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One Act Play: Vantage Point

The following reflect the points of view of an actor, a viewer and a director

As An Actor

Vrindam Nagpal

When you work extremely hard for something and end up achieving what you had wanted all along, then the feeling is that of joy and delight, but over anything else, it is that of satisfaction; and that is exactly what I feel now.

When we began practicing for the One Act Play this year, I was not confident at all. A simple reason for this was my lack of experience in acting. But as days went by and the play started to pick some momentum, I became a little hopeful. During practices, we would begin by reading the script, after which, we would individually practice our dialogues. It was during that time that the the director looked into every minute aspect of the play and perfected it. I would be lying if I said that the practices were not exhausting, but I truly enjoyed them.

In the last week before the play the cast and the crew worked extremely hard. Sometimes practices would go on till late at night, but nobody lost hope; in fact the enthusiasm shown by the cast uplifted our morale. It was our hard work which made such a huge win possible. I have always enjoyed acting but the amount I learned during the course of this term with the help of Himanshu and SNA is immeasurable. All in all, being a part of the One Act Play this year was truly a pleasure and I would do it all over again if given the chance.

As A Viewer

Madhav Dutt

This year's One-Act Play Competition truly showcased a wide variety of genres. While Jaipur and Hyderabad Houses went for serious thrillers, Kashmir House decided to push the limit by performing an ambitious musical! Tata House tried to amuse the School, while Oberoi House touched everyone with their philosophical showcase.

Biases aside, the highlight of the Competition was Oberoi House's concluding scene, in which Vrindam Nagpal really captured the audience's attention with his powerful dialogue and adroit body language.

I also enjoyed how every category of this competition- be it the stage craft or the artwork- was given a fair amount of attention.

Unfortunately, we didn't see a lot of humour this year, with majority of the houses choosing to stage relatively serious performances. However, this humour was replaced by some very intense sequences, which provoked emotion and satiated the audience's appetite for drama.

I personally thought the quality of acting was incredible; every play had its own power-houses. All in all, it was an Inter-House Competition carried out flawlessly, and one to remember.

As A Director

Apekshit Goel

Many a time, actors and even members of the audience have their own perspectives based on which a particular play can be improved. Having acted in various school productions before, directing a play was something I had been looking forward to for a while. A director not only has to be well versed with the script before he begins rehearsals, it is his job too to look at the play from an entirely different point of view.

This year was marked by unorthodox performances, with my House staging a musical and Tata House choosing to put up an enigmatic drama. I feel that this year's competition was a success and I sincerely hope the next year's would be even better!



Inter-House One Act Play 2013 Results

Best Actor: Vrindam Nagpal
Best Actress: Madhav Goel
Best Supporting Actor: Yash Agarwal
Best Director: Himanshu Poddar
Best Producer: Arianth Arora
Best Technicals: Varun Pais
Best Stage Setup: Vinayak Choudhary

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

HOCKEY UPDATE

The School Hockey Team played a match against St. George's College, Mussoorie in the first David English Memorial Hockey Tournament at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie and won 2-1.

The School Senior and Junior Hockey Teams played matches against Welham Boys School and won 3-1 and 5-2 respectively.

The School Hockey Team participated in the 9th Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament, 2013. They won against Welham Boys School 4-2, and won against PPS Nabha 4-3. In the Semi-Finals, they lost to YPS Patiala 3-2.

Congratulations!

P.T. RESULTS

Following are the results of the Inter House PT Competition:

Junior Cup:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Tata and Hyderabad

House Cup:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Kashmir

5th: Hyderabad

Senior Cup:

1st: Tata

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Oberoi

5th: Kashmir

Best PT Leader: Rishabh Chaddha

TABLE TENNIS WIN

The School Table Tennis Team played friendly fixtures with the Pestle Weed College, Dehradun. In the Singles event, both Juniors and Seniors won 3-0. In the Doubles event, both Seniors and Juniors won 2-0.

Congratulations!

Opinion Poll

Should Doscos be allowed to start their own social service initiatives?



No 31%

(207 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do expensive watches worn by students undermine the ethos of equality in School?



Around the world in 80 Words

Pakistani prisoner Sanaullah Ranjay dies after a brawl in prison. Israeli airstrikes on Syria prompt threats and anger. A jet crashed into a hangar and exploded at an air show southwest of the capital on Sunday, killing its pilot. Fifteen fishermen were allegedly attacked by the Sri Lankan navy. The death toll from a collapsed building in Bangladesh rose to 761. A man who kept three women captive inside his house for a decade was charged with kidnapping and rape.

Unquotable Quotes

I can't Hindi!

Smayan Sahni, English isn't your cup of tea either.

Is your this racquet?

Shourya Kishorepuria, what?

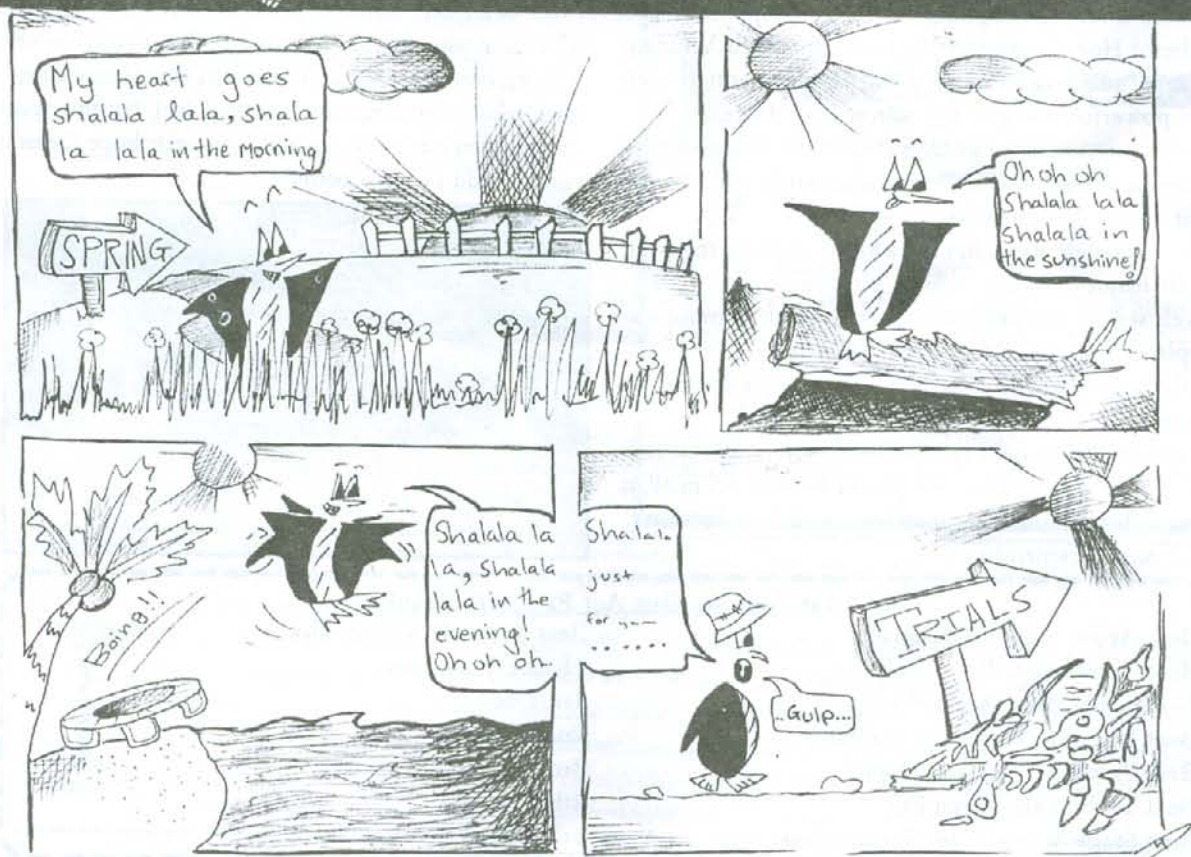
Put the beaker in the chemical!

Tanay K Agarwal, making his teacher proud!

Dosco Doodle

Here it comes!

Madhav Dutt



Indian Paisa League

Vireshwar Singh Sidhu

More than five years ago, in the April of 2008, the Indian Premier League was inaugurated with great fanfare and festivity. Lalit Modi's brainchild, it is now the 'Bollywood of Cricket', with cricket stars being paid large sums of money to deliver blockbuster games. Eight teams competed in the first season and Rajasthan Royals emerged as the unlikely winners.

The IPL is currently into its sixth season and though its craze might have waned just a little, thrilling encounters, nail biting finishes and some wonderful individual performances have kept us all entertained throughout the past five weeks. From 'Superover' finishes to narrow margin victories, from a couple of hat-tricks to an exhilarating knock of 175, also known as the 'ChrisGayle Storm', we've seen it all.

However, beneath this star studded league they call the IPL is a world unknown to most of us. IPL, or the 'Indian Paisa League' is more than just cricket. Most of the IPL teams are either owned by Bollywood stars or by business tycoons. These cash-rich owners inject money into their teams season after season, buying star players to try and have a shot at winning the IPL. A few years ago, the proudest moment in a cricketer's life was to don the blue cap with the Indian emblem on it and represent the country in a sport which is more than a religion for 1.2 billion people. Now it seems that national pride has taken a backseat, and what has become more important for the players is the fat pay-checke they get after playing in the IPL.

Moreover, where there is large money involved there are bound to be controversies, and IPL seems to have had its fair share. Lalit Modi was sacked from the chairmanship of IPL and BCCI due to misappropriation of funds and money laundering issues. Minister of State Shashi Tharoor had to resign in 2010 due to ownership issues of the now defunct Kochi Tuskers Kerala.

In the same year, Ravindra Jadeja was banned from playing for trying to negotiate a contract deal with another franchise in order to earn more. Kapil Dev started ICL, the Indian Cricket League, in effect offering direct competition to the IPL. The BCCI gave him money to stop the ICL and now he works as a cricket pundit for IPL. Last year, a few years after the 'Monkey-gate Scandal', Andrew Symonds played with Harbhajan Singh, supposedly setting aside all disputes. In the same season, a spot-fixing allegation was made against five players and they were suspended by the BCCI. In the current edition, Gautam Gambhir had an on-field spat with RCB counterpart Virat Kohli. They play State and National cricket together, don't they? Funny what money makes you do.

The 'Indian Paisa League' is all about cricket and cash. This season has been relatively quiet in terms of controversies, but one always gets the feeling that something is about to happen. So, till the next controversy strikes, teams will continue spending extravagantly, players will be lured away to other teams and the Chennai Super Kings will continue to dominate.

Earth and Man

Utkarsh Jha writes on the recently concluded Earth Day Conference hosted in School

The Science Department and The Teacher's Centre organized the Youth Conference – Earth and Man in School from April 23 to 24, to mark World Earth Day. Twenty nine schools from across India participated in the event which was conducted in the Art and Media Centre. Having got myself a pass to listen to the presentations of various schools and the guest speakers, I would say I have come out a fair bit more knowledgeable about our environment.

I believe, if this conference is to be labeled a success, it is necessary that we emulate some of the initiatives that other schools participating in the conference have implemented. With the recent spurt in Social Service initiatives, this should not be a very difficult task. Firstly, a simple yet powerful idea is that of a Green Birthday. Already implemented by a large number of schools which participated in the conference, a green birthday has a simple premise. One is required to plant a sapling on his birthday and take care of it for the next year or so. I believe with over 500 students and a large number of masters living on campus we have the capacity to make a fair contribution to increasing the green cover in and around Dehradun. Yet another idea worth implementing in School is the celebration of Holi with natural or organic colours. Indeed, there is no need to talk great lengths about the harmful effects of chemicals to make us realize that use of organic colors can make a huge difference.

There were also a large number of projects and initiatives started by other schools which are worth mentioning but not easily implementable in our own School. A case in point is an initiative in MGD Girls School, Jaipur, where the students have set up a centre to feed and treat injured birds, especially the House Sparrow. Similarly, Ram Ratna Vidya Mandir, Mumbai has set up a butterfly park where they breed butterflies. Of course, I am not suggesting that we need to start breeding animals, but the School community needs to look at some initiatives which have a direct impact on the fauna that thrives in this community. An initiative similar to that implemented by MGD, would not be a bad start.

I was also pleased to learn that almost each school had implemented a large number of eco-friendly measures. Some popular measures included installing solar panels, effluent treatment plants. Similarly, almost every school also organized regular awareness drives and campaigns which talked about the environment. Of course, throughout the course of the conference there were a large number of slogans and methods from our EVE books that were reiterated. From the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to 'Save Mother Earth', some of the slogans were actually done to death. Though, as some judges pointed out, a large number of ideas were borrowed from the internet and textbooks and had no real implementation, most schools had a few ideas and programs that were indeed very powerful. If we are to call ourselves leaders and pioneers in the field of social service we also need to start looking at Green Initiatives.

SLATER'S ARGUMENT

Anshul Tibrewal reports on the annual Slater's Memorial
Debates held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla

A team of four boys, comprising Anshul Tibrewal, Vrindam Nagpal, Abhinav Kejriwal and Yash Dhandhanian led by Mr. John Xavier, started at six' O clock in the morning for the pleasant city of Shimla. The purpose was to participate in the Slater's Memorial English Debates at Bishop Cotton School. The debates were held over the entire week, from April 24 to 28.

By dinner all the schools had arrived and I knew that the competition was going to be very interesting. Sixteen schools were participating in the competition and all of them were prominent debating schools. We were placed in a group with La Martiniere Girls, Kolkata, Modern High School, Dubai and Vasant Valley School, Delhi. We got three democracy oriented topics and we were the opposition for all three of them. The debates were held in a modified Cambridge format and we found it a bit difficult to cope with it. The debates were judged from a manner oriented perspective and not all of us were great at elocution. We didn't make it past the group stage. However, Anshul Tibrewal did receive one joint second best speaker and one third best speaker award and Abhinav Kejriwal received one joint second best speaker award in their debates.

Even though we got knocked out in the group stage, we did enjoy the debates after a few initial hours of depression. We hung around at their cafeteria called Chipu's and compensated our losses by eating voraciously.

Vasant Valley School and the hosts- Bishop Cotton School tied for the trophy in the finals. One of the debaters from the La Martiniere Boys team did touch upon the fact that the host school lacked any arguments as all they did was state the motion repeatedly, even if they did that with passion and vehemence. But then the Headmaster did talk about the home advantage behind the tie. The debates were a great learning experience and we learnt a lot, especially about presenting the same matter in a much more convincing, emotive and stylish manner.

The debates were a big success despite our poor performance, and it was evident why Slaters is considered one of the best debating tournaments in India.

The Week Gone By

Hussain Haider

This week saw the recently concluded Inter-House One Act Play competition come to close and the competition truly lived up to its expectations. High-quality acting, skillful direction and vibrant usage of lights by the houses garnered high praise and acclaim. The contest boasted of diverse form of genres, including drama, comedy and social provocation. Owing to Oberoi House's brilliant performance, it managed to walk away with almost all the awards at stake.

Also, this week witnessed the onset of the much awaited Inter-House Hockey Competition. The stakes are high and the contest is set to be fierce. Rigorous training should surely bear fruit, ensuring the possibility of quality game-play. The Inter-House Debating final saw Hyderabad House clinching the glory with Tata House succumbing to defeat in the final for a record fifth year in a row. The experience of the teams and the relevance of the topic lead to a well-contested deliberation, with Hyderabad House's Rahul Srivastava bagging the 'Best Speaker' award. The joy of not having P.T in the morning has been subdued with the commencement of morning toy in the houses. Boys are dissatisfied, as they are being forcefully roused from their 'peaceful sleep'. Not to forget, the tension is on the rise with Board results around the corner. With crucial matches set to be played and the 'daunting' Trials lying ahead, next week is ought to be interesting. Till then, work hard, play fiercely and enjoy!



Weekly Selects

The best articles, this week, from
around the world

Over the Line – Washington Monthly
The Adventures of Super Boy – Rolling Stones
Dead Man's Float – New York
The Thin Red Line – New Yorker
The Luckiest Village in the World – GQ
Too Early to Die – The Hindu
New Directions – The Caravan Magazine India

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