**Prospectus**

The hoax that my research paper will be centered around is the movie ‘Now You See Me’. This movie follows four magicians referred to as the Horsemen that are clearly illusionists with ulterior motives, who are currently under investigation for a series of clean, impeccable bank robberies. Throughout the movie the Horsemen are chased by Interpol and Morgan Freeman who plays a role similar to the Amazing Randy, where his aim is to try and reveal the trickery of the magicians. The four Horsemen are brought together by a mysterious being only later revealed to the audience at the end of the movie as the main Interpol agent as a twist in the tale. Although this movie may seem to be centered around how illusionists are able to deceive the human mind, the underlying trend is one of secret societies and how oblivious humans can be when dealing with entertainment, as the movie is centered around shows and the glitz and glam, as well as the idea of entertainment industry causing major change. Throughout the movie an image of the eye is used as their secret society’s symbol.

I found this movie interesting as nowadays there are so many conspiracy theories that deal with secret societies. The movie used the Eye as their sign, which is actually common to many believed secret societies our there, most well-known being the ‘Illuminati’. The eye is derived from an ancient Egyptian symbol. Secret societies have been said to be in many places, ranging from universities, to the entertainment industry up to governments. However, they are always topics that can never be drawn to a complete conclusion, leaving people believing that they are outright hoaxes or mesmerized. Another reason why I found this movie interesting is because it is one where if you re-watch it, you will notice something that you did not the first time, which reflects a true essence to illusionists and their hoaxes. This further reflects the saying that they repeat “…the closer you look, the less you’ll see...” the audience tends to focus on the wrong things meanwhile right under our noses the ‘real’ trick is occurring. I also enjoyed how as much as we believe the actions of people are the tricks, sometimes and in the case of the movie and the main Interpol investigator, ‘metaphorically’ it can be the people close to you that are the main acts. I also enjoyed how every member had their own field of expertise and how they worked together in order to create seamless hoaxes.

In my paper I will be investigating what constitutes a ‘secret society. I will be looking at how past secret societies have been formed, comparing it to the movie where the ulterior motive was a personal vendetta of a past interaction. I will also be looking at why secret societies are most commonly associated with the entertainment industry. Are there social factors that play a role in this? This movie is one of many that aim to deceive the audience, one may say a hoax within a hoax. Therefore, this hoax in terms of the movie was successful as the main leader of the OTO managed never to be caught and the hoax as a movie itself was successful in keeping the audience at the edge of their seats and finding out constantly that they had been duped. Therefore, it is interesting to see that like so many other movies and shows of people constantly deceiving the audience, they are always successful for their twist in the tale. Therefore, we are left wondering why is it that people are fascinated with schemes and in a sense get an exhilarated by knowing that they have ‘glamorously’ been deceived. To answer that I will be taking a closer look at The Amazing Randy as he uncovers hoaxes.