After a gap of about fifteen years, The Doon School faculty performed (outside the classrooms!) for the entire School on May 14. There was a considerable amount of excitement generated in the build-up to the event, making it one of the most anticipated events in the term calendar (after the Board results), and a Rose Bowl packed with both students, as well as guests, only proved that fact. This time, the teachers were out to show us how the ‘masters’ did it.

The show began with the masters playing masters onstage in an adaptation of John Dighton’s ‘The Happiest Days of Your Life’. The plot, told mainly from a teacher’s perspective, centred around an all-boys boarding school in the aftermath of an earthquake, with the Ministry forcing it to fit an all-girls school into the same campus! The play was made all the more hilarious by the eccentric teachers and headmasters (“Principal!”) of the two schools, who were constantly warring for breathing space within the campus; the students themselves, and the parents, who always demanded that the school give their child exactly the kind of education they wanted. The acting was, by popular opinion, convincing. PKB played the stubborn, difficult principal to perfection, and SSM acted the peevish, mischievous schoolboy very realistically. It was also very entertaining to see senior masters such as GSS, PKN and VNP acting their parts with enthusiasm. GSS’s wit, particularly, stood out. And of course, we won’t forget the sprinting across the stage, by GSS, ARY and ANJ (especially when they were dressed in frocks!) in a long time. Prop use and direction was very good and evinced the ‘master’ touch of the experienced KAR, and added to the impact of the play. All in all, it was a commendable performance, and the masters truly showed us how it should be done.

After a brief interval, the props were replaced with musical instruments, as the next part of the entertainment began – the music production. The masters proceeded to sing ‘Norwegian Wood’, the first of the four Beatles songs that they were to perform (which included ‘Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da’ and ‘Twist and Shout’). The entire School appreciated Tom Lamont’s melodious rendition of ‘Let it Be’. While we were kept engaged by ‘professionals’ such as PCH, ABC and DES, it was the sight (and sound) of relatively inexperienced masters such as HCH on the bass guitar and STB on the sitar that made the show even more enjoyable, and with singers like PKB and PMV, it was all quite fun. Then came the Hindi songs. The masters sang ‘Tere Bina’, the popular song from the film ‘Guru’, with verve and energy. But the finale of the music recital was undisputedly the best, as GSS and Mrs. Sinha led their ensemble to present their version of the Sufi classic, ‘Mast Kalandar’.

The final act of the staff entertainment was the dance. A group of ten masters came onstage in pairs and traditional clothes to dance to folk music, striking their dandias with zeal. The entire dance seemed to be well-choreographed and the masters really looked as if they were enjoying themselves. Although there were a few slips here and there, which can always be overlooked, the dance kept the audience engaged. And finally, with a last bow, the programme came to an end.

This year’s staff entertainment will be memorable for more reasons than one. The sizeable participation of the masters, their passionate acting, singing and dancing, as well as the fun we were having – all of it left an indelible imprint on the memory. One can only wish for one more thing - that the staff dazzle us once more next year.
The results of the Inter-House Hockey Competition are as follows:

Seniors:
1st: Tata House
2nd: Kashmir House
3rd: Oberoi House
4th: Hyderabad House
5th: Jaipur House

Juniors:
1st: Tata House
2nd: Oberoi House
3rd: Kashmir House
4th: Hyderabad House
5th: Jaipur House

House Cup:
1st: Tata House
2nd: Oberoi House
3rd: Kashmir House
4th: Hyderabad House
5th: Jaipur House

Well played!

The results of the Inter-House Squash Competition are as follows:

1st: Tata House
2nd: Hyderabad House
3rd: Jaipur House
4th: Kashmir House
5th: Oberoi House

Well played!

Do you think the many talks and shows in School this term have been enriching?

- Yes 27%
- No 73%

(384 members of the community were polled)

Fall From Grace

Piroune Balachandran

I stared at the deep abyss of defeat,
My head spinning,
Eyes filled to the brim with fear,
Shedding a waterfall of never-ending tears.

All you achieve, all you do, your sacrifices are too few.
One wrong step, one false move,
You fall in a pit,
And people mock you till your death.

All the friends you keep,
All who say our bonds run deep,
But remember, one day only you will weep;
For none of your friends will break
Your fall from grace.

The Who?

Who is Charles Lutwidge Dodgson?

The first President of the United States. - Nikhil Narain
A man... A human man. - Rachit Malik
Prateek Agarwal. - Vaibhav Gupta
Ehh? Soccer?! - Udit Kapur
The guy who got the highest in ICSE. - Harshdeep Singh Hora

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson is the real name of the author Lewis Carroll.

Unquotable Quotes

Turn straight.
Zuhayr Haque cuts corners.
Jock and Sock, are you enjoying your stay?
RSF, trying to be hospitable.
Neel, behave like a child of fourteen-year-old.
RSF gives serious advice.
Which play did you like the worst?
Bipasha reviews the One-Acts.
Tie your nails.
STB demands better grooming.
Come late or I’ll mark you late.
PKN is Dean.
The roof is leaking from the water.
Uddhav Prasad, drip, drip, drip.
I no say you, he say me to say you ginger.
Yuv Vir Khosla, we know ‘he say you’.
I wrote a thick short story.
Prateek Agarwal, we’d love to publish that!
Dutch are from German.
Shourya Gupta, the geographer.
Hey, don’t foolishness!
MNP, demands order.
Who is Tyranny in JC?
Kanav Mehra, best of luck for your Trials!
Do you listen to Justin Timbaland?
Aseem Balraj Sahni: no, but we’ve seen Sweeny Tood.

It deserves me right.
Shatrunjai Rai Dewan, you bet it does.
Are you scoping to be the Weekly?
Shreyvardhan Swaroop, we already are the Weekly!

Doscos this term were exposed to a number of talks by personalities who have established themselves in their respective fields. Be it Tarun Tahiliani’s talk on Fashion Designing (which was, undisputedly, the highlight in this area) or Navi Sarna’s explanation of India’s Foreign Policy or Luld Billimoria’s address on Entrepreneurship or Sachin Malhan on Law or V anchana Shiva on Biodiversity or Nasserudin Shah and Ratna Pathak on Theatre all these certainly left a mark on all the senior students. Since a greater number of junior boys participated in the above poll, the result shows a rather lopsided ratio. However, even they cannot deny that these talks have exposed them to something new on the professional front.

DOONSPEAK

Inter-House One-Act Play Competition in Hindi...

Variety will help develop talent. - Ayappa Vemulkar
Will start a new tradition. - Shatrunjai Rai Dewan
Will reflect the pride of India. - B. Dinesh Reddy
A little too out of reach. - Ishaan Nagpal
A revolution. - Arvind Sharma
AV Squad still in demand. - Uddhav Prasad
Unwilling audience. - Kanav Mehra
The 90s Club - 2008

The Doon School Weekly congratulates the following for securing 90% and above in the ICSE and ISC 2008:

**ICSE**


**Batch Average:** 87.15% (Including EVE)

**ISC**


**Batch Average:** 87.14% (Including EVE)

**Topper Talk**

Gaurav Sood (ex-24 H ’08) shares how he felt on his ISC Board result:

“I studied as much as I could when I needed to. I certainly did not expect the marks I got. In fact, all media attention feels positively weird.”

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**Sounds of Silence**

Vivek Santayana

What does it mean to walk across the Main Field on a cool summer Sunday evening doing nothing? No experience has ever been so soothing. It feels so much unlike life itself. The wind raises the dust and dead leaves into a gentle spiral. The quiet is composed of the sound of the breeze blowing, the birds calling and chirping, the leaves rustling, the trees whispering and the occasional clang of something being blown against metal. It feels just right. The birds are flying overhead. The ones which are a worthy spectacle are seen hopping away across the grass while the sky has a pale shade of dark blue. Ominous clouds take precedence over the reality that has lost its relevance. The sky is dull and the wind is windy. The tides recede. The cool summer evening, the pleasant autumn wind, the chilly winter morning and the light of the sun are all the same.

Indifference sets in. Thoughts that filled me fade once again. Wispy images of the dull green begin to take precedence over the reality that has lost its relevance. The world stands still as your thoughts are immobilized. It feels as though I am living life in ‘mute’. Turn off all the CDH conversations and the applause at Assembly. Turn off the cheering squad and the hockey matches. Turn off the carefree activity. Just shut it all. Put it all on ‘silent’. Just lie there and lie there. Let it all go. Let it be. This is the kind of silence I look for after a hard day. This is the peace I require in the middle of my work. It’s right here. I look around at the emptiness, and as the weather takes control, I force myself to consider the state of my peace. My mind clears itself as my senses perceive everything. Just let me take a little break. I have had enough of the world for now. I can’t take it any more. Besides, I couldn’t resist it. The moment is just too tempting.

Unfortunately, my invasive surroundings capture my vision. Undesired reality has come back to the forefront: life a group of form-mates. I wish I could turn them off as well. Their existence and their state of active consciousness keep me from drifting and does not let my mind dissolve. I cannot revert to the state of rest I was in for so long. They are moving, but I hear no sound. They are talking, but the words die before they can be heard. They are soundless. I listen to the silence, and these mimes figures lose all significance and join the ranks of deadlines. One needs this indifference to be able to let go. Purpose, function and stimuli keep you bound to the endless drill. Stop sensing these qualitative differences, stop bothering, stop prioritizing and you will be at a mental standstill. Just don’t bother. Let go. Let it all go. Let it all go away.

Indifference sets in. Thoughts that filled me fade once again. Wispy images of the dull green begin to take precedence over the reality that has lost its relevance. The sky is dull and the wind is windy. The tides recede. The cool summer evening, the pleasant autumn wind, the chilly winter morning and the light of the sun are all the same.

These memories last the longest. They out-live friends and out-last ideas. They are worth a lot more than art but are as rare as one wishes them to be. Detachment is the best way of dealing with reality. Just look at everything in freeze-frame. Time stands still. The world stands still as your thoughts are immobilized. The tides recede. The cool summer evening, the pleasant autumn wind, the chilly winter morning and the light of the sun are all the same.

As the maestro’s wand waves, weaving thousands of harmonies through different dimensions, it turns off the chorus and the percussion; the bass and the treble; the rhythm and the melody. It leaves only the still silence and the solitude. Yet, too soon, it turns off this soundless interlude and the world resumes once again.
Books:

- **Neither Here Nor There: Travels in Europe** by Bill Bryson
- **A Beautiful Mind** by Robert Pirsig
- **Biplane** by Richard Bach
- **For Whom the Bell Tolls** by Ernest Hemingway
- **Three Men in a Boat** by Jerome K. Jerome
- **The Barn Owl's Wondrous Capers** by Sarah Banet-Weiser
- **Sophie's World** by Jostein Gaarder
- **The Tin Drum** by Günter Grass
- **The Tiger, the Elephant and the Cell Phone** by Shashi Tharoor
- **Foundation** by Isaac Asimov
- **The Universe in a Nutshell** by Stephen Hawking
- **Sail** by James Patterson and Howard Roughan
- **An Indian Cricket Omnibus** by Ramachandra Guha
- **Tailspin** by Catherine Coulter
- **Fixation** by Mark Schorr

A. **Sophie’s World** by Jostein Gaarder (Philosophy)
   - Philosophy made easy. In this book, Gaarder has managed to compress centuries of thought into a few hundred pages. The plot is childish, but that is the style of Gaarder. This book is the simplest introduction to philosophy one can find, and it removes the veil of boredom from the subject.

B. **A Beautiful Mind** by Sylvia Nasar (Biography)
   - The story of a mathematician ravaged by schizophrenia, cured by love and who wins a Nobel Prize; his accomplishments make everyone ignore his eccentricity and truly shows the remarkability of those whom we call mad. It shows how a person can truly go beyond colossal hurdles such as insanity and social disfavour to achieve greatness.

C. **The Tin Drum** by Günter Grass (Nobel Prize Winner)
   - This is reputed to be one of the finest pieces of post-war literature. It portrays a highly unusual child who stops growing at the age of three. The dwarf lives through the Second World War and the Holocaust and goes from a sanitorium where he writes this biography.

D. **Notes from a Small Island** by Bill Bryson (Travelogue)
   - This is a worthwhile read. It is a travelogue written in Bryson’s typical style of continuous humor. As is the case with his other books, they usually have boring stuff portrayed in such a magnificent way that you, at times, just cannot put the book down. Bryson’s travelogues are always worth picking up.

E. **Biplane** by Richard Bach (Fiction)
   - The second book of the Aviation Trilogy (the first being Stranger to the Ground and the third, Nothing by Chance). The book has a captivating narration of a retired Air Force pilot in a cross-country flight across North America in an ancient biplane, learning something new every step of the way.

Movies:

- **Hancock**
- **Hellboy 2: The Golden Army**
- **The Incredible Hulk**
- **Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs**
- **Journey To The Centre of the Earth**
- **Elsa and Fred**
- **Get Smart**
- **Baghead**
- **Batman: The Dark Knight**
- **The Happening**

Games:

- **Tom Clancy’s Rainbow Six Vegas 2** (Xbox 360, PC and PS3)
- **Mass Effect** (PC and XBox 360)
- **Gears of War 2** (Xbox 360)
- **Devil May Cry 4** (XBox 360 and PS3)
- **GTA 4** (Xbox 360 and PS3)
- **Madworld** (Nintendo Wii)
- **Final Fantasy 13** (PS3)
- **NBA 08** (PS3 and PSP)
- **DioB 11: Lord of Destruction** (PC)