

BENEATH THE PURPLE ROOF



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FOREWORD

Hi Everybody,

Welcome back to the third issue of BTPR 2023. Dare I say it's been one ride this term to wrap it up. Including all the exciting events all of you have been a part of, ranging from inter-house to inter-school in various spheres. While trying to catch you all up on the latest pop culture and current affairs.

I'd also like to congratulate the entire eddie for working extra hard to finish this BTPR.

Saisha.

Dear Readers,

Greeting!

We present to you the 3rd edition of Beneath the Purple Roof 2023! It gives us great pleasure to bring the events happening at school to you. This Semester has been the busiest so far, so shall you find as you read along!

What is very elating is the fact that our school is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and the excitement has filtered down to all at school. The sense of belonging and pride is at its epitome and is reflected in all our acts.

I wish to welcome and introduce Aneesha De as the Vice Editor-in-chief. I wish her all the best in her endeavors.

Sonia Singh

Teacher-in-Charge.

HT TIMES

AN INSIDE SCOOP OF EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN
HAPPENING AT HOPETOWN.

WSC- SOUTH KOREA

On the 17th of July, 18 of our girls participated in the WSC Seoul Global Round, an exciting and enthralling experience for our scholars as they represented India on a global stage. They competed against scholars worldwide and have now qualified for the Yale Round. Our students enjoyed various activities, including the Scholars' Bowl and Challenge, and mastering the donning of traditional Hanbok Korean dresses. The cultural fair was a highlight of the event, where our scholars shared their unique cultures and traditions. The tour ended on a high note with a visit to the Namsan Seoul Tower and a fun-filled day at the Amusement Park.



WELMUN 2023

Welmun was held from the 3rd to 5th of August. 11 of our senior school students had a remarkable opportunity to learn about and express their views on matters concerning global crises and the intensity of war at Welmun 2023. During the three-day conference, our students discussed various agendas and gained knowledge about issues such as nuclear disarmament and secession in India. Overall, it was a highly enlightening experience.



VISTA

On the 12th of August, Hopetown organized its very first Cambridge Fest, where students from Kasiga, The Oasis, The Doon, Unison, Modern Public School, Mandarin High, Ecole Globale, and Selaqui International came together to discuss global issues surrounding our lives. Grades 6 to 9 participated in the discussion. The topics (Grade Six- Melodious Movement, Grade Seven- The Last Supper, Grade Eight- Lost and Found, and Grade Nine- Reading Between the Lines.)to be discussed were given three days prior to the schools.

The moderators for the session were Ms. Aditi Sabharwal, Mr.Rahul Pande, Mr.Yash Nath Jha, and Ms.Soumya Prasad.

Each school shared their thoughts on the concerning topics surrounding the central theme given to them, thereafter, participants were involved in a round table conference where they openly talked about the effects of the issue against cultural and historical backgrounds. Discussions about the effects of such issues on society were initiated and solutions were formed.



SPECTRUM

On the 12th of August, the students of Hopetown participated in the 10th edition of Spectrum, a multidisciplinary event that covered all spheres of creativity, hosted by Unison World School. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Anuj Sharma, a designer from Rajasthan, presently based in Ahmedabad, Gujrat. Overall, eighteen schools participated, our school competed in 17 events, ranging from Fine Art, Drama, Commerce, Photography as well as Computers. Anushka Agarwal won the first position trophy for Frame the Fame, Bahar Sharma won the first position trophy for Numetramatics. In House of Cards competition Naisha Jamshedji stood second and Aafia, Jigisha, Hunar and Tisya stood second in the House of Fortuners. In Walking with Robots (Assembling and Programming of the Robots) second position was secured by Hrimshree Jain, Sanskriti Agarwal, Ahana Gupta.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Independence Day morning began with the flag hoisting followed by the National Anthem. Thereafter all were mesmerized by the breathtaking performances which comprised- a melodious patriotic song, a moving skit on Bhagat Singh, and a blindfolded kathak performance. Grade 12 organized a fun 'Qarnival' (games and refreshments) for everyone. A dance party was held in the evening. Our Principal, Ma'am Maya shared a beautiful message with us,- "Freedom is not always about yourself it is more about accepting one another, about giving your friend the freedom you so badly want".



PSYCHOLOGY FEST

On the 19th of August, the psychology students of Hopetown organized the Psychology Fest 2023. The schools that participated were- Wynberg Allen, Convent of Jesus and Mary, St.Joseph's Academy, Summer Valley, Doon School, Mussorie International School, Welham Girls', and the Tibetan Valley School. This year the theme was emotional intelligence and its hormonal effects on teenage adolescents.

The Guest Speakers were- Dr.Annie Singh, Dr.Preetima Varma, and Mr.Vikas Deepak.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

World Humanitarian Day was celebrated on the 19th of August. This year the topic taken was, #NoMatterWhat, which speaks about the extent to which humanitarian workers go, in an often dangerous and violent world to ensure that they reduce human suffering. The guest speaker was Mr.Yashaswi Juyal, a filmmaker specializing in documentaries. He talked about his experiences and hardships of filming during Covid 19 and also shared how his friends and he supplied various aids to rural areas and hospitals during the pandemic.



LIBRARY WEEK

The library week was celebrated from the 23rd to the 29th of August. It began with an informative Assembly on the importance of reading. Throughout the week activities such as Spine Poetry, Book Talks, Book Tasting Parties, Book Reviews, Creating Bookmarks, and Book Fair were conducted. The events encouraged students to enhance their reading skills, helped them develop their analytical as well as review writing skills.



HINDI ONE ACT PLAY

On the 26th of August, Inter House Hindi One-Act Play was organized. Each House portrayed a satire on a societal issue in a humorous way. Sapphire House enacted 'Freestyle Gavaahi' and won the first position followed by Ruby House who performed a skit on women empowerment, in the second, and Emerald House who performed 'Swaarg Mein Ek Seat Khaali Hai' in the third position. Diamond House performed a skit on the custom of dowry.

HARMONY

On the 29th of August, Hoptown participated in the Inter School Competition- Harmony 2023 organized by Unison World School. Hoptown Girls' School secured the first position in the Nritya Abhinay category in the competition.



GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are extraordinary species, not only admired for their beauty but also for their breathtaking features. The middle school students did an interesting GEP on butterflies and the various impacts they have on the planet and our hearts. They are essential pollinators, they impact climate change and they also beautify a particular place. Mr. Sanjay Sondhi, who established an organization 'Titli Trust' visited the students of Hopetown and briefly explained to them about butterflies and their various qualities. Our school also has its very own butterfly garden with specific flowers that attract butterflies.



CSE

CSE stands for Comprehensive Sexuality Education which gives young people accurate, age-appropriate information about sexuality and their sexual and reproductive health, which is critical for their health and survival. Topics covered by CSE, can also be called life skills as they include families and relationships; respect, consent, and bodily autonomy; anatomy, puberty, and menstruation, contraception, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The students of middle school put together a captivating GEP about their recent CSE workshops where they talked about sex, gender, and sexuality and thus surprised everyone with their concise knowledge and clarity on these critical topics.



GCEI

GCEI also known as the Global Cultural Educational Initiative is a global platform for youngsters. In their initiative, schools and adolescents work together to help in improving certain SDGs(Sustainable Development Goals) like zero hunger, no poverty, gender equality, and others. The goal this year is "zero hunger". The GCEI club girls started by exploring problems at our school. The research involved interviews, videos, field trips, etc. Overall students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thereafter a GEP was conducted by them to represent the research and initiatives taken by the students to overcome issues regarding food wastage.



Spine Poetry

On the spot poetry writing, using the titles of the set of books given to each group.



The Boy Called Christmas.
A Very Merry Christmas. An
Eagle In The Snow.
The Ice Monster. How The
Grinch Stole Christmas.
The Great Ice Battle.
The Secrets Of droon.
Nobody and Jackson's
Spell. Frozen (The
Christmas Toy Factory).

The Dark Forest Adventure.
It's not About The Bikes,
Three Singles To Adventure
within The Traveler's Guide.
The Train To India, The
Robinson Crusoe. The
Unicorn Expedition. All
about The Diary Of A
Wimpy Kid.

This book is not good for you,
Sita.
The Mystery Of Three
Quarters,
In The Mouth Of The Wolf, The
Dark Hills divide Harry Potter
And The Cursed Child. The
Trials Of Apollo, by The Indian
In The Cupboard. In The
Name Of The Rose, It is an
outlaw.

The Italian Country Table serves
main course as non- veg
including different types of Curry
recipes and The Secrets of
Natural diet that lies within the
burger. That is made in Archer's
Kitchen with A Taste of India's
Biodiversity. Lastly, serves
wonderful desserts topped with
Jams and Chutneys.
Yumm! What a fine delicious
thinner dinner Under The Italian
Country Table. Yumm! Delicious!

As Per The Folk Tales Of
Uttarakhand. The Best Of Saki
includes Stories For Boys Who
Dance To Be Different and here it
goes- Once Upon A Christmas
Time.
Boys Felt The Jungle Call.
They could hear the magic drum
calling the Vikram Betal all beats
as if the Traveler's Tales About
Mysterious Happenings or all the
Stories Of Magic Folk Collector
revolving around Hanuman.



Best things teens can do,
 Though nobody's perfect,
 Is to learn to live!
 Discover the Gift...
 Of meditation...
 Invoke the (Your) self.
 To bury "anger"
 And you will find..
 The accidental courage
 To learn to live...
 Remember...You...Were
 Born to Win!

Euripides originally portrays men
 as men,
 Caesar has many antiques to
 himself.
 The passionate love of Antony
 and Cleopatra
 Leads to much,
 Ads about Nothing!
 With the merchant of Venice in
 trouble
 Gets a respite in Jumpstart!
 Romeo and Juliet face
 The tempest,
 While Macbeth executes to rule!!

The destiny that lies in front
 Is made up of your hidden
 talent,
 Within you is the power of
 imagination
 You can win if you focus,
 We all have the magic of
 thinking well.
 Simplicity is always the new
 smart,
 You can improve by having
 amazing habits.
 When needed think like a monk,
 Believe in what you must do.

The shadow of the house
 The detectives and the phantom,
 The Titanic and the house that
 spoke,
 The black peril and the devil,
 This was a game of mystery.
 Anita Emil Snakehead spoke,
 You must stop this,
 Mystery and the game of
 shadows,
 The phantom tollbooth and the
 house that spoke.

Judy Moody and the not-bummer
 Summer
 Midsummers night's dream
 The sinister summer holiday,
 And the grandpa's Indian summer.
 One crazy summer,
 In the backyard Sleepover girls go
 surfing.
 Diary of a Wimpy Kid,
 dog days Jackdaw summer
 Judy Moody and the not-bummer
 Summer





'RISING FLAMES IN MANIPUR.'

In the heart of India's Northeastern region, the picturesque state of Manipur is once again marred by the bitter flames of inter-tribal strife. The age-old animosity between the Meiteis and Kukis, which has festered for generations, has erupted into violent riots, leaving the state teetering on the edge of chaos. Historically, the Meiteis and Kukis have been locked in a cycle of conflict, rooted in territorial disputes and cultural differences. The history of their discord can be traced back to colonial times, when boundaries were arbitrarily drawn, sowing the seeds of future conflict.

Over the years, these divisions have only deepened, fuelled by mistrust, competing interests, and a failure to address the underlying issues. The present wave of riots was sparked by an immediate cause that once again ignited the smoldering embers of animosity. The violence was sparked by a court ruling that granted the Meitei people "scheduled tribe" status, which gave them the same economic benefits and quotas in government jobs and education as the Kuki people, who had traditionally been considered the indigenous inhabitants of Manipur, triggering widespread unrest and setting the stage for a dangerous showdown.

The impact of these riots on the people of Manipur cannot be overstated. Families have been torn apart, businesses shuttered and lives shattered. Innocent individuals caught in the crossfire of hatred and violence, bear the brunt of this historical enmity. The streets that were once vibrant with culture and diversity now echo with cries of pain and despair. In response to this crisis, the government's actions have left much to be desired. Their tepid and inadequate response underscores a lack of political will to address the deeply rooted issues plaguing Manipur. While temporary curfews and deployment of security forces might provide a short-lived sense of calm, they do little to address the systemic problems that continue to fuel the flames of discontent.

The Manipur riots serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for genuine reconciliation. Mere band-aid solutions and half-hearted attempts at peacekeeping will not suffice. The government must step up and engage in meaningful dialogue, tackling the root causes of inter-tribal strife head-on. Only through concerted efforts to bridge the divide and address historical grievances can Manipur hope to emerge from this dark chapter and forge a path toward lasting peace and prosperity.

In conclusion, the Meiteis and Kukis deserve better than a cycle of violence and despair. It is high time for both the state and central governments to rise above political expediency and take decisive action to heal the wounds that have festered for far too long. The future of Manipur hangs in the balance, and only through genuine reconciliation can the state hope to break free from the shackles of its tumultuous past.

BY PRAGYAMITA CHAUDHARY

BARBIE BANNED IN SOME COUNTRIES

Barbie is the second highest-grossing film of the year. However few countries disagree. While Barbie has been a lovable and charismatic character globally, it has set off some sparks worldwide. Kuwait has banned the film from airing in their theatres after the country's film committee chairman Lafi Al-Subaie stated that the film encourages ideas that encourage unacceptable behaviour and distort societal values. This ban was placed after Lebanon's cultural minister, Mohammad Mortada restricted Barbie from screening across the country. He claims that the film promotes homosexuality and contradicts values related to faith and morality.

The film has also been banned from airing in Vietnam due to the world map displayed in the film. The government of Vietnam deemed it offensive as the map portrayed a crudely drawn map that features a backward S-shaped line near its depiction of Asia. Vietnam appeared to interpret the image as a "nine-dash line" that illustrated China's unilateral territorial claim over the South China Sea, which is disputed by a number of countries in the region. "We do not grant a license for the American movie 'Barbie' to release in Vietnam because it contains the offending image of the nine-dash line," a Vietnamese state-run newspaper reported on July 3, according to Reuters. The outlet has also reported that the Chinese maps use the "nine-dash line" to illustrate the country's claim over the territory, even though a 2016 ruling by an international court in the Hague rejected the claim. However, the discourse continues as Warner Bros. told NBC, "The doodles depict Barbie's make-believe journey from Barbie Land to the real world. It was not intended to make any type of statement."

An official source told Reuters on Monday that Barbie had also been banned in Algeria, after the movie had been playing in theatres in the African country for weeks because it "promotes homosexuality and other Western deviances" and "does not comply with Algeria's religious and cultural beliefs." According to the headline, the movie has been banned in Algeria for damaging morals. Still set to release in the two largest Middle Eastern countries, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, everybody anxiously awaits the result.

THE INFLUENCE OF ART FILMS IN THE SOCIETY.

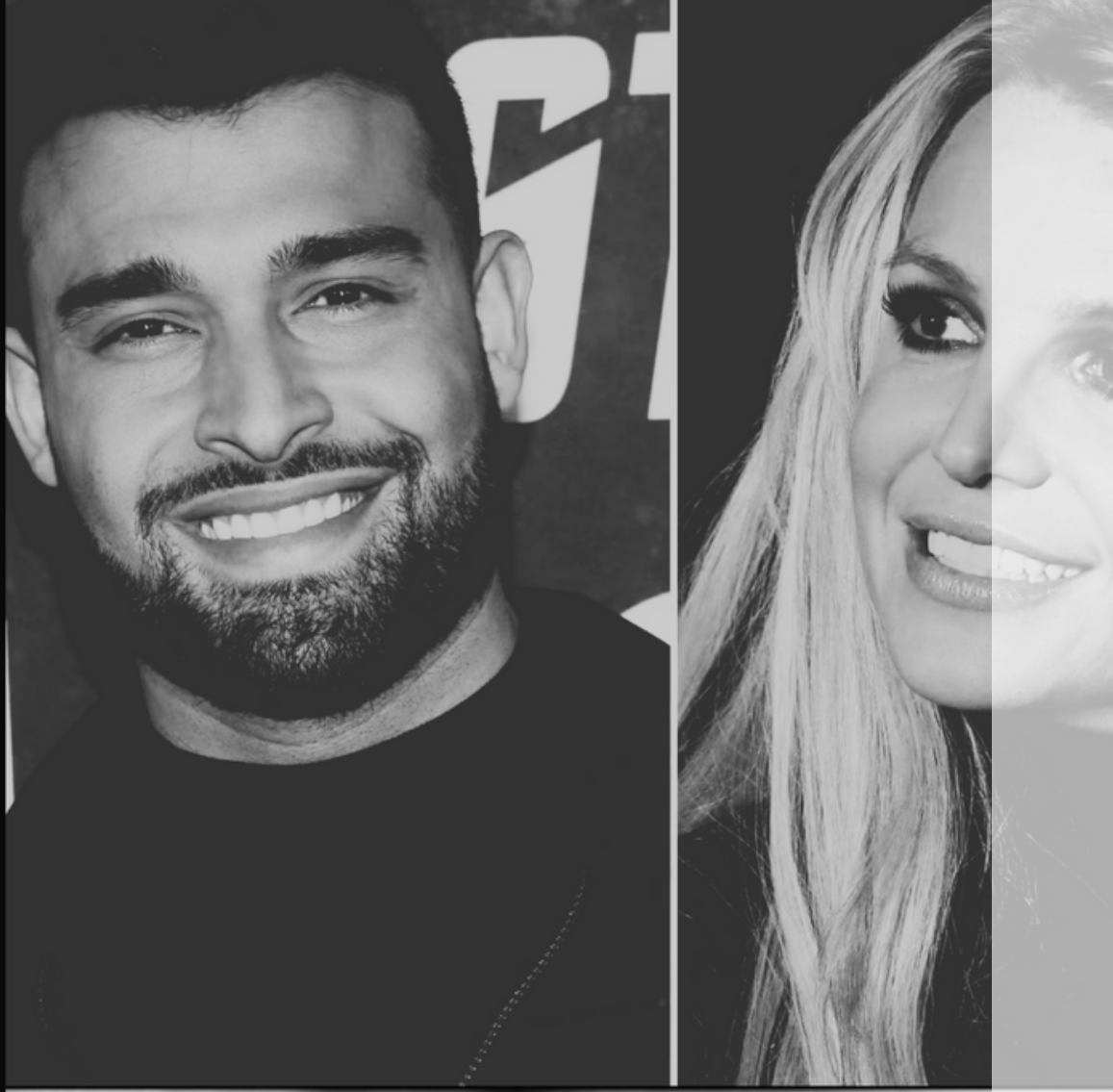
Film and cinema have always been a medium of communication with the society. Art films are independent, avant-garde films, different from commercial films. They are targeted towards a more selected audience rather than the mass market audience. These films mainly focus on realism, neo-realism, and authorial presence. Commercial films tend to focus mainly on entertainment, whereas art films break that mould. They act like the mirrors of the society, reflecting a true and more realistic portrayal of human life. Iconic directors such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Roberto Rossellini, Federico Fellini, Carlo Di Palma, and several others produced films such as L'Eclisse(Eclipse 1962), L'Avventura, Un Chien Andalou, Daisies, and several others which broke the conventional ideology of film making and theatre giving rise to a new wave of realism.

In India after Independence, several film societies were starting to be formed. The iconic director Satyajit Raj was inspired by the film 'Ladri di Biciclette' by Rosellini while on his trip to Britain. From there he began working on his first ever art film 'Pather Panchali' which at first received heavy criticism but later was highly appreciated and even ventured to the Cannes Film Festival. The concept of his film was based on neo-realism, a movement, particularly in Italian filmmaking characterized by the simple direct depiction of lower-class life. This was the starting point of art cinema in India. Later, films such as 'Fire',' Choker Bali', 'Charulata' and many others started coming up. The films evoked such emotion and beauty that they surpassed the glitz and glamour of commercial films. As the world began progressing, the target audiences of these art films also began to broaden. Many more people were open to the idea of such films now. They provoked the perception of the audience and made them ponder.

In the 21st century, cinema itself is constantly evolving and growing. Art films today explore a vast variety of topics from sexuality, relationships, art, literature, culture, psychology, sociology, and many more. Films such as The 'Portrait of the Lady on Fire', 'Girlhood ', 'Lady Bird', and 'The Handmaiden' among others make us view the world through the eyes of a woman thus emphasizing the female gaze. Other films that explore genres such as teenage life in raw and imperfect details become essential stepping stones for the growth of young adults. The world of anime has also indulged in the arena of art film and produced fantastic masterpieces such as the 'The Belladonna of Sadness, 'Midori', 'Perfect Blue', and 'Ocean Waves' among others. Today art films are not only a source of aesthetics and entertainment but also education and emotional exploration. More than the aesthetics of art cinema the more significant message that the film holds is what defines true art. I would like to end this article with a quote from film director, Celine Sciamma "I think movies, I think art, can change the world."

BY ANEESHA DE

Cele' Buzz



- **Will Smith and Chris Rock Oscars slap.** This is still the most talked-about celebrity scandal of the year, and it's unlikely to be topped anytime soon. Smith slapped Rock on stage at the Oscars after Rock made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Smith has since apologized for the slap, but the incident has sparked a lot of debate about violence, free speech, and celebrity entitlement.
- **Ezra Miller's arrests.** The actor has been arrested twice in Hawaii in recent months, once for disorderly conduct and harassment and once for second-degree assault. Miller has also been accused of grooming a young fan. The actor is currently facing multiple legal charges, and their future in Hollywood is uncertain.
- **Kanye West's social media posts.** West has been making headlines for his erratic behavior on social media in recent months. He has attacked his ex-wife, Kim Kardashian, and her new boyfriend, Pete Davidson, and he has also made several controversial statements about race and religion. West's behavior has raised concerns about his mental health.
- **Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky welcome their second child together.** The couple are now parents to a baby boy.
- **Meghan Markle and Prince Harry make a Netflix adaptation of their book.** The couple are teaming up with Netflix to adapt the book "The Bench" into an animated short film.
- **Britney Spears rewrites her memoir amid her divorce battle with Sam Asghari.** The singer is reportedly rewriting her memoir to include details about her relationship with Asghari and their recent split.
- **Hailey Bieber is pregnant.**
- **Twitter is no longer called Twitter.** It is now called X. The name change was announced by Elon Musk, the new owner of Twitter, on July 22, 2023.
- **Musk said that the name change was necessary to reflect the company's new direction.** He envisions X as a "super app" that can do everything from sending messages to making payments. He said that the name Twitter no longer adequately reflects the company's capabilities.

kanyewest 🗨️ What do you mean by main provider ? America saw you try to kidnap my daughter on her birthday by not providing the address You put security on me inside of the house to play with my son then accused me of stealing I had to take a drug test after Chicago's party cause you accused me of being on drugs Tracy Romulus stop manipulating Kim to be this way...

FILMS



Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer' is a sweeping and ambitious film that tells the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who led the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. The film is complex and challenging, but it is also deeply moving and thought-provoking.

Cillian Murphy gives a tour-de-force performance as Oppenheimer, capturing his brilliance, his charisma, and his moral anguish. The supporting cast is also excellent, with Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, and Robert Downey Jr. all giving memorable performances.

Nolan's direction is masterful, and he creates a visually stunning film that is both epic in scope and intimate in its character study. The film's use of non-linear storytelling can be a bit confusing at times, but it ultimately serves to create a more powerful and nuanced portrait of Oppenheimer.

Oppenheimer is a film that will stay with you long after you have seen it. It is a film that is both a historical epic and a personal drama, and it is a film that asks important questions about the nature of power and the responsibility of scientists.



The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a coming-of-age movie that beautifully portrays the struggles of being young and alive in a world full of confusion and chaos. Based on the 1999 novel of the same name, the movie immerses the audience in the story of Charlie, a shy freshman in high school, and takes us on a journey of self-discovery, friendship, and love. The Perks of Being a Wallflower is an honest and unflinching portrayal of the challenges of teenage life. The movie does not shy away from critical topics like mental health, sexual abuse, and suicide, making it a powerful and moving film. It is a movie that will stay with you long after you have seen it.

MUSIC



Sports is an Oklahoma-based dream pop band that formed in grade school. The band adopted their playful name as a nod to their lack of athleticism. The trio consists of brothers Jacob and Christian Theriot on bass guitar and guitar, respectively, along with vocalist Cale Chronister. Their debut album, *Naked All the Time*, was released in 2015, and the band's second album came out the following year. Sports' breezy indie pop sound draws influences from the 80s. Check out their latest album, *Naked All the Time*.



Folklore is the eighth studio album by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift. Folklore consists of mellow ballads driven by neo-classical instruments, pursuing indie folk, alternative rock, and electro-acoustic styles. Influenced by loneliness during quarantine, Swift explores themes of escapism, empathy, nostalgia, and romanticism in the album, using a set of characters, fictional narratives, and story arcs, in contrast to the autobiographical tone of her previous projects. The title was inspired by the lasting legacy of folk songs, whereas its visual aesthetic reflects cottagecore.



Marie Ulven Ringheim is a Norwegian singer-songwriter and record producer, known for her indie pop project girl in red. Her first EPs Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 were recorded in her bedroom and feature songs about romance and mental health. Check out her most popular song, "we fell in love in October" and "October passed me by".

SPORT'S DAY 2023

WINNERS

MARCHPAST

RUBY

OVERALL SPORTS

EMERALD

CREATIVE WRITING

YOU AND I

We laugh loud and often,
Making great memories that will never be forgotten
Jokes run wild through the hostel hall
No regard for our neighbors at all

We stand together, united;
A family of understanding and empathy for each other
Lonely sadness away we shoo!
Always knowing another sister can help you pull through.

Who knows what the future may bring?
But together we sing and celebrate the day
As our laughs and love start to fade
We hug tight, all in a hostel brigade.

Crammed in our bunks, stairs creak
As our stories of “youthful secrets” leak
This trip has been a true blessing
Of connection and fun.

In the hostel, teenage girls ruled
A daily dose of mischief,
Up their sleeves.
For any challenge, they never loose.

Creeping around the slightest hour-
Getting away with misdeeds of power
Swapping of books, cards, and notes
The teachers never figured it out.

Bunk beds, a locker they share
Giggle fits, banter they dare
Making plans on how to pass their time,
Secrets they whisper, with not an ounce of crime.

Time flew fast, it was two at night,
English paper tomorrow gave them a fright.
Pulling an all-nighter was a must-
All to gain their teacher’s trust.

For the tiniest thing, they had a way,
Giggles and laughter filled every day
The hostel, that bore these teenage girls
In manifold mischiefs, they made their world.

BY ARPITA RAI





A SPIRIT IN WHITE

In a house surrounded by golden twirling leaves of white,
There lived a spirit in white.

As the sun slept soundly, the spirit would awake, making
each leaf shudder with it's love.

The winds would blow against the world keeping the little
house safe.

The world around was engulfed in a darkness terribly deep.
But the house stood, lit by the moonlight, quiet and serene.

The spirit roamed the periphery; followed by fairies who
carried the sun with them.

And all through the night, they protected the house, and the
people inside it, as they wrapped their blankets around
themselves.

The moon was still draped along the stretch of the night sky,
catching a curious child's eye.

When the spirit approached the large window.

And spoke to the mother of the house.

“Wake up my love, the sun will be coming back soon, i have
to remind the moon too.”

And the mother blinked up at the haze of light, the presence
of the moonlight illuminating the room from within.

When she finally awoke, she found the very first rays of the
sun peeking out of the beige curtains.

Falling atop her woven blanket, immersed with warmth.

Golden strings of love being sent to her from above.

How wonderful it must be to live a world full of lush bushes,
with red berries!

A world full of blankets stitched with colourful patches!

She knew the wonder of such things.

Because the house she lived in had a spirit in white, a spirit
which blessed each sleeping creature at night.

And slowly as the sun bled into the sky, the children awoke.
Still grasping onto fragments of dreams, lost in the depths of
their own minds.

They lay there, staring up at the clouds above, hoping they
could remain there forever, simply existing.

But soon they are forced to let go of any hopes of relief.

And so, they drag themselves through the day, growing
weaker as each hour passes.

Until the end, when they are worn and weary, they snuggle
inside their beds again.

Their mother arrives; to sing to them of the beauty of the
world.

Their eyes droop and close, bringing each one to the
dimension of sleep.

And soon, the mother grows tired, thus she too falls into the
warm embrace of sleep.

And the moonlight shifts away giving way to the spirit in
white, who spends yet another night, mending those who do
not believe themselves to be whole.

BY SIMMAR SAHOTA

STARDUST

In fields of blossoms, I take my stride, A tapestry of
dreams, my heart as a guide, whispering winds, they
weave my tale, a symphony of colours, where
emotions sail.

Moon's tender touch, a lover's embrace, Stardust
trails, across the sky's vast space, In my reflection,
galaxies unfurl, A universe within, an infinite pearl.

I dance with shadows, a delicate waltz, Unveiling
mysteries as the night exalts, the tapestry of life,
both fierce and fine, I am the poetess of stars that
intertwine.

Through veils of time, my essence weaves, A journey
of blooming nights, my spirit believes, With each
heartbeat, a universe is born, in the depths of my
soul, a cosmic storm.

Loud whispers of the ancient lore, I am the ocean's
depths, its tempest's roar, A phoenix rising from
ashes of despair, In every heartbeat, a universe to
bear.

So let me be, shy, fierce and free, A tapestry of
dreams, for all to see, In every pulse, a story yet
untold, Weaving stardust dreams until the dawn is
bold.

BY PRAGYAMITA CHAUDHARY

The Otherworldly Play

When the moon was full, sending soft rays of light toward the earth,
the otherworldly play came to swirl into the minds of children who sat inside tents with the light
of paper lanterns; blossoming overhead.

Widows in white marched across the water of the dead lakes, inside their minds

And a ghost held seven hearts, yet no sword in sight.

The moon hung with thin string, and beads of mist rolled off the ends of stars.

One of them loved another, who lived near the other end of this dust-bound universe.

Thus, it fell from the sky, in the hopes that he would catch his lover's sight-

in the darkness, there came a sound;

Fluttering,

Fluttering,

Fluttering.

This time, it wasn't a city burning, but the wings of an angel draping themselves across the sky;

Ah! The sky,

not blue, not black, but somewhere in between.

Similar to the way I hang between memories of you.

a fountain leaks blood; the blood of a poet who sat in his attic and admired the moon,

until loneliness swallowed him whole, leaving his blood to run free, through the divine crevices of
your body.

The walls of the tent peeled away because the moon had gone away (to grieve the loss of his
beloved).

And just like a dead corpse shedding its flesh to the flowers;

the tent crippled away, into the furious light of day,

leaving the child, blinking away.

He screams for the light has hurt his eyes.

He can no longer bear to see the world beyond.

Thus, he desperately grasps at shards of red ribbon and covers the delicate grey of his eyes.

But the sun still burns the flesh clung to his frame,

there is no more lace left to cover himself with,

and so, his heart trembles inside his ribcage, sending shudders of gold ash through the open
window.

And with each shudder he finds himself disappearing.

Melting,

Melting,

Melting.

into the morning song of the pond;

Where shapeshifters bathe in the hopes that they will one day be free of the heaviness that binds
them, into these mortal forms.

Now the golden ashes of a boy who once sang in fields, stick to dark waters.

And all at once, the world catches fire,

because another star fell from the sky today, it had heard of the poet who died because he grew to
be too alone.

and so he thought his pain would vanish too, if he only jumped towards the end of the world.

But he did not say goodbye, to all the lovers who hung onto strings of light, wrapped in the
embrace of the sun, forevermore.

BY SIMMAR SAHOTA

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