

PICTURE: RASHBEHARI DAS



DINE DEN WITH A DIFFERENCE

P18



TILLOTAMA SHOME

LIVING HER DREAM

P8,13

- B'DAY, WATCHIT 2
- BOLLY CLUB NIGHT, APP-TITUDE 3,6,7
- TOLLY, BANTER WITH BALKI 14,15
- BURGER BITE, YOUR VIEWS 19, 20



SUMMER COOL

P4-5



KARISMA KAPOOR, SATISH SHAH, TILLOTAMA SHOME

This year, you will find yourself feeling very positive, motivated, serene and in tune with the universe. Do not rush into new things without thinking them through fully. Financially you will be stable. A spiritual advisor might be coming into your life to guide you on your spiritual path.

ALSO: RICKY GERVAIS

— Nita Chhotatal

TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotatal



ARIES
DO be extremely cautious in your financial dealings at this time and don't take unnecessary risks
DON'T sign any papers without reading the fine print
EXPECT work to get delayed



TAURUS
DO focus on the emotional well-being of yourself
DON'T let hurtful comments affect you
EXPECT to meet someone who will be supportive and caring towards you



GEMINI
DO learn the karmic lessons from your current situation
DON'T let circumstances throw you off balance
EXPECT to weigh all your options and balance the scales



CANCER
DO give yourself time to process what has happened
DON'T be afraid to reach out to the people that love you
EXPECT to heal and learn from all that you are going through



LEO
DO walk away from toxic people
DON'T hold onto negativity
EXPECT problems in your life to settle down and things to be much easier to deal with



VIRGO
DO calmly evaluate yourself and your choices in order to make positive decisions
DON'T judge people harshly
EXPECT to clear your conscience and try to make amends for your misdeeds



LIBRA
DO let go of old issues or beliefs
DON'T resist any new changes
EXPECT a time of change and new beginnings



SCORPIO
DO trust your instincts and go with your gut feeling
DON'T allow your concerns to be ignored
EXPECT to trust your higher power



SAGITTARIUS
DO take part in some sort of ceremony which gives an insight into old rituals and customs
DON'T have guilt and shame in following old traditions
EXPECT to meet a mentor who will provide you with wisdom and guidance



CAPRICORN
DO share your victories and be proud of your achievements
DON'T let the success go to your head
EXPECT praise, acclaim, awards, and recognition



AQUARIUS
DO steer clear of people who play games with you
DON'T get into risky gambles with money or investment
EXPECT to meet someone who is deceitful and manipulative, so be careful



PISCES
DO be sure you have all the information to choose the correct path
DON'T be uncertain of what direction you should take
EXPECT to understand yourself and what you value in life



OH SO BLUE:
 Just clicking like a wow! @miteshrajani
 Uploaded by @tabutiful (Tabu)



BINGE BEGINS:
 Gratitude
 Ok bye binge time Uploaded by @mimichakraborty (Mimi Chakraborty)



SARI LOVE:
 Uploaded by @rukminimaitra (Rukmini Maitra)



COLOUR COORDINATED:
 Uploaded by @norafatehi (Nora Fatehi)



YOGA SESSIONS:
 Meet my new Yoga teacher Uploaded by @yuvofficial (Yuvraj Singh) →

Nita Chhotatal is on [f @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotatal](#) [@mysticalguidancebynita](#)

WATCHIT!



A fictional account of legendary American lawman Wyatt Earp (Val Kilmer), who reminisces about an incident many years ago, when as a young man (Shawn Roberts) he had teamed up with some friends to track down the murderer of his first love, Dora Hand (Diana DeGarmo). Wyatt Earp's Revenge: &Prive HD, 7.25pm

ENGLISH

MOVIES OF THE DAY

- Ghost Shark: STAR Movies Select HD, 2pm
- The Raid 2: Sony Pix, 2.05pm
- Doctor Strange: STAR Movies, 3pm
- Ride On: STAR Movies Select HD, 3.30pm
- Geostorm: Sony Pix, 4.20pm
- Shazam!: STAR Movies, 4.45pm
- Fantasy Island: &flix, 5.10pm
- Sword Master: STAR Movies Select HD, 5.30pm
- Chinese Zodiac: STAR Movies, 7pm
- Wyatt Earp's Revenge: &Prive HD, 7.25pm
- Tasmanian Devils: STAR Movies

- Select HD, 7.30pm
- Ant-Man And The Wasp, Quantumania: STAR Movies, 9pm
- Ainbo: STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm
- The Mechanic: Sony Pix, 9pm
- The Princess: &Prive HD, 9pm
- It Chapter Two: Sony Pix, 10.25pm
- Welcome the Stranger: &Prive HD, 10.50pm

SHOWSTOPPERS

- The Big C: Zee Cafe, 6pm
- The Flight Attendant: Colors Infinity, 7pm
- The Office: Comedy Central, 7pm
- Oh My Venus: Zee Cafe, 7pm
- Brooklyn Nine-Nine: Comedy Central, 8pm
- Shark Tank Australia: Zee Cafe, 8pm
- Game of Thrones: Colors Infinity, 9pm
- AP Bio: Comedy Central, 9pm
- Preacher: Zee Cafe, 9pm
- Nathan For You: Comedy Central, 10pm
- Better Call Saul: Zee Cafe, 10pm
- Peacemaker: Colors Infinity, 11pm
- The Daily Show: Comedy Central, 11pm

HINDI

SHOWSTOPPERS

- Suhaagan: Colors, 6.30pm
- Meetha Khatta Pyaar Hamara: STAR Plus, 6.30pm
- Krishna Mohini: Colors, 7pm
- Maati Se Bandhni Dor: STAR Plus, 7.30pm
- Kavya - Ek Jazbaa, Ek Junoon: Sony, 7.30pm
- Main Hoon Saath Tere: Zee TV, 7.30pm

Dabangii..Mulgii Aayi Re Aayi: Sony, 8pm

BENGALI

MOVIES OF THE DAY

- 100% Love: Zee Bangla Cinema, noon
- Raavan: Jalsha Movies, 1pm
- Poran Jaye Jolia Re: Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm
- Sundar Bou: Zee Bangla Cinema, 3pm
- Amar Badhua: Aakash Aath, 3.05pm
- Badshah - The Don: Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm
- Joddha: Jalsha Movies, 4pm
- Lakshyaved: Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.35pm
- Ghatak: Jalsha Movies, 7.20pm
- Minister Phatakeshto: Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm
- Swayam Siddha: Zee Bangla Cinema, 8.50pm
- Deboto: Colors Bangla Cinema, 9.30pm
- Rosogolla: Jalsha Movies, 10.30pm
- Har Mana Har: Zee Bangla Cinema, 11.35pm

SPORT

- FIH Pro League, Women's - Great Britain vs Belgium - live: Sports18 1 & 1 HD, 9pm
- UEFA EURO, Netherlands vs Austria - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 9.30pm
- UEFA EURO, France vs Poland - live: Sony TEN 2, 9.30pm
- UEFA EURO, Denmark vs Serbia - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 12.30am
- UEFA EURO, England vs Slovenia - live: Sony TEN 2, 12.30am
- WWE NXT - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 5.30am

BIG SCREEN

ENGLISH

- THE BIKERIDERS (A):** Inox Quest (4.05*), Inox South City (2, 10.30), PVR Mani Square (1.50, 10.35)
- THE EXORCISM (A):** Inox Quest (11*, 5.55, 10.30), Inox South City (11.45, 6.40, 10.25), Inox Forum (12, 10, 7.40), Inox Salt Lake (12.25, 8.35), Inox Rajarhat (11.05, 4.35, 9.55), PVR Avani (11.45, 5.25, 10.40), PVR Mani Square (11.40, 4.30, 11.15), PVR Diamond Plaza (10.10, 5.40, 10.55)
- INSIDE OUT 2 (U):** Inox Quest (12.20, 8.15), Inox South City (10*, 3.35*, 5.55*, 8.15*, 10.35*), Inox Forum (5.30), Inox Salt Lake (10.10, 6.20), Inox Rajarhat (2.25), Inox Hiland (2.10), PVR Mani Square (3pm), PVR Uniworl Downtown (8pm)
- ROBOT DREAMS (U):** Inox Quest (2pm), Inox South City (8.55pm), PVR Mani Square (12.35)
- THE WATCHERS (A):** PVR Mani Square (9.10pm)
- HINDI**
- CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A):** Inox Quest (10.05*, 1.15*, 4.25*, 7.35*, 10.45*), Inox South City (9.10, 10.15*, 1.20*, 4.05*, 7.20*, 9.55*, 11.15*), Inox Forum (9.30*, 12.35*, 3.40*, 6.45*, 9.50*), Inox Salt Lake (10.25, 1.30, 4.35, 7.40, 10.45), Inox Rajarhat (10.30, 1.35, 4.40, 7.45, 9.35, 10.50), Inox Metro (10, 12.25, 6.40*, 9.45*), Inox Hind (10, 15, 1.20, 4.25, 10.40), Inox Hiland (9.50, 11.10, 4.20, 7.25, 10.20),

- Inox Swabhumi (9.35, 12.40, 3.45, 6.50, 7.45, 9.55), PVR Avani (10, 4.10, 7.15, 10.20), PVR Mani Square (9.10, 1.15, 7.10, 10.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.30, 12.35, 3.40, 6.45, 9.50), PVR Uniworl Downtown (10.45, 1.50, 4.55, 8.30, 10.15), RDB Cinemas (12.45, 4.10, 7, 9), Nazruliritha (5, 7.45)
- INSIDE OUT 2 (U):** Inox Rajarhat (9.10am), PVR Diamond Plaza (12.30)
- ISHQ VISHK REBOUND (U/A):** Inox Quest (9.55, 12.35, 6.45*, 9.15*), Inox Forum (10.10, 4.55, 10.40), Inox Salt Lake (10, 1.35, 10.50), Inox Swabhumi (10.40, 5.05, 10.45), PVR Avani (9.20am), PVR Mani Square (9.10, 6.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (10, 8.25), RDB Cinemas (2pm), Nazruliritha (12.50, 2.55)
- JAHANGIR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (A):** Inox Quest (10.55, 4.20), Inox South City (10.15, 4.20), Inox Forum (2.25, 9.55), Inox Salt Lake (3.10, 9.55), Inox Rajarhat (11.20, 4.20), Inox Metro (3.30), Inox Hind (7.30pm), Inox Hiland (10.40, 4.20), Inox Swabhumi (1.50, 7.30), PVR Mani Square (5.15), PVR Diamond Plaza (5.15, 10.50), PVR Uniworl Downtown (12.25)
- MR & MRS MAHI (U):** PVR Mani Square (11am)
- MUNJYA (U/A):** Inox Quest (9.50, 1.20*, 3, 5.45, 8.30, 11.15), Inox South City (10.20*, 1.20*, 4.20*, 7.10*, 10.30*), Inox Salt Lake (12.25, 5.25, 8.10, 10.55), Inox Rajarhat (9.05, 11.50, 2.35, 5.20, 8.05, 10.50), Inox Metro (9.40, 1.05, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30), Inox Hind (11.15, 2, 4.45, 7.30, 10.15), Inox Hiland (10.20, 1.10, 6.45, 9.30, 10.30), Inox Swabhumi (10, 12.50, 3.40, 6.30, 9.20, 10.40), PVR Avani (9, 11.45, 2.30, 5.15, 8, 10.45), PVR Mani Square (10.30, 1.55, 4.25, 7.55, 10.20), PVR Diamond Plaza (10.15, 12.25, 5, 7.45, 10.30), PVR Uniworl Downtown (10.25, 4.45, 7.30, 10.15), RDB Cinemas (11.45, 3.40, 7.45, 10.15), Nazruliritha (1.55, 8.35)
- SRIKANTH (U):** Inox Swabhumi (10.10am)
- BENGALI**
- AJOGYA (U/A):** Inox South City (1.20, 4, 7.50), Inox Salt Lake (2.45, 7.15), Inox Rajarhat (1.20, 6.50), Inox Hiland (4, 7.25), PVR Diamond Plaza (1.50, 4.40, 8), PVR Uniworl Downtown (3.35), RDB Cinemas (5.15), Nazruliritha (12.40, 6)
- ATHHOI (A):** Inox South City (4.35), Inox Salt Lake (4pm), Inox Hiland (6.55), PVR Avani (2.05), PVR Diamond Plaza (7.30pm), RDB Cinemas (2.15), Nazruliritha (3, 8.20)
- BOOMERANG (U/A):** Inox South City (7.30pm), Inox Rajarhat (7.05pm), Inox Hiland (4pm), PVR Avani (7.45pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.45), RDB Cinemas (6.15)
- DABARU (U):** Nazruliritha (6.15)
- NERVE - A SAGA (U/A):** Inox South City (12.10), Inox Hiland (1.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (3.10)

Music has been a strong forte of Dalhousie Institute and the Park Circus club curated another memorable evening that was marked by exceptional melody, keeping members and guests enthralled. Bollywood Nite organised in association with t2 saw a city band and a talented DJ taking over the evening of June 15. With a full house in attendance, Wagah Road kicked things off with a lively set spanning retro Bollywood numbers. While *Gulabi aankhen* and *O haseena zulfon wali* clicked with the elders, contemporary hits like *Bella Ciao* and even classic rock anthems kept the new breed hooked to the dance floor. The multi-member musical ensemble who are known to enchant all with their covers concluded their act on popular songs that clicked with all and made them sway.

The star attraction of the evening was DJ Lil'B who seamlessly blended nostalgic Bollywood bangers with the latest Hindi pop hits. Her skilled mixing kept the energy high even as the night pushed past midnight. The packed dance floor showed no signs of slowing down and the music had the entire venue alive and buzzing with energy from start to finish.



DJ Lil'B made it an evening to remember for everyone, with her playlist. "I've been playing for 19 years, and I've been playing in Calcutta since 2005. However, this is my first time playing here at Dalhousie Institute, and the crowd looks amazing so I'm really excited and looking forward to it," gushed the deejay before taking charge of the console.



The dance floor reflected the crazy vibes of the members. "The event was superb. I loved dancing, especially with my bestie Tansuree and senior Swagatadi. The DJ was amazing. I even won a wine bottle for my stellar dancing. Overall, it was an incredible night that I can't wait to experience again," said Arpita Mukherjee (*white T-shirt*), who had a whale of a time with Swagata Basu and Tanushree Goswami.



Looking chic in a jumpsuit, Natalie Pote, in-charge of entertainment at Dalhousie Institute, said: "It was especially exciting to work with a band-DJ combo. After the roaring success of our other events, we were confident to try something different. Besides our members and their guests, we also extended invitations to members of other clubs. I believe the energy felt that evening was testimony to the fact that everyone had a great time!"



DJ Lil'B dreading Rahul Mitra and Neha Das to the club. Rahul said: "I've been a member of the club since a kid. Saturdays are usually fun here, but today it's more than just a fun Saturday night; it's a big musical event, full of energy, and the turnout is also huge. I'm excited about DJ Lil'B; I've heard a lot about her, so finally I'll be able to witness it."

The evening entertained even those who are not party animals. "I'm not much of a party animal, I am usually very busy with my shoots, but today I came here because of my brother, and I don't regret it at all. I'm having a long week of shoots and other work," said Rajiv Bose (centre) accompanied by Sankoj Das (left) and Ranodip Dutt.



Wagah Road opened Bollywood Nite with a set that had everyone under their spell



"We are thrilled with the overwhelming positive response to our Bollywood-themed event. DI remains committed to hosting exceptional events that celebrate diverse cultures and bring our community together," said president of Dalhousie Institute, Jayajit Biswas.

Bornonaa Barik (t2 intern)
Pictures: Rashbehari Das

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A TETE-A-TETE WITH ANN-SOFIE JOHANSSON, HEAD OF DESIGN, WOMENSWEAR AND CREATIVE ADVISOR, H&M

Ann-Sofie Johansson, head of design, womenswear and creative advisor, H&M, was back in India after 20 years, recently. t2 caught up with her at the H&M India showroom in Delhi for a relaxed chat on her journey, her favourite designers and global trends.

Ann, you've had a remarkable journey! Congratulations! It must have been a lot of hard work...

Time flies, right, when you are having fun. There are new things to do all the time. The company's been growing. I started out working in one of the stores in Stockholm. Back in my head, I knew I wanted to become a designer at H&M because when I was little, I thought H&M was kind of 'the' store to go to. It felt almost magical that they could read my mind.

Then I went to a lot of evening classes for design and pattern-making and then I put my portfolio together and I showed it to the then design head at H&M. She saw something there I guess, some sort of creativity. I started as a design assistant. The design team at that time was very small, about 10-15 people. Today, it's over 300 designers. I was an assistant for a few years and then eventually I became a designer at the young department at H&M. And, that was exactly what I wanted to do. My goal was accomplished. Then I moved to womenswear, then creative advisor and head of design again. I have been growing with the company, I think.

It's just the people that make H&M I think. We have so much fun together. I have some of my best friends in the company. Also, the values of the company are why I stayed on for such a long time. I really love fashion (too). I think it's the best thing to be able to make fashion that many people will be able to purchase, is good value for money and feels good. And, when you start a new season, everything is possible.

It's all about teamwork at H&M and it's trying to keep it a very flat organisation and avoid hierarchy. It's very democratic in that sense.... We have a good mix of people like me who have been working there for many years, but there are also newcomers, young designers. Fashion always continues forward. You need to be curious and open-minded and you have to be on your toes all the time. You have to be interested in people and in society, what is going around in the world, in all. It's a good combination of knowledge, experience and curiosity.

What is the design process like?

We usually work with two seasons at the same time, so very far ahead, but also trying to be closer to the customer. If something is selling good, then we should be able to react to that and maybe do more of that. It is also a long process in one way. We take in a lot of inspiration and information and information can be selling figures from last season to see what has sold good, why did it sell good or why didn't it sell.

We go to different trend seminars, buy their trend books and go to fabric fairs. There is a big

"I have been wearing so much colour for so many years, I feel a lot for black again, actually," said Ann-Sofie Johansson, head of design, womenswear and creative advisor, H&M.



fabric fair in Paris two times a year, called *Première Vision*. The whole fashion industry goes there to look for fabrics. We start with the fabric and if you feel a lot for a certain fabric, that usually gives away the silhouette.

(We see) what is happening in movies and music. There are loads of fashion exhibitions going around. So maybe that will give you influences. You are like an open vessel. Then you try to funnel it down, categorise and organise and sort.

There are lots of things that continue from season to season. Then it's a lot of the mix also. You can see different stories coming through and then you start working with them... the colours, the fabrics, the details.... Then we start sketching and choosing the different components, make a paper pattern out of that and send it to production and get a first sample home, do fittings,

alterations.... I love the research process.

Being so long in the fashion business, I can see what is coming back. Usually, we tend to look back for inspiration, but of course you have to put that into a new context. Fashion is like a spiral moving forward.

How challenging is it to remain relevant in times we are living in, given the attention span is just a few seconds and there's so much competition?

It is super challenging. Social media has changed a lot of course. There is more competition today and then we have social media.... It is not about 'in' and 'out' any longer. Everything is fashion and it is more about expressing your personality or what person you are today.... At the same time, for us, it is also a matter of showing our customers what we

believe in because not everyone is so savvy... we still have to inspire them and show the designs on our mannequins how they could use the garments. We have to show clear fashion stories that are easy to understand.

Talk about aspiration and fashion a little...

We talk about aspiration all the time... the longing and wishing for something. Fashion is a lot about emotions and when you feel something, it usually creates a memory. For me, clothes are a lot about memories, which is why I have such a hard time getting rid of old things. I style them in a new way. For me, it is a matter of sustainability too.

During your tenure with H&M, what do you think have been the major trends that have defined fashion?

I think streetwear, for example, and the whole kind of athleisure thing, sportswear or more comfortable things, has had a really big impact. After the pandemic, we got used to dressing comfortably. I think tailoring is a big thing... suits and blazers. That will also last for 10 years I think. There's been a lot of colours and prints lately, but for me black is coming back again.

Fashion is intuitive and sometimes it's hard to explain how it moves. Sometimes, there is a designer who changes the trajectory of fashion. I think Demna (Gvasalia) for example, when he started Vetements and then Balenciaga (of which he is the creative director), I think he totally changed the fashion landscape... just black and oversized, super big and kind of dark in a way. I think that has become a style now.

FASHION

How does the brand pick designers for collaborations?

We started in 2004, so, it's actually 20 years now. Karl Lagerfeld. We felt it's going to be a one-off... We have a group of people who sit together and bounce off ideas on what we should do.... The brand or designer has to be someone we really admire as creators. Then it's nice to have a bit of a rhythm also... we can do a Comme des Garçons one year and then a Versace... different styles, but we are still great admirers of both designers.

It is also about the timing... is the designer on the rise or does it fit in H&M where we are? Do we share the same values?

The Sabyasachi x H&M collaboration was a blockbuster. How do you see his rise and rise?

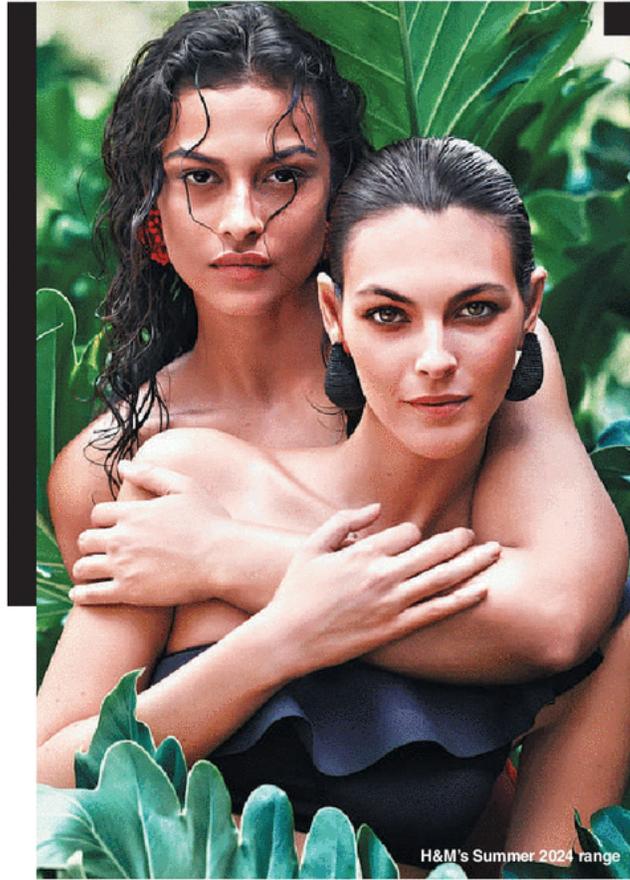
We went to his store the other day and it is such an amazing store... so beautiful. The craft you have in India is amazing, the things you can do can be done only here, right? And, beauty... the dreaminess, a magical thing. It really talks to you I think... you see so much thought has gone into each product.

I have kaftans (from him) and when we go on a holiday in the summers, we use those pieces.

What do you see coming back?

I see the '60s coming back, the mini length, the A-line. We'll see the floor-length (outfits) too. Everything is right, really. Maybe we need a little bit of optimism. The '60s were really about optimism and the youth culture was coming through. It's not escapism because everyone is so aware about what is happening around you, but it's just a matter of being able to balance things.

The centuries and decades are all coming back in one way... the '70s too with flared denims and romantic peasant blouses and a little bit of the opulent '80s too.



ANN'S FAVES...

- Japanese designers in the '80s... Issey Miyake and his colleagues. They added a bit to Parisian fashion that really had an impact... very black, a drapiness.

- The Antwerp Six for example, coming out of Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts, they also changed the fashion landscape.

- Demna also made a mark in fashion history. Coco Chanel did so many things for us women. Then Schiaparelli after that. I think we have to support women designers because if you look at the high-end brands, there are still so few women.

SOME OF ANN'S INDIAN FAVES...

- Sabyasachi Mukherjee
- Anamika Khanna
- Supriya Lele

There is more competition today and then we have social media.... It is not about 'in' and 'out' any longer. Everything is fashion and it is more about expressing your personality or what person you are today.... At the same time, for us, it is also a matter of showing our customers what we believe in because not everyone is so savvy... we still have to inspire them and show the designs on our mannequins how they could use the garments. We have to show clear fashion stories that are easy to understand— Ann-Sofie Johansson

Saionee Chakraborty
Pictures courtesy: H&M

Session
2025-26

Central Modern School
Baranagar (ICSE/ISC)

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to
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Session
2025-26

Indus Valley World School
Kolkata (CBSE)

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to
Class IX

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People attend WWDC 2024 at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, on June 10. Picture: Reuters

WE MET A FEW APP DEVELOPERS ON THE SIDELINES OF WWDC 2024 WHO PROVE WHY APPLE CONTINUES TO BE A PURVEYOR OF HIGH-QUALITY SOFTWARE AND SERVICES

fonts, search for and add your own images (or those from a stock photo service), drop in fully formatted tables, and even style your section separators. And there is a helpful artificial intelligence angle to it.

Their story

Be it journalists or anybody who takes down plenty of notes, it's imperative that we have the option to share a well-formatted document. Craft is known for its use of blocks, which hold not just text, but also files like images. This app might be right for you if you're looking for something more visually appealing than a typical document page.

"In 2021 Craft won the Mac App of the Year Award and it encouraged us to do better," said Artom Konovalov, head of product design, Craft Docs. You may have heard of Artom from Skyscanner days.

"We couldn't do anything productive on our small screens or touchscreens and we had to always go back to computers and the quality of software for taking notes or writing documents and presenting stuff was bad. We felt there was a clear mission — the tools that we use day-to-day have to be of high quality. That's where Craft comes in."

Artom demonstrated how Craft Docs works with a recipe. Say you find a beautiful recipe in an old book and want to keep it for yourself for later use. You can easily scan it and move it into Craft. "We support dragging and dropping text everywhere. You don't have to do anything extra. Since everything is in a block model, it's easy to swipe and slide in large volumes of text and group them into sections, like ingredients and methods. I can also pick up the Apple Pencil and then scribble something without a keyboard (on the iPad)," said Artom.

The idea of the team is to have a cross-device productivity tool. "We wanted to meet people where they are. Of course, it's about text. I collect recipes. If I take a picture and move it into the recipe, we can use a feature called Live Text and select the text."

Craft can be a great product for real-time collaboration with team members. You can invite team members with different permissions, assign tasks and add comments below blocks. You can also share a Craft page on the web.

Artom points out how artificial intelligence is an important part of the experience. "AI is a big part and one of the use cases users like is creating titles. The app checks the context and suggests a title. You can talk to the AI assistant and then ask it to make a title shorter or longer."

Each year at Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference, the tech giant showcases what's next for its biggest platforms — iOS, macOS, iPadOS and more — and, very importantly, what developers are doing to improve the apps and services experience. This year's WWDC was special for the way Apple Intelligence was introduced and also for the many developers who were present to soak in all the new features that were announced. The iPhone maker demonstrated that it was still a purveyor of high-quality software and services. On the sidelines, we met the teams behind four interesting apps.

TEAM GENTLER STREAK

What is it?

Gentler Streak aims to improve everyone's lifestyle, no matter who or where they are. The app is powered by optimistic and encouraging reminders that factor in both physical fitness and mental well-being. Its health data is smartly organised and seamlessly integrated to help users thoughtfully track exercise, rest, and wellness. In a Monthly Summary view, users are shown how they are doing in relation to their history, emphasising the focus on individual progression rather than comparison against others.

Their story

Last couple of weeks I have been using the Gentler Streak app after I met the company's co-founders — Katarina Lotric, CEO, and Jasna Krmelj, CTO — at WWDC. Usually, I wake up around 4.30 am to face the day but there are times when I would like to stay in bed a bit longer, which can cause anxiety — is it fine to break a habit once in a while?

Gentler Streak is about respecting the body and mind instead of settling down to a habit (for the sake of a habit). On the days I don't get decent sleep, I should be staying in bed a little longer and update my morning routine around it. And then there are days when the body is more than willing to push boundaries.

Developed by Gentler Stories (from Slovenia), the app is brilliantly designed and has the user's health benefits at the heart of it. "It's essentially a fitness tracker that helps maintain a sustainable fitness habit. It's our answer to the toxic approach to sports where it is about pushing for higher, stronger and faster. It's not sustainable. You can't go on like that forever. We are humans and our bodies are different and our capabilities are different. With so many burnouts around

us, we are invested in creating something to bring exercising to everyone and make everyone feel included," said Katarina.

Her view of the world is different from what many health experts are making us believe in. "It may sound funny, but we are living in a polarised world — you are either full-on or not. You either compete or give up."

When you open any fitness app, there are just stats, which could be a good or a bad thing. "You don't know what actions to take. On our app, you don't have to know about stats (all the time). We summarise it and turn it into simple guidance. Today is a great day to push ahead."

"It is based on your fitness level and your activities from the last many days. And a lot depends on your heart rate. It's all about your goals and it's not a challenge. It's not based on what others have to say," said Katarina.

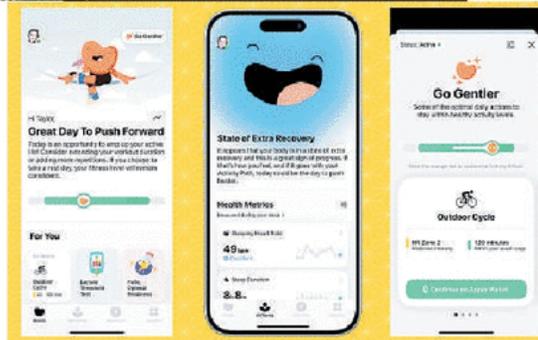
All of your logged activities are there and depending on that your daily activity status gets generated. The messaging is simple: It's an app that's trying to be affectionate towards the user and help establish a better relationship with yourself. It is trying to motivate you to move but not exhaust you.

"The world is chasing the next big thing. So, it's important to take a step back," said Jasna.

Take the example of the Go Gentle feature: You get daily suggestions based on your history. Say you visit the gym. It will first ask you to walk and then go to the gym and then suggest how long and intense the workout should be.

"We don't believe in a streak as it is. You don't have to perform a certain action each day to form a habit. It's a false expectation and you may get anxiety because of that. At times you have to push hard and at times you have to take it easy because we are humans. When you are sick, you need to take it easy," said Jasna.

The duo says that the app's biggest customers are those in the 25-35 age group and one of its biggest user sections is formed by those who are just getting into fitness.



The different screens on the app Gentler Streak. Picture: Gentler Stories



The Gentler Streak team

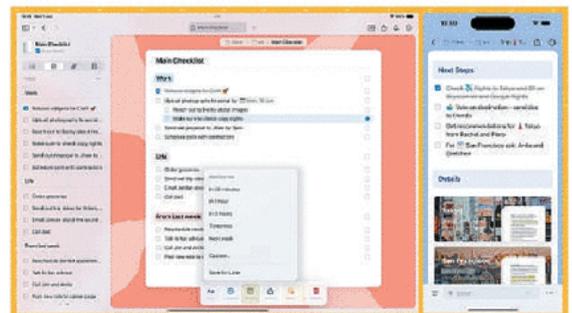
TEAM CRAFT DOCS

What is it?

Craft Docs is a versatile note-taking app, word processor and personal documents organiser all in one that makes productivity intuitive, fun and stylish. With Craft, you can fancy up your



Artom Konovalov, head of product design, Craft Docs



The Craft Docs app on the iPad (left) and the iPhone. Picture: The Telegraph

TECH

Since we met him hours after the keynote at WWDC, Artom was still going through all the helpful implications Apple Intelligence will have. He said that as much as possible, the team will take advantage of the new technology.

"Our core principle, we want users to have a consistent experience. We will never give you a feature that we don't know how to bring to another device, one with a different screen size. We also have a version of our app for Vision Pro; it came out around three weeks ago. It is again a part of the philosophy: I need Craft to be there because I am in the flow and want to use the product."

There is another cool aspect to Craft — when you create documents, you want to share it. You can share it as Doc or publish it. Publishing works well when you want to sell an idea, so the document opens well in Safari. Documents created on Craft are going to get more attention because these show you have put in a lot of effort.

"Remember the times when we are needed to create long strategy documents and then are told to come up with presentations. Instead of redoing everything, there is a button in Safari and also in the app that transforms your document into a rough presentation. So you can share your screen."

TEAM PROCREATE DREAMS

What is it?

Procreate Dreams is a design tool that allows creatives of all kinds to create 2D animations using the extensive and familiar library of brushes, gestures, and PencilKit-enabled behaviours from the original Procreate. The controls are effortlessly intuitive, with support for both multitouch interactions and Apple Pencil. The app offers powerful animated effects, audio, and video to bring users' creations and artwork to life.

Their story

One of the game-changing apps that launched in 2011 was Procreate, which made creating art easy and the iPad became the tool for a new set of customers — artists. It took another 12 years for the company to move to the next level with the development of Procreate Dreams, a new 2D animation app for the iPad that offers animation tools that anyone can use, no matter their level of experience.

What makes Procreate Dreams special is how it has been designed for the touch experience on the iPad. It comes with tools like Performing that enable users to automatically add keyframes to a project using gestures that record the animator's actions in real-time.

"The new product that we have developed is about making art come to life. With Procreate Dreams you can make beautiful animations. We are doing a lot of work around multitouch, like I can zoom into the timeline and I can see a bit more. We are doing things that were not done before. You can throw in a video and then overlay graphics. Everything you see here has been custom developed for the iPad, all running in real-time. Normally, to do all this stuff, you need a big computer and a lot of RAM. This has been engineered to run on an iPad and it runs fast," said Team Procreate.



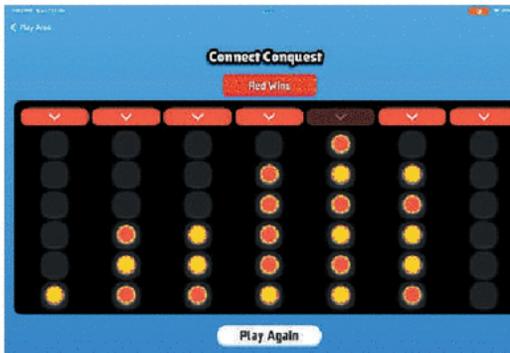
Procreate Dreams, an animation app. Picture: Savage Interactive



Apple CEO Tim Cook addressing the audience at WWDC 2024 in Cupertino, California, on June 10. Picture: The Telegraph



App developer Akshat Srivastava



The app MindBud

When Procreate Dreams launched in November, one wondered how it could be appealing to Wacom users. Also, what can Apple do to make life easier for Procreate users in general. The answer arrived with the announcement of iPad Pro, powered by M4, and iPad Air, powered by M2. Add to the mix the new Apple Pencil Pro, which has features like the 'Barrel Roll' that allows animators to move and rotate objects at the same time while recording actions in Procreate Dreams, and the squeeze feature to activate software shortcuts.

"There was a huge sigh of relief from the community," Team Procreate Dreams told us. "We have spent years developing ultra raw real-time performance and a new way of animating."

Procreate Dreams has been designed with the same goal as Procreate: It's aimed at beginner and professional animators alike. Thanks to Apple's nimble silicon, animation gets done very

quickly. Even if you have 200 layers and plenty of keyframes, adding a new design element happens in the blink of an eye.

The folks at Procreate take pride in what they have created and how it can help people around the world: "More than ever human creation is important. Learning as a skill is something we have for life. Learning new things is important. With Procreate Dreams we are trying to just bring you in and make it gentler for people to enter the market. If you want to go deeper into key-framing, that's there as well. We would love to see a lot of young men and women who were never exposed to animation try the app."

TEAM MINDBUD

What is it?

With a mission to foster analytical and creative thinking, MindBud features four engaging mini-games designed for kids to enjoy with family and friends.

His story

Apple's annual Swift Student Challenge recognises the best in student coding, and this year, it has added a new category to its ranks. Out of 350 winning submissions, 50 students have been named Distinguished Winners for building app playgrounds that stand out for their innovation, creativity, social impact, or inclusivity. These 50 students were invited to a three-day in-person experience at Apple Park.

Among the winners was Akshat Srivastava from Varanasi, who won Apple's Swift Student Challenge. The student from BITS Pilani KK Birla College in Goa started coding at the age of 16 and his submission is MindBud.

"The idea for the app came when I was playing with my nephew, who belongs to the iPad generation and he watches a lot of videos on the device. I thought when I was seven I used to play a lot of board games and being a big comic book fan, I used tracing paper to draw cartoon characters. Why can't I bring that experience to

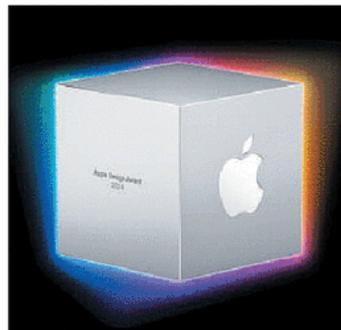
the iPad?" wondered Akshat.

Leveraging SwiftUI, AVKit (audio), PencilKit, and FileManager, MindBud delivers a seamless and immersive experience to make classic fun learning meet the new age technology.

"There are four mini-games. The first one is like Connect 4 and you can collaborate with family members. The second part involves sketching and it's my favourite part of the app. If your child wants to learn to draw, why not let him or her explore? The third part is a card-matching game like it was done in trivia shows back in the day. And the fourth one is around math," he said.

The student got into iOS development only a few months ago and the "learning curve has been great". "There has been a lot of help from the community. I code all the time and this app needed coding for three days, and then seven days were spent around UI. I love the Apple ecosystem and I want to work on more ideas," he said.

Mathures Paul



Apple WWDC 2024 Design Awards trophy. Picture: Apple

WINNERS OF THE 2024 APPLE DESIGN AWARDS

The year's winners include development teams from around the world who were selected for their stellar design, technical achievement, and innovation.

- **Bears Gratitude:** The journaling app provides a welcoming way to establish daily gratitude practices.
- **Oko:** By alerting pedestrians to the state of signal lights through haptic and audio feedback, Oko is an immediately impactful app for people who are visually impaired.
- **Crayola Adventures:** A colourful adventure game that offers a wide range of creation options for all players, Crayola Adventures brings to life character choices that include different skin tones, abilities, body types, pronouns, and full game narration.
- **Procreate Dreams:** It is a stunning design tool that allows creatives of all kinds to create 2D animations.
- **Lost in Play:** It offers players a charming adventure through childhood imagination with thoughtfully crafted puzzles.
- **Crouton:** It provides users with a clean interface for stashing away recipes, creating grocery lists, and presenting step-by-step instructions in the kitchen.
- **Rytmos:** Rytmos challenges players to solve puzzles by creating pathways using simple drag gestures, and every completed level adds a new element to an evolving song.
- **Gentler Streak Fitness Tracker:** It aims to improve everyone's lifestyles, no matter who or where they are.
- **The Wreck:** In the visual novel The Wreck, players follow alongside the story of Junon, a writer who is abruptly called to a hospital to make a life-changing decision that will impact her family forever.
- **Rooms:** Rooms offers users a blank slate for building imaginative scenes, a platform for cozy gaming, and a social space that offers interactions with thousands of other people's creations.
- **Lies of P:** It is an imaginative adventure that reimagines a classic tale, allowing players to control a robotic puppet created by Geppeito, who must survive a battle march through a burned-out city to find his maker.
- **Djay Pro:** It is an entirely new way to interact with music in a spatial environment. With remarkable technical ingenuity and best-in-class immersion, Djay brings users high-definition sound quality and endless creativity for music mixing.
- **Blackbox:** Blackbox on Apple Vision Pro challenges users to think about every corner of the spatial canvas.

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You continue to win awards for *Last Stories 2*. What do awards mean to you?
Last Stories 2 will always have a special place in my heart because it is so rare to get a film that talks about women's desires without looking down on them. Working with a mind like Konkona Sen Sharma, who directed the segment named 'The Mirror' and with a co-actor like Amritha (Subhash) made one feel very alive. The politics of the story and its complex negotiation was like a rich, sumptuous meal and every bite was so delicious for me.
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well. It tells you that your instincts are not wrong, and what drew me into that story is something that drew others in as well. As an actor, you tend to question and second-guess yourself. So it means a lot.
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Getting an award, of course, makes me feel really appreciated, it makes my parents happy and I am glad they can see all this while they are alive. They will be less worried now about my choice of profession. They have always believed in me but I think this kind of external validation makes a parent's heart more at ease.
They are like little children who feel so excited to see that their daughter who started a journey 20-plus years ago and was often sitting at home without any work and who they supported through all that, is doing well now. I keep all my awards with them. Anyway, our Bombay homes are so small. I have such little space and my collection of plants keep increasing with every travel. So all the awards are

'I NEED A GOOD SCRIPT AND A GOOD WRITER TO WRITE THAT SCRIPT. THE SETS NEED TO BE SAFE SO THAT ACTORS CAN FLY' — TILLOTAMA SHOME

with Ms and Baba so that I can have more plants!
What is it about Season 3 of *Kota Factory* that spoke to you?
When I got the call for *Kota Factory*, just a few moments after that, I got a news alert on my phone about a student who had committed suicide in Kota. When the fictional world that we engage in as actors collides with the harshness of facts, you are compelled to take a stand.
Kota Factory is not fiction. There are young lives in my country who are going through tremendous pressure and their hopes and dreams are significant. For it to end without it having a chance to express itself is sad and unimaginable for the parents, but also an utter loss and waste of resource that directly impacts the quality of our future.
The youth are our future. We are worried about our future but we don't want to invest in the emotional well-being of the young. But TVF (the creators of the series) care and *Kota Factory* puts the youth as the protagonists, right at the front and centre. It has also created a teacher (Jetti Bhaiya played by Alendra Kumar) who is so loved because he cares for his students.
I knew in my heart that I had to do it even before I read the script. I



Tillotama Shome

never say 'yes' to anything without reading the script. But in the case of *Kota Factory*, the decision in my heart was already made that I have to do it.
***Kota Factory* is the story of a teacher who cares for his students beyond exams and ranks. But it is these same students who make getting into IIT the centre of their lives, so the point of obsessing over it. How do you think the show achieves a balance between the two?**
The fact that the show even cares is a big win for me. I don't think this space even existed earlier. The makers have come out of that grind themselves... they have been at IIT. They know firsthand what the pressure is. The sense of empathy is very high. Instead of making it their bitter experiences and worries, making them cynical and hard, they decided to become storytellers who, with *Kota Factory*, are telling a story that understands the pressure on the students, of the dream to get to IIT.
In most Indian households, our educational qualification is key because other ways of making ends meet don't really exist. It is not about judging the students, it is about accepting that this exists. You can't just undo social conditioning by saying something once.

One of the most important moments in *Kota Factory* — which you can say is the slogan, the heartbeat of the show — says that victory actually lies in the preparation, in the journey... But one has to repeat this because the worries and anxieties that have been so foundational in our society when it comes to learning and education, of learning by memory and not actually understanding and

unable to figure it. One night, he dreamt of a snake that bit its own tail and suddenly, the snake took the shape of a hexagon. When he woke up, he realised: 'Oh my God, this makes complete sense! This is the shape of the Benzene Molecule'. One thinks of the world of dreams and imagination and the world of science as being two separate things. But when you read the writings of scientists, you see how

of darkness and gloom. It is nice to have this ideal teacher.
Did you have to tap into any aspect of Tillotama to play Pooja, the chemistry teacher?
I was not the best student. But then I met this really good teacher and everything changed. The show explores that, what that one good teacher can do and how they can change the way you feel about yourself, about the subject, and make you love something that you thought you hated. A teacher like this is an amazing 'converter machine' that takes this hate and fear and turns it into love and hope. I love the simplicity and the hopefulness of that.
What kind of mind space are you in now as an actor? Not only is there a lot of work, it is also rewarding...
I am very grateful for the work that I have got. Post the pandemic, it is a bit of a difficult time for the industry. Everyone is trying to gain their equilibrium and trying to understand how to pivot. I am grateful to be included and to be a part of this industry.
I don't want to overthink it. For me, the process will remain the same. I still need a good script and a good writer to write that script. The sets need to be safe so that actors can fly. Those fundamentals remain the same. I want to focus on being able to do my best in the opportunities that come. Do I look at myself differently with so much work? I think I'll stop taking care of the inner child. I will get bored. And then I won't get work.

India, and in particular Indian women, have really had a moment at the Cannes Film Festival this year. How does that make you feel?
An immense amount of pride and at the same time, a dash of rage at how difficult it is to make an independent film. There is so little support for it. International recognition and international film festivals become the only way such films can see the light of day.
Despite all that, the women made it! The excitement and the joy for me was already a fever pitch when I heard about the nominations and the win for Anasuya Sengupta for Best Actor and for *Team All My Insecurities Light* that won the Grand Prix was a windfall. It is an impenetrable forest, but they have cleared out a path for us to walk on. I hope we gain strength from that.
A win like this is a win for everyone because it helps you to recalibrate the despair and keep moving forward. People are writing about them today but the crew that stood with the film when there was nobody supporting it... to all of them, a big 'thank you' for building a road for all of us to walk on.
Do you think that there is a filmmaker or a writer in you somewhere?
I am not able to find her currently. I am talking to her every day. I am waiting for her to show up. It is really hard. I will let you know when she shows up.
Priyanka Roy

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When you spend 20 years not giving up on what you love doing, even though the opportunities are far and few, and the validation is sometimes non-existent from the industry, then you understand that the award lies in just getting the work and creating a character that transforms you, that allows you to look at the world in a different way, opens you to meeting storytellers who you have so much to learn from and which transports you to a different place. Then you start seeing that the real prize is in being offered a certain kind of story, being invited as a collaborator and as an interpreter.
Getting an award, of course, makes me feel really appreciated, it makes my parents happy and I am glad they can see all this while they are alive. They will be less worried now about my choice of profession. They have always believed in me but I think this kind of external validation makes a parent's heart more at ease.
They are like little children who feel so excited to see that their daughter who started a journey 20-plus years ago and was often sitting at home without any work and who they supported through all that, is doing well now. I keep all my awards with them. Anyway, our Bombay homes are so small. I have such little space and my collection of plants keep increasing with every travel. So all the awards are

'I NEED A GOOD SCRIPT AND A GOOD WRITER TO WRITE THAT SCRIPT. THE SETS NEED TO BE SAFE SO THAT ACTORS CAN FLY' — TILLOTAMA SHOME

with Ms and Baba so that I can have more plants!
What is it about Season 3 of *Kota Factory* that spoke to you?
When I got the call for *Kota Factory*, just a few moments after that, I got a news alert on my phone about a student who had committed suicide in Kota. When the fictional world that we engage in as actors collides with the harshness of facts, you are compelled to take a stand.
Kota Factory is not fiction. There are young lives in my country who are going through tremendous pressure and their hopes and dreams are significant. For it to end without it having a chance to express itself is sad and unimaginable for the parents, but also an utter loss and waste of resource that directly impacts the quality of our future.
The youth are our future. We are worried about our future but we don't want to invest in the emotional well-being of the young. But TVF (the creators of the series) care and *Kota Factory* puts the youth as the protagonists, right at the front and centre. It has also created a teacher, Jettu Bhaiya, played by Alendra Kumar who is so loved because he cares for his students.
I knew in my heart that I had to do it even before I read the script. I



Tillotama Shome

never say 'yes' to anything without reading the script. But in the case of *Kota Factory*, the decision in my heart was already made that I have to do it.
***Kota Factory* is the story of a teacher who cares for his students beyond exams and ranks. But it is these same students who make getting into IIT the centre of their lives, so the point of obsessing over it. How do you think the show achieves a balance between the two?**
The fact that the show even cares is a big win for me. I don't think this space even existed earlier. The makers have come out of that grind themselves... they have been at IIT. They know firsthand what the pressure is. The sense of empathy is very high. Instead of making it their bitter experiences and worries, making them cynical and hard, they decided to become storytellers who, with *Kota Factory*, are telling a story that understands the pressure on the students, of the dream to get to IIT.
In most Indian households, our educational qualification is key because other ways of making ends meet don't really exist. It is not about judging the students, it is about accepting that this exists. You can't just undo social conditioning by saying something once.

One of the most important moments in *Kota Factory* — which you can say is the slogan, the heartbeat of the show — says that victory actually lies in the preparation, in the journey... But one has to repeat this because the worries and anxieties that have been so foundational in our society when it comes to learning and education, of learning by memory and not actually understanding and

unable to figure it. One night, he dreamt of a snake that bit its own tail and suddenly, the snake took the shape of a hexagon. When he woke up, he realised: 'Oh my God, this makes complete sense! This is the shape of the Benzene Molecule'. One thinks of the world of dreams and imagination and the world of science as being two separate things. But when you read the writings of scientists, you see how

of darkness and gloom. It is nice to have this ideal teacher.
Did you have to tap into any aspect of Tillotama to play Pooja, the chemistry teacher?
I was not the best student. But then I met this really good teacher and everything changed. The show explores that, what that one good teacher can do and how they can change the way you feel about yourself, about the subject, and make you love something that you thought you hated. A teacher like this is an amazing 'converter machine' that takes this hate and fear and turns it into love and hope. I love the simplicity and the hopefulness of that.
What kind of mind space are you in now as an actor? Not only is there a lot of work, it is also rewarding...
I am very grateful for the work that I have got. Post the pandemic, it is a bit of a difficult time for the industry. Everyone is trying to gain their equilibrium and trying to understand how to pivot. I am grateful to be included and to be a part of this industry.
I don't want to overthink it. For me, the process will remain the same. I still need a good script and a good writer to write that script. The sets need to be safe so that actors can fly. Those fundamentals remain the same. I want to focus on being able to do my best in the opportunities that come. Do I look at myself differently with so much work? I think I'll stop taking care of the inner child. I will get bored. And then I won't get work.

India, and in particular Indian women, have really had a moment at the Cannes Film Festival this year. How does that make you feel?
An immense amount of pride and at the same time, a dash of rage at how difficult it is to make an independent film. There is so little support for it. International recognition and international film festivals become the only way such films can see the light of day.
Despite all that, the women made it! The excitement and the joy for me was already a fever pitch when I heard about the nominations and the win for Anasuya Sengupta for Best Actor and for Team *All We Imagine is Light* that won the Grand Prix was a windfall. It is an impenetrable forest, but they have cleared out a path for us to walk on. I hope we gain strength from that.
A win like this is a win for everyone because it helps you to recalibrate the despair and keep moving forward. People are writing about them today but the crew that stood with the film when there was nobody supporting it... to all of them, a big 'thank you' for building a road for all of us to walk on.
Do you think that there is a filmmaker or a writer in you somewhere?
I am not able to find her currently. I am talking to her every day. I am waiting for her to show up. It is really hard. I will let you know when she shows up.
Priyanka Roy

'THIS MOVIE WILL BE REMEMBERED JUST LIKE KAMALESWAR MUKHERJEE'S CULT CLASSIC MEGHE DHAKA TARA,' WRITES FILMMAKER RAAJHORSHEE DE ABOUT ATHHOI

Othello is a dark play with a tragic ending; the characters are handled beautifully, each distinctly standing out from the other. Iago plays an important role in the play as an archetypal villain. In the play, he has the biggest share of dialogues. His angst and vileness can be seen throughout the play. He knew the weaknesses and sore points of Othello and played with them easily. Othello was an egoistic man and Iago cunningly toyed with his ego in a smart way. He brilliantly used Othello's own ego against him without even giving him a hint.



Raajhorshee De

Now *Athhoi*, the Bengali film adaptation of *Othello*, is set in a village called Bhinsura, a very dry unknown geographical locale with a disruptive bio-diverse backdrop. Athhoi is a Dalit. He comes to Bhinsura with his widowed mother and later he is rescued by Anagra's (Anirban Bhattacharya) father.

Athhoi grows up, comes to Calcutta and meets Diyamona and they fall in love. Diyamona's father doesn't approve and he curses Athhoi that if a daughter can betray her own father, then one day the same betrayal is waiting for Athhoi.

Athhoi's insecurity is primarily because he is a Dalit. It is extremely important to note that Anirban Bhattacharya (creative director), Arno Mukhopadhyay (story, screenplay and dialogue) and DoP Soumik Halder's filmmaking vision is extraordinary. Both Anirban and Arna have read between the lines of the text and subtly incorporated the vital socio-political issues in the movie. The three of them together concentrate on one scene at a time and handle the emotions and their presentations in a very unusual way. Emotions like jealousy and guilt have been handled in an extremely theatrical way and it is not difficult for the viewers to relate to them.

The theatrical setting of

A moment from *Athhoi*

Bhinsura — whether it is Athhoi's house, the secret place where Gogo and Athhoi meet, or the bridge — adds to the poetic visuals. Visually, it's one of Soumik's best works till date. He is extraordinarily brilliant in *Athhoi*. The way Athhoi's house is decorated with tiny fairy lights on the night of the wedding, the way there is a tube light under a bamboo beside the framework, the way fire and water merge beside the bridge, the way a torch becomes a very important characteristic throughout the entire movie —

without tremendous artistic control and skill in camera, lighting and direction, this cannot be achieved.

The one-on-one interactions of Athhoi and Anagra remind us of some of the famous scenes from the play *Mephisto*, based on Klaus Mann's 1936 novel of the same name, *Ariane*

Mnouchkine's stage version of the book and Hungarian filmmaker Istvan Szabo's movie adaptation. The last interaction between Anagra and Athhoi reminds us of *Vikram and Betal*. Their tales, believed to have originated in the 11th century, feature the legendary King Vikram Aditya and the wise ghost *Betal*, who challenges the king with moral and ethical dilemmas. Through

Anirban Bhattacharya



VIKRAM CHATTERJEE AND MADHUMITA SARCAR SHARE A UNIQUE CHEMISTRY IN THE TEASER OF *SURJO*

Romance and excitement are on the cards for lovers of Bengali movies this July. *Surjo*, Shieladitya Moulik's upcoming film, promises fun, emotion, action, heroic deeds and much more, as revealed by its official teaser, which dropped recently. Starring Vikram Chatterjee, Madhumita Sarcar and Darshana Banik, it will be an out-and-out entertainer, with a hint of a mystery in its plot, along with the expectation of an enchanting love affair between the lead duo of Vikram and Madhumita.

Described as the weirdest love story of the year, the 74-second-long teaser is packed with enough information to entice viewers and make them grow more curious

about the film, without revealing much about its actual story. Fans, though, have drawn parallels with the Malayalam film *Charlie*, claiming that *Surjo* is its Bengali remake. Lush landscapes, spectacular roads canopied by trees, hilly terrains add to the beauty of the short teaser, whose smart cinematography, besides creating a pleasant aesthetic, accentuates its aura of mystery and excitement.

The characters are introduced

The poster of *Surjo*

swiftly and sharply. Madhumita, who is seen clicking pictures and going from place to place, is perhaps picking up clues that will lead her to the person she is looking for. Vikram on the other hand is the titular protagonist *Surjo*. His action scenes suggest that he may be a rebel, a vigilante or a crime fighter. Like the sun (*surjo*) he is depicted

bringing light into people's lives, or scorching them if they so deserve.

A vibrant atmosphere is generated all through the teaser

their encounters, each tale imparts valuable lessons on righteousness, wisdom, and the consequences of one's actions.

Great actors share certain characteristics whether they work in a film or a play. A passion for performing and entertaining is a key quality, and a good actor should have the confidence to portray his role in a production convincingly and connect with audiences. Anirban Bhattacharya is undoubtedly one of them. Anirban will remain one of the finest actors of our times.

Arna Mukhopadhyay is brilliant. In addition to his love for Bhinsura and Diyamona, Athhoi Kumar Lodha will be remembered for his sincerity and honesty. He is a man of integrity and is highly respected as a doctor in Bhinsura. However, these admirable qualities are overshadowed by his tragic flaw, making his character even more complex and tragic. The mobile phone and news of Palestine, which Athhoi hears, becomes an alter ego or a subconscious of people in war, starving across the world. I think it's quite interesting that even William Shakespeare mentioned Palestine in his play — "I know a lady in Venice would have walked barefoot to Palestine for a touch of his nether lip..."

Sohini Sarkar as Diyamona is superb... she is a scene-stealer and her intensity of handling such a classical character proves that undoubtedly she will remain as one of the most powerful actors of this generation. Mimi Dutta is very organic and subtle in the film.

Subhadeep Guha's background score is very good. It was great to see so many new actors, including Arpan Ghosal as Mukul, in *Athhoi*. He is brilliant. This movie will be remembered just like the cult classic *Meghe Dhaka Tara* by Kamaleswar Mukherjee.

through music, dance and festive scenes like Durga Puja scenes and Chhau dances. Moments of a road trip, with the duo on a motorbike, generate pure romantic vibes although the chemistry between them is subtle and understated. An element of mystery, however, pervades the whole scene, underscoring the impression that all is not what it seems. Scenes of an orphanage, pencil sketches of people and random situations of conflict and violence add to the air of mystery of this teaser. With its romantic mood and right doses of action and excitement, *Surjo* appears to have touched the pulse of the audience, who will be eagerly awaiting its release on July 19.

Piya Roy

PEOPLE

‘HUMAN BEINGS CAN SPEAK. THAT IS A RIGHT YOU CANNOT TAKE AWAY FROM THEM’ — R BALKI ON GEORGE ORWELL, HUMANITARIAN RIGHTS AND THE BACHCHAN CONNECT IN HIS FILMS

Filmmaker R Balki, the man behind films like *Paa*, *Pad Man*, *Chup* and, more recently, *Ghoomer*, touched down in Calcutta on June 15 to contribute as a speaker for the motion at the second annual Tolly Club debate, held in association with *The Telegraph*. The motion, which asked if George Orwell’s classic *1984* was 75 years too early, had Balki sharing his experiences perusing the book, its relevance in contemporary times, and the importance of the media in democracy.

t2 sat down with the director for a chat before the debate to talk about all things Orwell, cinema, and Amitabh Bachchan.

You’re here for the debate tonight. What are you looking forward to the most?
It’s going to be a lot of fun! I re-read the book recently, just to get a feel of it and it doesn’t feel like fiction or dystopia. It was based on the atrocities of Stalin at the time that it was written and what he was trying to say then is truer in many countries, including ours, now. Sometimes I wonder whether everybody’s not caught on to this book, and reading it and figuring out what he was trying to say!

How do you prepare for debates and public speaking engagements, especially on topics related to cinema and literature?
Well, you must be interested in the topic that you’re speaking about, firstly, especially if it’s a debate. And it must be relevant — it must be a topic that can fundamentally engage the audience by its very nature. Second, it’s about you just knowing a few things about the topic and if you’re interested in it, and if you don’t know enough then you have to read up about what it is. For example, today isn’t explicitly going to be Orwellian — it’s not about George Orwell’s novel exactly, it’s about what’s happening in society today. But still, it’s good to just reread the book, because we all read it a very long time ago. Re-reading it was so eerie...but then it’s always hit close to home. It’s very strange but that’s the kind of book it is. We always live in times when rulers try to subvert the people. That’s always been there, across the world, in every country. It’s just the degrees that differ.

The topic today is quite serious and deals with a book that is known to be satire against political propaganda. You’re speaking for the motion — how do you, as a filmmaker, navigate the line between artistic freedom and social responsibility?
See, this is a debate that has gone on for years, and we’ve always treated — in this country especially — people as not being ready to understand artistic

freedom as artistic freedom. But I think artistic freedom is freedom in itself and the people don’t always understand or allow it but they should. Every country has to evolve that way. One cannot have barriers.

Like, when *A Clockwork Orange* was first done, there was an enormous hue and cry but people couldn’t stop it. They tried their best to ban it — it was banned in

environment on your sets?
What happens in a film is, you come together — it could be your idea, it could be your script, whatever — and you tell that story you’re interested in. The thing that binds all these people together is that one story or that one strip that they’re all working towards. So again, it’s like a mini country in itself, it’s a system. Now if suddenly people

who for me is divine. I can’t turn him into a character or a story. I am interested in his music. I am not interested in the story of the person. I am interested in the story of his music. And that may not necessarily be cinematic. I don’t want to do that, I have too much reverence for his music because it has shaped me and my life. I didn’t have the guts to do his biopic!

How can you say he’s my lucky charm, I am lucky to be working with Bachchan! I’m the lucky one in this scenario! Because, see, who doesn’t want to work with Bachchan? He’s the ultimate, cinema will never get a Bachchan again. I don’t know if there can be a character like Amitabh Bachchan ever again. I call him a character because he’s far bigger than a star. Because he’s Bachchan, he’s a character in himself. We all want to be like him, talk like him... men loved him, women loved him, everyone loved him, and people just went to the screen to see him. And that was special.

He’s transcended everything. Today I know the number of people that go on to make a film great, but while watching Bachchan on screen, I never see the filmmaker. I always just see Bachchan. That is the power of the man. We don’t know how lucky we are to share at least some part of our lives with his. People will write about him later, of course, but they will have missed, not the greatness of him, but the joy of an indescribable connect. I don’t know how many people are going to feel that joy again. I can’t even think of words to put it into.

How was it working with his son in *Ghoomer*?
Abhishek, to me, has always been one of the most understated actors and the power in his understatedness is very rare. I keep saying this, he’s one of the most contemporary actors that we have. Unfortunately, a lot of the films that have come his way haven’t worked, or he may not have been right for those themes, but as an urban contemporary actor, he’s damn good. And I’ve worked with him for a long time, too.

Is there a subject you’re itching to make a film on?
If I’ve ever dreamed of doing something, then I’ve done it. Because at that point of time, that subject fascinates me. That’s all I do. So I’m not looking forward to doing anything in particular in that sense. Ideas stay with you and then you develop them, and that’s what I’ve always done.

Is there anything you’ve watched recently that you really liked?
Yes, I watched the *Dune* films back-to-back just recently, and I absolutely loved them. I never thought I’d like them, which is why I hadn’t watched them before and I waited a long time to finally watch them but I was just engrossed in that world. And I absolutely hated *Furiosa* (*A Mad Max Saga*)! I loathed it! Besides those, I watched some Mallu (Malayalam) films and quite liked them. I liked *Aavesham* very much. Come to think of it, I watched so many wonderful films that I can’t recall now — I’ll remember and tell you!

I don’t know if there can be a character like Amitabh Bachchan ever again. I call him a character because he’s far bigger than a star. Because he’s Bachchan, he’s a character in himself

the US and the US bans are a lot more conservative than Indian ones! But I just feel that it’s time to stop putting barriers on everything. I think we should be allowed to speak, instead of just always feeling that our people are not ready. You must be allowed to speak anything that you want to, and you must trust people’s intelligence to figure things out for themselves. Not everyone is going to be influenced just because I’ve said something. Not everything can be inflammatory. You simply can’t have that in a country like ours.

And it’s a humanitarian freedom to speak, forget about artists! Human beings can speak. That is a right you cannot take away from them. Because today we’re living in non-Orwellian times. You can’t get away with that kind of stuff anymore. There are just too many people.

A debate is a space for collaboration, creativity and the sharing of ideas. How do you encourage a similar

start misbehaving on set, then the film goes for a toss.

Now that we’re talking about films, I have to ask about the *Ilaiyaraaja* biopic, reportedly starring Dhanush. What is the status?
There’s no status! I’m not doing the *Ilaiyaraaja* biopic! It’s very difficult for me to do a film on somebody

It’s very difficult for me to do a film on somebody who for me is divine. I can’t turn (music legend *Ilaiyaraaja*) into a character, or a story. I am interested in his music. I am not interested in the story of the person. I am interested in the story of his music

the harmonium or whatever he plays and churns out 10 times in five minutes. He’s actually an incredibly divine musician. For me, that’s the story. He is a product of something I don’t understand, and I can’t touch something I don’t understand. I am very close to it but I can’t understand it. It’s like all of us. Any one of us can do a biopic on the achievements of a person but the source of that achievement — unless that source can be a story, the achievement will never become big.

For example, I did *Pad Man*. I know what he (Arunachalam Muruganantham) did, the source was very easy for me. But here the source is divinity. How can I translate that? I can’t. I hope someone else can. I’m sure there are many good people working on it and I’ll be the first one to watch the film if and when it actually does happen but I don’t know. I could never see him as a film. I can only see him as music.

Would you consider the Amitabh Bachchan connect to be your lucky charm?



R Balki at the second annual Tolly Debate at the Tollygunge Club on June 15

Subhalakshmi Dey
Picture: Pabitra Das

B.C. by Johny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



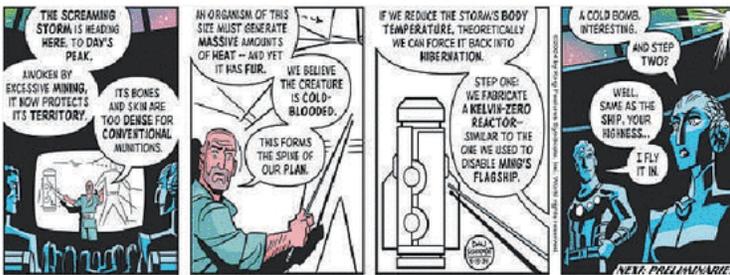
Peanuts by Charles Schulz



The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



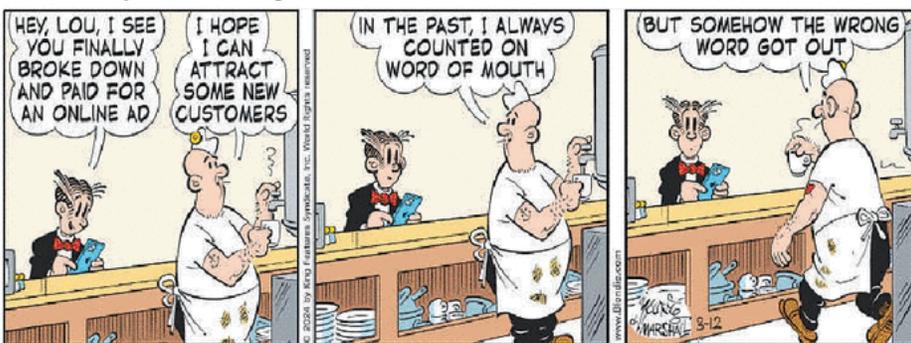
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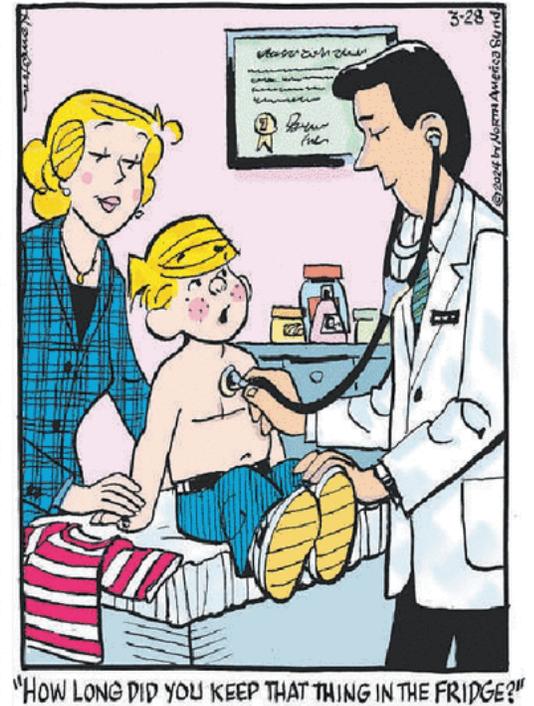
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



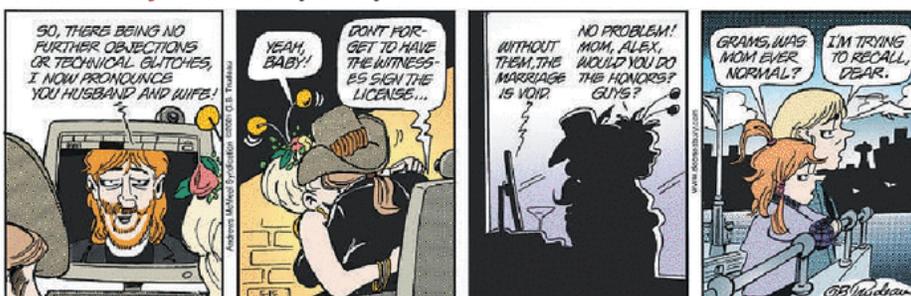
Blondie by Dean Young



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



t2 DISCOVERED A FINE-DINE RESTAURANT HOUSED INSIDE HOWRAH RAIL MUSEUM. HERE'S A WALKTHROUGH OF IMPERIAL KITCHEN

Housed inside Howrah's Rail Museum, Imperial Kitchen is a hidden gem that offers a unique dining experience reminiscent of the opulent journeys on the Maharaja Express or The Orient Express. The culinary experience at Imperial Kitchen is as comforting as its

surroundings. The menu boasts a fusion of traditional Indian and continental flavours. Signature dishes include Grilled Fish with Herb Rice, succulent kebabs and refreshing mocktails, all prepared with fresh ingredients.

Whether you're a history enthusiast or a food connoisseur, Imperial Kitchen

promises a journey of gastronomic delight and cultural immersion. Nestled within the historic confines of Howrah's Railway Museum, this restaurant perfectly blends heritage and mouth-watering cuisine, offering a memorable dining experience that captures the grandeur of a luxury train travel.

What: Imperial Kitchen
Where: Rail Museum, Howrah Railway Station, Shibpur
Timings: Breakfast: 6am-10am. All-day dining: Noon-11pm
Seating capacity: 80 seaters
Meal for two: ₹ 300 onwards



Nestled inside a refurbished rail bogie, Imperial Kitchen is surrounded by rich history and the vintage charm of the Howrah Rail Museum, which was restored by the Government of West Bengal, blending the elegance of the bygone era with modern culinary delights.

The outside seating area reminds you of the train platforms with black-and-white chequered floors covered by the tin roof to match with the theme.



Imagine yourself travelling on the lavish Orient Express as the restaurant's interior transports you to an era of royal luxury and sophistication on wheels. Spread across 1,000sq ft, the decor features vintage railway memorabilia, plush seating, wooden walls and old-school lighting, creating an intimate and cosy atmosphere.



Imperial Kitchen's cosy corners enchant with the charming railway theme. The windows are adorned with white curtains that evoke nostalgic train journeys.



"Imperial Kitchen is where dining is an elegant journey through time and taste. We are thrilled to have you aboard our railway-themed restaurant, a place where every detail is crafted to transport you to an era of refined travel and culinary delight. Our menu, inspired by the diverse flavours, promises a gastronomic adventure that will tantalise your taste buds. Whether you're here for an intimate dinner or a celebratory feast, our team is dedicated to providing an unforgettable experience. From the moment you step through our doors, we invite you to relax and embark on a unique culinary voyage," said Saurabh Rai and Shrishti Deepak, co-owners of Imperial Kitchen.

WHAT WE LIKED:



Enjoy mouth-watering meals while you sit by the window seats and enjoy the view of the railway museum outside.



Grilled Fish in Lemon Butter Sauce served with herb rice and sauteed veggies is a must-try as the meal is filled with goodness and flavours.



Murshidabadi Kosha Mutton is a sumptuous dish made with special spices from Murshidabad in a rich and flavourful gravy.



Murgh Malai Kebabs are luscious chunks of chicken marinated in a creamy sauce and cooked in the clay oven.



Imperial Kitchen has a range of refreshing mocktails like the Mint Mojito made with muddled mint leaves and lemon juice.



Marinated fish fillets, coated in bread crumbs and fried till crispy results in the classic Fish and Chips.

Rohini Chakraborty
 Pictures: Rashbehari Das

INDULGE IN THE WORLD BURGER TOUR COMPETITION BY HARD ROCK CAFE

To mark Hard Rock International Founders' Day, Hard Rock Cafe outlets around the world, including Hard Rock Cafe Kolkata, have introduced five culturally inspired burgers on the menu for a limited-time return of the World Burger Tour competition. This year's World Burger Tour competition began with an initial round of 150-plus new burgers developed by Hard Rock Cafe chefs around the world, featuring ingredients inspired by their local culture and personal

What: World Burger Tour Competition
Where: Hard Rock Cafe Kolkata, Park Street
On till: September 2
Pocket pinch: ₹895 plus (each burger)



The Bengaluru Burger is a 7oz steak burger made with American cheese, sweet and spicy pickled mayo, black bean corn salsa, roasted jalapeno, guacamole, and shredded lettuce — a creation of Hard Rock Cafe Bengaluru, India.

The Bucharest Burger is created with garlic horseradish aioli, marinated camembert cheese, tomato, smoked shoestring onions, Frisee lettuce, and red wine cranberry jam — developed by Hard Rock Cafe Bucharest, Romania.

The Kathmandu Burger is tall, stacked with two burger patties, sweet chilli mayo, provolone cheese, caramelised onions, avocado, and tomato zucchini slaw — prepared by Hard Rock Cafe Kathmandu, Nepal.

taste. Based on sales performance, guest preference and taste testing of the burgers at their originating location this spring, the five top finalists made it to the final round and their creations were added for a limited time to all HRC menus from June 14 through September 2. Now Calcuttans can have a taste of the five finalist burgers namely, Bengaluru Burger, Bucharest Burger, Gramado Burger, Kathmandu Burger and Pittsburgh Burger. Drop in to Hard Rock Cafe Kolkata to choose your winner.

Pictures courtesy: Hard Rock Cafe



The Gramado Burger is a 7oz steak burger made with garlic aioli, crispy mozzarella cheese fritter with a twist of whisky bacon jam — devised by Hard Rock Cafe Gramado, Brazil.



The Pittsburgh Burger is stacked with two smashed burger patties, HRC legendary sauce, smoked bacon, pickles, beer cheese sauce, whisky bacon jam, American cheese, and French fries — from Hard Rock Cafe Pittsburgh, USA.





Identify the correct words in the lyrics to complete the songs.




21st - 27th June, 2024

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TALK

FILMS ABOUT DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PROTAGONISTS THAT YOU LOVED



Taare Zameen Par

My favourite movie with a differently-abled protagonist is undoubtedly *Iqbal*. The story, music and, of course, the finesse of Shreyas Talpade's performance gave the movie a charm of its own. Other films on physically challenged people fade in comparison. (Which is your favourite film with a differently-abled protagonist... May 11)

Ushree

I would pick *Black* (2005) and *Hichki* (2018) as my favourite films in this category. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's critically acclaimed film *Black* narrates the poignant tale of a visually-impaired young girl Michelle (Rani Mukerji) who is motivated by her elderly, stubborn teacher Debraj Sahai (Amitabh Bachchan) to set out on a journey of self-acceptance and unleash her true potential. This film sheds light on the collective hardships, frustrations and pent-up emotions of individuals like Michelle who are caged within pre-set boundaries. From leading a gloomy, hopeless life to transforming her shortcomings into her biggest

strengths, Debraj inspired her to smash the negativity around her. The climax scene where they stretched out their palms to catch and feel the water droplets, and reminiscing the first lesson he taught her, tugs at my heartstrings.

Hichki unfolds the heartwarming story of Naina Mathur (Rani Mukerji) who has Tourette Syndrome and lands a job in an elite school and is given the responsibility to manage a special class created for underprivileged children. Determined to realise her dream, she endures mockery and criticism at the hands of her students and the headmaster but her resilience guides her through all challenges, enabling her to shape the children into strong, successful and responsible adults. She was kind, confident and understanding, embodying the finest qualities that define a teacher. The fact that she rose up the ranks and retired after a scintillating term of 25 years as the headmistress inspires one to chase their dreams wholeheartedly, irrespective of the hurdles on the

way. Out of all the songs, *Khol de pa* beautifully resonated with Naina's personality, celebrating her admirable spirit.

Aayman Anwar Ali

There are many unique and powerful films that feature differently-abled protagonists. Some of my favourites include *Taare Zameen Par*, *Iqbal*, *Paa* and *Black*.

Taare Zameen Par beautifully showcases Ishaan Awasthi's (Darsheel Safary) journey towards self-acceptance and success. It highlights the importance of understanding and supporting specially-abled people with empathy.

Iqbal (Shreyas Talpade) perseveres and proves his abilities on the cricket field, showing that determination and passion help us fulfil our dreams, no matter what.

In *Paa*, Auro (Amitabh Bachchan), a bright and intelligent boy, teaches his parents valuable life lessons and the importance of cherishing every moment.

Black is a poignant and emotional film that showcases the power of love and determination in overcoming adversity.

All these films shed light on the varied life experiences of the protagonists and celebrate their strength, resilience and unique abilities. They serve as a reminder that everyone deserves equal opportunities, love and respect, irrespective of the mental or physical challenges faced by them.

Sohini Raychaudhuri

Forrest Gump is an iconic film that beautifully captures the essence of resilience and hope through the life of its protagonist,

Forrest Gump, played by Tom Hanks. Despite

being born with an IQ of 75 and a curved spine, Forrest, guided by his mother's optimistic outlook, navigates a life filled with remarkable achievements and profound experiences. The movie's narrative is a testament to the power of perseverance and an unyielding spirit. Forrest's journey from a small-town boy with physical and intellectual challenges to a decorated war hero, a successful businessman and a loving father, exemplifies the theme of overcoming obstacles.

One of the film's most compelling arcs is that of Lieutenant Dan, portrayed by Gary Sinise. After losing his legs in the war, he struggles with his identity and purpose. However, through his friendship with Forrest and his own inner strength, he finds new meaning in life, ultimately achieving personal and professional success. This subplot reinforces the film's message that disabilities cannot define one's potential or limit one's achievements.

Tom Hanks delivered a performance that is both heartfelt and nuanced, bringing Forrest's character to life with a perfect blend of innocence and wisdom. Each supporting character adds depth to the story, contributing to the film's emotional richness. *Forrest Gump* remains my all-time favourite for its portrayal of a differently-abled protagonist who triumphs against all odds.

Sarbani Banerjee

Taare Zameen Par is one of the films closest to my heart. The protagonist, a little boy named Ishaan, is thought to be a lazy troublemaker. He fails in every school examination but his world is filled with imagination, creativity and colours. Soon, he is packed off to a boarding school 'to be disciplined'. But things do not improve at all. Feeling abandoned, Ishaan sinks into depression, fear and anxiety, which increase due to the aggressive behaviour of the teachers there. A new art teacher, Ram Shankar Nikumbh (Aamir Khan), notices Ishaan's unhappiness, reviews his work and spots the symptoms of dyslexia. Nikumbh is determined to help Ishaan and becomes his permanent tutor. Many months later when Ishaan's parents come to meet his teachers, they are left speechless seeing the transformation in their son. Having realised their mistake, they thank Nikumbh for handling the situation. Indeed this film truly proved its sub-title 'every child is special'.

Dayita Chakraborty

Two films about visually-challenged characters have greatly appealed to me over the years. One is undoubtedly Al Pacino's classic act as the acerbic and eccentric retired Lieutenant Colonel Frank Slade in the iconic *Scent of a Woman* (1992). Pacino was unbelievably natural and convincing in his blindness, using his stares, eye movements and grimaces so masterfully and unblinkingly that one could not help but feel deeply with his character arc, his fatherly attitude towards his aide Charlie (Chris O'Donnell), his volatile moods, his last 'grand adventure plan' in New York, and most importantly, his helplessness,

loneliness and existential crisis. I am in complete awe of his powerful executions in multiple scenes such as that of the 'The Gray Ghost', his uniform-clad suicide attempt scene, his stupendous life-saving lecture at the end, and the astonishingly beautiful tango dance!

Kaushik Ganguly's standout act as a blind writer in his own directorial venture *Laptop* (2012) deserves special mention. Ganguly nailed the part with his character's storytelling snippets and believable expressions, both physical and intangible. The film also delved deep into his unusual relationship with his female assistant-cum-typist, which was one of the multiple plotlines within the hyperlink film.

I must mention Hrithik Roshan's spectacular turn as wheelchair-bound quadriplegic Ethan in *Guzaarish* (2010) as a definitive role in restrained and controlled acting.

Anamitra Bhaduri

My favourite film with a differently-abled protagonist is Tapan Sinha's 1979 adventure film *Sabuj Dweep* *Raja*. The film is based on Sunil Gangopadhyay's story revolving around the protagonist Raja Roychowdhury (Kakababu) and his nephew Santu.

Apart from the out-of-the-world beauty of the Andaman Islands where the film was set, the courage and mental strength of the gallant Kakababu (despite being dependent on crutches) taking on the timber mafia was highly stimulating. The thriller saw its culmination in the remote island of the Jarawa tribe where the criminals were nabbed, along with a chance discovery of a Bengali revolutionary who had stayed back on the island with the tribals after escaping from the dreaded Cellular Jail during British rule.

The steely resolve, stamina and never-say-die attitude of Kakababu not only helped him conquer all sorts of physical and mental obstacles due to his damaged leg, they also boosted the morale of the so-called 'abled' people. Not to forget the last sequence where the uncle-nephew duo was leaving the island of the Jarawas by boat with the elderly former revolutionary bidding them goodbye and becoming emotional thanks to the moving rendition of *Vandemataram* by 13-year-old Santu.

Kajal Chatterjee

The romantic drama *Saajan* is my favourite film with a differently-abled protagonist. The superhit film, which was released in 1991 and helmed by Lawrence D'Souza, revolves around two best friends Aman (Sanjay Dutt) and Aakash (Salman Khan), both of who fall in love with the same woman, Pooja (Madhuri Dixit). Aman, who is a famous poet and writes poems using the pseudonym Sagar, was differently-abled. Aman is one of my fave characters from Bollywood movies. The story was wonderful with a very heart-warming ending. The performances of Sanjay, Salman and Madhuri were just fantastic and a treat to watch. Plus, all the songs were very melodious. Though many years have passed after the release of the film, Bolly buffs still love to hum those beautiful tracks.

Sourish Misra



Black