



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
September 3, 2022 | Issue No. 2650



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Director's Cut

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr. Mahmood Farooqui, an Old Boy and film director.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): For the uninformed reader, could you please provide an overview of *Dastangoi*?

Mr. Mahmood Farooqui (MDF): *Dastangoi* is a form of storytelling, primarily in Urdu. *Dastans* are long stories. *Dastangoi* is a form in which storytellers were both the creators of stories as well as the narrators of these stories. Sometimes they improvised their stories on the spot as they would be telling it. Which means that the artists had tremendous skills of speech, language, drama, and poetry because they would also, compose poetry on the spot. The artists mostly told the stories of one particular character called *Amir Hamza* and made various offshoots from it. The stories became so popular that they were adapted into Hindi in the 19th century as *Chandrakanta Santati*, which also gave rise to a TV show.

Basically, *Dastangoi* is the art of storytelling, which was once very popular, and then it totally died out. In 2005, I revived it with the help of my late uncle S.R. Farooqi, who was a great scholar of Urdu. Since then, I have brought various changes and improvisations to it, and we've performed *Dastangoi* shows in many parts of the world. What attracted me to it as a performer was how you had to portray all the different emotions in one performance. There is a

lot of speech-work and facial expressions involved, making it very challenging as an actor-performer and therefore very satisfying as well. As a performer, it offers you a range that no other form does.

DSW: How was it researching with William Dalrymple, especially on the book - *The Last Mughals*, and what was the process for the collection of data?

MDF: I regard him as an Indian writer and he is a good one on that. He spends a lot of time in India, and there are a lot of other people exploring popular history because of him. I see him as part of that lot of successful writers writing in English, similar to writers from our School such as Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Ramchandra Guha, who are writing in English and were successful in the early 90s and 2000s. He is a very pleasant man, and writes wonderful books. The data collection for *1857* was different because we had access to a lot of primary documents, as they are called, and we worked through that. Not that much had been written about it, so I wanted to address that, and I had landed myself this set of documents.

What I found was that we were trying to fight the British, the soldiers were trying to fight the British; but in the city, not everyone was happily fighting the British.

In the city, people were worried about their food, their livelihood. Different people had different sets of worries. Even today, not everyone is inspired by the same degree of patriotism or altruism. They have different agendas.

All in all, the data collection was fun, and I enjoyed doing it. Then I wrote my own book on it, and I won an award for it.

DSW: In your movie *Peepli Live*, you addressed farmer suicides, how does one tackle such a sensitive topic in films, in a tactful manner?

MDF: Yes, so that's a tough one. Humour is an important part of the film, making it palatable and drawing the audience's attention. That's also what *Dastangoi* is about.

So, to answer your question, humour helps. And you can make a film about anything, as long as it is a good film. Aamir Khan made a film called *Taare Zameen Pe*, and everybody watched that film, although it dealt with learning disabilities and other serious topics. As long as you make a good film, people will watch it; that's the important line. It's not about whether people should watch it in cinema halls or 'Over the Top' (OTT) platforms. The good thing about our OTT platforms is that cinema was totally dependent on stars, you know. If you had a great script, and a great director, you

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This Week in History

301 C.E: San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world, and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus.

1192 C.E: Sultan Saladin and King Richard the Lionheart of England, sign a treaty over Jerusalem, marking the end of the Third Crusade.

1715 C.E: King Louis XIV of France dies after a reign of 72 years—the longest of any major European monarch.

1883 C.E: Krakatoa Volcano, west of Java in Indonesia, erupts with a force of 1,300 megatons and kills approximately 40,000 people.

1941 C.E: Winston Churchill approves a nuclear programme, Tube Alloys, and becomes the first national leader to do so.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Socialisation is in MPH.

Udathveer Singh Pasricha, scoring trying to score.

It doesn't has the poisonous.

Prabhav Jain, toxic grammar.

I am a business typhoon.

Vansavardhana Jhunjunwala, gone with the wind.

“

I understood the life around me better, not from love, which everybody acknowledges to be a great teacher, but from estrangement, to which nobody has attributed the power of reinforcing insight.

—
Nirad C. Chaudhuri

AT THE HELM

Anant Kakkar was appointed the new **Library Council Secretary** for the Academic Year 2022-2023.

We wish him a fruitful tenure!

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

The School participated in the **Mussoorie International School Model United Nations Conference 2022** from **August 23 to 25**.

Harshil Makin and Ganadhipati Aryan won the **Best Delegate** award. Krish Agrawal won the **Best Writer** award. Agniv Acharjya received an **Honourable Mention**. Aayan Gupta, Pragyan Goel and Pranay Gupta received **Special Mentions**.

Kudos!

READERS CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

Aaryan Kayal: *Four Thousand Weeks* by Oliver Burkeman.

Rushil Agrawal: *The Courage to Soar* by Simone Biles.

ANC: *Slow Teaching: On Finding Calm, Clarity and Impact in the Classroom* by Jamie Thom.

Around the World in 80 Words

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev died at 91. Russia halted all gas supply via Nord Stream 1 to Germany for three days on grounds of maintenance, despite many European countries claiming that it did not require it. The death toll in Pakistan due to recent floods rose to above one thousand people. Jio announced a \$25 billion plan to implement 5G in India within two months. Liverpool beat Bournemouth 9-0, thus equalling the Premier League record for biggest win margin.

Dosco Doodle

Batman Origins

Roban Taneja



(Continued from Page 1)

would get ten or twenty crores. But when you had a star, you would get a hundred crores. So, for a lot of the nonsensical films that these big stars were making, they were getting huge budgets. With good projects and good ideas, people were not finding good funding. But now content is being respected more, as well as recognition for the writers, which is a good thing.

DSW: History is often used as an evidentiary grabbing bag to support ones own cases. In your opinion, what is the purpose of researching and studying history?

MDF: This is not a question for an

individual to answer. People relate to their histories differently. When we were in School, 25 years ago, the anti-colonial struggle against the British was a very important part of our consciousness, but now it doesn't seem to be very important. Maybe time has passed, or maybe it's something behind them, but that some aspects of our history and our past doesn't excite us anymore. In the same way, the importance of our freedom fighters have gone down in this generation. Thirty years ago, we used to respect artists and intellectuals more than we do now. Thirty years ago, wealth was not so important, but now wealth is much more respected.

So, these things change, people's ideas change, therefore their understanding and interactions with history also changes.

History is not a thing. We say history is what happened, but what happened is something we explore and write about. So, if we don't write about something, it doesn't mean it didn't happen. For instance, if we don't write about how children died five-hundred years ago, that doesn't mean the children didn't die. Therefore, history is an interpretation of the past, and that interpretation changes according to people's tastes.

Off The Blocks

Rohan Kailath writes a report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition.

After a long hiatus, the Inter-House Swimming Competition was held in the newly-constructed swimming pool, the first since 2019. It began with many struggling to tread water, but owing to consistent training, it led to the creation of numerous strong swimmers, ready to lead their Houses to victory. Despite the long gap, this year's swimming competition surpassed competitions of the past in terms of speed, quality and intensity. The competition was filled with nail-biting races and witnessed a number of records being broken. Spectacular performances were seen across all categories and swimmers from all Forms showcased incredible technique and skill.

The competition was inaugurated with the gruelling 1500 metres race, open to all. Towards the end of the race, Enaith Habibullah and Vir Mehta were head-to-head, however, Enaith Habibullah eventually claimed victory by four seconds, despite a commendable performance by Vir Mehta. This well-contested event was a sign for the rest of the competition to come.

In Juniors, excellent performances were seen all throughout, with Ranunjay Dave, Ansh Gulia and Siddhant Bawa, concluding in a nail-biting freestyle relay competition. The Juniors displayed the same degree of skill and sportsmanship as their Seniors, making even this category an interesting and exciting one to watch.

In the Mediums Category meanwhile, Arjun Prakash of Kashmir House put up a phenomenal performance as he broke the 400 metres freestyle record previously held by Karan Sampath, while Kabir Takhtar of Oberoi House put up a spectacular display and broke the 200 metres breaststroke record. The 200 metres Individual

Medley was a particularly exciting event in the race for the Mediums Cup, with notable performances displayed by Kabir Takhtar, Arjun Prakash, Vir Marwah, and Jaisal Sahgal. Further, another impressive performance was displayed by the Kashmir House Mediums Relay Team as they finished just two seconds short of breaking the 4x100 metres Mediums record. By bagging both the 4x100 Medley Relay and the 4x100 Freestyle Relay in an exciting conclusion, Kashmir House claimed the Mediums Cup.

All this while, in the Seniors Category, the School Swimming Captain Aryan Prakash put up breathtaking performances throughout the competition as he broke three records: the 200, 400 and 800 metres freestyle events. Excellent performances were also seen from Vinamra Agarwal in the 50 and 100 metres butterfly event, as well as the 200 metres Individual Medley. However, the Sc Form did not completely dominate the Seniors category, as Neil Bulchandani, Enaith Habibullah, Vivaan Malik and Vir Patwalia too showed great performances.

In the concluding event of the Inter-House Swimming Competition, the 12x25 metres Freestyle Relay, Kashmir House emerged victorious after a closely-fought battle with the equally aggressive Jaipur House team. All in all, this year's edition of the Inter-House Swimming Competition brought with it fierce rivalries, displays of excellent sportsmanship and skill, as well as the return to normalcy after three years. It was a sign of the great skill that DoscOs can display when put up to challenge, and a welcome homage to the standards set up in the past.

How was your Tutorial Outing experience?

Disappointment filled the atmosphere when our tutors told us that we weren't going to relaxing places like all our batchmates from other Houses. We were informed that neither were we going to a restaurant, nor were we going to the mall, which we had been looking forward to for the past week. Plans were being made to make us visit places like FRI (Forest Research Institute) or IMA (Indian Military Academy) but ultimately our Tutors decided to take us to Raphael, a school for specially abled children. I soon realised that this was better than just visiting a place like the FRI, we would actually be serving society out in this case. We reached Raphael at around noon where as we entered the facility, we were greeted by ecstatic children. Our Form was split into two groups, to help the children with two different things. I was in the group teaching Basketball and we were surprised at how good these children were at the sport. They had dribbling and shooting skills that were as good as my batchmates' in School. They also amazed us with their communication skills when they were able to effectively play as a team. After giving them tips on basketball and taking a group photo, we met up with the other group and left for School. We were lucky enough to be taken to Pacific Mall for a quick meal because of our work in Raphael. Helping the children and hearing their stories, how we made their day, made everyone feel content. The food from KFC certainly added to that joy.

-Harshil Makin

The much-awaited Prefects' Day Out began rather well as the 21 Prefects drove down to an extravagant property, Foresta, with the HM, DHM, DEP, and the two School Counsellors. This outing was essentially sketched out as a means for us to reflect upon our roles and responsibilities as leaders of the community, and more importantly, for us to debate, discuss, and find common ground between the perspectives of various stakeholders of Chandbagh. The discussion started off with a clichéd, yet pertinent question, "What does The Doon School culture mean to you?". On pondering over what sets us apart from other schools, we listed down a few key points which remained common in our answers. Following this prolonged discourse was a hearty lunch aiming to bring down the temperature of the room with Thai food and Coke. Post lunch, we were split into smaller groups for a brainstorming activity where we contemplated the principles we want to implement in the School's day-to-day functioning. Discussions ranged from impediments in the way of us doing our jobs as Prefects to various misinterpretations due to a communication gap. The meeting concluded on a positive note bringing everyone to speed where we proposed a "No Sanctions Week" with the intention of instilling self-discipline in boys and building trust in the system. The Masters seconded this idea and to the delight of the Prefects, the eventful day ended with an ice cream and *lassi* treat from the Headmaster on our way back.

-Raghav Mundara

One cannot describe the feeling when the 18 of us walked out of the Main Gate, envious of the D Formers leaving in a bus, staring at them as if they were running away after robbing a bank. There were 18 sighs from the Doscocs and a singular cheer from ARM Sir as we started our so-called "midterm training" trek towards Pacific Mall — a journey that took over two hours, several pit stops, and countless laughs. Our first stop was really enjoyable, as we stopped at a small place called 'Apna Stores'- which we truly did make *Apna* by clearing out their entire fridge. Finally, after trekking the gruesome 11.2 kilometres in around two hours, we mercifully hired transport for the last leg of the journey and successfully reached Pacific Mall. Like hungry lions who haven't eaten in weeks, we crowded the food court and somehow finished KFC's entire stock of burgers, as well as all of Subway's toppings. Playing Bumper Cars and getting haircuts were just some of the other things we did throughout the day. In the end, I must admit, the trek which we thought would be a boring and exhausting experience was some of the most enjoyable experiences we have had this term.

-Kanishk Bammi

Roving Eye

Socials 2.0

Rainfall has been blessing the beautiful campus of Chandbagh on a daily basis, and it is undeniable that love is in the air. The anticipation, coupled with the excitement of what was to come, plagued every Sc as the Batch rushed to groom themselves across the week. Numerous boys were seen getting their hair cut and beards trimmed while making frequent trips to the gym, hoping for a last-minute miracle. In the build-up to The Evening, a collective prayer mushroomed over the Batch; one that sincerely wished that the Sc Form's second *Socials* would go down differently from their disappointing first. High hopes also stemmed from the fact that this time, the batch size of the visiting cohort *exceeded* the home team.

The third species, however, was the most common of them all: the quintessential, awkward Dosco. Having missed the character-building presence of women for most of their formative years, these Doscos were visibly terrified at the prospect of having to socialise, or worse, to woo.

Throughout the evening, the Roving Eye observed three species of Dosco footmen mingling meekly with the Dalanwala cavalry. The first were those who had previous acquaintances with the girls, and these were the ones who were looking for corners and secluded tables in a bid to be excused with the sweet company of a lady. The second were the food enthusiasts who had given up on the prospect of attaining the unconditional attention of a Welhamite, and whose sole and unwavering focus remained on the *naan*. The third species, however, was the most common of them all: the quintessential, awkward Dosco. Having missed the character-building presence of women for most of their formative years, these Doscos were visibly terrified at the prospect of having to socialise, or worse, to woo.

To make matters much worse, the School Popular Band's performance was marred by a series of

Additional Weight Senior Ed. 3

mishaps and an unresponsive crowd. After these unfortunate events, the dinner was a welcome change for the Doscos. Following which, the School Captain's dance turned out to be a rather disappointing pursuit for our Poster Boy, as he was towered over by his Welham counterpart. The House Captains were not so lucky this time, as they were forced to carry out their duties and serve as dance partners to the House Captains from Dalanwala. Not taking his musical failures to heart, the lead backup vocalist, along with the Head Swan joined the House Captains in their ballroom-esque dance, if you can call it that!

The much-awaited Jam Session was another snooze-fest, as the escort teachers from Welham insisted on keeping the lights turned on, much to the disappointment of the Doscos and Welhamites alike. Combined with a poor choice of music, the Jam had reached its nadir when a certain Gentleman-musician's drum solo brought back life to the Auditorium. The Prefect monitor (online) President's ineptitude to interact with the opposite gender was surely a surprise. On the rather surprising flipside, the Swans were going strong, as Pogba's ambitions for power were fulfilled by the Poster Girl from our sister school. The Organic Farmer sowed seeds of love himself, taking the batch by storm, and the AV Boys also surprisingly garnered interest from our female counterparts. The Senior Board of the *Weekly*, (the three who still work) seemed to have a way with their words, as their slow dancing shenanigans were the talk of the night. The cawing of the Crow from the valleys of Kashipur could faintly be heard from the bathroom stalls. All the while, the self-appointed Kashmir House Assistant Housemaster maintained his immaculate record at *Socials*, once again winning the company of a lady. However, not all went as planned, as the Black Panther retreated to his lair with a defeated look on his face, yet another reaffirmation of his celibate lifestyle.

Although the night ended much too swiftly for our liking, considerable and commendable headway was made: Instagram IDs were exchanged, iMessage emails were handed out, and phone numbers were scrawled on tissues. Now, the Jam Session may not have been perfect, the dinner was not as good as we had hoped it would be, and the small-talk at the start was excruciatingly awkward. However, it is safe to say that love is in the air, and perhaps it is even safer to say that love will remain in the air, as we left the Auditorium with a solemn longing for another dose of what we had just experienced.

The Week Gone By

Shreyan Mittal

As another eventful week comes to a close, let's take a closer look at all that transpired over these past couple of days. The week began with the return of the College Fair, though the colleges that came certainly left many dismayed. While some students brought their parents along to explore their options, other students could be seen exploring their options amongst the large array of students from neighbouring schools. As potential colleges were added to lists and couples were reunited, we can safely mark

this fair as a solid success.

The week also brought with it a flurry of activity in the Inter-House sector. After a week of intense debating, the Senior's category of the Debating Cup saw the Nizams emerge victorious despite being heavy underdogs due to their lack of preparations. The familiar cacophony of drums and cheering also returned to the Main Field as Inter-House Football matches too began this week. Over the week, we witnessed some nail-biting games that went right down to the wire and also some one-sided scorelines against the Swans, though that has become a common sight. As the rain makes for some splendid slide tackles, let's hope all those playing make it off the pitch in one piece.

A mid-week inspection in

the House of Warriors left the School community rattled, to say the least. As rooms were turned upside down and various devices were caught, the Prefectorial body also saw their numbers dwindle as one of their own was sent on a week's vacation. As paranoia fills the heart of every student, there's only one question on everyone's mind: who will be next?

The end of the week also has A and Sc Formers gearing up for their PTMs, despite some questions arising about the change in location for the event. As talks of "predicted grades" and "lenient marking" have already begun, we can only pray that the visiting parents aren't left too unhappy and the Masters wake up on the right side of their beds.

Sudoku

5		4	3		2	1		
		6	5		1	4	2	9
			6		9		5	
	7			2				
3	2			9	6		7	4
4	8				3	6		2
		3				2	9	
	4			6	5			1
1	6	2	9			7		5

Source: www.abteteach.com/free_sudoku_form.php

Key:

5	1	6	2	9	8	3	7	4	5
9	4	7	2	6	5	8	3	1	
8	5	3	4	1	7	2	9	6	
4	8	9	7	5	3	6	1	2	
3	2	1	8	9	6	5	7	4	
6	7	5	1	2	4	9	8	3	
2	1	8	6	4	9	3	5	7	
7	3	6	5	8	1	4	2	9	
5	9	4	3	7	2	1	6	8	

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com



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