering or even joining as a member in the future. We are here to assist you in many ways, whether it be about SLC or LBCC in general. Our team creates many of the events you may have seen last year such as Welcome Day or study jams. However, due to the pandemic we have held various zoom activities (trivia, workouts, painting sessions), and we have much more

planned which you can see posted in our newsletter or on LBLive app. For our future events we could always use volunteers or people who are interested in student government. Our amazing campus outreach director, Marissa Miles, is available for contact if anyone is interested in any future volunteer roles, you can contact her at, slcccampusoutreach@linnbenton.edu. I am very excited to take on this role and am here for all students! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at slcvp@linnbenton.edu. We hope to see you all this fall and hope to support you in any way we can!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS HONORED AT THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP CEREMONY ON MAY 28TH

LBCC Honors Program:

Mark Wiebe, Laveda Sartoris, and Emily Dray (Advisor)

Council:

Patricia Simon, SLC President; Christopher Byers, SLC Vice President; Stephen Oium, Executive Assistant; Ramona Maciel, Executive Assistant; Jonathon Media, Finance Director; Marissa Miles, Legislative Affairs Director; Genaro Marquez Alonso, Legislative Affairs Director; Mark D. Wiebe, Clubs and Engagement Director; Katrina Reynolds, Campus Outreach Director; Nathali Coyazo, Event Planner; Yulissa Gonzalez, Event Planner; Preciosa Cantu, Event Planner; Juan Ortiz Cortez, Event Planner

Judiciary Board:

Steven Cohara, Francesca Jaquez, Alastair Cardenas, Matthew Lucas, Andrew Middleton

Staff:

Nancy Munson, Admin. Assistant, Student Development; Kathryn Bond, Secretary, Student Development/Advising; Preciosa Cantu, Receptionist, Student Life & Leadership; Eric Slyter, Program Assistant, Student Life & Leadership; Rob Camp, Student Leadership Coordinator; Dr. Lynne Cox, Dean, Student Development;

Institutional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Co-Curricular Program:

2nd Year Outgoing Leaders 2019-2020:

Korina Rayburn and Catherine

Stevens

EDI Staff:

Javier Cervantes, Director (Mentor); Heather Morijah, Program Assistant; Tania Mendez, Latino Outreach & Retention Specialist.

2019-2020 Student Athletes:

Women's Basketball:

Elizabeth Chavez, NWAC Honorable Mention, All-Freshman Team; Amyr Lowe, NWAC Honorable Mention, All-Defensive Team; Megan Wagner, Freshman Team; Marri-Anna Martinez, Freshman Team.

FOR THE COMPLETE LIST [Click Here](#)

How will an 8% TUITION INCREASE AFFECT YOU?

The Student Leadership Council will be holding tuition hearings on **June 4th and 5th** at 1 PM via Zoom. We would like to hear your thoughts. ([Zoom Meeting](#))

Can't make it during those times? Share your thoughts. ([Click Here](#))

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Last of the Mohicans
- 6 Home Box Office (abbr.)
- 9 Repose
- 12 Hollow stone
- 13 Tree
- 14 Us (Ger.)
- 15 Lagoon
- 16 Goddess (Lat.)
- 17 Own (Scot.)
- 18 Inborn
- 20 Keen
- 22 Desert plant
- 24 Television channel
- 27 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
- 28 Bird
- 32 Air
- 34 Presidential nickname
- 36 Indian music
- 37 Glass-furnace mouth
- 39 Survey
- 41 Cistern

DOWN

- 42 Brown vesuvianite
- 44 East
- 47 Principal commodity
- 52 According to (2 words)
- 53 Belonging to (suf.)
- 55 Eng. poet
- 56 Compass direction
- 57 Rhine tributary
- 58 Wife of Balder
- 59 No (Scot.)
- 60 Fiddler crab genus
- 61 Handwriting on the wall

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	B	M	O	B	E	D	C	A	A	M	
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- 7 contraction
- 8 Animal sound
- 9 Ruminant's stomach
- 9 Haw. feast
- 10 Initial (abbr.)
- 11 Anglo-Saxon slave
- 19 French art
- 21 group
- 21 Russ. despot
- 23 Pole in Gaelic games
- 24 Public vehicle
- 25 Family relative
- 26 Thus (Lat.)
- 29 Civil Aeronautics Board (abbr.)
- 30 Oriental potentate
- 31 Women's Army Corps (abbr.)
- 33 Scientific name (suf.)
- 35 Unfledged hawk
- 38 Lamb (Fr.)
- 40 Range
- 43 Blaubok
- 44 Home landscape
- 45 Isle of Napoleon
- 46 Wind indicator
- 48 Wings
- 49 Carnation
- 50 Solitary
- 51 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
- 54 "Blue Eagle"

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[Print](#)

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[Print](#)

"UNORTHODOX: THE SCANDALOUS REJECTION OF MY HASIDIC ROOTS"



Netflix Represents Life as an Unorthodox Jew in This New Series

REVIEW BY
KINSLEY STONE

There are some shows or movies you binge watch because you're bored and have nothing better to do, such as "The Office." Then there are shows and movies you binge watch because you cannot stop watching them.

Netflix's "Unorthodox" falls into the latter category for many reasons. It is full of emotion, it is an inspiration to its viewers, and each character encompasses some struggle that we all face in our own lives.

"Unorthodox" was released to Netflix March 26, which was perfect timing considering everyone has been quarantined at home. Each episode runs under an hour, so binge-watching the whole miniseries in one night is not hard to do. Trust me, I would know. If you search "Unorthodox" on Google or Twitter, everyone has something great to say about it.

The miniseries is loosely based on the 2012 book "Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots," an autobiography by Deborah Feldman. Although some English is spoken throughout the series, the main language spoken by the characters is Yiddish.

"Unorthodox" follows the life of Esther "Esty" Shapiro (Shira Haas) as she flees her tight-knit Hasidic community of Williamsburg in Brooklyn.

She travels to Berlin where she meets new friends and pursues a dream she has always had: music. Esty leaves behind her life and husband, Yanky (Amit Rahav), who she was married off to at 18. When Yanky finds out Esty has run away and is hiding something from him, he and his cousin, Moishe (Jeff Wilbusch), travel to Berlin to find and bring her back. All three characters face trials and tribulations along their journey in Berlin.

One of the most pivotal moments in the series, for me, comes in the first episode. We see Esty at Großer Wannsee lake with her new friends in Berlin. She is fully dressed in a mid-shin length skirt, long-sleeve turtleneck, and her black wig that all Satmar women must wear after marriage because they are forbidden to show their real hair. Esty slowly walks to the edge of the

water before taking a step in.

Once she is waist deep in the water, Esty reaches up and slowly takes off her wig, revealing her shaved head for the world to see. She tosses her wig into the water before submerging herself, as if she is being baptized by freedom and liberation. We see Esty float in the water as the camera pans away.

"As Esty floats on her back in the Wannsee, you can feel what it's like for her to be both fearful and free," comments Rachel Syme in a review from *The New Yorker*.

This scene is so important because it is the moment Esty realizes she can become her own person, and is no longer bound to her community that she left behind.

"Unorthodox" does a wonderful job at portraying not only Esty's struggles in both her current and past life, but also showing the struggles of the other characters, particularly Yanky and Moishe.

Shira Haas as Esty is amazing. Haas does a wonderful job conveying emotion and communicating to the viewer without even speaking a single word. She comes off as child-like and fragile when meeting Yanky for the first time, yet she seems fierce and strong-willed when she takes off her wig, allowing the world to see the real her.

My initial thought after finishing "Unorthodox" was, "How could they leave me on such a cliffhanger?"

I was honestly mad at first, but then I began thinking about the ending. Although the series seems like it ends abruptly, I think that was the plan. All but one loose end was tied up, the conflicts were resolved. I imagine the series ended the way it did so the viewer can create their own ending for Esty.

I'm not sure that "Unorthodox" will get a second season, and I wouldn't be mad if the series ended how it did. The ending really makes you wonder if you are as happy as you think you are with the life you have.

Deborah Feldman, who the series was loosely based around, was a big part of the production of "Unorthodox," and wanted to make sure the Hasidic community of Williamsburg was portrayed with accuracy.

Feldman explains in the short film following the series, "People like



'UNORTHODOX'

STARRING: Shira Haas, Amit Rahav, Jeff Wilbusch

CREATORS: Anna Winger, Alexa Karolinski

STREAMING: Netflix

RATED: TV-MA; SMOKING, NUDITY, ADULT CONTENT

MY RATING: ★★★★★☆ **PHOTO COURTESY:** NETFLIX

me never really had that opportunity. We never saw ourselves reflected back in the stories being told in popular culture, so we didn't really know how to create our own stories."

From casting, to architecture, to costumes, great attention to detail was put into the making of this series.

"It was very important to us to not just get the look and feel, and costumes and rituals and everything correct, but to inhabit the ideas of these character's worlds in a way that felt authentic [yet] also heightened because it's television," Anna Winger, creator and executive producer, explained when talking about creating the series.

What I love most about "Unorthodox" is the women involved in the series. Anna Winger (creator and executive producer), Alexa Karolinski (creator and writer), Maria Schrader (director), and Feldman were all focused on the authenticity of the series, as well as getting details right and portraying this Satmar Hasidic Jewish community the way it truly is in society.

Satmar Jews were originally

from Hungary before fleeing to New York after World War II. They are some of the only people who speak Yiddish, meaning they are the ones keeping the language alive. Women and men each have specific roles within marriages. Weddings are extravagant and families are tight-knit.

Following the miniseries is a short film about the making of "Unorthodox." The film shows interviews with the cast, creators, set designers, costume makers, and anyone else who had a part in the series. It gives great insight into how the series was made, and how excited everyone was to be a part of something. A lot of people involved in the series felt that it was portraying something about themselves or something that they felt passionate about. You can watch the full film here.

"Unorthodox" is a wonderful portrayal of the Hasidic Jewish community in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The series is bound to make you laugh, cry, and ponder your own life and happiness.