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The Happiest Day Of Our Life

Dhruv Velloor and Shashank Peshawaria review the Masters' Entertainment Programme held on May 14



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.



News-in-Brief

CRACK AND STOP

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: Jaipur House
- 4th: Hyderabad House
- 5th: Kashmir House

House Cup:

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

Well played!

A CUP OF SQUASH

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

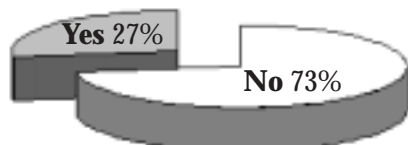
- 1st: Tata House
- 2nd: Hyderabad House
- 3rd: Jaipur House
- 4th: Kashmir House
- 5th: Oberoi House

Well played!



Opinion Poll

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



(384 members of the community were polled)

Votalysis

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 Navtej Sarna's explanation of India's Foreign Policy or Lord Billimoria's address on Entrepreneurship or Sachin Malhan on Law or Vandana Shiva on Biodiversity or Naseerudin 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. – **Ayyappa 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**

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. – **Darshdeep 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.



The 90s Club - 2008



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

ICSE

Aaditya Vicram Gupta, Aashray Patel, Abhishek Sharma, Aditi Joshi, Aditya Sukhia, Akash A. Binrajka, Amitabh Sahai, Anant Agarwal, Ankan Datta, Ankit Chowdhary, Anmol Joshi, Archit Kumar, Arjun Kapur, Aruj Shukla, Ashutosh Kejriwal, Ayaan Patel, Devvrat Patney, Dhruv Kumar, Dhruv Velloor, Harsh Vardhan, Harshal Bidasaria, Jai Sharma, K P Somaiah, Kanishk Gupta, Kushagra Jaiswal, Manit Bhandari, Piyush Gupta, Pranjal Singh, Ranjai Singh Sodhi, Rishabh Gupta, Rishi Sood, Sagar Agarwal, Saurav Mediratta, Shrey Gaurishankar, Siddhant Mittal, Siddharth Bhatnagar, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Sudeep Kumar, Tushar Agarwal, Varun Shrivastava, Vatsal Kumar, Vibhas Pahuja, Vinayak Thapliyal, Vishesh Kochher, Vishnu Vardhan, Yashvardhan Jain.

Batch Average: 87.15% (Including EVE)

ISC

Anant Jangwal, Anirudh Kapur, Aryaman Sengar, Arpit Panjwani, Ashish Mitter, Ashwin Bhaskar, Chinmay Sharma, Dilshad Singh Sidhu, Dilsher Khanna, Dhruv Gupta, Eshaan Puri, Gaurav Sood, Keshav Krishna Kapur, Mehul Goyal, Naman Goel, Nikunj Nagalia, Pranay Kapur, Ramakrishna Pappu, Saurabh Tiwari, Shikhar Singh, Skand Goel, Swapnil Dhar, Tanveer Angad Singh, Tushar Raturi, Vidit Narain.

Batch Average: 87.14% (Including EVE)

Topper Talk

Gaurav Sood (ex-24 H '08) shares with us, his feelings on his ISC Board result

“

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

| Viewpoint |

Sounds of Silence

Vivek Santayana

What does it mean to walk across the Main Field alone one 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. The light is just right. The birds are flying overhead. The ones which are a worthy spectacle are seen hopping away across the grass while the weather, in all its perfection, brings about this unnatural quiet of nature. These sounds are the quiet. The quiet is the sound. 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 all the 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 workload. It's right here. I look around at the emptiness, and as the weather takes control, I force my consciousness into a state of sleep. 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 if I tried. The moment is just too tempting.

Unfortunately, my invasive surroundings capture my vision. Undesired reality has come back to the forefront: activity; 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 mime 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 has a pale shade of dark blue. Ominous clouds promise to keep their water to themselves. I no longer care about reality. I want this moment. It is life outside the vortex. It is an hour on the bank of the rapids. It is priceless.

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 litchi tree shade have their own charm. They bring about this system shutdown when coupled with peace and solitude. All problems sort themselves out.

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.

✓ **To Do: These Holidays**

The Doon School Weekly suggests a few books, movies and games to discover during these holidays

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 Klapka Jerome
- The Barn Owl's Wondrous Capers** by Sarnath Banerjee
- Sophie's World** by Jostien 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
- The Glass Palace** by Amitav Ghosh
- An Indian Cricket Omnibus** by Ramachandra Guha
- Tailspin** by Catherine Coulter
- Fixation** by Mark Schorr

Foundation by Isaac Asimov (Science Fiction)

Asimov is reputed to be one of the greatest science fiction authors of all time. He was the one who had come up with the three laws of robotics. This is the first book of his Foundation series; a collection of short-stories of scientists trying to preserve knowledge as the civilizations begin to regress.

Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome (Comedy)

This book is a serious account of Jerome's boating holiday down the Thames, at least that's what it was intended to be. What it eventually became was a hilarious novel which made all serious and sentimental passages unwanted. This book is very entertaining and is a must-read for these holidays.

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



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.

A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nassar (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.

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 the two sixty-watt-bulbs he saw when he was born to a sanatorium where he writes this biography.

Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson (Travelogue)

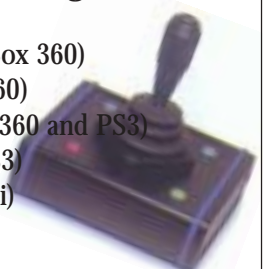
This is a worthwhile read. It is a travelogue written in Bryson's typical style of continuous humor. As is the case with his other books, they usually have boring stuff portrayed in such a magnificent way that you, at times, just cannot put the book down. Bryson's travelogues are always worth picking up.

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.

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)
- Diablo II: Lord of Destruction** (PC)



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