

Katy Perry's left shark becomes social media sensation

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

What was meant to be a entertaining halftime show at the recently concluded Super Bowl is now a viral trend on social media and the Internet. Katy Perry and her animated dance team performed for one of her songs "Teenage Dream" and the spotlight was stolen by her dancing sharks, purely because of their uncoordinated dance moves. Meet left shark. Left shark danced alongside Katy Perry during the halftime show and gathered much attention for his supposedly messed up choreography and generally adorable awkwardness; a boisterously out- of-sync figure who will go down in history as The Left Shark, who became an instant viral hit after his moves seemed less on-point and

more confused than those of the right shark's, who was nailing the moves perfectly. Some called the left shark drunk and high, while others just thought he didn't know the moves. He left us amused and guessing as to who he was and why he danced the way he did, spicing things up with his aquatic enigmatism. The number of memes and twitter posts on our aquatic dance hero is mind-boggling. Tweets range from "#Leftshark for president!" to "Today, look yourself in the mirror and ask yourself, Am I #LeftShark or #RightShark?" Snoop Dog did some humorous credit taking with his post saying "If you were wondering that was me in tha Shark costume!" It's almost as if everyone is using the left shark to promote their version of surreal humor. Sarcasm and picking on one's favorite victim is so easy with our new found dancing friend. My personal favorite is the meme on Jaws, where

the shark is pictured awkwardly wondering what to do below a carefree swimmer in the sea. Social media has this innate habit sharpened over the past few years almost to the point of predictability that a televised public spectacle with anything crowd catchy would end up in a viral online meme and the "leftshark" meme is the recent example for this. If all this attention the media and the pop-culture savvy crowd pitched in wasn't enough, the left shark was spotted suing an online tradesman on copyright infringement charges. Enter Fernando Sosa: an online 3-D figurine seller. He has sold many political printable models online and decided to use the left shark's media image to make a quick buck. Unfortunately for him, his twenty five dollar figurine was forced to be taken down as Katy Perry's lawyers sent him a letter asking him to bring down his merchandise, calling

it her Intellectual property. Sosa commented on this, saying he'll bring the shark figurine down and go back to making models of world leaders as they are much easier to deal with. The shopping website is said to have canceled orders and refunded customers. Katy Perry is in the media for this reason, whether she likes or not. There are people calling her a money-oriented artist, and whilst she does reserve the right to legally claim what is hers, was the act really necessary? Well let's leave that question open ended. It's hard to argue whether the sharks were choreographed to dance in such attention gathering asymmetry or if the left one just decided to be goofy and have some fun on the stage. Either way, we know what this year's favorite Halloween costume is going to be.

Movie Review: "The Imitation Game"

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

The most obvious thing about "The Imitation Game" is the heavily studded cast ranging from Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley to Matthew Goode, which created much anticipation. The plot is based on the true story of British cryptanalyst Alan Turing, who was behind the success of the Second World War, playing a pivotal role in breaking the "Enigma Code". It shows his personal struggle and the film is a great portrayal of how his ingenious mind meets real world issues and how he endures pain and success in the age of the Nazi. The direction is absolutely brilliant; I wouldn't be surprised if the director, Morten Tyldum, wins a Golden Globe this year. The movie is single-handedly spearheaded by Cumberbatch's acting and although the other actors perform extremely well, adhering to and completing each other and the script, they are completely over-shadowed by Cumberbatch's method acting.

A lot of emphasis is placed on the decryption of German military messages by the British troops and how a lot of World War II was actually fought in rooms and around tables. In fact, the movie portrays that the more critical aspect of World War II was the non-physical aspect of it; the strategic part of it. I understand why these untold stories take so long to reach us, given how the world evolves and becomes more open about societal principles, but I am so glad they finally do.

As for flaws, there are only two. The first is that in the first half of the movie, they sometimes flashed forward for no reason and that brought down the dramatic feel of it. Secondly, the movie is very biased to the cast. It seems like the cast was given more importance than the script, which is not necessarily a bad thing, especially given the quality of Cumberbatch's acting, but it gives room for mixed re-

views and a door for critics to walk through.

Alan Turing isn't the most likable man in character, although he is extremely sharp and smart. It is very difficult to understand what he goes through for a number of reasons, which are revealed as the movie progresses. More importantly, it is Cumberbatch's warmth, charm and the script, along with brilliant direction that pushes this character unto us as a person we want to befriend. Halfway through the movie, you feel his pain and sorrow and you root for him with so much sincerity that you cannot stop appreciating the amazing Norwegian director who brought this together. The movie is about hiding who you are and the difficulties that come with that and so the title is perfect. Now this really touched home for me.

The movie is not just a spy-espionage thriller that unfolds so intricately and keeps you riveted to the edge of your seats; it speaks of another issue which is disturbing and unheard of for us millennials. Alan Turing is not just an Oxford graduate who went on to be the single biggest reason for the English winning the war against the Germans, but he is also a homosexual and here is the unfortunate part: he lived in a time when being homosexual was illegal. I mean, you could be condemned for life or be chemically castrated for being a homosexual, if discovered. How does Alan Turing endure this? What happens to his future? How does his emotional life pan out? Is he arrested or even credited for this contribution? All of these questions are answered so well in the screenplay that follows. I don't think anyone else could portray the disturbed mind of a genius homosexual living in the early-mid 1900s like Cumberbatch did. The increase in the LGBT genre of movies is very hopeful for a society that is evolving every day. I hope this review excites you to watch the movie if you haven't already.

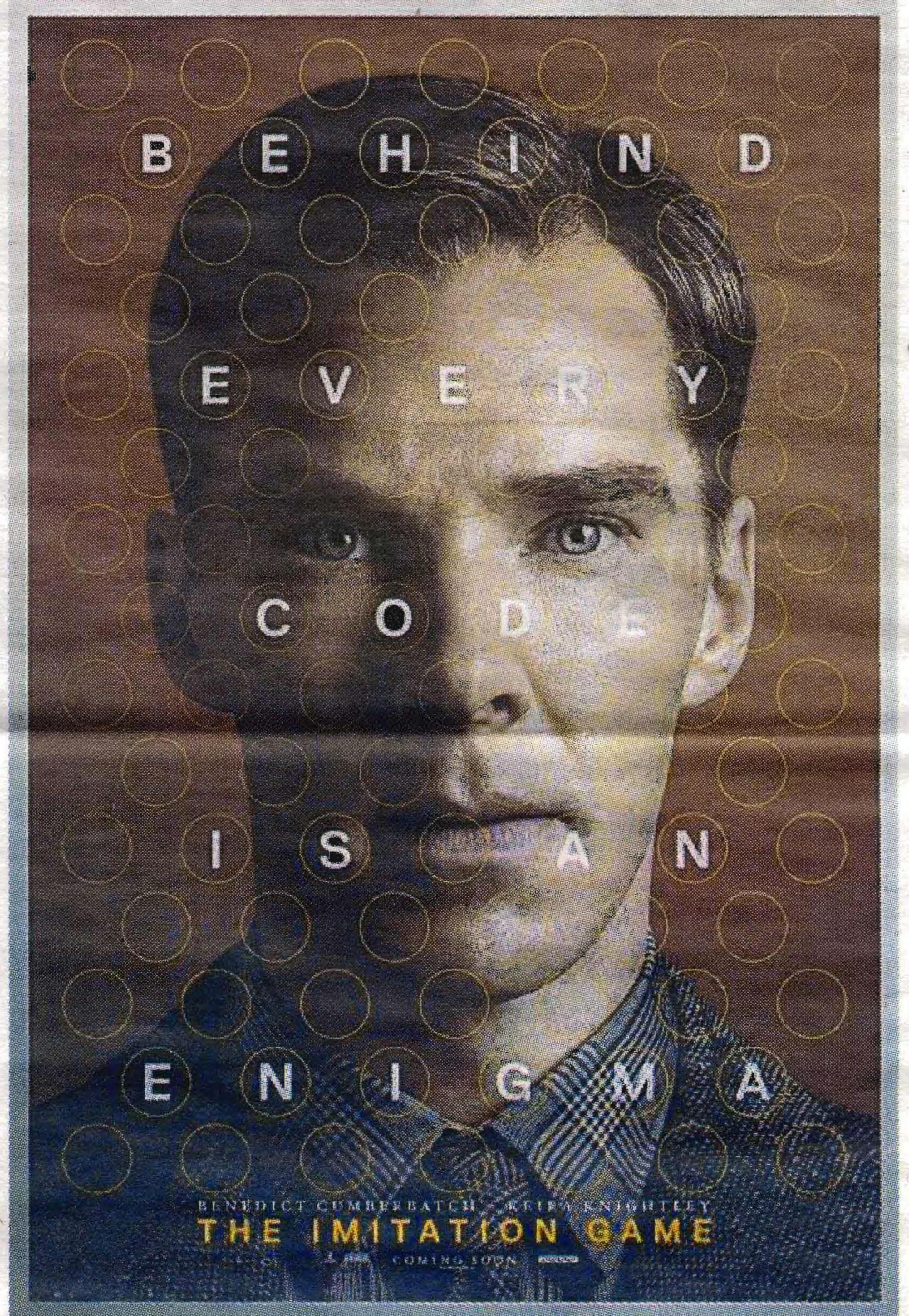


Image courtesy of imdb.com

Cermak Green Line Stop Opens

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students on IIT's Main Campus are well acquainted with Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Green Line, a train line that is a part of the CTA's elevated train system. After several weekends of service interruptions to allow completion of the station, on Sunday, February 8, a new station on the Green Line opened just over a mile north of campus at the intersection of State Street and Cermak Road. This new station lies between the 35th-Bronzeville-IIT stop and the Roosevelt stop on the Green Line.

The new station, named Cermak-McCormick Place, was initially scheduled to open in late 2014, but construction crews faced difficulties over the last two harsh winters, which impeded them from finishing the project on time. The project was a \$50 endeavor undertaken by the CTA that broke ground in August 2013.

The Chicago Transit Authority estimates 2,200 daily boardings at the station, which will make Cermak-McCormick Place the second-busiest station on the south branch of the Green Line, just behind our very own 35th-Bronzeville-IIT.

According to the Chicago Transit Authority, the station is accessible to customers with disabilities and includes many features, including three entrances, each of which have farecard vending machines, a covered platform featuring heating and benches, and several bike racks. The new station provides convenient access to McCormick Place, Motor Row, and several other Near South Side destinations. Four CTA bus routes also serve the new station: No. 1 Bronzeville/Union Station, No. 4 Cottage Grove, No. 21 Cermak, and No. 29 State. It is also located two blocks east of the Cermack-Chinatown Red Line station.



Image courtesy of Chicago Transit Authority