

Podcast Host: Matt Corpuz

Interviewees: Prof. Amanda Crawford, Gabi Nartowicz

<p>Inside Edition newsreel audio + music</p> <p>0:00-0:04</p> <p><i>I believe that my use of newsreels snippets in this clip and others are under “fair use” because it’s setting up a criticism and discussion of the recent news about the Menendez Brothers and how the media has contributed to this recent news.</i></p>	<p>“It has been 28 years since Lyle and Erik Menendez were in court.”</p>
<p>Fox News newsreel audio + music</p> <p>0:04-0:10</p> <p><i>I believe that my use of newsreels snippets in this clip and others are under “fair use” because it’s setting up a criticism and discussion of the recent news about the Menendez Brothers and how the media has contributed to this recent news.</i></p>	<p>“The Menendez Brothers won’t know until next year whether they’ll be eligible to walk free.”</p>
<p>13WMAZ newsreel audio + music</p> <p>0:10-0:13</p> <p><i>I believe that my use of newsreels snippets in this clip and others are under “fair use” because it’s setting up a criticism and discussion of the recent news about the Menendez Brothers and how the media has contributed to this recent news.</i></p>	<p>“The Menendez Brothers who killed their parents in 1989.”</p> <p><i>*cut tape and music*</i></p>
<p>Corpuz Narration</p> <p>0:14-0:42</p>	<p><i>*slowly cue music in after I start speaking*</i></p> <p>The Menendez Brothers. Erik and Lyle. Two brothers who killed their parents on an August night in 1989. Children to RCA Records executive Jose Menendez and his wife Kitty, multiple shotgun blasts were heard. It wasn’t until a year after the killings where Erik confessed to his therapists, the horrific murders that took place in 1989.</p> <p>Flash forward after almost three decades of being sentenced to life in prison without any possibility of parole.</p>

	<p>*cut to back to Fox News reel audio*</p> <p>There's a possibility that they may walk free? What could have caused this sudden shift in a case that took place in the early 90s?</p>
<p>Corpuz Narration + music</p> <p>0:43-1:19</p>	<p>The media.</p> <p>In a day and age where the media has shifted society, things from the past have reemerged. The case of the Menendez brothers happens to fall under the umbrella.</p> <p>But, how has the media impacted old criminal cases being resurfaced?</p> <p>Today's episode of "Corpuz's Corner" will delve into the timeline of the Menendez brothers case. Discussion about specific types of media will also contribute heavily to answering this burning question that has been on my mind for the longest time.</p> <p>Quick disclaimer for anyone who may be listening: there may be sound bites that could be disturbing to listeners.</p> <p>I'm your host Matt Corpuz, and you're listening to "Corpuz's Corner."</p>
<p>Corpuz Narration + music</p> <p>1:20-2:50</p>	<p>You may be asking yourself: "Why the interest in the case about the Menendez brothers?"</p> <p>Let me rephrase that: "Matt, why is there a curiosity about two brothers that KILLED their parents?"</p> <p>Thank a certain streaming service for that.</p> <p>On September 19th of this year, Netflix released season 2 of their <i>Monsters</i> series. With season 1 focusing on Jeffrey Dahmer, Ryan Murphy took this story to the west coast, home of the Menendez brothers.</p> <p>As a reenactment of the events that</p>

	<p>involved Lyle and Erik, I had heard buzz about this show. Not just from my roommate, but everyone.</p> <p>Remember how earlier I mentioned how “media has shifted society?” It really has.</p> <p>Scrolling on TikTok one day, I got a video about the <i>Monsters</i> show that dove into Erik and Lyle’s story. I didn’t think much of it so I scrolled.</p> <p>A day later I scroll again and I am suddenly flooded with videos ranging from clips of the show to edits about the actors who portrayed Erik and Lyle Menendez.</p> <p>I couldn’t escape it. Everywhere I turned, Ryan Murphy’s depiction of what happened between the two brothers was all over my social media.</p> <p>So I caved. One weekend my girlfriend had come up to visit me here at school. With nothing really planned, I asked her if she’d be willing to watch <i>Monsters</i>. After confirmation, we watched all 10 episodes within the weekend.</p> <p>As someone who knew virtually nothing about the case, my girlfriend suddenly had so many questions. She later told me that she did more research about the case and its components.</p> <p>As for myself, I learned more about the case that I didn’t know. But, there was this question that came to mind.</p> <p><i>How have different types of media impacted old criminal cases being brought back into the spotlight?</i></p>
<p>Corpuz Narration + music</p> <p>2:51-3:19</p>	<p>Curious for answers, I went down the rabbit hole, trying to understand the case and what went down based on Ryan Murphy’s series. From Reddit forums to rewatching parts of the show and lining it up with what actually happened, I was all over the place.</p>

	<p>What I really should've been doing is finding someone who understood not just the law, but media since that question kept lingering in my head:</p> <p><i>How have different types of media impacted old criminal cases being brought back into the spotlight? *add lightbulb or "dinging" sound*</i></p> <p>Oh wait, I know someone who understands both "media" and "law."</p>
<p>Interviewee: Prof. Amanda Crawford</p> <p>3:20-3:25</p>	<p>"I'm Amanda Crawford. I'm an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut...I've been here since the fall of 2018."</p> <p><i>*spliced together"</i></p>
<p>Corpuz Narration + music</p> <p>3:26-3:39</p>	<p>Professor Crawford here at UConn teaches my media law class.</p> <p>Why use Reddit forums to understand the media impact on old criminal cases when there is someone accessible to help me understand that.</p> <p>So, that's what I did.</p>
<p>Corpuz Interview with Prof. Crawford</p> <p>3:40-4:17</p>	<p>Matt: "What impact can the media have toward old criminal cases?"</p> <p>Prof. Crawford: "I think they could have a huge impact. we've seen a lot of cases where journalists take up cold cases..."</p> <p>We've seen similar things with Innocence Projects where journalists have investigated old crimes and found that someone was convicted under false pretenses...with poor evidence, with issues in the prosecution or in the police misconduct.</p> <p>When journalists kind of dig in and expose those problems, they can have a big influence in having the judicial system reopen cases or for furthering an appeal,</p>

	<p>those kind of things.”</p> <p><i>*Crawford's soundbites are spliced/mixed*</i></p>
<p>Corpuz Narration</p> <p>4:18-4:21</p>	<p>Wanting to understand more of how the media can play into criminal cases, I dug even deeper.</p>
<p>Corpuz Interview with Prof. Crawford</p> <p>4:22-5:13</p>	<p>Matt: “Do you think that reconsideration of a prior sentence in a criminal case can happen because of media coverage?”</p> <p>Prof. Crawford: “Absolutely. And I think, you know, the Innocence Project has been extremely important...”</p> <p>These are where journalists pair with legal investigators to really prove that someone was convicted wrongly, as they are innocent. And we've seen lots of people get out of prison, because they were innocent, that they shouldn't have been convicted in the first place.</p> <p>A lot of times in criminal appeals, you know, there's only certain things that people can appeal under and sometimes court or prosecutors aren't open to reconsidering old cases. So the media pressure to do so, can have a big impact. It can also cause politicians to reconsider a case or offer clemency as well.”</p> <p><i>*Crawford's soundbites are spliced/mixed*</i></p> <p>Have music drag and then have it fade into next part of podcast</p>
<p>Corpuz Interview with Prof. Crawford</p> <p>5:14-6:58</p>	<p>Matt: “I'm just curious, how much does social media factor into old criminal cases being brought back into the public eye? With this case specifically, there's a young generation, my generation specifically, where the Menendez brothers are just on TikTok or just Instagram. You just see a lot of talk about the Menendez brothers, and it's not even news organizations that are posting these TikToks, like the Daily Mail</p>

	<p>or the AP. But it's people that have took the time to read the case, understand the facts, and just kind of come to conclusion. So...How much of a factor does social media play into these cases being brought back?"</p> <p>Prof. Crawford: "Think of social media as being the modern place where we talk about things..."</p> <p>So when a case like this comes to the forefront and there's a lot of interest in true crime, social media and podcasts...</p> <p>It's not always good for victims. It's not always good for law enforcement, for the justice system. Sometimes it's bad, and sometimes it's with bad intention.</p> <p>Sometimes social media and, you know, folks doing a YouTube video or a TikTok video are actually doing investigation that is worthy, every bit as worthy as the investigation done by journalist or by lawyers into someone's innocence.</p> <p>I think that the problem is we just don't know what we're getting a lot of times with that. And often you have people pretending like they know more than they do.</p> <p>So I think its value is just like it is in all things in society. If it's, you know, well researched and it's truthful, it could have the same kind of impact that like a media article or a documentary, you know, it can in getting the justice system to reconsider a case."</p> <p><i>*Corpuz + Crawford's soundbites are spliced/mixed*</i></p>
Corpuz narration + music	But, how does this contribute to a

6:59-7:03	resurgence and interest in the case of two brothers who killed their parents?
Interviewee: Prof. Amanda Crawford 7:04-7:28	<p>“I do think that...the modern, focus on true crime is where this is all coming from.</p> <p>What I think we saw there is that a new generation is not familiar with this case...It has some resonance, you know, to some. There was young people accused of a crime who claimed to have been abused. And that resonates with, you know, a lot of the things we're talking about in society today. There is a concern that people have been convicted of crimes wrongly in years past and that we need to reopen those kind of cases.”</p> <p><i>*Crawford's soundbites are spliced/mixed*</i></p>
Corpuz narration + music 7:29-7:36	<p>With high watch value, I wanted to hear more about why a reenactment of events involving killers sparked so much interest.</p> <p>So, I talked to a fan of the show.</p>
Interviewee: Gabi Nartowicz 7:37-7:45	<p>“My name is Gabi Nartowicz. I am a student at Quinnipiac University. I am a marketing major and a film minor.”</p>
Corpuz narration 7:46-7:54	<p>After hearing from an expert, I needed to seek someone who had watched the show and enjoyed it. That's where I met Gabi, who happened to be a hometown friend of my roommate.</p>
Interviewee: Gabi Nartowicz 7:55-8:25	<p>“I feel like I enjoyed just like, entertainment wise, because I feel like Ryan Murphy is good at directing and like, adding a lot of drama and there were so many elements of, American Horror Story in the series, which I am a fan of American Horror Story.”</p> <p>“I can see why... I guess...the family members or even the Menendez brothers themselves wouldn't like the series because it was very</p>

	exaggerated and over the top and watching, the more, I guess, professional,...real..., documentary afterwards.”
Corpuz narration 8:26-8:34	<p>There is an entertainment aspect to this as Gabi has mentioned. But how does abuse come into play like Professor Crawford mentioned?</p> <p>Gabi shared some thoughts of her own on this.</p>
Interviewee: Gabi Nartowicz 8:35-8:49	“it was uncomfortable to watch...Ryan Murphy...I guess sexualize both of them in like an incestual kind of way...I feel like that kind of shines a negative light on...male sexual abuse victims.”
Corpuz narration + music 8:50-9:03	<p>It can be argued that Ryan Murphy’s interpretation of the Menendez brothers doesn’t have everything down to a tee.</p> <p>Netflix releasing a documentary that included phone calls of both Lyle and Erik from prison do more to uphold the validity of the case and its events.</p>
Corpuz Interview with Gabi 9:04-10:24	<p>Matt: “Do you think that if you watched the documentary before the series, that it would have affected your perception about the case and stuff? Or do you think that order particularly doesn't matter in contexts where you're viewing certain media on the same topic?”</p> <p>Gabi: “I totally think that order matters. I watched the series first and I went into it knowing virtually nothing...</p> <p>I am a fan of true crime. But that was the one case that I just never heard anything about. The series definitely portrayed them as... spoiled rich kids and, like, took more of the perspective of you know the public at the time when the crimes happened, where I feel like the documentary portrayed them more as victims.</p> <p>I feel like it gave more of a modern perspective where people are more sympathetic with them</p>

	<p>now and don't believe that they deserve to be in jail for the rest of their lives. And a lot of people don't think the trial was fair. So I feel like depending on which one you watch first, I feel like it kind of sways your view because, either or you agree that, you know, they are just spoiled rich kids that did it for the money and they're horrible psychopaths, or you sympathize that they're victims and they don't belong in jail.</p>
<p>Corpuz Interview with Gabi</p> <p>10:25-11:20</p>	<p>Matt: "I'm curious, do you think that mainstream media and even social media play a factor into cases being kind of dug out of the grave, being shoved into the public eye?"</p> <p>Gabi: "I totally think that social media has helped them a lot. It kind of brought a whole new light to their case because I feel like it wasn't really talked about for decades, until I think even they mentioned it in the documentary. People on TikTok started researching their case and kind of, like, sort of talking about how it wasn't fair and kind. Or rooting for them to get a retrial and stuff. And I feel like that's what inspired the new wave for them. I feel like the people on social media campaigning for them definitely inspired the documentary, the series, just, in general bringing more attention to it."</p>
<p>Corpuz narration + music</p> <p>11:21-12:32</p>	<p>The media does in fact leave an impact on certain things being brought back like we've just learned. Through my interviews, I found it fascinating how social media and a new wave of people have found an interest in the case of the Menendez brothers. So much so that research of the case is being done and conveyed to people on social media.</p> <p>With no confirmation just yet of the two brothers being set free, it only has you thinking more about how the media may have played a direct (or indirect factor) to a potentially new life for the brothers outside of the shackles they have been put in for decades.</p> <p>Not just for this case, but anything that requires</p>

	<p>research, it's important to understand how looking into something and getting it right can spark potential change. Just some food for thought.</p> <p>Media and the power it holds carries a great weight in our society. It just goes to show that they're always going to be people that are curious and dig into stuff from the past. Whether that be how two brothers may see freedom or something later down the road, the media is a driving force of society.</p> <p>However you may feel about this case and any other criminal case, it all comes down to media, media, media. None of what has happened recently would have taken place without the media and its many services.</p> <p>I'm your host Matt Corpuz, and you have just listened to "Corpuz's Corner." Thank you for tuning in and have a great day!</p>
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Research:

- <https://www.biography.com/crime/menendez-brothers-murder-case-facts>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/06/us/menendez-brothers-timeline/index.html>
- <https://www.tvguide.com/news/monster-season-2-release-date-subject-cast-and-everything-to-know/>

Archived sound/music:

- <https://freemusicarchive.org/home>
- <https://freesound.org/>
- [\(YouTube\) Relatives of Menendez Bros Ask Judge to Free Them From Prison](#)
 - 0:00-0:04
- [\(YouTube\) Menendez brothers going free not inevitable, LA County deputy DA says](#)
 - 0:00-0:06
- [\(YouTube\) Menendez Brothers' resentencing hearing ends in cliff hanger | What to know](#)
 - 0:04-0:07