

POSTCARD FROM SPACE



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Reader's Theatre '21

By Anusheh Tanveer

Being the chair of a theatre society caught in the warpath of a pandemic was something that I had to tell myself was okay when it really did not feel okay. Our stage lights were unplugged and our curtains were drawn *indefinitely*, even though we all knew what that word really meant. Then came Reader's Theatre, an event that was a call to anyone with a vision.

Our patron, Miss Raaheen Mani, was not going to let COVID gnaw away at our creativity and our passion for performance. As soon as the calendars flipped to July, our work had begun on planning the fantastically dramatic event that was Reader's Theatre. I was given the opportunity to work with three painfully talented women, my co-chairs, Anum Atif, Laiba Irfanullah, and Zehra Tejani. We all seemed to get a twinkle in our eye whenever someone mentioned a stage or a production. That passion was what motivated us to stay awake till the late hours of the night, typing and planning away.

Up until September, our days were filled with writing emails, making groups, and attending rehearsals because the four of us were not only organizing the event, we were also performing. I specifically remember a day where I had to run to get vaccinated, then came home and was on a Zoom conference call with my co-chairs for four hours, typing emails and making itineraries on our endless supply for Google Sheets. I do not think I have ever been more detail-oriented.





"It should be something that everyone can share in, something that ignites a flame of creativity and passion in everyone who comes across it."

By the end of August, we were ready to go. Mother Nature, however, seemed to have other plans. Blanketed by dark clouds, our first day of Reader's Theatre was to be postponed. Or was it? After a 15 minute call with the Lyceum Administration, we were packing our bags and supplies, practically canoeing our way through the rain to reach The Lyceum five hours before the event began. That, I can say with absolute certainty, has been my favorite experience during my time at The Lyceum. Performers, Organisers, and Teachers galore all banded together, using every skill and talent at our disposal to set up the Back Shed in time for the event. It was our own little *Save-The-Dance* Hallmark movie.

During this process, my co-chairs and I admitted to our Patron that we had learned so much about production. We were able to experience both the chaos and the aesthetic of Theatre. Due to the enthusiasm shown by the student body, we were able to have 8 categories of performances (poetry, prose, music, art, dance, photography, film, and skits) and 7 different teams (technical, set design, backstage, publicity, marketing, and decor). This meant having to communicate with a lot of people that we may not have even known because of our limited interactions with our peers during COVID and online school.

Our theme for the event was the building block that took my co-chairs and I, a good few weeks to try and figure out. We knew our theme had to reflect ideas of peace given that the event was taking place in September, which is Peace Month. Eventually, I had the *Eureka!* The moment that Miss Mani said we would have if we kept at it. I recalled an anti-gun movement that had been a posthumous achievement of Cameron Boyce. We took inspiration from his Wielding Peace initiative and repurposed it into the Reader's Theatre theme - Wielding Peace, Surrendering War. It was very important to us that whatever the theme might be, it be something relatable and applicable to everyone.

The event carried on seamlessly. Our performers were in their green rooms, motivated, ready, and ecstatic to finally take the stage after weeks of practice and gallons of rainfall. Music and the smell of Bashir Bhai's pakoras filled the air. There was an electric surge of creativity and pride that filled everyone. *Look what we did, we did this.*

To everyone who thinks that in times like these, theatre is a bust, I hope this article gives you a glimmer of hope and a kick of motivation. Anything is possible. You'll laugh, make friends, and you might even cry tears of joy, but it is so indescribably worth it.



Intra School Moot Court: A Real Life Court Experience

By Maryam Omar

Session 2021 introduced a new society in the Lyceum community: *LyCourt*. It debuted at the CCA Fair, with Zara Zahid Khan being the founder and society chair, with Miss Sabeen Mustafa as the society patron. They officially kick-started the session by arranging an Intra School Moot Court, in collaboration with LyPaws, with the topic revolving around animal rights.

A 'moot' is a role-playing co-curricular activity (in recent years which has become a competition) where participants take part in a simulated court having oral arguments, similar to the hearings at the appeal court.

On the surface, it does not seem like a lot of work, but it is. The participants had to go through 2 weeks of training and research to get themselves acquainted with the court system and equipped with knowledge and confidence to present their memorials and actively participate in the rebuttals held. With proceedings held in front of a panel of experienced judges where oralists (participants who speak on behalf of their team on the issue concerned) were well-prepared to answer questions asked during their submissions.

Lyceum's Moot Court achieved success, with many AS and A2s partaking and bagging the award titles. It allowed participants to experience an actual court proceeding regardless of their subjects (since usually Moot Courts are held in law schools catering to law students only). It also taught students advocacy and legitimacy which are some of the core values at The Lyceum. The activity was definitely a front runner in helping shape students into better and more responsible leaders for the future.



SPOTLIGHT

Hello everyone. My name is Hudaibya and I have started this page as an initiative to help those who struggle to afford basic necessities like food and water. I will be conducting multiple food drives to help the less fortunate. Any form of donation will be appreciated. Thank you!

@foodrive_hr

The ongoing pandemic has affected everyone in adverse ways, especially the people who earn on a daily basis. I started an account for the purpose of giving back to the community and contributing to them by conducting food drives, hoping that my actions could make a change.

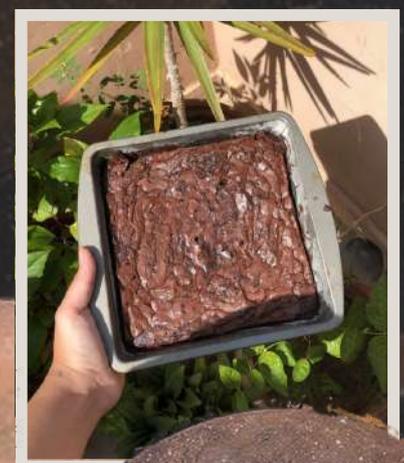
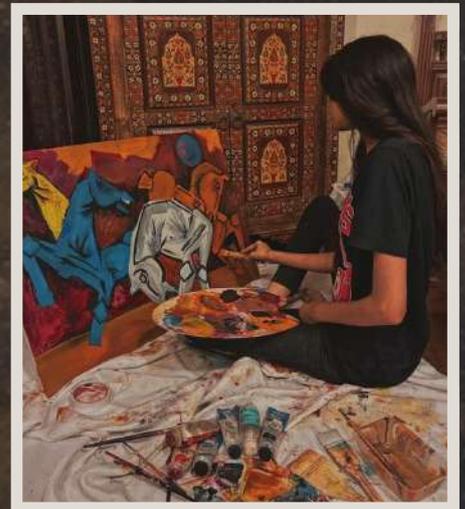
I wish to also open a bigger non profit organisation one day. I had started my page a while back and I'm hoping to grow more in these upcoming days.

foodrive_hm

Art has always been an abditory for me; a place where I can express myself and not have to justify all my thoughts. What started off as an - almost secret - interest, grew into a passion I wanted to share with everyone around me. My artwork is an accumulation of my thoughts, opinions and views, making this whole journey so special for me.

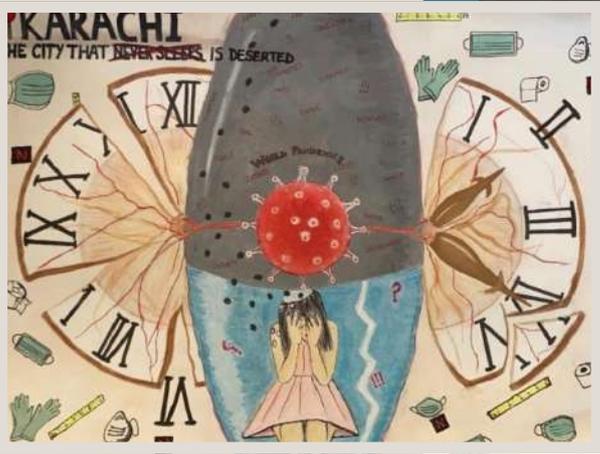
The entire beauty of art lies in the fact that one does not need to be an 'amazing' artist to make art. I love art because of it's inability to be defined by one correct answer. Every art piece has something unique behind it; the process, the idea and the effort all lead to the final outcome. Often, it is the process that holds much more importance to me than the final piece itself.

cynosurebyg



I've always enjoyed writing descriptive pieces and I love trying to take aesthetically pleasing pictures of food or anything that I cook. Hence I had an idea of starting a food blog since I was baking or cooking a lot during quarantine. Since then, I've enjoyed posting reviews and taking pictures of my creations. I hope my blog helps you!

saamiasblog



People say eyes are the window into someone's soul. I would beg to differ, for it's actually their writings, their music, and the artwork they make when it's them alone, which ultimately allows them to open up to the world. It makes them vulnerable; to the world and their criticism. Hence I present to you 'vulneransha', a public creative account of someone who still has a long way to go, but is glad to have embarked on this journey.

vulneransha

I run a small business account on Instagram and Facebook by the name of 'Bezeltone'. I shoot pictures of jewellery, edit and feature them on the business account. I also manage the marketing for the business along with my elder sister.

Bezeltone is an online business pertaining to trendy fashion jewellery for women of all ages. I officially launched my venture on Instagram and Facebook on 1st May 2021 during lockdown, since I wanted to spend a significant portion of my time productively. Bezeltone has a variety of jewellery, ranging from studs, hoop earrings, statement earrings, to rings, necklaces and chains.

My vision is to make Bezeltone a success in a few years, introduce modern timeless jewellery pieces for women, and also include hair accessories and scrunchies soon. I started planning for my start-up in March of this year and was able to execute the idea successfully with the support and encouragement of my friends and family. I now intend to dedicate 5% of monthly sales to charity for a noble cause.

Bezeltone



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

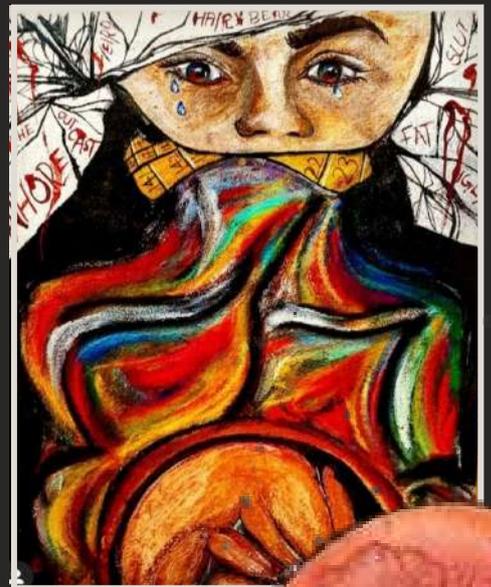
Back in 2019, I was diagnosed with Anorexia Nervosa. It was a deadly mental health disease, constantly reverberating through my already collapsing head, and it was even clear by the signs my body was cautioning me about. The thin locks of hair left on the bathroom sink, my pale skin that tightened over those fragile bones and those withering nails, it became more than those physical signs; the blackout I faced each time concentrating, the anxiety that raced over my nerves and the suffocation I felt standing near the mirror each morning to see the skeleton I had become by starving myself. So I retreated to find an excuse to escape.

My escape was burying all my sorrows in the vivid colors of paint, or just venting my frustrations on a blank canvas. It wasn't the first time I wiped my tears with the dirty paint cloth or splashed paint furiously in deep agony as a resort to questioning why everything just made sense when I painted and I would drain hours and hours in realizing the sense of satisfaction it gave me. Yet, it was never enough because a painting never felt complete to me and I would still wind up trying to fix its imperfections and trying to fill the void of its fragmented essence.

However, it took me a while to realize that art wasn't expressed to fill the void, rather to appreciate the beauty of that void. As an illustration, I once painted a bird trying to leave its cage but getting severely hurt by the chain that was holding it back to portray the way we hurt ourselves by holding back on our dreams.

I created this Instagram account to use the power of my art to create awareness around the detrimental effect mental health disorders have on our daily lives and to help others get stronger as they're never alone in this journey.

[zoya_khoja__](#)



Urdu ka Janaza: the decline of the language of miracles

By Syed Muhammad Muhad Hussain

Despite being Pakistan's national language year after year there is an incline in the percentage of population whose command over Urdu is decreasing.

There are multiple factors which contribute to this decline, a major one being the lack of due importance given to Urdu by parents of children studying in elite private schools. They seem to prefer their child conversing in English as for many it's a sign of being 'educated'. Moreover, English has taken the role of official language across professions and administration which makes understanding of Urdu redundant. Television shows, dramas and advertisements, which historically played the role of propagation of this beautiful language also currently do not make use of purely Urdu words, using phrases such as zabardast 'offer'.

At the same time, social media, the major form of communication in today's era utilizes English, further estranging the population from its traditional roots.

This decline has contributed to an increasing communication gap within the population, preventing people hailing from diverse literary backgrounds to unite under the umbrella of a common national language and amplifying the divisions. Furthermore, if the decline in Urdu language continues it will deprive the upcoming generations from accessing and benefitting from the golden works of legendary poets and writers like Allamah Iqbal, Ghalib, Yusufi and Ibn e Insha. At the same time, research and innovations published in English prevent reach to a broader audience. Hence the language of love, beauty and depth as well as innovation and knowledge is fading gradually.

سلیقے سے بواؤں میں خوشبو گھول سکتے ہیں
ابھی کچھ لوگ باقی ہیں جو اردو بول سکتے ہیں



HIGHLY DEBATABLE...

AN INTERVIEW OF THE DEBATE CHAIRS

BY AYESHA AMEERA MEMON



A- Aisha Ahmer



Y- Yumna Hashim

What does being a debate chair mean to you?

A: Well, debate in itself was this endeavor of turning my very opinionated personality into something fruitful and toying around with the different mediums I could do that through until I found my passion, which was Parli. So, being the debate chair was honestly a lot about believing in myself and my work, which made me capable of handling the job, and knowing that I could tackle the challenges along the way.

Y: Debate is an outlet for me and being the chair of this society means a lot of responsibility, but also a lot of pride. It means carrying forward the legacy of a team that has, time and time again, outdone itself in this format, and hopefully to leave a legacy of our own.

What would you say is your favourite Parli-related memory?

A: I'm indecisive so I'll do two:

1. Being ranked as one of the top speakers at ZUDC in AS. I remember having this conversation with Yumna while we were waiting for the announcements. about how cool it would be to be ranked as top speakers together at a tournament. Neither of us could have imagined it happening ten minutes later but it was amazing hearing our names being called out. It felt like a major sign from the universe and a sort of 'symbolic passing of the torch' moment as it was our last tournament before becoming chairs.

2. The trip we took to Islamabad for Nationals. For me, it solidified the close-knit family vibe I see in our society and being our first in-person tournament, it really invigorated the passion I have for debate.

How do you think you'll use what you've learned in Parli in the future?

A: I am hoping to get a job that lets me argue for a living by going to law school. Other than that, Yumna and I love to annoy our friends by having incessant debates about Gilmore Girls and Bollywood movies. On a serious note, Parli is a constant reminder for me to keep learning, seeing the world from an objective lens and constantly challenging my worldview, and I want to keep that going.

How would you say parliamentary debate is different from MUN and what could people gain from it?

Y: As someone who has done both, I can assure you they're both entirely different formats, especially in terms of the skills you require and gain from them. While MUN is more about your negotiating and people skills, Parli is more about forming comprehensive arguments. These can be topics that don't interest you or you don't have a lot of knowledge about, and it requires defending them against the opposite side's rebuttals. You learn how to respond on the spot and be convincing because how you're saying something is equally, if not more, important as what you're saying. Personally, something that I learned and enjoyed the most in Parli debate is how to be a tad bit sarcastic and condescending without being disrespectful.

As such a close-knit family, what advice would you give those to whom you're passing on the torch?

Y: Winning is definitely an extremely fulfilling feeling and something you should give your 100% for, but don't make it your primary goal. The biggest reward is the experience, exposure, confidence and the perspective on a lot of topics that you get through debating. Believe in your skill, be committed, ask for help whenever you need it, and most importantly, be nice and respectful.

ORACLE CHAIRS' INTERVIEW

By Alveera Basit & Abdullah Rehman

N: Nusha Dossa

H: Heeba Anwar

What is Oracle about?

N: Aiming to successfully record the fond memories of our students and make each annual yearbook a worthy memento. And overall, to produce something which allows us to look back on our youth in the future and to relive the once-in-a-lifetime experience which is A-levels at the Lyceum.

H: What we do is *top secret*, but I'll still let you in on a few details. Simply put, The Oracle is where memories are relived. With a bit of magic, ink, and paper, we document everything that goes on at The Lyceum in hopes of creating a lifelong memento that keeps the spirit of 78 Clifton alive.

As Oracle chairs, what do you guys search for in every society participant?

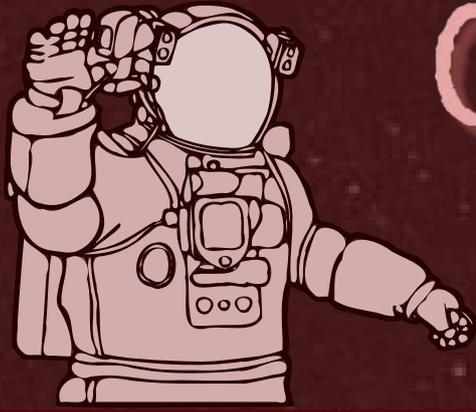
N: Although we are a society that is well known for its inclusion of diversity, one key characteristic which we believe all our members should have is exceptional creativity and the ability to mold that creativity into something tangible that can be included in the yearbook to make it all the more memorable. Time management and communication is also a quality we admire since we only have a few months towards the end of the year to put everything together.

H: Well, we try not to be too demanding, but I think every member must have excellent time-keeping skills (the ability to freeze time is a bonus, of course) for there are deadlines to meet forevermore. They must also care deeply about the responsibility that comes with being part of the Oracle, as we do, after all, create something very personal.

Oracle is a pretty niche society, how do you guys maintain your standards while attracting students to what you do?

N: Staying true to our values seems like a pretty good answer. Making sure that we uphold ourselves to our values of democracy, creativity, and inclusivity has never failed us.

H: The Oracle is the product of everyone's contributions so inclusivity drives the yearbook. However, we do have a theme each year which students have to adhere to so our content is diverse, yet selective. Also, most of the work received is reviewed and edited by the editorial board to ensure that everything is in line with our vision as a society.

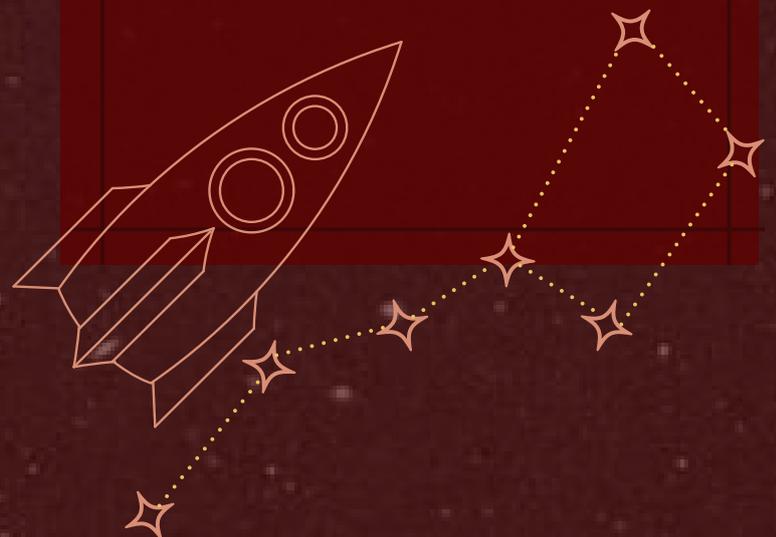


COVID-19

By Maryam Alizeh Khwaja

The news about the new corona variant 'Omicron', circulating on almost all news channels and social media applications has been a triggering experience for most if not all. Although nothing unfamiliar for the world that we know of now, this experience catapults us right back to the end of February in 2020 when our lives took a drastic turn. It's not something that we don't expect, but it's definitely something we hoped would not bulldoze through our reassembled lives for the second time. It's interesting to note how going through what we have, hearing about 'Omicron' still feels new. You would expect a sort of acclimatization to this new world of uncertainty but one often wonders if that will ever happen. More so, will we ever fully get used to the 'new normal'? The new normal is much more than just mask mandates and standard operating procedures.

It's an open invitation for severe anxiety and stress, especially because now we know how our world can quite literally turn upside down overnight. It often feels like someone pressed that dreaded red button, the one that says 'Don't touch', and reset the Earth's settings. I don't think anyone is able to recall what life was like before this reset because Covid-19 really did seep into every aspect of our lives. But specifically for teenagers and young adults, who are in the prime of their lives, this uncertainty can turn out to be quite nerve wracking. With our entire lives ahead of us, it really makes us question or more so fear of what exactly awaits us next.



AS Experience of Campus Life

By Saamia Nanjiani
& Iliyan Tharwani

No one likes change. After all, who likes the unfamiliar?

As the batch of 2023 entered the campus, they were accompanied by the peculiar feelings of unfamiliarity, excitement and anxiousness. We were warmly greeted by the guard at the gate and as we walked further, we sensed an unspoken sense of comfort. The campus looked beautiful with the graceful trees casting a comforting shadow over the turtle pond and the artistic walls giving us a silent message of hope.

Soon the campus flooded with anxious students who curiously wandered the whimsical Lyceum hallways as they tried to find their classrooms. We eagerly sought information about societies we wished to join, signed up for a myriad of extracurriculars and scheduled meetings with our counselors. As time passed, slowly things started falling into place and we got to know one another. We found out that the change we were so scared of actually led us to meet so many interesting people who we now call our friends.

The hustling and bustling of everyday classes continued. Students rushed to their classes, catching up with each other near the crowded canteen as they snacked on Bashir Bhai's famous delicacies. We all are slowly yet steadily finding a way to adjust in the 'new normal'. Every now and then, between the chaos and stress, we can see that many of us should take a minute to reflect on the opportunity we currently have. Perhaps we all may come to realize that these years may become the most memorable time of our lives and maybe change isn't so bad after all.



A PINCH OF GLITZ AND BLING

By Kiran Adnan

What best exemplifies Pakistan's culturally diverse landscape? Of course, it has a staggeringly diverse range of cuisines to offer. The cuisine of a city defines it. You can't imagine New York without a cheese pizza or Philadelphia without thinking of a Philly cheese steak. Karachi's famous eateries on the other hand, are not restricted to just one type of food; the metropolis is a melting pot of cultures and flavours from all around Pakistan. Is it possible to go to a restaurant in this day and age and not take pictures of the food or the environment? No, right? Exactly! Everyone wants to record all they possibly can for their Insta feed, whether it be the elegant décor or a strikingly appetizing food item.

FLOC



Floc, the new-age coffee shop with meals ranging from comfort food to the more sophisticated Keto diet, has been on top of its game since its opening! Sure, the cuisine is definitely instagrammable, but the décor of the modest café, which has become extremely popular, is much more fascinating. Another thing that sets them apart is their Nitro Brew! With a funky vibe consisting of board games and books ready at your disposal, Floc is one of the most superlative venues to be taking pictures at. Of course, ambrosial delicacies like steaks, mac & cheese, and hot chocolate will grace your Instagram feed!

Mews Café was an entrant into the street a little later than counterparts like Xanders and Cosmopolitan but rapidly established itself as the most aesthetically pleasing of the bunch! Mews Café is a great site to do all your food photography because of the gourmet menu, which includes items like Nutella French Toast and Korean Beef Bowl. Where the food looks and tastes great, the café's setting is unquestionably a magnificent feat of design in itself. Designed in line with the 'British Mews', the café is a treat to the eyes and a treat to the stomach as well.

Mews Cafe



EASY by Fatsos



Carrying the neon pink sign, quoting Beyoncé's infamous lyric "Who runs the world?" Easy is undoubtedly an Instagrammer's dream come true! Each corner is so picturesque that no matter where you face your lens, you're guaranteed to get the finest aesthetic. Whether it's the millennial pink theme or the flavorsome display of artisan donuts, this cafe deserves to be on your feed!

Praha

Another restaurant that provides a blend of Instagram-worthy decor is Praha. The restaurant is an absolute feast for someone who likes everything lovely but not overdone, from its sleek interior to pastel-colored decor.



LOCO



Loco is a treat for all art aficionados, with large bright-colored artworks and vivid wallpapers installed. As if their interior wasn't enough to pique your interest, their food is equally impressive, making for some of the best food photography.

Swing

Swing, a cafe located in Karachi, serves some of Pakistan's most stunning dishes. They express themselves as a cafe that provides "Pretty food. Pretty place. Pretty pictures." This is a lovely spot. Swing's interior is contemporary, yet feminine and exquisite. The cafe has a light blue and pink theme to it and is adorned with the most dazzling swing inspired chairs. What's an Instagrammable spot without a neon sign?

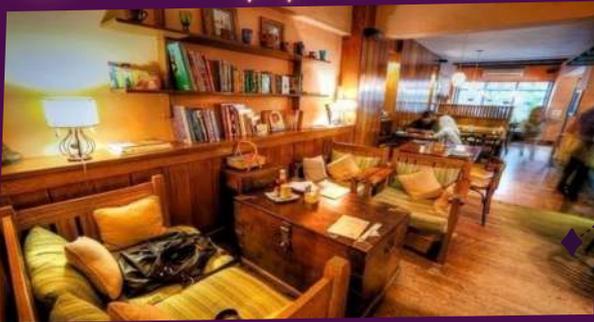


MariBelle

If you enjoy baby pink, flowers, and visually appealing cuisine, then MariBelle is the place for you. With velvet pink seats, eye-catching murals depicting the New York skyline, and checkered floors, the design is a sight to behold. MariBelle is definitely a pink lover's haven! Not to mention a vintage school car parked directly in front of the eatery.



Cafe Chatterbox



The café has a cosy book-filled corner and its wooden tables exude a lovely rustic charm. Their quesadillas and desserts are particularly good.

Marcel's Patisserie

With its snazzy décor and desire to introduce the taste of a European style boulangerie/patisserie to Pakistan, the bistro is a delight for the senses, and it makes for a terrific location to unwind and indulge in delightful goodies!



Cosmopolitan



Walk inside the café, and the most prominent attraction to be perceived is the hand painted mural across the entire wall displaying the city of Karachi. Interspersed in the mural is a quirky poetry that should resonate with all Karachiites. Contrasting the primarily grey mural is the stark white chairs and fuchsia tabletops that give the cafe a modern upbeat feel with quality taste and delectable food choices.

So the next time you are exploring some charming eateries in Karachi and are looking for some tasty food and appealing decor, it is worth checking out some of these places.

MUSTAHIQ YOUTH

By Mehreen Farooq and Famia Faraz

Mustahiq Youth is a student-led NGO which aims to alleviate hunger and promote literacy within the underprivileged in Pakistan. Mustahiq is a forum which allows people to join together to help those in need. The people behind this initiative are Reeva Fasial, Hiba Saleem and Riya Mukesh.

Q1. What was the thinking process behind setting up Mustahiq Youth? Did anything in particular inspire you to start this initiative?

We were inspired by Reeva's mother, who runs an organisation called 'Mustahiq.' However, we felt we couldn't contribute as much to it as we wanted to since it was already run by several adults. That is why we created Mustahiq Youth, an organisation run primarily by the youth, in order to encourage them to give back to their community.

Q2. Where do you see Mustahiq Youth in the next three months and the next three years?

We have several new drives planned which we hope to carry out within the next few months. We would love to carry on this initiative for as long as possible and hope to reach larger audiences to amplify our projects all the more.

Q3. What do you think is the best reward for setting up an organisation like Mustahiq Youth and how do you measure your impact?

As far as rewards go, we hope to help the

underprivileged enjoy perhaps a more joyful Eid or even just a plate of biryani after a tough day. The best reward however, is the peace and tranquillity one acquires knowing that we've done something, even if minute, to contribute to our community.

Q4. The pandemic has changed how people work, learn and interact. What have you done, as an organisation, to adapt to this new normal?

Most of our work is done online and the pandemic gave us the chance to not only collaborate with other NGOs like 'The Tribe' but also provided us with opportunities to learn from mentors and those much more experienced within this field.

We were also approached by an underserved school, 'The Peace Academy,'



which was in dire need of funds to remain open. During the pandemic, they lost countless students who were unable to pay the fees. We felt this cause was important, so we collected funds for the school and donated books from our book drive, after which it was able to open its doors once again.

Q5. How can the community help support future endeavours for Mustahiq Youth?

In the future we hope to invite more volunteers to help with our drives, especially with distribution and visits. We hope that more people participate in donating and spreading the word as this organisation can only progress with local support.



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→ 13 A

FILM NEGATIVE



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Instagram: @mustahiq.youth
Facebook: Mustahiq Youth

HUMANS OF LYCEUM

Syed Umar Razvi



By Sheharyar ul Haq Haqqi and
Zain Haider

Lyceum had always been my dream college but the journey to get in had me on the edge the whole time. What I love about Lyceum is its environment. The deep serenity I find myself in at Lyceum helps me to focus on my goals and follow my passion.

In the short time I've been here, I've learned to be calm and generally be more patient. Not sure why that is but it's a welcome change. I've always aspired to do something related to entrepreneurship, and LET provided me the perfect opportunity to do so.

The most appropriate description I can think of LET was it being hard work. My team and I put in many hours perfecting our business plans. I really couldn't have done it without my team. The competition was tough, but I always believed in my capabilities and was sure of winning. It definitely feels good to have your hard work pay off. I want to do something related to international relations or political science, but that ship is yet to sail. Along with LYCORP, I have made use of my time at Lyceum through MUN and Basketball.

Usman Larik

1. How are you, how has lyceum been?

Other than the millions of homework questions due tomorrow, I'm great!

2. What is something that drives you?

I could easily lie and say that the urge to make the universe a better place is what drives me, but honestly deadlines are all that are driving me right now!

3. What's a book/song/poem that saved you?

A very broad question, but a song that surely saved me was Adrienne Lenker's "Ingydar". There's this quote I read somewhere that says "everything eats and is eaten, time is fed" and that really reminds me of our place in the world and of its impermanence- it's all quite beautiful if you think about it.



By Nancy Narain K K,
Arham Siddiqui,
Zainab Zahid

4. If the world were to end in an apocalypse, do you think you would survive?

Nope, I am a mess and wouldn't last very long. In the first three days I'd probably survive, but then I'd just sleep how I usually do when I'm sick. That's also similar to what I did with my time when COVID had started, just sitting in bed doing nothing.

5. What's a piece of advice/pearl of wisdom someone has given you that has stuck with you?

My mom told me this one thing, "Don't dream too much or you will shatter your heart" because oftentimes we make up unreal expectations in our head. For example, it makes me think of Icarus and how the sun melted the wax in his wings because if he had not dreamed too much about reaching the sun he would've survived

6. Which literary character you'd trade lives with for a day?

I would trade my lives with Will Herondale. He has gone through a lot of tragedies and yet seems unaffected by his sufferings.

7. Would you like to plead your case in why Taylor Swift is your #1 artist on "Spotify Wrapped"?

I am not really the one who listens to pop music. I got introduced to Taylor Swift by the song between her and Bon Iver. Then I got introduced to her million other songs. This is how she became #1.

Arham Siddiqui

Being one of the several colourful personalities in Lyceum, picking Arham's brain has always been a delight. We recently sat down in the canteen to have a discussion for Lysias H.O.L over a cup of chai:-

1. For starters, Which society is your favourite and why?

Definitely Lyslam. I didn't even realise I had a knack for poetry, and I have great memories of performing pieces in meetings. I love how its members are always supportive and make me feel at home.

2. So you're more of the creative type? Which of your pieces would you say is your favourite?

Yeah I've always loved creating Art (@the.reality.of.escapism hehe). Honestly it's hard to pick a favourite, but the piece I performed in Reader's Theatre holds a special place in my heart due to the meaning I imbued in each of my lines. Lyceum gave me a platform to say things I never thought I would be able to, which made the performance all the more powerful.

By **Awab Ahmed**

3. You've always been into stuff like Astrology and Tarot cards quite a bit. What intrigues you about them?

What gets me is that they place more power in the individual. It gives you the ability to know people better when first meeting them. Since I've always



craved deeper connections with people, the information they relay to me is very valuable.

4. Can you read my future plz?
You will die.

5. Uhm...cool. Anyways, before I go, who wrote H.P?

Our neurodivergent queen Luna Lovegood. Obviously.

Movie Review: Dune

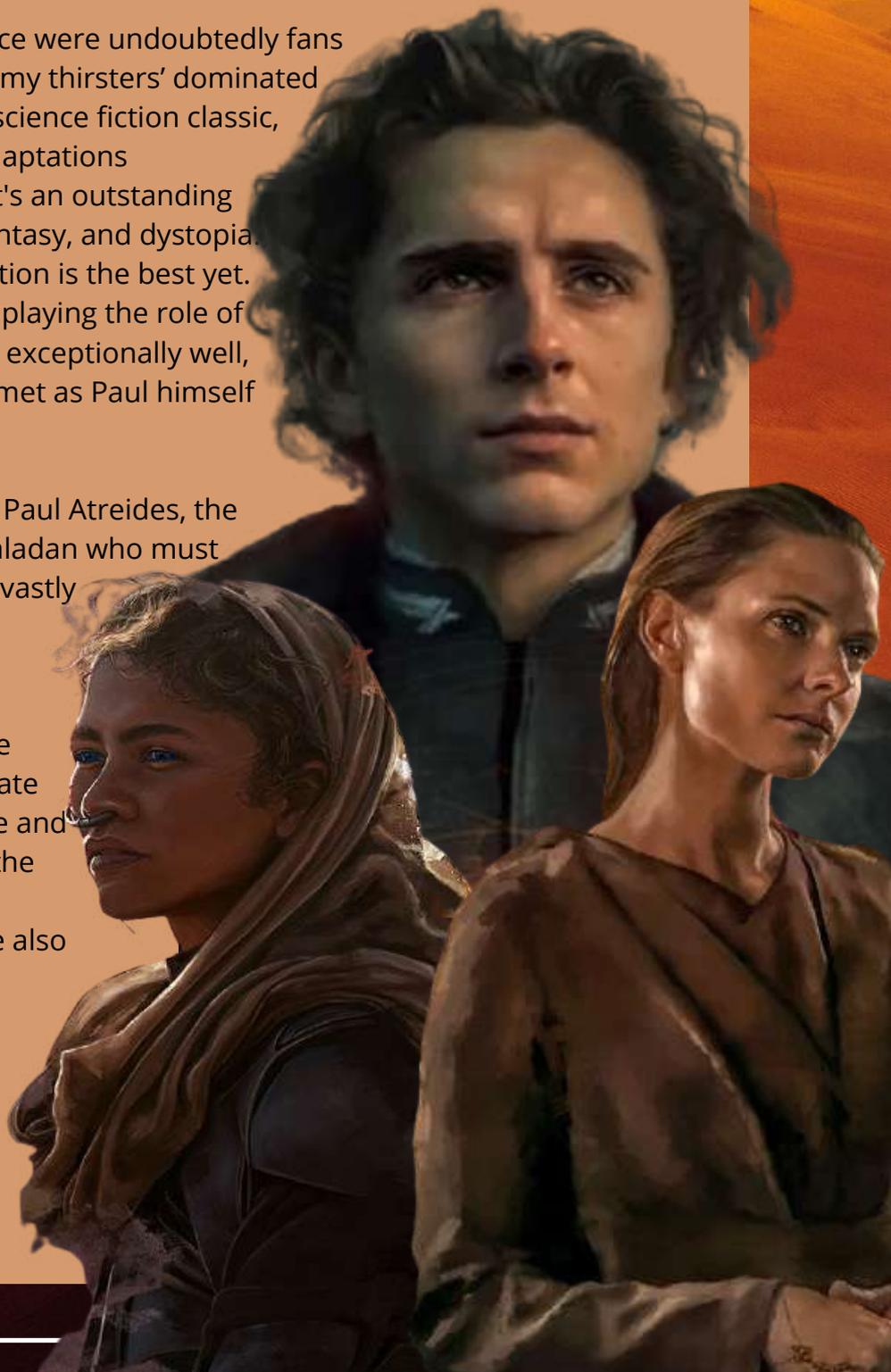
By: Zara Faraz Askari and
Muhammed Usman Hussain

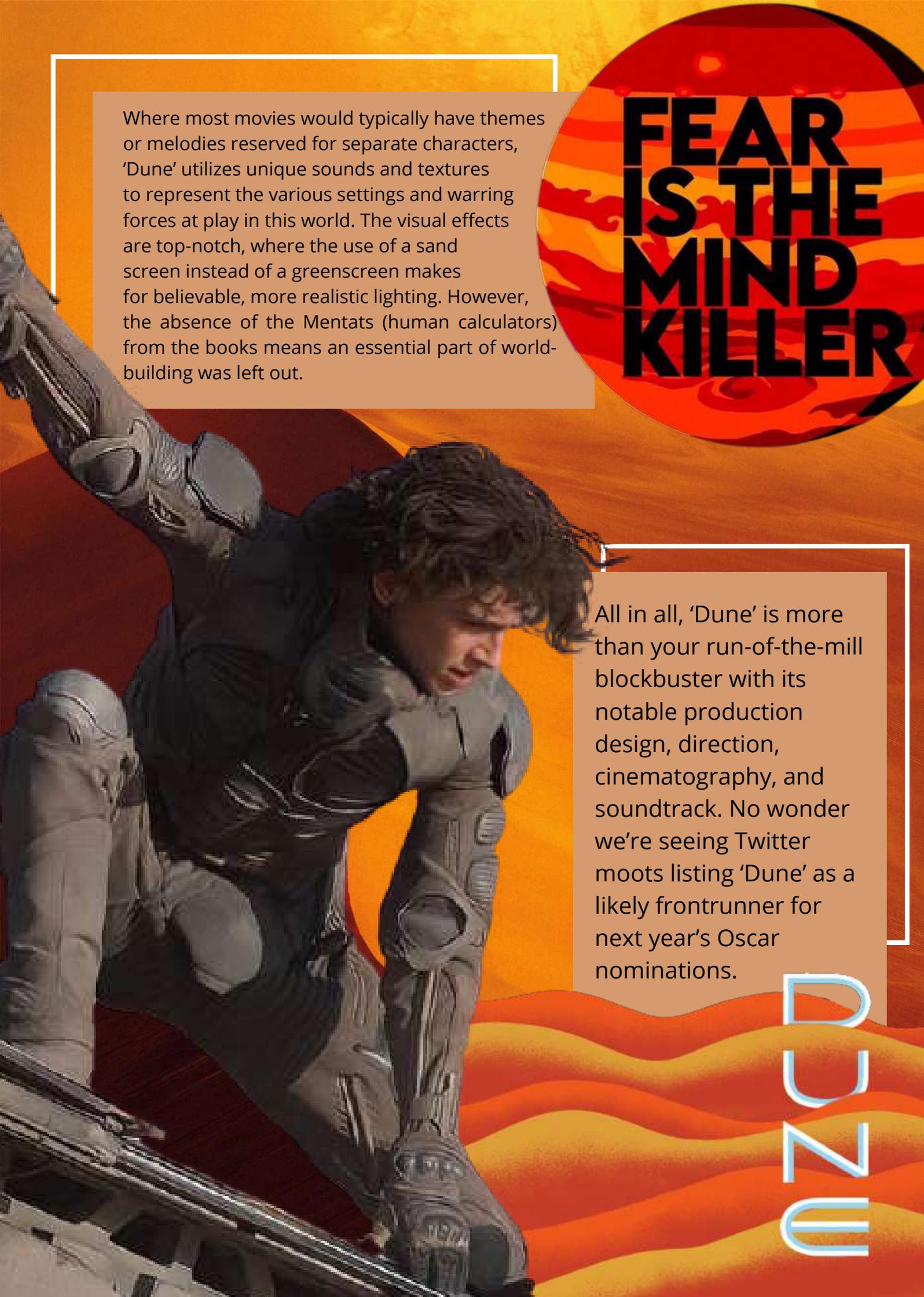
Cinemas opened up to the public on the 22nd of Oct in Karachi, the exact date 'Dune' was released. Flocks of friends and families flooded the screens after what was a long pause due to the ever troublesome pandemic.

Many amongst the audience were undoubtedly fans of the books however 'Timmy thirsters' dominated the crowd. 'Dune' being a science fiction classic, has had its fair share of adaptations throughout the decades. It's an outstanding blend of science fiction, fantasy, and dystopia. Arguably, the 2021 adaptation is the best yet. We see Rebecca Ferguson playing the role of Paul's mother Lady Jessica exceptionally well, alongside Timothée Chalamet as Paul himself in all his glory.

The story revolves around Paul Atreides, the son of a duke on planet Caladan who must now travel to and rule the vastly different desert planet of Arrakis.

There he has to placate the rouge Fremen tribe, excavate the valuable spice Melange and defend their hold against the malevolent Harkonnenes. Supernatural elements are also weaved into the story, enhancing the out-of-this-world feeling of the movie. The score paired with the sound design also accentuates the other-worldly aspects.





Where most movies would typically have themes or melodies reserved for separate characters, 'Dune' utilizes unique sounds and textures to represent the various settings and warring forces at play in this world. The visual effects are top-notch, where the use of a sand screen instead of a greenscreen makes for believable, more realistic lighting. However, the absence of the Mentats (human calculators) from the books means an essential part of world-building was left out.

**FEAR
IS THE
MIND
KILLER**

All in all, 'Dune' is more than your run-of-the-mill blockbuster with its notable production design, direction, cinematography, and soundtrack. No wonder we're seeing Twitter moots listing 'Dune' as a likely frontrunner for next year's Oscar nominations.

DUNE

How to Make a Hit Record: *The Ed Sheeran Method.*

BY: AAHAD VAKANI

'Equals' is Ed Sheeran's fourth solo studio album. In some aspects, the record is a pretty sharp turn-around from his previous records, while in other avenues it's stuck to a formula, which time and time again has proved to work wonders for the English songwriter.

Since his last record, 'Divide', Ed's life has changed a lot. His year-long world tours are a thing of the past, for the man is now married and even has a one-year-old named 'Lyra'. The new album, consequently, tackles themes of maturity, contentment, and fatherhood. In fact, the first words on the record are "I have grown up, I am a father now", accompanied by blaring drums and electric guitars. Ed then talks about his life and how much of a blur it has been. He continues to talk about his relationship with his daughter, and how much she means to him.

The record contains a total 14 tracks with a little bit of everything from all his previous works. There are slow acoustic ballads, poppy-dance songs, club songs, basically genres that appeal to the majority - which in a world where people chase manufactured exclusivity, is a breath of fresh air and is in no way a bad thing.

The record is by no means his most unique or innovative, rather it's a celebration of what he does better than most, making hit records that the radio and the masses can't get enough of!



English And Urdu Playlist

*By Tasheel Shakeel
and Huda Rizwan*

- New Year's Day by Taylor Swift
- One Day by Sharon Van Etten
- Waiting Room by Phoebe Bridgers
- Wetsuit by The Vaccines
- Thirteen by Big Star
- Rivers and Roads by The Head and The Heart
- Sitaaray by Misbah
- Filhaal by Towers
- Urta Tara by Omer Mukhtar
- Patang by Umer Farooq
- School by Janoobi Khargosh, Umer Khan, Ali Suhail
- Nahin Milta by Bayaan





THE BEST

by Musab Kasbati

Jealousy
Oh *jealous* me~
How you *overzealously* strive
to be someone you **could** never be
Or at least someone you **should** never be

For your **individuality** matters more than their praise
And you are *unique* and special in a hundred different ways
You have a role in life that can not be leased
And yet you still search for more; why can't you be *pleased*

But I am not striving against **originality**
After all, I don't wish to be the same
I wish to be better
Which is arguably more **insane**

I want to be **top** of the class
Or at least someone who can make everyone *laugh*
Maybe be the **favourite** child
Or possibly someone that makes the crowd go *wild*

Is that really too much to *ask*?
What if I lower my **demands**?

Just be someone that my friends can trust
Or someone that doesn't keep messing up

And yet I am not
Why?
Why can't I be the best?
I'll work hard for it I swear
But please just **let** me be
Why **can't** I be
Why **am** I not

The *best*~

Maurice The Mouse Critiques New York

By Aleena Allawala

Maurice opened his eyes to the ray of sunlight which had managed to creep through a crevice in the wall. He yawned and uncurled his tail as he got up. Usually, house mice did not like to get up in the day unless something disturbed them and prompted them to rise. Unfortunately, poor Maurice had to adopt the habit of getting up early every day much to his disgruntlement. On clockwork everyday, on the dot of eight o'clock a loud screeching would fill the room. It sounded like a bird in agony suffering from some sort of wound. The ear-piercing sound would radiate onto the walls, capturing the entire room in its deafening racket. What was this horrifying sound one might think? There was only one name for a creature that could cause this much pain to poor Maurice, Lady Angela Dickson. An up-and-coming opera singer whose daily practices for her upcoming performance haunted Maurice's dreams and woke him up every day. Maurice lived at the New York Opera house and had been living there peacefully for about a year in a little hole in a pillar which looked onto the stage. He used to live in tranquility, that is, until Lady Angela and her voice took up permanent residence.

The only thing Maurice could do to make this terrible time go by was to count down the days until the opening night when Lady Angela would sing and then finally leave, giving Maurice some peace and well-deserved sleep. The days went by slowly and painfully. Every minute on the great clock in the auditorium seemed to last an hour. Eventually though, opening night arrived. That day Maurice woke up with a jaunt in his step for the first time ever and a smile on his face. Today was the day he would get rid of Lady Angela and her horrific voice for good. Night time rolled around and the guests were seated in the auditorium. Maurice sat comfortably with an old olive he had found ready to endure the show. The seats in the auditorium were quite filthy and showed some obvious patches where they had to be mended. An uncivilized family of rats had gotten into them and had been caught. Maurice had to be extra careful that day as the exterminator came to remove the rats. The frail and tattered curtain opened. It was supposed to be red but had become more of a murky brown with all the dirt. Due to experiencing many budget cuts the Opera house was not at the height of grandeur it had once been at. In fact, it was suffering greatly. If Lady Angela was their hope for bringing more audience members, they were doomed.

The flickering spotlight turned on and made its way across the tarnished stage until it reached the mark where Lady Angela had to stand. The lights started to dim, a few got fused along the way, and then the curtain went up. In the process a rope broke prompting a stagehand to have to rush onto the stage and take the curtain back by hand. The five people choir started up and Lady Angela arrived on the stage. When she started her performance, many people began to look a little alarmed. As she walked around the stage singing, the creaky floorboards did nothing to help her voice. The moon that was supposed to appear behind her during the song fell causing a loud boom. The amplifiers used by the "choir" got filled with static in the middle and started echoing which resulted in the performance having to stop for a few minutes. This gave the audience a few moments of reprieve. Eventually towards the end of the song the speakers in the opera house completely gave out just before the light went out.

Maurice smiled to himself in the darkness as the booing and complaining of the people assured him that Lady Angela would not be called back for another performance. It was by far the poorest musical performance Maurice had ever seen, but the one that brought him the most joy.



DIL CHAHTA HAI *By Yumna Hashim*

Undoubtedly way ahead of its time, Dil Chahta Hai is a coming-of-age drama that evokes every possible emotion in its audience. On the surface, it's just a movie about three best friends hanging out in Goa. A closer look, however, gives you an insight into their different takes on love, their interconnected journeys, along with their personal ones, unlike the other movies of its time which mainly focused on a single protagonist's quest towards a cathartic resolution. Lingering through singles and two shots, Farhan Akhtar introduced the Hindi film industry to a whole new way of storytelling with this film.

In terms of the story itself though, nothing really happens; no elaborate car chases, no over the top fight for love, no life-altering disasters, which is primarily what mainstream Bollywood is still known for. What makes this movie so fresh even about two decades after its release is the fact that its driving force is just its characters and their very gradual growth.

With that being said though, the music brings in just enough of the typical Bollywood element in the film. Dil Chahta Hai still remains one of the most iconic albums of all times in Hindi cinema. With feel good songs like the title track, the nostalgic Wo Ladki Hai Kahan and Tanhayee, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy defined an entire era of Hindi music with this album. Available on Netflix, this one is a must watch for every Bollywood fan.



Through her eyes

by Sukaina Kazmi

*"What light through yonder window breaks...
Tis the eve and Juliet is the sun.."*

A slight wayward glance cast her eyes upon the only portal out of her gilded cage. A more beautiful sight had yet to befall her eyes, as she gazed at the vast lush wonderland. Blades of jade speckled with crystal droplets shining underneath the benevolent rays of the waking goddess, as her climb in the sky woke her humble subjects on land. Scattered among the blades were more jewels of various sizes and colors that sparkled due to their more prominent adornment of the crystal droplets. Rising from amongst this treasure trove were tall soldiers, spreading their emerald shield to protect their more delicate comrades, while simultaneously adding their own charm to the expansive trove. The Goddess delighted with the preservation of her gifts, showered the land with bountiful rays, some of which crossed her portal giving hope of a new day.

