

Vasant Valley

September, 2011

T O D A Y

The Cloud Messenger



August came, and brought with it a brilliant prospect for all our aspiring actors and performers. After a gruesome row of auditioning, a team of 21 students was selected to represent our school in the Annual Inter School Drama Festival organized by the Central School of Speech and Drama, UK, and supported by the British Council in India.

Opening up huge possibilities for students who aspire to take up theatre for higher studies in the UK, the festival traveled across the country and involved a wide range of schools. It showcased the Theatre in Classrooms Project which included scriptwriting, acting, costume designing, technical knowledge and pedagogy. Celebrating 150 years of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary with a range of collaborations, performances and publications throughout 2011, this drama competition was held in reverence

for his work. Hence, the theme for this year was 'Inspired by Tagore'.

The dramatic mode that our play represented was a subgenre of post-modern drama, with a taste of sufiana in its style. An experimental enactment of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's short essay titled 'The Cloud Messenger', taken from his famous book 'Lipika', the presentation was also interspersed with his expressive poetry. Without a storyline, the play revolved around the emotional theme- a journey into an exploration of love.

With the help of music, poetry and visuals, it expounded Gurudev's poetic and spiritual understanding of the theme. The play questioned a stereotypical approach to love as perceived by the global generation that is exposed to a multi cultural environment. Gurudev offers a universal understanding of human bonding in this piece. During the rehearsal process, we as students were exposed to Gurudev's repertoire of writing, the finer nuances of the theme and the technicality of the production.

With her eyes on the prize and complete determination, our director Mrs. Baani Sharad bore with us inexperienced and rather lost actors, and molded us into budding dramatists. Ready to showcase our dormant talents, we battled it out at the semi-finals held in Kolkata against 60 schools, all of which were competing for the top six finalist positions. With the much appreciated help of Ms. Neelam Gupta, assistant director and head of lights and visuals for our production, we were able to put up a spectacular set design which empowered our abstract dramatic style, and really drove our message into the hearts and minds of our audience.

It was not only our design, but also our spellbinding dance sequences which definitely set us apart from most of the competition. Choreographed by Ms. Snigdha Pattajoshi, our subtle and soulful dances gave our drama an element of depth and created an instant intimacy with those watching. An awe inspiring ingredient of our piece, it was our dance that really shone.

The culmination of each of these elements gave birth to our breath-taking performance, which successfully placed us in the top six schools! We will compete nationally in the Grand Finale in Delhi on the 10th of December, 2011, for first place.

Prior to the finals, all of us will gain the wonderful opportunity to attend drama workshops by expert theatre professionals on the interpretation of script and character, voice articulation, stage awareness, use of props, and improvisation. Along with this, the best actor and actress in the final round will travel to London, and have the opportunity to participate in a prestigious drama workshop at the Central School of Speech and Drama, UK, and hone their skills amongst world class amateur dramatists from around the world. Best of luck Vasant Valley, and may the best play win!

Rishabh Prakash, 11

SCHOOL WATCH

The VVS Senior Girls team, captained by **Megha Mehdiratta**, won the **South West Inter School Hockey** tournament.

The winners of the **Inter-house Mathematics Quiz** are:

12: Red House (Ramya Ahuja, Shaurya Kumar, Pihu Yadav, Rishabh Dutta)

11: Yellow House (Amira Singh, Gagan Beri, Riddhima Yadav, Veer Gupta)

10: Blue House (Abhishek Dhawan, Sanjana Surya, Soyam Sakshi, Bharat Somanathan)

9: Green House (Ananya Jain, Nirvaan Bharany, Shivam Sharma, Jairaj Singh)

The winners of the **Mathematics Quiz** are:

5: Veeraj Jindal 4: Kartik Kajaria

3: Varun Vir Kharb and Siddhant Gandhi

Aditi Banerjee (11) won the **Sociology Essay Writing Competition**.

Ashna Suri (4) won the gold medal in the 9-12 age category of the **3rd National ITF Taekwondo Championship** held in Jammu.

Tanvi Bahl, Arusha Nirvan and Sehej Kaur won the **Essay Writing Competition for Class 4**.

Students share their experiences having had a taste of college life courtesy classes taught by VVS alumni:

To Dissect or Not to Dissect?

I was one among a circle of children chosen to join alumnus Madhavan Somanathan three times a week to discuss various literary texts. Although it was a workshop on Philosophy, I rather liked to think of it as one on literature. As an English student, my strength doesn't really lie in my writing skills or declamation or flowery stuff like that. What I do enjoy doing, though, is trying to pick up as much as I can from a literary text, and then correlating the ideas in that text with my own opinion. Reflecting on my participation, I think that this was fairly evident from the nature of my inputs. I rarely chose to decipher the multiple meanings or hidden implications of any kind of text; rather, I preferred to pick a side and stick with it.

Initially, the group of us focussed on texts and doctrines by ancient Greek philosophers. I enjoyed dissecting these texts because, like I said, I like to put things into perspective and let an argument take its own course. However, I needed to be receptive to other opinions, and all in all, it was all the intellectual stimulation I needed to put forward my views after an otherwise bland (!) day. Madhavan conducted the workshop admirably: his ability to spark discussions on varying trains of thought at the same time was essential in ensuring that nobody was allowed to submerge themselves in their own opinion. As a student, I loved the stuff, despite not quite merging myself with the 'philosophical' scheme of things.

Subsequent discussions followed on a book called 'The Word for World is Forest'. This was, essentially, a science fiction book. I despise science fiction. I despise fantasy. Perhaps this is a good time to admit (shamefully? bluntly?) that I didn't pay much attention to the discussions regarding this text. Being a crime fiction buff, deep science fiction was all that I needed. However, I thoroughly enjoyed penning down an article on 'Plato's Apology', a text that was discussed in the initial stages of the workshop. This was more factual than the other texts, and it was expansive, so it really was my kind of thing. All in all, I enjoyed being a part of this workshop, and hope to repeat, or maybe even head one in the future.

Aditya Srinivasan, 10

The Vasant Valley A Capella Choir



GLEE is one of the best new shows on TV. If you don't live under a rock, I suggest you watch it. When I first saw the 'Warblers', an A Capella choir on the show, I sat agog listening to them sing. I'm sure that anybody who heard their cover of 'Teenage Dream' sang along with them as well. When the

news broke that an A Capella choir would be made in our school as well, an adrenaline rush surged through the hearts of all the students who wished to be a part of this exclusive group. Kunal Dutta, an alumnus of the Batch of 2010, a member of the Stanford A Capella choir, and an extremely talented musician, came up with the idea. After the announcements about the group were made and the details about the highly anticipated audition process were out, us students started practicing almost immediately. Unfortunately, after the grueling two-step audition process, very few people were selected from the original number. Once we made it through the auditions, we thought we could take a backseat. That, however, was not the case.

We were first divided into four sub-groups: Bass, Tenors, Altos, and Sopranos, depending on our voices (how low or high we could go). Just to be clear, an A Capella group is a musical group that sings without the accompaniment of instruments. So it's almost as if WE are the instruments itself. Since Kunal has undergone professional training, it is only safe to say that he trained us with utmost discipline. When deciding solos for the songs we performed, yet again another audition process was held, giving all the members of the group an equal chance. We looked up to Kunal, not just as a senior, but also as the mentor of the group.

My favourite part of the choir was the warm up exercises we did in the beginning. Our set list was short; including songs such as 'Stand By Me', 'Friday', 'Forget You', along with the twentieth century fox theme song. Kunal conducted the whole experience so professionally, that we were all very thankful for the opportunity. He didn't pity us at all though – he made us work extremely hard, as we all wanted to sound close to perfection. Even though we missed out on a LOT of lessons for A Capella practice, in the end, it was absolutely worth it, because the choir brought together people who exceedingly, tremendously, undeniably share a love for music.

Tulsi Sharma, 11

Messi is All In



Thousands of delirious soccer lovers danced, cried and raised slogans eulogizing him, as football magician Lionel Messi arrived in Kolkata amid stringent security, for the first ever FIFA official international friendly match in the Indian sub-continent featuring Argentina and Venezuela.

Forget the national anthem bungle up prior to the start of the match or for that matter the presence of Paraguayan players on hoardings across Kolkata; the overwhelmed spectators were treated to a full ninety minutes of Messi mania. Even though the most talked about footballer of today could not add to his tally of goals, it was through his corner kick that Nicolas Otamendi headed in the winner in the 67th minute as Argentina went on to clinch the contest with a solitary goal.

The match could so easily have fizzled out into an anti climax of sorts keeping in mind the commitments that Messi had towards his club Barcelona and the busy La Liga season ahead. The Argentine could have gone for the conservative approach and been substituted mid-way through the match or towards the closing stages of it. But players can sense a knowledgeable and passionate crowd and there are no two ways about the fact that the Kolkatans know their sport.

One corner kick after another and a wave to a section of the masses indicated that Messi was fully committed to the cause and determined to see out the entire duration of the game, and more importantly, lead his side to victory against the Venezuelans.

Argentina went on to win, making it 18 wins from as many matches against their South American opponents; but in the end everyone was a winner as Lionel Messi dazzled us once again with his left foot.

He might have dodged the crowd at the Kolkata airport and given a miss to the press conference, but when it mattered the most, Argentine and Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi made sure that the thousands that had gathered at the Salt Lake stadium for the Argentina versus Venezuela friendly got what they deserved, a Messi master class.

Gaurav Pratap Singh, 8

The Reign of Terror

What Makes Terror Click

Being a lawyer is considered a minimum risk job. After all, who could be out to get you; a disgruntled client, maybe a snubbed superior? Catastrophe struck at the New Delhi High Court when 11 were killed and over 80 were injured in what appears to be a random act of terror. The blast occurred at around 10:15 am outside Gate Number 5, close to the reception area where visitors had lined up for entry passes. It's ironic that everyone who had gathered in that reception area- in other words all those who were killed or injured- had come to court to seek justice. In the moment that briefcase containing the bomb exploded, the nation failed these people. Failed to protect their present, and failed to secure their future.

Of course, the judicial system had a point to prove, so cases were pushed back and the courts started functioning as per normal by the afternoon. Though this was intended to stress upon the unshakable resolve of the nation against terror, it came off as insensitive, as if though those eleven deaths meant nothing in the bigger scheme of things.

Terror is terrifying because it is so out of our control. No one can assess when or where an attack will occur and in the end, no matter how hard government tries, it is nearly impossible to protect the nation from random acts of terror. This increases perceived danger- people feel victimized by something they probably won't ever encounter. The irony of it all is comical in a sort of dark, inert way.

It has been suggested that terror isn't always simple to classify as right or wrong. On July 14th, 1789, a huge, bloodthirsty mob marched to the Bastille- a fortress in France- searching for gun powder and prisoners that had been taken by King Louis XVI. The mob paraded through the streets, showing off their captives, and crudely cutting off many heads. By all standards this was an act of terror, yet the storming of the Bastille was an important step in securing freedom for France. This gives rise to the idea that one man's terrorist can be another man's liberator.

One thing is for sure. Terrorists are not bothered by death. They do not feel guilt; they run higher on gunpowder than they do on empathy. It has been suggested that this emotionless demeanor is a result of years of training, perhaps a scarring childhood, or a certain school of thought. Simply put, this school of thought follows the belief 'My cause is more important than your or even my life'. That's another thing that makes terror terrifying- the idea that the propagators of terror won't stop at anything, the idea that they feel nothing.

The U.S. dropped a nuclear weapon on the city of Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945, followed by another detonation over Nagasaki on August 9th. Some died from flame and flash burns, some from falling debris. This was an act of terror, yet the United States Government never faced retribution. They didn't think twice about killing those thousands of people; their motive was to them more important than anything else. So, the United States Government combating Jihadi terror? That's a fair amount of the pot calling the kettle black.

Namrata Narula, 10

Bombings in India

On the 8th of September, yet another bomb exploded in New Delhi, the hub of India. There have been more than thirty terrorist attacks in our country since January 2001 and more than 600 fatalities. Every time after one of these attacks, India resorts to high security for the next few days and then returns to its lackluster ways.

Our country does not even make an effort to prevent this from happening again. Let us take the most recent attack, which happened earlier this month. Despite a low profile bombing near the High Court in Delhi in June earlier this year, there was no improvement in the security whatsoever.

From the 1st of January, 2003 to the 31st of December, 2006, a blast occurred almost every hundred days. India had not learned from its mistakes. The LeT, Indian Mujahideen and to an extent the Taliban and Al Qaeda were toying with India by killing hundreds of people and destroying families by attacking them with an array of bombs.

After the years of massacre, the next attack came on the 26th of November, 2008. This attack was undeniably the worst attack by a terrorist organization in India. Influenced by the horrendous leader of the LeT, eleven young men took over 300 innocent lives. This incident changed the way India looked at terror. The home minister, Shivraj Patil was sacked and P. Chidambaram replaced him. There was a great overhaul. This time it was India versus terror, not just the government and the armies. There was not one extremist who dared to enter India. This was an India no one had seen before.

Public memory is very short and soon the Mumbai carnage was all but forgotten. In May, 2011 there was a blast outside the High Court in New Delhi and again in September, 2011. Innocent lives were lost yet again. Those who insist on not learning from the mistakes of the past, rather expectedly, commit the same blunders again and again. This needs to stop. This needs to be the end of the road. It is time that we, the citizens of India act and act fast.

Armaan Puri, 8



Legal Black Money?

In light of recent reports from the Swiss 'whistle-blower', Rudolf Elmer, it is being questioned whether the Swiss government is protecting tax-evaders. Elmer, a former employee of the Swiss bank Julius Baer, claims to be a true philanthropist who dares to go forth and expose tax evaders from all over the world be it prominent politicians, actors, sportsmen, entrepreneurs or singers. He has even managed to gain the unlikely support of M.N.S. leader, Raj Thackeray.

Following a public scandal in France, the Bank Secrecy Act of 1934 was passed, which enforced statutory withholding of bank-client information, unless a serious case was registered against a client's account. Since then, Swiss banks have also come up with numbered accounts, which have increased the privacy and secrecy of clients. This was what popularized Swiss banks as the ideal escape from taxes worldwide. After Al Capone's arrest for tax evasion, all major mobs and criminal organizations transferred their funds to Swiss banks, leaving the government baffled about what to do. This was after all, legalized by the Swiss government.

Today, most of the civilized world- even those who had previously condemned him- looks at WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, and whistleblower Rudolf Elmer, in hope. As per the 1934 secrecy act, the client information is still private, so Elmer may go to jail if it is publicly released, but since Assange is not Swiss, he is not subject to this law. Lawmakers, judiciaries and entire governments look at Assange with hope; hope to redeem all that lost money for their countries. Individuals with Swiss accounts look at him with fear and loathing; fear of their names being tarnished and being heavily fined for tax evasion and money laundering. He holds in his hands the power to stop this living contradiction, this oxymoron we call legal black money. And as one of my favourite mutant spiders once said, 'With great power comes great responsibility'.

Ricky George, 8

फिल्म समीक्षा: आरक्षण ☆☆☆ (3 स्टार)



कहानी : अमिताभ बच्चन, भोपाल में एक प्रमुख कॉलेज के प्राचार्य के पद से हटाये जाते हैं क्योंकि वह भारत के आरक्षण नीति के बारे में बुरा कहते हैं। अपने छात्रों सैफ अली खान और प्रतिक वव्वर और शुभचिंतकों से अलग होकर वह अपनी जिंदगी फिर से बनाना चाहते हैं। वह भारतीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था को दूषित लोगों से बचाना चाहते हैं जैसे मनोज वाजपाई जो भारतीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था को भारत का सबसे बड़ा पैसे बनाने का उद्यम बनाना चाहते हैं।

मूवी की समीक्षा : प्रकाश जहाँ कोशिश करते हैं कि वह भारत की आरक्षण की नीति का प्रभाव भारतीय शिक्षा व्यवस्था पर दिखा पाए। वह पहले भाग में यह कर पाते हैं। जब तक फिल्म अपने मुख्य विषय से जुड़ी रहती है तब तक फिल्म अच्छी चलती है। अमिताभ बच्चन और सैफ अली खान के बीच में टकराव विल्कुल धमाकेदार है और सैफ अली खान ने असाधारण प्रदर्शन किया है, पर विचारे को दूसरे भाग में हिस्सा ही नहीं मिला। आरक्षण दूसरे हिस्से में बाकी हिन्दी फिल्मों की तरह बन जाती है जिस में हीरो विलेन के पीछे भागता है। आरक्षण का विषय भूला दिया जाता है। यह बहुत दुख की बात है क्योंकि आरक्षण एक अच्छा विषय था। आरक्षण नाटक और किरकिरा प्रदर्शन के लिए देखिए।

नन्ही सी प्यारी सी

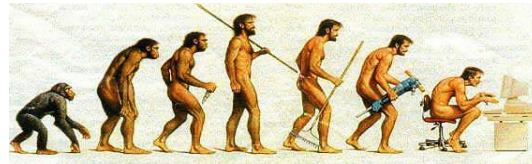
नन्ही सी प्यारी सी
तारों की रानी मेरी गुड़िया
दिखने मे भोली भाली
सबसे निराली मेरी गुड़िया
वातें करती अजब अजब सी
मुस्कुराहटों से लवलवी सी
इंद्रधनुषी रंगो मे रंगी सी
फूलों के गन्धे में दबी सी
मौसमी बहारों की कली सी
परियों की रानी मेरी गुड़िया
झिलमिलाती झील सी आँखों वाली
घटाओं से काजल चुरा के लाने वाली
वादलों की नटखट चाल तेरी
आकाश से उतरी तू अलवेली
कल्पनाओं की दुनिया से परे तू
मौज की रवानी मेरी गुड़िया
सबके मन को लुभा लेती है
शौक अदा से दिल चुरा लेती है
नन्ही है तारों की रानी मेरी गुड़िया।
काव्या शर्मा 7

पहेलियाँ

- 1। विन मेरे उदास हो जाते
सबका प्यारा रहता हूँ।
 - 2। कान घुमाए बन्द हो जाऊँ
कान घुमाए खुल जाता हूँ
रखता हूँ मैं घर का खयाल
आता हूँ मैं सब के काम
कोई बताए मेरा नाम।
 - 3। पैर नहीं हैं
पर चलती रहती
दोनों हाथों से अपना मुँह पोछती रहती।
- उत्तर: 1। अखवार 2। ताला 3। घड़ी
तन्वी दुग्गल 6

Expect the Unexpected

Prognostications can turn out to be wrong as often as they are right. Can a computer really 'predict' the future? Even so, do you really think there can be only one plausible future? Even though a number of social factors can probably be computed, do you feel a computer could ever capture the essence of the radical temperament of our race? Can human emotion ever be brought down to the echelon of computable matter? Can its minutiae, its volatility ever be wholly captured into the circuits of a computer?



Somewhere, something went terribly wrong

Even though unbound success has been achieved in predicting future physical phenomena through computing, I feel there is no need for a computer to predict the future of us as a civilization. There is no sense in it, because with every little action of ours, our future is ever changing. Our future is never the same until it actually happens. Don't run behind forecasts and claims of golden prophecies. Why waste your time anticipating your future? It is not an invariable entity. Rather, invent it anew.

Rishabh Prakash, 11

A Visit with Dr. Samir Parikh

On the 9th of September, the Psychology students of Class 12 visited Max Super Specialty Hospital to talk to leading psychiatrist Samir Parikh. Of course many hearts were broken when we were told (countless times) that we were visiting a normal hospital and not a mental institution. The knowledge and experience we gained from this visit broke many stereotypes about counseling and psychotherapy in general.

After leaving school and sitting in the bus for well over an hour, we finally reached our destination amidst a heavy downpour. Once we were settled into one of the hospital conference rooms, we were introduced to Dr. Vishal and Dr. Mimansa Singh; a psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist, respectively. Dr. Singh briefed us about the various psychological tests used to assess an individual's personality- such as the Thematic Apperception Test and Rorschach's Inkblot Test, concepts we studied this year. We came up with the wackiest interpretations ranging from a seahorse to an upside-down old woman, some of which were even labeled as popular responses!

Finally Dr. Parikh arrived and at once asked us what we knew and what we wanted to know about clinical psychology. Unanimously, we wanted to find out more about schizophrenia. Thereafter Dr. Parikh systematically explained one disorder after the other, each time asking one of the young counseling psychologists present to act out the disorder before explaining it.

Mr. Parikh liked to tell it like it is and if he thought something was 'dumb' or 'stupid', he didn't have any qualms about hiding his feelings. He recollected various bizarre case studies that he had previously encountered, such as one in which a person believed his thoughts were being controlled by a satellite!

The visit tweaked our perspectives on clinical psychology and further fuelled our ever burgeoning interest in the same.

Ada Grewal, 12



Ten Reasons Why I Couldn't Do My Homework

Ms. Hundal I couldn't do my homework,
because it's very tough!
I asked my mom to help me,
but she just acted rough.
My dog chewed up my homework,
I beat him black and blue!
And for that I had to pay the consequences
Of getting time out in the loo!
I couldn't do my homework,
because I partied all day.
And then when I reached home,
I was so tired I fell asleep
right away.
I got up in the morning,
feeling really blue,
When my mom checked my temperature,
we figured I had the flu.
So don't punish me for something that
I DIDN'T do.
I had to meet my grandparents,
who were going to Dubai.
I had to drop them to the airport,
to say goodbye!
I couldn't do my homework,
as I left my books in class,
and when I went to fetch them,
I realised I hadn't carried my pass.
I ate so much junk,
My stomach ached all day.
And on Monday,
I had to bunk.
I couldn't do my homework,
As I had a soccer match.
My coach kept me waiting,
and didn't let us dispatch.
I didn't do my homework,
and thought I was cool.
But when I went to class,
I felt like a fool!

Rishad Luthra 4-B



मोनी



एक दिन काजल और माधव बाहर खेलने गए। वहाँ उन्हें एक छोटा सा कुत्ता मिला। उसको बहुत चोट लगी थी। उसकी चोट से बहुत खून निकल रहा था। माधव ने कुत्ते को प्यार से सहलाया। काजल भागकर घर गई और वहाँ से दवा लाई। उसने कुत्ते को पट्टी बाँधी और कटोरी में दूध पिलाया। काजल और माधव ने उसका नाम मोनी रखा और वह रोज़ गेंद से मोनी के साथ खेलते थे।

सामूहिक कहानी रचना एक - अ

DRAUPADI

Draupadi was the daughter Of
king Draupad
And had a very dark skin
Also called Paanchali
She was very graceful, tall and
thin.
She was married to Arjun At a
swayamvar
But to the five Pandavas
became a wife
Due to Kunti's misunderstanding
She shared her love all her life.
She was lost by her eldest
husband Yudhishter
In a game of dice
And publically stripped and
humiliated
By the Kauravas full of vice.
Lord Krishna came to her rescue
When her husbands could not
He added layers and yards to
her sari
And protected her modesty
when he was sought.
The enmity of the Kaurvas and
Pandavas
Was further sealed by this act
And led to the battle of the
Mahabharata
I do believe that's the fact.

Shyra Bhalla V - B

A Kind Deed

One day, my grandmother and I went for a stroll in my garden. While walking I came across a turtle who had hurt its leg. I felt bad and wanted to help, so we decided to take him to the riverside. I picked him up and took him all the way to the river and put him near the water. At that time a hawk was sitting high up on the tree observing everything. In a split second it swooped down, picked up the turtle with its claws and flew into the sky. I thought it was all my fault. I went all the way home, met my sister and told her the whole story. My sister hugged me and explained that what I just saw was an example of the Food Chain. On Earth, every animal eats the other to survive. The hawk must have been very hungry and the turtle became its food. So, it was a good deed. I understood what Rhea explained but I quietly prayed that when the hawk would go to eat the turtle it should just hide in its shell and get saved.

Uday Dabas III - A

My Dream

In my dream I was going to get a dog. When I reached the pet shop, I saw many dogs. I bought one Labrador. I got it into my house. Just then my dream ended. I woke up and saw that there was no dog in my house. I wish my dream comes true!

Udayveer Jain II- A

यह है आज की दुनिया

मैंने देखा ऊपर नीचे दाएँ - बाएँ
दिखा मुझे एक छोटा - पतला भिखारी
तरस रहे खाने - पीने के लिए
यह है आज की दुनिया।
मैंने फिर देखा ऊपर - नीचे दाएँ - बाएँ
दिखा मुझे एक हड्डा - कड्डा आदमी
लड़ रहा एक दुबले - पतले से
यह है आज की दुनिया।
दुनिया को हरा - भरा बनाएँ
लड़ाई - झगड़े से भला नहीं होता
दूसरों की मदद करो और हंसी - खुशी रहो।

कुबेर मल्होत्रा पाँच - ब

Celebrity Fashion Lines that Bombed

The dressing style of celebrities photographed on the red carpet is often deeply analyzed in different magazines. This gives some celebrities the impression that they possess the ability to design clothes. Sadly, this is not true for all. It takes taste, class and diligence to design clothes. Qualities, these people probably do not possess. Here are some celebrity fashion lines that really "bombed":

#1. David Hasselhoff: Malibu Dave

Who could forget David Hasselhoff and his legendary role in Baywatch. Not only did he have a massive following in the world in the 90's, he also decided to put out a surf clothing line called Malibu Dave. Sadly, this clothing line was nowhere as successful as his stint on Baywatch. One reason could be the dearth of the iconic red swimming trunks in Malibu Dave!

#2. Heidi Montag: Heidiwood

Heidi Montag is fondly remembered as the Hills star that had a gazillion plastic surgeries. In 2008, she thought it would be perfect to design a clothing range called Heidiwood. Even with dirt cheap prices, the clothes just wouldn't sell! She is a great example to show that fame does not equal to talent.

#3. Lindsay Lohan: Ungaro

Though Lindsay Lohan is probably considered the endorsement for child stars gone bad, for some reason Ungaro decided to give her the reigns to design its collections in 2010. Not surprisingly, the clothes were a big fail. Mothers would die before they let their children wear the clothes and girls themselves thought that the designs were too classy for them.

#4. Snoop Dogg: Rich and Infamous

In 2008, Snoop Dogg decided it was time to launch a street wear line called Rich and Infamous. It is very unlikely that this clothing line added very much to his ever expanding empire (check out the gold teeth he's just purchased!) It was probably the first time in history that the "Dogg" just couldn't cut it.

#5. Jennifer Lopez: Sweetface

Jennifer Lopez is usually a very successful brand, be it her perfumes or songs. But over allegations of the usage of real fur and the fact that her clothes were just not for today's average woman, her fashion line Sweetface was extremely unsuccessful and had to be shut down. But nevertheless, JLO has continued entertaining us till date!

Suvira Raj Chadha, 12

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RULES FOR PARENTS

1. Dancing at our birthday parties is strictly not allowed.
2. Showing our friends "cute pictures" of us as kids is really not necessary. (Letting them keep the pictures, or photograph them, is even worse.)
3. Neither is telling them about "cute things" we did as kids.
4. Saturday morning begins at 12pm. Please wake us up accordingly.
5. When we tell you a joke or a funny story: just laugh. Don't make a life lesson out of it.
6. "At your age I wasn't allowed to/didn't do..." isn't a valid reason for not allowing us something. For example: you didn't have a phone because they hadn't been invented yet.
7. At weddings, it is your duty as parents to save us from all the cheek-pulling relatives who are stunned by how "big" we've become, despite having last met us last when we were 2 years old.
8. Do not use SMS lingo. On the rare occasions when we send you sweet messages, replying with "LOL* to you" will only make these texts even more of a rarity.
9. Dressing like you're about 30 years younger than your actual age does not make us feel like we connect with you better. Refrain from doing so.
10. No matter how much we protest to the contrary, we still love getting hugs and being cuddled- though preferably not in public. (We still mostly love the same things as we did when we were kids. For example, even though we know the truth about Santa, we still love getting presents. Just saying ☺)

*LOL = Laugh out Loud, not Lots of Love



Amira Singh, 11

HORRORSCOPES

Aquarius: There's something in the air tonight and it's infectious. No, I'm not talking about love, more like malaria. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news... lol jk.

Pisces: There are men who are born great, and those who have greatness thrust upon them. You are none of the two. So relax, this month will have you procrastinating like a beached whale.

Aries: The last month has been a bit of a 'test', so to speak, so I won't be surprised if you want a respite. I'm afraid that's not possible. You'll be working to the bone. Have fun!

Taurus: The bull in you is ready to roar. Or snort, whichever it is. Who have you been picking fights with? I'd suggest you keep away from the flames, lest you get burned.

Gemini: You will find yourself in an emotional dilemma, parallel to the ones we see on TV. Don't worry; the consequences won't be as dire. But you do need to make a choice. Dum, dum, dum, dah.

Cancer: The stars are aligned, and some planet has moved into some house. Your luck will turn around! I'm just not going to divulge whether it'll turn for the better or the worse.

Leo: The story of the mighty lion and the small mouse delivers a power message and moral. You need to figure out what it is, because I really don't care.

Virgo: Fantasy and reality seemed to have switched roles Virgo! Take advantage of this momentous time because it will only last - oh sorry, it's over.

Libra: Take a vacation; it'll do you some good. On second thought, take the entire family along. Mamu, phupha, dad's dog too-and get ready for an experience!

Scorpio: Those pincers seem to have retracted completely; I wonder what has got the little arachnid to cower?

Sagittarius: You've been annoying everyone no end, and before anyone threatens to assassinate you, you better calm down. Maybe have some sedatives?

Capricorn: The stars, moon, satellites, blah blah blah will not be kind to you this month so I suggest you use all methods possible to appease the Gods. Embrace the Hindu tradition!

As prophesized by Vedika Berry, 12

Your future looks promising once you take down all the Facebook pictures that make you unemployable.

someecards

