

THE LYSIAS

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Organizing an Event During the Pandemic: *Reader's Theatre*



By Arham Siddiqui

One of the most exciting and awaited events circled in red on any Lyceum student's calendar is undoubtedly Reader's Theatre. Every year, students perform to their heart's content with their friends crowding around them to offer support and appreciation. However, with the coronavirus taking its toll on the city, planning for an event with big crowds and backstage teams seemed too impossible a task. Ensuring a COVID-safe event venue was the utmost priority for the faculty and students involved. Although, spoiler alert: We made it work!

With the administration's help on campus, Lyceum ensured that all students and staff entering the building for rehearsals correctly masked their faces and frequently sanitized their hands to prevent transmission at its maximum. Sanitizer bottles and masks were placed on tables all around the campus and became a saving grace for someone whose face mask snapped along the string- which occurred more often than anyone would like to admit!

All student groups performing for Reader's Theatre were made to practice their performances safely distanced from each other. Perhaps the heftiest responsibility rested on the shoulders of all the society chairs and teachers that took charge of

overseeing the entire event. They needed to ensure that the performers and backstage volunteers were prioritizing safety beyond all else. Meticulous fine-tuning of each aspect of the program consequently became necessary - to the extent that even maintaining an appropriate social distance while lining up on stage for the final bow was rehearsed multiple times.

The event was held on two separate evenings to divide the crowd of students arriving on campus. Chairs placed for the audiences were kept apart, and every incoming attendee was to follow all safety protocols. Quite plainly, the two-day event was taxing and sometimes frustrating to handle, with everyone in the crew hustling while wearing a face mask that made breathing difficult. Shortly after, inconveniences were soon replaced by feelings of accomplishment and euphoria as the crowd of students and faculty alike produced an overwhelming response.

The theme of Reader's Theatre 2021, "A Brave New World", will always remind the audience present and the people who made this year's event possible that post-pandemic life will never revert to how it was before, and maybe that it is time to seize the day and excel with what we have.



Interview with Lyceum Alumnus *Kamran Anwar*

By Fatimah Shah and Safiah Farhan



Q) Please tell us a bit about your student experience at the Lyceum. How is it different from IBA?

Lyceum was a very tightly-knit community and since it was a smaller space, you would know almost everyone. Students got the chance to interact with different groups of people from every program and there was a strong sense of camaraderie among them. IBA, on the other hand, is on larger premises so you may not see people for weeks, and because the student body is so large, you are often just confined to the same group of people you were first paired with, so IBA differs in regard to the exposure and contact you have with other people.

Q) There are already many existing extracurricular societies at the Lyceum. What prompted you to start your own and how do you believe it differed from the rest?

Our theatre head, Sir Shehzad, started a series of improv comedy workshops that intended to introduce students to the skill. After the workshops, we were left with a group of students who were still quite enthusiastic and since improv in itself is very community-based, involving a lot of cooperation and coordination with others, we decided to make it a permanent extracurricular society through which, students would be able to learn the skill as well as perform.

Q) Do you recall any advice from your teachers at the Lyceum that has stuck with you since then? If yes, please share it.

There are two teachers whose advice has stuck with me to this day. Sir Shehzad, who always told us to be kind and empathetic, taught me to acknowledge and be open to hearing different opinions while also being tolerant and more mindful of what others are going through.



Ms Zehra, one of the best teachers I've had, was very supportive of my work and she helped me stay on my path which allowed me to be more confident in my craft.

Q) Your team has performed numerous shows. How was your experience and how did you cope with the pressure?

The nature of improvisation comedy is that you don't prepare beforehand or have any pre-written material, it is based entirely on the energy of the audience and your team. Because we can't really plan for it, there is always the occasional nervousness but I think it's important to keep calm and be in a good headspace because if you aren't, that will be reflected later in the show.

Q) How did you grow to love comedy and theatre and what advice would you give to people who are hesitant in joining such professions due to existing stereotypes?

I would like to credit Sir Shehzad who opened the world of improv comedy for us and provided us with the necessary exposure. In LyTheatre, I found a safe space where I could express myself without being judged and it is one of the reasons why I love it so much. Regarding the part about stereotypes, there is definitely the underlying belief that comedy and theatre are not viable hobbies, let alone careers. Nonetheless, I have pursued them after Lyceum as both a hobby and profession and can say with confidence that they are a viable career path.



The Fight Against Fast Fashion

By Vardah Qazi

In today's world, fashion brands know how to manipulate trends and keep their customers to continue buying. It's a rapid process of overstocking stores and then throwing away collections before the next season. Though it may seem a good thing that generally cheaper and accessible clothes are handed to us, it's undeniable that fast fashion-- a process focused on rapidly producing clothing and maximizing output-- is becoming hugely unethical.

It is leading to serious consequences on our health, our planet, and on garment workers' lives. In countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and India where fast fashion is largely centered in terms of production, it's much easier for companies to exploit workers and the health of both the consumers and workers is jeopardized due to harmful chemicals found in apparels, with the threat only increasing in areas where fast fashion is made.

The million tons of clothing that are also thrown out each year are full of lead, pesticides, and countless other chemicals that rarely break down and instead sit in landfills, releasing toxins into the air. Thus, it's no surprise that the fast fashion industry is becoming the second largest polluter of the planet after oil.

The height of irony is that even brands that run eco-friendly campaigns don't create sustainable products either. Local Pakistani retail brands only compete in who brings out more collections every season; contributing to the problem. According to Noorjehan Bilgrami, a strong advocate for slow fashion, fast fashion is the result of consumerism and a mindset that constantly seeks change instead of valuing the timeless.

For a country with a poor economy, a poor regard for the environment, and a young population that craves branded clothing, the cost is higher than we think and it's time to start making small changes. One way this can be done, though it may be heavy on the pocket, is through supporting more eco-conscious, artisan brands and small businesses that help local workers and preserve our culture. Another way to limit consumption is to, quite simply, buy secondhand clothing and start at your own home by reusing and up-cycling clothes to give new life to clothing that you may otherwise have discarded. Instead of throwing out clothes, donate to organizations like Eidhi, or share them with people around you.

Even if it's a difficult route, we can only start and educate ourselves to do better. Lucy Siegle, a British environmental journalist, summed the phenomena perfectly ; "Fast fashion isn't free-- someone, somewhere is paying."

Interning During a Pandemic

An Interview with Yumna Hashim

By Ayesha Ameera Memon



Q) Where did you intern and what was your role there?

I interned in the HR department at Tri-Pack, which is a company that specializes in making plastic films. My job there required a lot of reading up on the company's annual reports and product portfolios, by doing which, I was able to contribute to their aim of automating the HR department.

Q) Are there any skills you acquired or lessons you learned from this experience?

I think I became a lot more acquainted with different types of software while working in such a technically charged environment. I also learned how to interact with people in the corporate world and acquired the discipline it takes to work in a place like this. It helped me gain exposure to the world of work, which while intimidating at first, did help me feel more confident in the end. But in my opinion, my biggest takeaway was the reminder that it was okay to not know everything and to ask questions. It was a learning experience and I wasn't expected to know everything. So, as someone who often feels hesitant asking for help, this experience really got me out of my shell.

Q) Did the pandemic affect your experience in any way?

Quite a few times I was sent to work in different departments of the company when they were short on staff who were quarantining. While a bit unnerving, it did help me get a well-rounded experience.

The Palestinian Cause

By Nancy Narain K K



The news of Palestinian cause has spread across every corner of the globe. The Israel-Palestinian conflict has remained unsolved for years.

Initially the whole land, which is now separated between Israel and Palestine, was occupied by a minority of Jews and majority of Arabs. The land was divided into separate Arab and Jewish states. The conflict between both the states grew so strongly that the UN had to intervene and declare division of the land and Jerusalem as an international city, which was not accepted by Arabs due to religious beliefs. Jerusalem is important to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Both Israel and Palestine are unwilling for a peaceful negotiation. Both sides are distinguished by Israel being the powerful state, containing military weapons, land army, navy, air force and most importantly support by the United States. Whereas Palestine should be equally considered powerful, not in the terms of what they possess but how strong they have remained throughout and faced all the torture. Compared to the military of Israel, the Palestinians possess nothing.

Israel occupies the maximum land. The small piece of land that Palestinians occupy has endangered many Palestinian lives. Their homes have been demolished, Their families have been erased, They have been separated from their loved ones. People have been injured, killed, and are forced to leave their own homes.

Everywhere in the world there is injustice. To make this world a better, peaceful place, we have to take responsibility against the injustice done to others, only then will we be able to make some difference.



VOICE OF THE VOICELESS - THE HUQOOQ PROJECT



BY ZARA ZAHID KHAN

The Huqooq project team aims to give a voice to those individuals who have been victims of human rights violations by creating general awareness of legal rights and remedies

Why did you feel the need to start the Huqooq project? Was there any specific incident that you came across or was it something that you have always wanted to do?

Yashal Ruman: The idea behind it came from when I saw my family and friends, who were going through microaggressions every day and they didn't know if they had any remedies in the law, and the basic idea of any justice system is to provide justice to everyone regardless of how small or big it is. If we compare it to the illiteracy rate of Pakistan, a lot of people don't have access to any platform that can provide them with legal knowledge even if they wanted. Social media is widely available to everyone now and this was our way to ensure we have legal knowledge regarding the most basic topics. Hence, we provide a platform for the everyday person where they can access relatable stories and The Huqooq Project is an avenue for the injustices we face in everyday life where everyone has access to basic legal remedies.

We know that awareness of rights involve writing about topics that are considered taboos in our society, so what kind of responses have you received so far (positive and negative)

Shahmeer Hussan: As far as responses are concerned, the topics we choose are relatable and what people can find around their everyday surroundings so the responses that we have received so far have been intimate. I did feel that when our post regarding 'domestic waiver' was published, it called out the privilege among the masses. It is a topic that people don't generally think about or prioritize, therefore responses can be mixed but it reiterates our idea that even if there are topics that are not widely spoken about it should not mean that we don't talk about them as they are important.

How do you select the topics that you want to write about and given the sensitivity of the social issues, are there any topics that you have found difficult to write about?

Momina Saduallah: I think it's really important for us to take into account that we might have our own individual preferences but we also have to filter that with what is currently relevant and acceptable. There are sensitive topics such as sexual assault and religion where we choose to take a neutral stance, hence we haven't chosen such topics yet because everyone has their own personal stance regarding them. So instead, we have been focusing on topics relating to human rights and politics. As for myself, the most difficult topic to write about was the child abuse as the transcript given for it was by one of my closest friends and there were many aspects to it that were dramatic as well as aggressive. However, there were also aspects that were relatable and to see that something like that is so common and it goes undetected was quite difficult but this topic was also one of the most important to speak about taking into account it's severity of a topic like this.

Yashal Ruman: We also try to combine reliable sources considering the fact that public interest is quite fickle and hence, we try to maintain journalistic integrity to combat misinformation. Such as for the Palestinian issue, we combined all the reliable sources we could find into a highlight which was easily accessible to all.

What are the future plans and goals for the Huqooq project?

The main goals for the Huqooq Project would be to raise awareness in our youth about their rights and to make it widely accessible to the masses. In the future, the major aim will be to translate our posts in two or three other languages than English as well. Secondly, we would like to expand to other social media platforms such as Facebook. We have been focusing on individual rights but recently we began to also choose topics relating to community rights such as the Gujarnala eviction post. Hence, we are planning to preach human rights issues which correspond to a larger part of the community as well. At THP, we have the ability to put a certain issue or community in the spotlight every week, and give them the platform that they need to voice their concerns. In an effort to diversify our content, we are very proud to announce our latest series on IGTV "Spotlight", where our team will be shedding light on a new issue every week, with the aim of deconstructing those issues that seem too vast to be grappled by an individual alone. This is the next big step in our journey to spread awareness of our fundamental, inalienable rights and we hope we will find support in our wonderful THP community.

Keeping these in mind, what kind of support would you like from the Lyceum community and is there any message you would like to give to them?

The biggest help we can have from the Lyceum community is to step forward and share their stories with us so we can carry them forward. Secondly, we would appreciate it if Urdu writers can reach out to help our message become more accessible, societies such as Kaavish can help us translate our posts into Urdu for them to be more accessible. We would also like to collaborate with societies such as LyCourt and LyPaws to take a more interactive approach in creating awareness of legal rights and remedies. When it comes to institutions such as 'The Lyceum', it is the people that contribute the most to the work that we put out. The response we receive with each post is extremely gratifying. Bringing such pertinent issues to light is of course, never possible without extended support and to keep this support going would be our message to everyone. Lastly, sharing and liking posts go a long way as well and the Lyceum has a vast community, so doing this can really help our cause as well.

THE HUQOOQ PROJECT TEAM:

Founder and Editor: Yashal Ruman

Chief journalists: Momina Saduallah and Shahmeer Hussan

Creative Head: Farishteh Shah

Social media manager: Shariah Noor

You can follow "The Huqooq Project" on instagram [@the_huqooq_project](https://www.instagram.com/the_huqooq_project)



EMPOWER WOMEN - FOSTERING A NEW, EMPOWERED GENERATION



BY MAHA ALI

Q: Let's start out by giving everyone an introduction regarding your initiative. So firstly, what exactly is it about and what compelled you to venture into this in the first place?

A: Our initiative is called 'Empower Women', and it's associated with the Orange Tree Foundation, which is an organisation that helps underprivileged or financially unstable families to gain access to mainstream education. It is a very holistic programme, meaning it doesn't just cater to one's educational requirements but it helps the whole family alongside too. One of their programmes is a women empowerment programme called 'Nisa' which is what inspired us to start our initiative, basically as a collaboration with this programme. 'Nisa' empowers the mothers of the students of the Orange Tree Foundation, by paving the way for them to get their degrees if they desire or if they want to acquire a certain skill or anything else they have in their minds to be brought forward so that this programme can provide them with the means and guidance to do so. I have an example of some mothers who already knew the basics of embroidery and stitching, who were provided with sufficient materials and equipment to help them properly become artisans. This led them to start selling their products at reasonable rates so as to become financially independent over the course of time. So that's basically what motivated us to start this initiative.

Q: I must say that is very inspiring, especially for youth these days struggling to find ways to make a positive difference in our society. Now talk me through the thought process of naming this initiative as 'Empower Women'?

A: So the name 'Empower Women Pk' is pretty self explanatory don't you think? Although this was a collaboration with the 'Nisa' programme in Orange Tree Foundation, we did not want to just limit it to just the Orange Tree foundation and the masks, so we decided to give it a general name since it pretty much conveys what our aim is. Moreover, it also caters to different products- not just masks- depending on other products these women can produce in the future.

Q: So what are your plans for the future of this initiative, do you guys have anything specific in mind?

A: For the future our goal is to develop good quality products which these women can make themselves. Currently we're planning on launching three different products other than masks while for the future- I'm not going to give any spoilers!- but we

have three products in the works! More importantly, we don't want to restrict it to women only but to launch products that all genders can associate themselves with. Basically different products for people with different preferences. In the future we hope to launch an e-commerce website as well as to organise exhibitions after the pandemic subsides. However, right now we are actively working through online means.

Q: That sounds really interesting, something great to look forward to! How about your products- what's the process of ordering?

A: We started off by selling our products just by word of mouth; basically through close friends or family by circulating the message on our groups on WhatsApp or other social media platforms. Recently we launched our Instagram page where you can choose your product and customise it, so you can easily place an order from there. Alternately, people who are close to us can just message us- me and my mother. But mainly we are accessible through Instagram @empowerwomen.pk and as I mentioned we are hoping that we can make a website solely for this soon.



MATHEMATIKA CHAIRS INTERVIEW

By Zoya Khoja & Alveera Basit

Q: Is Mathematics your entire personality? And what mathematical equation defines you?

A = Awab Ahmed Qureshi, M = Musab Kasbati

M: Yes! *My_personality - math = 0*. However, I don't think my sarcasm could be mathematically described. Plus, I would be $\tan(x)$, always fluctuating between extremes.

A: Maths is not my entire personality. However, I'm probably legendary Fermat's last theorem $x^n + y^n = z^n$ because I am a problem that stumped some of the world's greatest minds for three and a half centuries.



Awab in his natural habitat

Q: Is every math kid a nerd? Are you a nerd?

Yes. If you like maths, you are a nerd. Sorry, it's just our fate. The beauty of Lyceum is that everyone's a bit of a nerd in their sectors. But nerds together are strong and together we will create an uprising and get our lunch money back from all the bullies.

One perception that we are trying to change this year is that you don't have to be a "Maths Kid" to enjoy Mathematika.

Q: How do you plan on encouraging students towards Mathematika?

Mathematika is a society where we encourage students to give maths a chance outside of the boring world of the classroom. In this effort, we've set up a website (mathematika.site) and an Instagram page to try to portray the reality of maths and how wonderful exploring the weird and the absurd can be.



Musab in his natural habitat

Q: If Johnny has 69 apples and his mom weighs 420kg, what is the diameter of the sun?

A: What is the sun? Is that an anime? I don't watch anime. I'm sure Musab knows...

M: If we do some trivial calculations the diameter of the sun is approximately $(e/2) * 10^6$ km. A = Johnny's apples; and w = weight of his mother. Thus, $a^n - w = (e/2) * 10^6$ always has a solution (x, y) for any a, w. "I have discovered a truly marvellous proof of this, which this margin is too narrow to contain." (This is an actual quote) so just take my word for it. Also, *NICE*.

Q: Why does the world seemingly conform to logical and consistent principles in the first place?

It is quite a mystery as the field of maths has this interesting quality where some "khwar" person invents a piece of maths with no application to find some physicist quoting "Oh, this is exactly what I needed". Even if there exists a design behind everything, the bigger question is how did we chance upon the right pattern. Maybe everything is consistent because it has to be. Even the rules and axioms we take as facts are probably deduced as well, from a singular truth. So as long as that original truth is not proven false, everything is bound to fall in order.

RED ARMY REPRESENTATIVES: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MUN TEAM CHAIRS BY AISHA AHMER



What are some goals that you have for the MUN team for the upcoming year?

Team building and winning. The MUN team has had a winning legacy established within itself. Bringing multiple 'Best Delegations' and awards home is what we, at the Lyceum, strive for.

-Kazim Abro

Firstly, we want to claim victory at all conferences we plan on doing this year, as we always have. Second and more importantly, we want to build a safe space for everyone; a place where you can unapologetically be yourself and grow in a team environment. That's what I want to focus on this year.

-Mahnoor Gul

Why did you choose to apply for MUN chair out of all the StuCo positions?

MUN has always been close to my heart. Seeing the dedication of the team in my junior year inspired me. This team deserves to be taken to new heights and raise the bar higher than in previous years. We are all a single unit, and I knew I would have been proud to be co-captain for such an amazing group of people.

-Kazim Abro

MUN has a very special place in my heart. Growing up very shy, I always struggled to speak my mind about the decisions that affected me. MUN served as a channel to express myself, and I wanted to make sure every other person who decides to join, feels the same way.

-Mahnoor Gul

What's one misconception that you want to clear up about your society?

You absolutely do not need to have prior debate experience to try out. We've had first timers year in and year out who have gone on to win at internationally recognized conferences. People are usually troubled by a lack of experience, but honestly don't worry! The Red Army will always welcome you with open arms. Train with us and join us on this journey we are about to undertake!

-Kazim Abro

Model UN isn't solely about winning and losing. That's, in no way, been what our team is about. People tend to assume all debaters care about is the trophy at the end of the conference, but there's so much more to that. The effort it takes to do well, the people we meet along the way, and our loyalty, are all equally, if not more, important to us as winning is.

-Mahnoor Gul

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

by Atikah Tariq and Hoor Anam

A Little Read

Beverly Naidoo's **'The Other Side of the Truth'** is a short yet deep book. Focusing on Nigerian politics, it narrates the story of two siblings and their escape to the United Kingdom after a series of devastating events engulf their life in Nigeria.

A Classic Read

If you want to go into depth about human nature, experience the fight between good and bad, see compassion and innocence then **'To Kill a Mockingbird'** by Harper Lee should be a must on your reading list.

A Diverse Culture

'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini gives an insight to the reader into a war-torn Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule while narrating the story of two young women who live their lives sacrificing and enduring unimaginable hardships along the way.

A Travel Between Worlds

Through the tunnel and into the snow-covered landscape, **'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe'** by C.S. Lewis will take you on the journey of four siblings into Narnia. The book will surely make you sink into your chair and read into the night.

Books That Stay Close Long After Finishing Them

'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak is a hauntingly beautiful tale narrated by Death. It makes your imagination run wild when you travel back in time as solemn Death looks upon innocent Liesel and her tragic life in an ugly world and a cruel time.

Making Time Fly By

Want a story that deals with the universal themes of friendship, loyalty, loss of innocence, betrayal, and redemption? Then **'The Kite Runner'** by Khaled Hosseini is the one for you! Dive into the lives of Amir and Hassan and look into their stories in war-torn and devastated Afghanistan.

Gaon

The sun burns my eyes as I open them. A field of roses. A wide open sky. The wind dances through my hair. I am laying on something soft, I know it is a *charpai*. I sit up, look around me. Somehow, I know. This is *gaon*. I have not been here in so long.

My feet take me to the staircase. It seems bigger than the last time I visited. I take a step and realise, I do not have shoes on. I take another step. It does not burn. Perhaps it is winter.

I am at the bottom of the staircase now. It used to take me longer. Baba stands there, I have not seen him in so long. He is taller than I remember. He bends down to my height, his arms lift me up. This is familiar.

uth gai meri beti

His smile is tinted with the sun, I have not seen it in so long. There are no creases by his eyes.

baba mein aap ko kabse yaad kar rahi thi

He becomes the sun.

Yaad aati hain mujhe
Gaon ki wo sitaron bhari raatein

Na mein thi na tum the
Har jagah sirf aasman tha
Abu ke bazoo pe sar rakhe
Charpai ke toote panjon par
ham kahin aur the
Dunya kahin dur thi

by Zainab Zahid

I am at the gate now. It is yellow. I remember they painted it the colour of the sky. I remember because I will never forgive them. But right now it is yellow, and everything is in its place. My feet take me to a green gate. I know this place. My hand rings the bell. I know the boy who opens the door. I know what he will look like in ten years. but right now he is laughing, and taking my hand, and I know we are going to the tree we always went to. I have not taken a breath in so long.

We are in a baag now. Ammi is sitting beside me. She is cutting mangoes. Her yellow dupatta folded around her brown hair, her earring catches the light and I am blinded for a split second. Baba has joined us. Ammi is feeding him a slice. I know they cannot see me.

I am in a shop now. I know the uncle, and I know his son will shut down the shop after him. I know how much the biryani papar are for. I almost buy them. But suddenly I am in a field. The string of my kite is stinging my hands. And then I am on a bike. The wind is forcing my hair back. I have not felt this in so long. I turn my head to the side. A field of sunflowers. I look to the sky, the moon has dressed up for me. I have not seen these stars in so long.

I open my eyes in a barren room. I watch the slow rhythmic turns of the fan.



Tumhari Intezaar Mein by Maryam Faisal Malik



The pungent odour of dried urine and washed away blood lingered in the air as I stood at the train station with a bouquet of fragrant lilies in my hand. Chaos is an inadequate word for what surrounded me, the station a cacophony of noise and devastation. Bedraggled, tired travelers jostled out from trains, juggling their life's processions on their heads and backs. All the while struggling to make sure their sisters, mothers, and daughters weren't swallowed up by monsters in the crowd, as was the norm those days.

I continuously checked the rust-coloured, worn down leather watch adorning my wrist, your last gift to me before I had left for our new motherland entitled Pakistan. Your white chooriyan and pastel dupattas were in a trunk in our new room, anxiously waiting for you to adorn them once you joined me in our new home, a place on the outskirts of Punjab. As the train came to a screeching halt, its green and yellow carts lumbering to a stop, I scanned the crowd for your steel-gray eyes and black chador that hid your angelic face.

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The sun was slowly setting around me, casting deep shadows on the cracked asphalt as I sat on a broken bench. The sky was juxtaposing from light hues of oranges to deep lilac, finally settling on a dark predatory black, with the faint glow of stars that seemed to call out to me. The moon was shining like a silver claw, as my heart whispered prayers as if that was enough to make you appear in front of me.

“train number 312..... hamla..... mazrat khwan hun “ . I didn't need to hear anymore, because in the August of 1947, a late train and the word mazrat only meant one thing; your chance to say khuda hafiz had been snatched away.

Wearily, I set down your favourite flowers that I had held in my hands for the past twelve hours, the stems withered and the petals wilted. Tears welled from deep inside and coursed down my hardened skin, soaked up by my beard. My feet seemed frozen to the broken concrete pavement, and my head bowed as I mourned the loss of a dream we could never live, a house that would never feel like home.

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My hand trembled as I set down my teacup with the small and patterned lilies on it, my dard still as raw as it had been that heart-wrenching day. Thirty years that have elapsed since, a flimsy bandage on a heart that was slowly dying, withering away like the lilies I had once held.

I had loved you like the stars love the night.

Unconditionally.

Irrevocably.

Endlessly.

Like a husband loves his wife.



Hollywood Movie Review: Dead Poets Society

by Anum Atif

“Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in another way. Even though it may seem silly or wrong, you must try.”.



Dead Poets Society is undoubtedly one of those films that leave behind an imprint on the audience. The film's speciality lies in its spirit that moved an entire generation to stand on top of their desks, shouting “O Captain, My Captain” and influenced them to live with a fervent passion. Directed by Peter Weir, it's an inspirational and authentic story about the lives of human beings; their dreams, friendships and losses.

Robin Williams played the role of Professor Keating, who is an unorthodox English teacher in an elite and conservative, all-boys boarding school. Keating is unparalleled in his passion and enthusiasm that is able to resonate with the students. The realistic portrayal of teenagers' lives leads the viewers to empathize and connect with the film because they can relate with the happy, painful, rebellious and frustrating moments shown throughout, with battles sometimes won and other times lost.



Even though the idealistic nature of the film is criticized, the mantras continuously reinforced in the movie - such as Carpe Diem or the importance of individual perspective - work to challenge traditional concepts and social quos. Similar to most works of art, the clash between romanticism and realism in the story is also an aspect often identified with almost all of us. All in all, the coming-of-age drama, with its fair share of laughs and tears, is a good watch for times when we seek inspiration.



Bollywood Movie Review

by Zoya Khoja

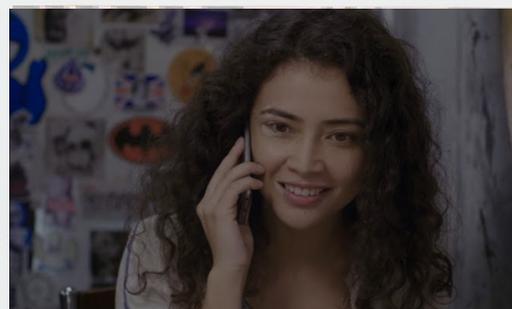
Bollywood movies are renowned for their extravagant appearances and larger-than-life depictions that highly contrast with the real world. Nevertheless, directors often undermine the essence of an imaginative storyline, and it is only rare to see an independent film be able to invoke emotions that are reminiscent of flipping through the pages of a rusted novel.

One such piece of art is the movie “Kuch bheege alfaaz” ; centered around two strangers that coincidentally cross paths to help each other have a better outlook on life.

RJ Alfaaz narrates his story as an insightful character, journeying through life in the stories of others while Archie is a carefree content creator who chases joy in the little things in life, through careless dances in clubs or barefoot walks on the streets. However, Alfaaz is merely an anonymous radio jockey who hides behind his words and Archie is a die-hard fan of his tales. Through an accidental conversation, they start to create a bond like that of developing an old polaroid, that comes together just right.

The story conveys the message of taking a step back from all our insecurities and overcomplications that we find ourselves stuck in.

It is a whimsical film that ignites appreciation for all the simple and beautiful occurrences in life and encourages us to live in the moment for the storm around us might as well just be a whispering breeze.



Sweet, or is it

S O U R

By Alveera Basit



After teasing it out on TikTok, Olivia Rodrigo first released “drivers license” on January 8, 2021; a song so sorrowful and nostalgic that it makes one miss and ache for their non-existent lover. Even though some may argue that this song represents the most painful part of a breakup, however, others may agree that this song can represent any phase of a relationship or breakup. Finally, on May 21, 2021, Rodrigo launched her completed album “Sour” leaving fans worldwide screaming. The album is sweet (ironic), heartfelt and leaves you in harsh pain, and everyone’s streaming it from TikTok to Spotify to The Tonight Show.

The first song of the album “brutal” (a personal favourite) discusses the relationship between expectations and failure. Rodrigo manages to emphasize how different reality can be from your dreams, and how brutal it can make you feel. This song hits you in the feels.

Then “good 4 u” and “jealousy, jealousy” are probably the two songs that stand out from the rest. With a beat different from the others, both of these songs discuss the pain of comparing yourself to some other girl (who may or may not be better than you) and “good 4 u” specifically shades an ex-lover for choosing the other girl over you. Man, this hurts to write.

Now let’s talk about “traitor” and “deja vu”. Both of these songs cry out with the same message i.e. watching the person you love to move on way too fast with someone else. Rodrigo eloquently describes the pain of hurting because of your lover even though they haven’t done anything wrong. Which is a whole yikes moment.

I hope we can all agree that “Sour” is the album of the year, because of how thorough Rodrigo’s songs are despite the fact that she’s a new artist. Can’t wait to see what else she has in store, keeping these bangers in mind.



Let her welcome you home

By Safiah Farhan (LySlam Society Chair)

You are forgetting her and I get that. It's because we are getting old and this city seems to be slipping away. The unrivaled adoration we had as children abated as we grew up and started seeing through the secrets of it all. She told me she remembers us by name. our footsteps her very heartbeat. Our laugh pillars her skies. Come to Karachi. Come home.

Afterall, even her air remembers you.

Her air that commemorates God with gratitude on Fridays, followed by agonizing laments on Saturdays. Is this not how we remember God? our gussa synonymous with pyaar in every dictionary?

Afterall, even her people remember you.

The twinkly eyed people of Karachi will tell you stories over paratha and somehow, the sweetness of the halwa will pale in comparison to their anecdotes of faith and love.

Afterall, even her words remember you..

Urdu is spoken differently here. There is a certain roughness to it that resembles her sea. Her jagged waves are how men apologize to their daughters. Her floods are your mother's anger. Salt and sand follow your salaams at fajr to your goodbyes at maghrib.

We are getting old but so is she. What then when your only memories of her are in old photographs? What then when this city is just another place in your Nikon n50? Come to Karachi. Come home. Let her sing meri beti ghar aagaye once again with life rejuvenating through her earth and skies. Let her welcome you a welcome of pyaar and unceasing love.

Let her welcome you home.

Music Nostalgia: 10 songs to remind you of simpler, better times

Created by: Shahmeer Hussan (LyTunes Society Chair) and Yumna Hashim

- 1) Kabhi Kabhi Aditi (Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na)
- 2) Aao Milo Chalo (Jab We Met)
- 3) Aas Paas Hai Khuda (Anjaana Anjaani)
- 4) Iktara (Wake Up Sid)
- 5) Give Me Some Sunshine (3 Idiots)
- 6) Led Zeppelin - Stairway To Heaven
- 7) Vital Signs - Aitebaar
- 8) Vital Signs - Ye Shaam
- 9) Big Star - Thirteen
- 10) Dayglow - Hotrod

