VOLUME 1 | MARCH 2025

Growing up with Barbie

THISUSERLOVESBARBIE











Reliving Childhood with Barbie

They say that the first 10 years of a girl's life is spent playing with Barbie while the next years are spent trying to look like one

"LIFE IS LONG. FILL IT UP."
-BARBIE ROBERTS

Learn about how Barbie impacted the lives of these Barbie fans



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FROM *THE* CREATOR

Barbie played a huge role in most girls' childhood for decades, including mine. To celebrate Barbie's 66th anniversary, I made this special digital magazine. This is a thank you to Barbie for being a part of who I am today and to all the supporters of my account of being a part of my life.



Handling a Barbie fan account for almost 5 years is a rollercoaster. I appreciate all the love and support. You inspire me to keep going. Big thanks to the contributors, this zine isn't complete without you. I would also like to express my gratitude to the friends I made through this account, to everyone who has been with me since I started my journey, and all of you who are with me now, this wouldn't happen without you. And to you reading this, you're one flip away from the real deal. I hope you take time to read the contents from me and the contributors. There is so much to read and to ponder.



As what Barbie Brooklyn says, YAL; You Are Loved. Enjoy!

cee

a.k.a. thisuserlovesbarbie

BARBIE DREAMHOUSE ADVENTURES UNIVERSE

A Guide To
Barbie Dreamhouse
Adventures Universe



Many will think they know what to expect when talking about Barbie: pink, perfect, and always positive. However, the Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures Universe is different as it explores a much more intimate side of Barbie's life as she shares her thoughts featuring negative feelings and issues.

The Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures Universe currently consists of Barbie's YouTube Vlogs, Barbie Dolphin Magic, Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures, Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures: Go Team Roberts, Barbie Princess Adventure, Barbie & Chelsea: The Lost Birthday, Barbie: Big City, Big Dreams, Barbie: It Takes Two, Barbie: Mermaid Power, Barbie Life in the City, Barbie: Epic Road Trip, Barbie: Skipper and the Big Babysitting Adventure, Barbie & Barbie: On Set, Barbie: A Touch of Magic, and Barbie & Stacie to the Rescue.



Let's begin with the vlogs. Barbie Vlogs began on the Barbie YouTube channel in 2015 featuring a CGI animated Barbie talking to the camera doing challenges, Q&As, DIYs and tutorials, featuring friends as guest stars, and so on. Unlike the classic Barbie films where Barbie stars as a different role (hence the phrases like "Barbie as" or "Barbie in the" with bloopers on some), here, Barbie's life is her content. She talks about what she likes and goals, and important relevant issues such as racism, offensive jokes, self-expression, and empowerment.



Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures is an CGI-animated series by Mainframe Studios premiered on YTV in Canada on 22 June 2018. It gained popularity when it debuted on Netflix US on May 3, 2018. The series centered on Barbie's adventures with her family, friends and pets. The series was created in response to wanting to know more about the iconic character, her sisters and her entire family and friends after the previous Barbie series which is Barbie Life in the Dreamhouse.

However, there are many differences in Life in the Dreamhouse and Dreamhouse Adventures. Aside from new characters and old characters that didn't make it to the new series, in Dreamhouse Adventures, Barbie and Ken are not in a romantic relationship. Another thing that many didn't see coming, Barbie's parents are also introduced. The main difference is that in this universe, all characters are depicted as human and not as dolls compared to the Life in the Dreamhouse.

Animation World Network posted news about the series on October 12, 2016 after Mattel Creations announced Barbie Dolphin Magic, Barbie Dreamtopia: The Series, and Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures saying, "Barbie: Dreamhouse Adventures is another brand new Barbie series developed for an older audience of 5 to 11 year olds, with a realistic and modern CGI look and answering requests from fans to learn more about Barbie and her family ... as they take the viewer along for their wild adventures that will have every girl believing that anything is possible."

The series was originally created to complement the Barbie Dreamtopia web-based franchise. Barbie Dreamtopia: The Series is an animated show on YouTube following the huge success of Barbie Dreamtopia, a 44 minute special that was released on June 26, 2016.

Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures is preceded by the 2017 film, Barbie Dolphin Magic. Its 4th and 5th seasons were referred to as Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures: Go Team Roberts! After completion of the series, it got adapted into 8 films (Barbie Princess Adventure, Barbie & Chelsea: The Lost Birthday, Barbie: Big City, Big Dreams, Barbie: Mermaid Power, Barbie: Epic Road Trip, Barbie: Skipper and the Big Babysitting Adventure, Barbie & Stacie to the Rescue, and Barbie and Teresa: Recipe for Friendship), 3 series (Barbie: It Takes Two, Barbie: A Touch of Magic, and Barbie Mysteries: The Great Horse Chase) and 2 vlog series on YouTube (Barbie Life in the City, and Barbie & Barbie: On Set).



Alongside these films and series, Barbie vlogs continue to exist. However, the content and look of Barbie vlogs started to change from the animation style (now being consistent with the style of Dreamhouse Adventures) to replacing the characters that were once introduced in the earlier vlogs (such as Harper and Ryan) to the characters present in the Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures Universe.

Ever since Barbie Princess Adventure, it became common to have a vlog that comes out after each movie, serving as a

follow-up. For that movie, there is a vlog of Barbie and Amelia that came out on September 11, 2020 titled "FUN GAME VLOG WITH QUEEN AMELIA." For Barbie And Chelsea: The Lost Birthday, there is a vlog on April 23, 2021 titled "My CHELSEA SHOW Interview." For Barbie: Big City, Big Dreams, there is a vlog on September 10, 2021 where the two Barbies made a dance tutorial of choreographies shown in the movie. They have been doing vlogs together after that.

The individual vlogs started to be irregular when they released their first vlog series called "Barbie Life In The City" featuring their New York City adventures. The first episode was released on September 15, 2022, a few months after "Barbie: It Takes Two," the second series in the Dreamhouse Adventures Universe. In between the release of the vlog series episodes, "Barbie: Epic Road Trip," the first ever interactive Barbie movie was released.

"Barbie & Barbie: On Set," their second vlog series, premiered August 4, 2023 showcasing their fun adventures as production assistants on the set of a reality TV show.

"Barbie: A Touch of Magic" is the latest addition to the Dreamhouse Adventures Universe which is also the third series in this universe. Its newest season was released on April 18, 2024 on Netflix.

In conclusion, the Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures Universe has revolutionized the portrayal of Barbie, offering a more modern and relatable perspective on her life. The Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures Universe continues to expand. This ever-growing world reminds us that Barbie is more than just pink and perfect. It's a place where friendships blossom, dreams take flight, and anything is possible – all while being yourself. So, next time you think of Barbie, remember the relatable, multifaceted character in the Dreamhouse Adventures Universe. This Barbie is a friend, a sister, a role model, and most importantly, someone who shows that it's okay to be yourself, with all your flaws and aspirations. Just as Barbie always says at the end of her vlog, "positive attitude changes everything." In short, PACE!





Bring Back Barbie Summer



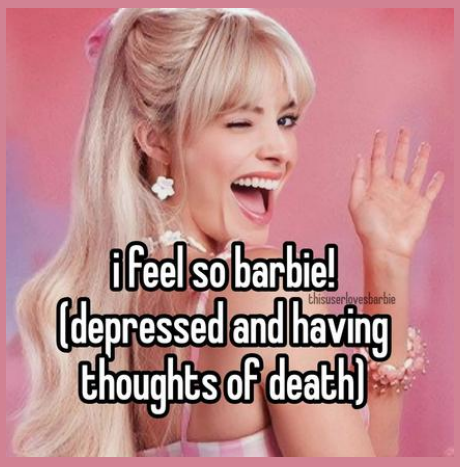


"Barbie (2023)" is amazing. Of course, I would be biased because I am a barbie fan and I've waited for this movie for a long time! but really, it's the movie of the year.

I'm honestly expecting myself to be surprised or feel goosebumps but I just feel comfortable and a feeling of familiarity in this movie. i realized that if you're a barbie fan and you know a lot about barbie, you would recognize every small detail. It is exactly how children play with dolls. it is exactly what's in their minds and imagination while playing. The set and props are immaculate! I admire the part where Barbie is drinking without actually a drink in her cup. They really did pay attention to every little detail and facts about Barbie, especially the dolls, even the discontinued ones! I heard people in the cinema talking about how "that doll actually exists?!" and not bragging but I know about it. I just realized I really know a lot more about Barbie than an average person's knowledge of barbie. there's just so many inside jokes that mostly a Barbie fan would understand. Also, a little reference to Duolingo! As also a Duolingo fan, I recognized it immediately.

I thought the movie would be a usual Barbie movie about romance and achieving dreams, well, it kinda is, but it's more than that. It's about women empowerment and equality! It really is hard to be a human woman. I love how it breaks the stereotypical ideas of Barbie and talks about things that matter and what's happening in the reality that is often not talked about (because it's taboo or people are just used to injustice) not about everything being positive and lovey-dovey and glittery stuff. I also like how it talks about misconceptions about Barbie and what Barbie is made for. it also talks about embracing negative emotions; that it's okay to feel sad and cry, about how change is a part of our lives and it's fine to be scared of the future, about how it's fine to not be perfect all the time and be your usual self, that it's fine not knowing what to do next and still figuring everything out. It also features a mother and daughter relationship. I like movies about mothers and daughters.I also like how it's not a romantic movie. there's not even a kissing scene, thank goodness! The depiction of Barbie and Ken in this movie shows them as a person and not as a couple, that they don't exist for one another.

The building of the story line is good. The plot is fine. Every scene leads to the build up of the story—though I think there are some scenes that are only for laughs. The casting is perfect. We all know this ever since they release the casts. It's star-studded. The acting is superb. It is funny and entertaining. The humor is the chef's kiss. I like the adult jokes, especially in the end. oh gosh, the ending! I love how I understand the ending in 2 seconds. It's really amazing. I could go one ten paragraphs talking about this movie but I'll just squish it into one page. I definitely recommend it. I mean, what are you doing if you still haven't watched it? Don't waste your time on anything else, go watch Barbie.



How Barbie saved my life

A THANK YOU LETTER BY STACY BÚ (CAMILLE ROBERTS)

I know it sounds exaggerated, but Barbie really did save my life. I grew up watching Barbie my entire life. Like any little girl, I loved the magic, the big, puffy dresses, and all the pink and sparkle she represented. It was the complete opposite of my life. I didn't have a bad childhood, but my preteen and teenage years were very different—far from the magical experiences of my childhood or the Barbie movies I loved so much.

I always felt different from everyone else, even though I managed to fit in to some extent. I often thought I was a burden to others. At first, everything seemed normal: people would talk to me and connect with me. But once I started trusting them and showing who I really was, it felt like everything I did or said was "too much." I'd get overly excited or emotional about the smallest things, and that seemed to push people away. That feeling led me to isolate myself for a long time. I became insecure—not just emotionally, but physically as well.



Barbie "Feeling Blue? You're not alone." Vlog on YouTube

Of course, many things contributed to how I felt, but I don't want to go into detail. What matters is that I often thought about leaving this world. I didn't feel capable of fitting in or finding people who truly understood me. I could pretend to be "normal" for a few days, but I didn't want to live a life behind a mask.

One afternoon in 2018, I decided it would be my last day. I didn't want to keep trying. By then, I had left Barbie behind; I thought I was "too old" for that. But as I was flipping through TV channels, I landed on Discovery Kids. At that exact moment, Barbie's vlog "Feeling Blue" was on.

I loved every second of that vlog. For the first time, I felt like it was okay to feel sad, that I wasn't alone. I realized there were other people out there who might feel the same way I did. I didn't have to label or box myself in. Yes, maybe I am "too much," but that also makes me unique. And if others don't like it, so what? Eventually, I would find people who loved me for who I am—people like me.

That vlog made me think deeply about my life and the world around me, especially with that signature phrase from Barbie: "P.A.C.E." From that moment on, I decided to keep going. It wasn't easy, of course—I went through many difficult moments. But watching those vlogs, along with the series and movies, made me feel less alone. They helped me see life from a new perspective. If there wasn't anything positive, I would create it. But I wouldn't let myself fall.

Watching Malibu go through situations similar to mine inspired me not to give up, to accept myself completely. Since then, I didn't just go back to loving Barbie—I also started loving myself. I began to see myself differently, to look at the world with new eyes. I turned my gray surroundings into a pink world where I no longer think about the "last days," but about endless possibilities and all the things I can achieve. Thanks to Barbie, I learned to believe that anything is possible.

with love,

Camille Roberts

A ROBBERY

A SHORT STORY BY MIYA

Location: Starbucks
POV : Nobody's

"Okay, apparently there seems to be a planned robbery, so be ready in case of anything!" Teresa said over the ear comms.

"Copy that" Renee returned.

Barbie and Renee were undercover as baristas at a local Starbucks in California. Zoe had told them a little bit earlier that there was a planned robbery.

The other day, a barista had told the cops that they overheard two men talking about a robbery right at this very Starbucks. The cops didn't really care so the worker ended up telling the agency her friend was a former worker before she broke the number 1 rule: Never tell anyone you're a secret agent. So now here was the spy squad, ready to stop the robbery before





anyone gets hurt.

Just as Barbie was making a coffee for someone, two men who looked like they were up to no good entered the store. Renee and Barbie exchanged look and they read each others faces. They both didn't trust them.

The men sat in a corner a bit further from the others, they looked pretty broad and were wearing black hoods with a sketch face. Seems sus, right?

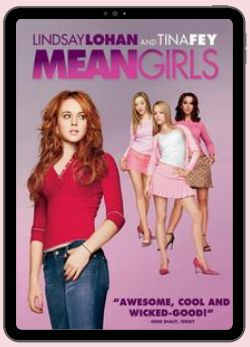
A couple minutes went by, Barbie and Renee swapped places; Barbie at the register, Renee making the drinks.

After 5 minutes of watching the two,
The finally got in line.

"Here you go ma'am!" Barbie cheerfully said.

"Thank you, have a nice day!" The lady responded with a smile. "Aww, you too."

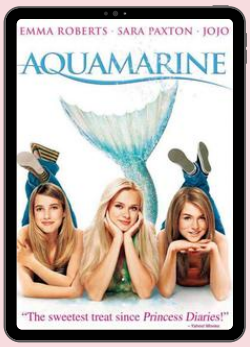
it's giving Barbie Core



Mean Girls



Legally Blonde



Aquamarine



Devil Wears Prada



13 going 30



Mammma Mia



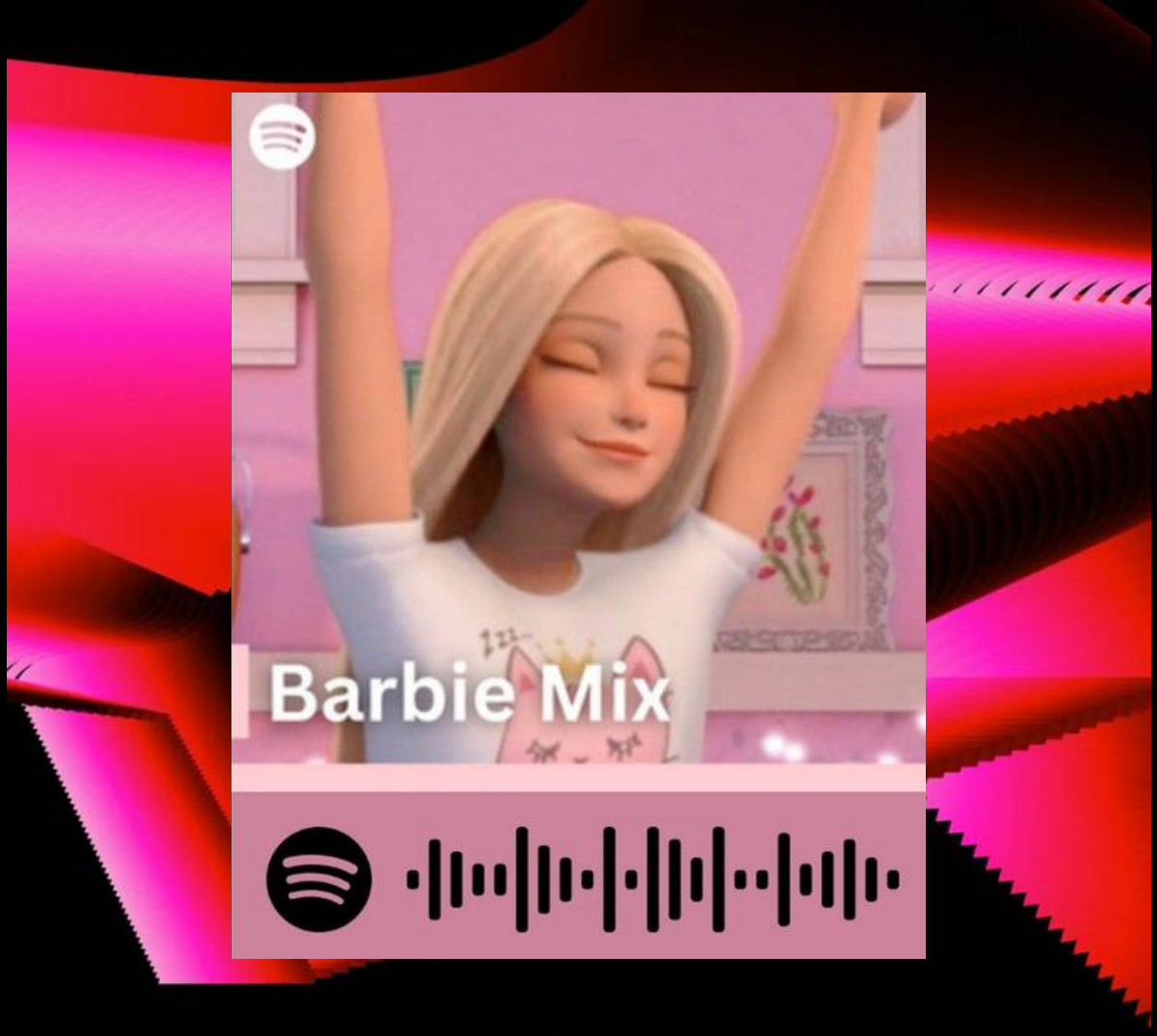
Wicked



Clueless



Ice Princess



Barbie Vibes Songs

1 Pink Pony Club
2 California Gurls
3 Espresso
4 so american
5 Paper Rings

Barbie Vibes Singers

1 Chappell Roan
2 Katy Perry
3 Sabrina Carpenter
4 Olivia Rodrigo
5 Taylor Swift

Total Songs

31

Top Genre

Barbie Core

INSTAGRAM.COM/thisuserlovesbarbie



Can You Keep A Secret

In Barbie movies, there is a lot of great music. It's obvious in “Barbie as the Princess and the Pauper” or the “Barbie as the Island Princess” that the composers did a great job with creating impactful songs to remember. Other songs might be overlooked though when compared to these ones.

A special song for me is Can You Keep a Secret—sung by Kristina Allison and written by 4 talented songwriters: Amy Powers, Gabriel Rutman, Jeannie Lurie and Rob Hudnut. It's played about 3 times in Barbie: A Fairy Secret and is the only song from that movie.

It's about an individual who tries to fit in and points out that there are a lot of people who copy others. She knows that she's more than average. In her case, she's a fairy and that’s her secret. She tells us that we can fly like her and feel free. In my opinion, it's important to remember that every person is unique and no one should be insecure about their true self.

Aside from the great message there's the song instrumental that gets you in a good mood. It's chill in the verses, the bridge is even relaxing, but the chorus is bigger and more powerful without being too much of a contrast to the other parts.

The melody of this song is really catchy. It's mostly the case for the chorus though because you have to listen to the track more than once to remember the rest. The repetitiveness of the title line (Can you keep a secret) helps to remember it. To be honest, I would like it if there was more to the chorus than this one line, but it's also fine as it is.

Last but not least, there's Kristina's voice. In the song, her voice is bright and high-pitched. There is expressiveness and emotion in it and I think it makes us believe the song she sings might be personal to her. It's like she is telling us her story and perspective by singing about it.
For me, this pop track has a lot of great qualities. I can't really criticize it because I like it so much. There is also a lot of nostalgia playing its part. I recommend this song to all Barbie fans as well as pop enjoyers and dreamers.

Happy Birthday Barbie! I'm grateful for the movies, songs and beautiful messages in the credits (can you bring them back pls? :). I feel inspired by them every time and this song is just one of the many great examples.

Hoping for more amazing years with this iconic girl. P.A.C.E.✌😊

Fairy's Secret

from ash_leeee_muffin

I'm a fashion designer that grew up being heavily influenced by doll lines, but it was Barbie: A Fashion Fairytale that made me want to be a designer. Years from now, I hope to be the Aunt Millicent to my niece's Barbie.



Photographed by Dakota Sikat (@dakotasikat)

barbie movies based on classical books

Barbie as the Princess and the Pauper (2004)

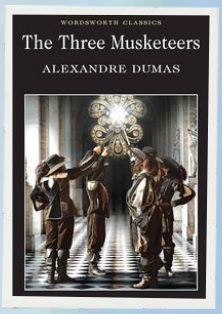




The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain (1881)

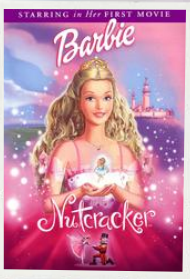
Barbie and the Three Musketeers (2009)

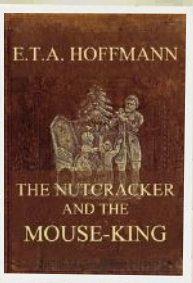




The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas (1844)

Barbie in the Nutcracker (2001)





The Nutcracker and the Mouse King by E. T. A. Hoffmann (1816)

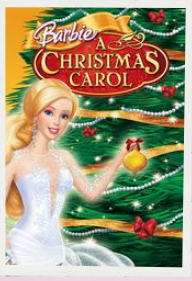
Barbie as Rapunzel (2002)

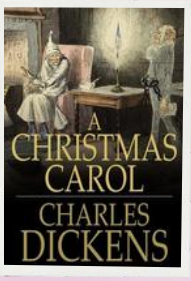




Rapunzel by The Brothers Grimm (1812)

Barbie in a Christmas Carol (2008)





A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (1843)

Barbie: Thumbelina (2009)





Thumbelina by Hans Christian Andersen (1835)

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE,
WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE
ME AND MY GIRLS!

WHO'S KEN?

from Aoibhin Farry



Growing up the only toy I ever owned/played with were Barbie's and it was all anyone ever got me growing up as they knew from the very start it was a special interest of mine. I have all the DVDS AND VHS tapes that they made of the Barbie animated movies and I was basically known to rewatch them every chance I could. Growing up with anxiety disorder, I would always have a Barbie in hand, and a Barbie hand in mouth chewing as a nervous habit. Now being 23 years of age and in my 3rd year of university, I did a photoshoot based on the fact that I never owned a Ken doll and how that affected my life growing up - especially realising a liked 'Barbie's' more than 'Ken's' and now currently I'm sitting writing a 8,000 word dissertation on how throughout history Barbie has been affected childhood

I am a preschool teacher that never grew out of her Barbie phase! In 2011, my great aunt and I spent months preparing a Barbie wedding. I am talking months. We got small fake flowers, made two separate box wedding cakes, and even had a red and white theme. There was a reception and ceremony. And of course we had a dance party. I love how much work and time my great aunt put into creating this core memory for me!



2011 BARBIE WEDDING

from Stevie

Insights into “Black Barbie: A Documentary” Analysis

A REVIEW BY CHRISTINE ANN “CEE” SY

"Black Barbie" is a documentary by Shondaland and Netflix that highlights the history and influence of diverse toy lines, particularly focusing on the representation of black Barbie dolls. Directed and narrated by La Gueria Davis, the documentary sheds light on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the toy industry. It traces the journey of creating a black Barbie doll through different stages and emphasizes the significance of representation in dolls.

The documentary beautifully portrays the legacy of Black Barbie, aiming to reach a wider audience and educate viewers on important issues. It features insightful information about the groundbreaking doll and the individuals behind it, such as Kitty Black Perkins, the designer of Black Barbie. It explores the profound impact of play on a child's self-esteem and mindset, through the Clark doll tests and the importance of black dolls in shaping social perceptions, particularly focusing on the struggles faced by people of color, highlighting the struggles of black people.

Despite the progress in diversity, the documentary also addresses ongoing challenges, such as the prioritization of white Barbie dolls in media and the lack of black designers on Mattel's team. It provides a platform for discussing the continued need for representation and inclusivity in the toy industry.

A single doll is not just a toy to play with; it serves as a representation of those who play it. Introducing a black doll is a revolutionary act that has the power to bring about change in the world, ushering in a diverse range of dolls in various shades, shapes, and sizes. The documentary meticulously showcases the intricate process of doll-making, giving due credit to the trailblazers who paved the way for diversity in the toy industry.

As a person of color who grew up playing with white dolls, I can relate to the experiences shared in the documentary. The realization that Barbie could also be black, Latina, or Asian like me was a revelation. It never really crossed my mind that Barbie could be of my race. Despite my enduring fondness for Barbie, witnessing the emergence of diverse characters in the Barbie universe today evokes contemplation on how it would have impacted me as a child to play with dolls that resembled me.

It is disheartening to learn that the children interviewed in the documentary still perceive the white Barbie as the "real Barbie," highlighting the existing biases in society. I personally think that every doll labeled as Barbie is a real Barbie. While the original Barbie has traditionally been depicted as white, akin to Margot Robbie's portrayal of stereotypical Barbie in Greta Gerwig's Barbie, this should not diminish the validity of non-white Barbies.

The success of a show being contingent on a black Barbie starring alone underscores the need for more representation and empowerment in media, especially for children. The current movement towards diversity in Barbie's lineup is a commendable step towards empowering individuals, particularly children. Looking ahead, I hope to see a broader array of diverse Barbie characters representing various races, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations, fostering inclusivity and empowerment for all.


She's Black
She's beautiful
She's dynamite



@THISUSERLOVESBARBIE ON

@BARBIECRUMBS ON