SFA’S 2018 SUMMER RECOMMENDATION LIST

From viewers like you

BOOK

- **The Bards of Bone Plain**
  
  **About:** Phelan Cle chose Bone Plain for his final paper because he thought it would be an easy topic. It was commonly accepted, even at a school steeped in bardic tradition, that Bone Plain, with its three trials, three terrors, and three treasures, was nothing more than a legend, a metaphor. But this is a fantasy novel, so of course there's more to it. Phelan is no fool, and his research methodology is sound. It's good to be a Liberal Arts student!
  
  **Aspects:** Fantasy

  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], [Recommender has chosen not to include warnings]

- **Cry of the Icemark**
  
  **About:** Princess Thirrin Freer Strong-in-the-Arm Lindenshield fights to save her kingdom from sinister colonial forces after the death of her father and meets many wacky and wonderful characters as she does. The real friends are the giant snow leopards you meet along the way!
  
  **Aspects:** Drama, Fantasy, YA

  **Content Warnings:** Character in Coma, Gore, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Cryptonomicon**
  
  **About:** In World War Two and the early 2000s, people code.
  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Historical

  **Content Warnings:** Gore, Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, Sexual Assault -- Discussed/Mentioned (as slang, casual), Sexual Content, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch**
  
  **About:** The end of times is coming. Understandably, not everyone's happy about this arrangement. Also, no one can find the Antichrist.
  
  **Aspects:** Comedy, Fantasy

  **Content Warnings:** Miscellaneous Violence, Pregnancy, Sexual Content, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Parahumans (Web Serial)**
  
  **About:** Parahumans (aka Worm) is a self-published completed web serial that subverts common tropes of superhero fiction. It is one of the most popular web serials on the internet, with a readership in the hundreds of thousands. In Worm, Parahumans or "Capes" are humans who have undergone a traumatic experience (known as a "trigger
event") and awakened superpowers. The story follows one particular Parahuman, Taylor Herbert, shortly after her powers have awakened, letting her control insects. Wanting to become a hero, she goes undercover and joins the gang of supervillains known as the Undersiders, but while with them, she soon realizes that the world of heroes and villains is not as black and white as it appeared to be. You can read it for free on: parahumans.wordpress.com.

Aspects: Adult-Focused, Sci Fi
Content Warnings: Gore, Gun Violence, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders, superhero fights, mind control, bullying, references to drug use, human experimentation, one badass psychic, giant world-ending monsters, serial killers, a scary 11-year old

• **Sabriel**
  
  About: A girl at a boarding school finds her way back across to the border to the kingdom where she was born. In this kingdom, necromancy is pretty easy, so someone needs to keep the dead in their graves where they belong. That someone is usually the girl's dad, but he is having Difficulties, so the job falls to her. Featuring bells, magic, the River of the Dead, and an ill-tempered kitty.

  Aspects: Fantasy

  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], [Recommender has chosen not to include warnings]

• **The Thief** (by Megan Whalen Turner)

  About: A talented thief is recruited out of jail to steal a stone that grants rulership of a kingdom. The series as a whole features incredible worldbuilding, plot twists, and complicated fantasy politics. Also a lot of road trips.

  Aspects: Child-Focused, Fantasy

  Content Warnings: Gore, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

**COMIC/WEBCOMIC**

• **Boumeries**

  About: Boumeries is mostly about the life of Boum (Samantha Leriche-Gionet) a freelance comic artist and illustrator who lives and works in Montreal, Canada. Boum shares a flat with her programming partner Pierre-Luc and their daughters Margot and Annette, while working at home, juggling with everyday chores and drawing, and having absurd dreams in the meantime. It's a fun light-hearted webcomic in English that's been running since 2011.

  Aspects: Comedy, Absurd

  Content Warnings: Pregnancy, insomnia, toilet dreams, embarrassing anecdotes, strange comicon attendants, miniwheats without frosting, cats drinking orange juice, spicy vietnamese food

• **Manly Guys Doing Manly Things**

  About: Manly Guys Doing Manly Things (MGDMT) is a webcomic about a temp agency to
help "ludicrously macho guys" find work in the real world when they no longer have work as popular fiction characters. How well they actually integrate has...mixed results. Read it on thepunchlineismachismo.com.

**Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy, Dramedy, Parody, Sci Fi

**Content Warnings:** cartoon violence, giant millipedes, unlicensed pokemon trainers, laser fish, time traveling shenanigans, model cars, kratos buying scented candles, contagious kawaii appearances, Mario shaving his mustache

- **Order of the Stick**
  
  **About:** A ragtag group of adventurers embarks on an epic quest to defeat Xykon, the evil lich bent on conquering the world. Featuring many D&D jokes, extraordinarily nuanced character development, and a really well-developed stick figure art style.
  
  **NOTE:** Most content warnings listed below are one-offs, and due to the simplistic art style, much less graphic than they would be if more realistically rendered. For example, a person losing an arm is undeniably gory, but a stick figure losing an arm is a lot less graphic about it.

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy, Parody

  **Content Warnings:** Animal Cruelty, Cartoon vomit, Domestic Violence, Eye Trauma, Gore, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Pregnancy, Self-Harm, Sexual Assault -- Discussed/Mentioned (as slang, casual), Sexual Content, Tooth Trauma, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Death, undeath, workplace violence, existential threats, fire, slavery, gladiatorial fighting, genocide, harm to children, war, assassination, elements of possession, sexual harassment, references to torture

- **Q2Q**
  
  **About:** Q2Q Comics is the Internet's best and onliest Tech Theatre webcomic! It follows a company of designers and technicians as they work on theatrical productions. It's relatable, it's silly, it's absurd, and sometimes it'll give you the feels. You don't have to know anything about theater tech to enjoy it (though you'll learn a lot about it if you do read it!)

  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy

  **Content Warnings:** theater gremlins, actors going off-script (gasp!), glitter that cannot be washed off, tech week, ancient paint monsters, wrenches being used as hammers, very tall ladders, broken fog machines, "found object art soup"

**MOVIE**

- **Buckaroo Banzai: Across the 8th Dimension**
  
  **About:** A rock band of cowboy physicists try to prevent an alien invasion.

  **Aspects:** Comedy, Sci Fi

  **Content Warnings:** Gun Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Stupid

- **Dr. Strangelove**
  
  **About:** Cold-war era black comedy about the world’s impending nuclear obliteration after
a lone conspiracy-theorist general goes rogue and the entire US government trips over itself repeatedly trying to stop him.
*Aspects:* Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Sci Fi
*Content Warnings:* Gun Violence, vintage misogyny

- **Jupiter Ascending**
  *About:* A normal Chicago teen is actually a space princess. EVERY TWELVE-YEAR-OLD'S DREAM.
  *Aspects:* Fantasy, Sci Fi
  *Content Warnings:* [Some warnings may be forgotten], [Recommender has chosen not to include warnings]

- **Odd Thomas**
  *About:* Odd Thomas sees dead people, but more importantly, he sees evil spirits that (sometimes) kill the people—and they're up to something big.
  *Aspects:* Dramedy, Fantasy, Live Action, Mystery
  *Content Warnings:* Gore, Gun Violence, Industrial machinery injury, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Hair/scalp trauma, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Space Jam**
  *About:* Michael Jordan and the Looney Toons team up to play a basketball game against the Mon-stars, aliens who have stolen the powers of Earth's greatest B-ballers except for Jordan, to decide the fate of the Toons and Earth. Also Bill Murray shows up for like 60 seconds.
  *Aspects:* Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy, Parody
  *Content Warnings:* Cartoon vomit, Miscellaneous Violence, Cartoon violence similar to other Looney Toons productions, bad acting, possible psychological horror during the climax regarding slavery/sensory deprivation played as a joke, a two hour shoe commercial, cartoon physics on real humans, and the best theme song ever made

**PODCAST/AUDIO DRAMA**

- **Ars Paradoxica**
  *About:* Time travel, secret government agencies, Cold War conspiracies
  *Aspects:* Drama, Sci Fi
  *Content Warnings:* Animal Cruelty, Gun Violence, Industrial machinery injury, Live-action vomit, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Depictions of manipulation and implied harm of children, stressful interrogation and hateful speech, individual episodes have warnings as necessary, powerful people doing bad things, brain injuries

- **The Bright Sessions**
  *About:* A local doctor, Joan Bright, operates a practice under the label "Therapy for the Strange and Unusual". Her extraordinary patients include a time-traveller struggling with a
panic disorder, an empath working to navigate the emotional pitfalls of high school, and a
mind reader who insists the voices she hears are angels. But while Dr. Bright cares about
helping her patients as best she can, she's in trouble, and she may need their help as
well...
Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Sci Fi, Psychics/Superheroes
Content Warnings: Character in Coma, Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, Needles,
Sexual Assault -- Implied/Referenced, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Mind control,
kidnapping, human experimentation, Mental health -- anxiety/panic, Mental health --
PTSD, Mental health -- depression, alcoholism, stalking, manipulation

- **The Far Meridian**
  About: An agoraphobic young woman lives alone in a lighthouse. One evening, the fog
rolls in. When it clears up, Peri looks out her window to find a setting very different from
what she expected. Though initially terrified (and still extremely afraid), eventually she
decides to use her random trips around the world to try and search for her missing
brother. And along the way, she will meet others, who have their own fantastical stories to
tell... The Far Meridian is a magical realism story, wonderfully written and with some of the
most beautiful sound design work I've ever encountered. Even though it's about a woman
with extreme anxiety and trauma, listening to it always evokes a sense of calm.
Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Magical Realism
Content Warnings: Insects, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Thunderstorms, Mental
health -- anxiety, Mental health -- agoraphobia

- **Otherverse**
  About: Propaganda from your friendly neighborhood alien invaders.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Drama, Sci Fi
  Content Warnings: Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be
forgotten], Vaporization weapons, discussions of war, discussions of genocide

- **The Strange Case of Starship Iris**
  About: After a devastating accident aboard the Starship Iris, biologist Violet Liu is saved
by a group of smugglers. However, the accident may not have been so accidental. In
order to investigate the conspiracy surrounding the Iris without arousing the attention of
the corrupt galactic government, Violet must fake her death and join the crew.
Aspects: Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Sci Fi
Content Warnings: Gun Violence, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may
be forgotten], Mental health -- anxiety, the insects referenced are not actual insects but
are instead a swarm of alieny things

- **Wooden Overcoats**
  About: "Rudyard Funn runs a funeral home in the village of Piffling Vale. It used to be the
only one. It isn't anymore." Or: two funeral homes compete for monopoly rights.
Despite being abrasive, callous and anti-social, Rudyard Funn and his sister Antigone
have made their living by being the only option available. But new-in-town everyman Eric Chapman is friendly, compassionate, and above all, competent. The Funns will have to work hard to outfox the competition.

Aspects: Adult-Focused, Comedy, Sitcom
Content Warnings: Industrial machinery injury, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Sexual humor, Sexual behavior, No actual sexual content, Death, Mourning, this show contains a lot of cartoonishly contrived offscreen deaths

TV SHOW

- **Code: Lyoko**
  About: Five friends use the power of the internet to fight the world's most powerful computer virus and save the world. Or: the early 2000s dot-com bubble was really inspirational to a French guy who wanted to make anime.
  NOTE: *Code: Lyoko* is legally available on Youtube, in English, in its entirety, without ads.
  Aspects: Cartoon, Child-Focused, Dramedy, Sci Fi
  Content Warnings: Character in Coma, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], A weird goo monster, possession, the threat of nuclear meltdown, train crashes

- **Doctor Who**
  About: This is SFA, do any of you not know what Doctor Who is? Just in case, there's this alien who picks up random people who are usually humans and takes them time traveling. They just want to have a good time, but it always goes horribly wrong and then they have to save the city/planet/solar system/galaxy/universe. Again.
  Aspects: Live Action, Sci Fi
  Content Warnings: Character in Coma, Gun Violence, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Pregnancy, [Some warnings may be forgotten], body horror; space racism, or spaceism; regular racism; certain writers who don't understand how female characters work; kidnapping; heterosexual nonsense; death; murder; blowing up planets; unsafe driving practices; technobabble; things that happen because plot; hilariously bad special effects; episodes that no longer exist; [this doesn't all happen at once, it varies greatly from episode to episode]

- **Forever**
  About: Medical examiner solves murders while trying to solve the problem of his own immortality.
  Aspects: Drama, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: Character in Coma, Domestic Violence, Gore, Gun Violence, Needles, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Ghost Stories** (English dub)
  About: Five kids investigate ghosts and other mysteries. The English dub is a precursor to the "abridged series" concept, only taking the vaguest form of the original (serious) plot and characters choosing instead to treat the whole thing as a giant joke.
Aspects: Cartoon, Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Horror, Mystery
Content Warnings: Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Lost in Space** (2018)
  About: A family and a bunch of other colonists leave a dying Earth for a new colony world and get Lost in Space!
  Aspects: Drama, Sci Fi
  Content Warnings: Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], claustrophobia

- **Person of Interest**
  About: "You are being watched. The government has a secret system, a machine that spies on you every hour of every day. I know because I built it. I designed the machine to detect acts of terror but it sees everything. Violent crimes involving ordinary people, people like you. Crimes the government considered "irrelevant." They wouldn't act, so I decided I would. But I needed a partner, someone with the skills to intervene. Hunted by the authorities, we work in secret. You'll never find us, but victim or perpetrator, if your number's up... we'll find you."
  tl;dr nerd built a supercomputer to find terrorists, also finds murder victims/perps so he recruits ex-CIA guy to prevent murders. Also eventually lesbians.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Live Action, Prelude to a cyberpunk story
  Content Warnings: Domestic Violence, Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, Needles, Self-Harm, Sexual Assault -- Implied/Referenced, Sexual Content, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blown out kneecaps (every episode), bad hacking (rarely), comic book physics, comic book snarky-ness, dramatic shift in tone later in run, every episode is different

- **Pokemon: Indigo League**
  About: Ash, Brock, and Misty have fun adventures and catch Pokemon.
  Aspects: Child-Focused, anime
  Content Warnings: Animal Cruelty, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Riverdale**
  About: Betty, Veronica, Archie, and Jughead investigate a murder while being The Best and The Worst all at once.
  Aspects: Drama, Live Action, Mystery
  Content Warnings: Gore, Gun Violence, Insects, Live-action vomit, Miscellaneous Violence, gang activity and lots of murder

- **Soul Eater**
  About: Death City is home to the famous Death Weapon Meister Academy, a technical academy headed by the Shinigami. Its mission: to raise "Death Scythes" for the Shinigami to wield against the many evils of their fantastical world. These Death Scythes, however, are not made from physical weapons; rather, they are born from human hybrids who have
the ability to transform their bodies into Demon Weapons, and only after they have consumed the souls of 99 evil beings and one witch’s soul. The show follows students of Shibusen as they take on missions to collect souls and protect the city from the world’s threats—such as the Kishin, a great demon of madness—while working together under the snickering sun to become sounder in mind, body, and soul.

Aspects: Fantasy, Horror, Mystery

Content Warnings: Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, people eating souls (who would ‘ave thought?), a mad scientist hired as a classroom teacher, a powerful cat that summons pumpkins, tough exams, one-eyed-willy-werewolfs, a giant mosquito man, insecure middle school students

- **Star vs. The Forces of Evil**

  About: Star Butterfly is a magical princess from another dimension, and she’s here on Earth as an exchange student while she learns to control her powers! She and her host/reluctant best friend Marco Diaz use those powers to explore the many dimensions adjacent to Earth and Star's homeworld of Mewni. And, as time goes on, they discover more about Mewni's dark history...

  Aspects: Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy

  Content Warnings: Character in Coma, Domestic Violence, Eye Trauma, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Anger issues, fire, brainwashing, colonialism and violence, laser-esque attacks and weapons, infant abduction, fantasy amputation, memory erasure, possession, the forces of evil, corrupt power structures

**VIDEO GAME**

- **9 Hours 9 Persons 9 Doors** (Nintendo DS Version)

  About: Saw but instead of death traps there are escape rooms, philosophical discussion, and meme-worthy dialogues.

  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Horror, Mystery, Sci Fi

  Content Warnings: Gore, Miscellaneous Violence, Needles, [Some warnings may be forgotten], some body horror (description of being exploded from the inside), knife violence, cheesy anime romance, lots of murder, math, tropes subverted for maximum effect, bizarrely good English translation, don’t play the remake because it ruins things, trust no one, thin timelines son ur the meme of the nation

- **Chef Boyardee’s Presents: Barkley Shut up and Jam: Gaiden: Chapter 1 of the Hoopz Barkley Saga**

  About: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION IS CANON. What if Space Jam, Shaq Fu, Barkley vs Godzilla, and all the other bizarre fictional stories about famous basketball players shared a universe? You get Charles Barkley, morally grey anti-hero, trying to protect his teenage son and survive being hunted down by cyborg Michael Jordan and the B-Ball removal squad for a crime he did not commit - leveling Manhattan with a super-powered
Slam Dunk. Surprisingly a really good JRPG with a unique gameplay system.  
*Aspects:* Cartoon, Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Mystery, Parody, Sci Fi  
*Content Warnings:* Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders, [Some warnings may be forgotten], excessive parody of gritty sci-fi, cheesy dialogue, half-machine human clones, a humanoid basketball (possibly body horror), the Space Jam theme song

- **Chrono Trigger**  
  *About:* Goku and friends travel through time to stop the alien-meteor apocalypse, creating the JRPG genre.  
  *Aspects:* Cartoon, Fantasy, Mystery, Sci Fi  
  *Content Warnings:* Industrial machinery injury, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Fantasy violence (magic/laser swords), no tutorial, corrupt courts, bad ye olde English accent, mass extinction event, hedonistic cultists, bad caveman speak, fantastic racism, heroic sacrifice, villain willingly mindraped by superpowered alien, time is warped and space is bendable, player-constructed third act, too many endings for a sane person to get

- **The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening DX**  
  *About:* A simplistic 2D adventure game that somehow has a deeper plot about the nature of consciousness than its big-budget 3D counterparts. It's Zelda, you know what you're getting gameplay-wise. Also, probably the best Game Boy game, even better in color.  
  *Aspects:* Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy, Mystery  
  *Content Warnings:* Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders, Giant monsters of all sorts (rendered in Game Boy graphics, so not anything horrifying), inconvenient warp point locations, Mario enemies in a Zelda game, a central character's emotional breakdown over the realization they aren't real, annoying power-up music

- **Star Wars: Republic Commando**  
  *About:* A plot-light and extremely enjoyable first person shooter set in the Star Wars universe during the clone wars. The squad banter is fun to listen to and the combat is excellent.  
  *Aspects:* Fantasy, Sci Fi  
  *Content Warnings:* Gore, Gun Violence, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **You Are A Kitten in a Catnip Forest** (Web browser game)  
  *About:* As a kitten in a catnip forest, your quest is to build a civilization of such power that you can rip open time and space, bending the laws of physics to your will. But first you need to build houses for your kitten friends, and grow enough catnip that you all survive the winter...  
  *Aspects:* Fantasy, Incremental  
  *Content Warnings:* Animal Cruelty, Spiders
Clockwork Angels (Concept Album)
About: A young man goes to a steampunk city to seek his fortune, and finds lots of philosophy. As it turns out, being alive is really hard! Like, really really hard! But it's okay. Did I mention the steampunk?
Aspects: Fantasy
Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Clowns

EverymanHYBRID (Youtube ARG)
About: Welcome to EverymanHYBRID, your go-to guide for health on a budget! Tag along with Vinny, Jeff and Evan as they give you the tips you need to eat healthier, stay fit, and maintain a...wait. What is going on?! Is...that a tall, faceless Eldritch monster in the background...and the vengeful spirit of a dead rabbit? Something tells me this isn't a fitness channel anymore. Will there be death? YES. Chaos? Yes. A villain who fits the very definition of "silly evil?" Also Yes. Don't let his cats outside. Introduce yourself to the wonder that is the Slenderverse. Seriously. It's my life.
Aspects: Horror, Mystery, Also Found Footage
Content Warnings: Animal Cruelty, Gore, Miscellaneous Violence

TwelveTribe (Youtube ARG)
About: Noah is investigating the sudden suicide of his cousin Milo Asher, who seemed to have been caught up in rather mysterious and dark circumstances before his death. As Noah delves deeper into his cousin's past, he unwittingly finds himself caught up in the same situation. An otherworldly eldritch monstrosity is watching his every move. A jerk with glasses, who refers to himself as the Observer, is stalking and taunting him relentlessly-who also isn't human. Someone, or something, is leaving passive-aggressive fortunes everywhere. A complicated mystery emerges, one that involves a powerful journal, a boardwalk and alternate dimensions. Will Noah emerge from this mess unscathed. Definitely not.
Aspects: Horror, Mystery
Content Warnings: Animal Cruelty, Gore, Gun Violence, Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders