

MARCH & APRIL 2024  
ISSUE #21

# solucky

**BLACK EXCELLENCE**  
Spotlighting community  
achievements within the Bay Area



## RISING STAR

Meet the runway & catalog star,  
shaping tomorrow's trends

## VERSATILE STYLE

Dulge into the art of 3-in-1  
outfits with a little black dress

# Crossing in Contrast



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**Models:** Aliya Maya, @aliyamaya + Kiera Aldridge, @kaldri\_ + @Ryanne Rich, @ryannerichh + Jazzi Baquiran, @jazzibaquiran on IG

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**Photo Editor:** Hazoor Anad, @hazooranandphotography on IG

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3



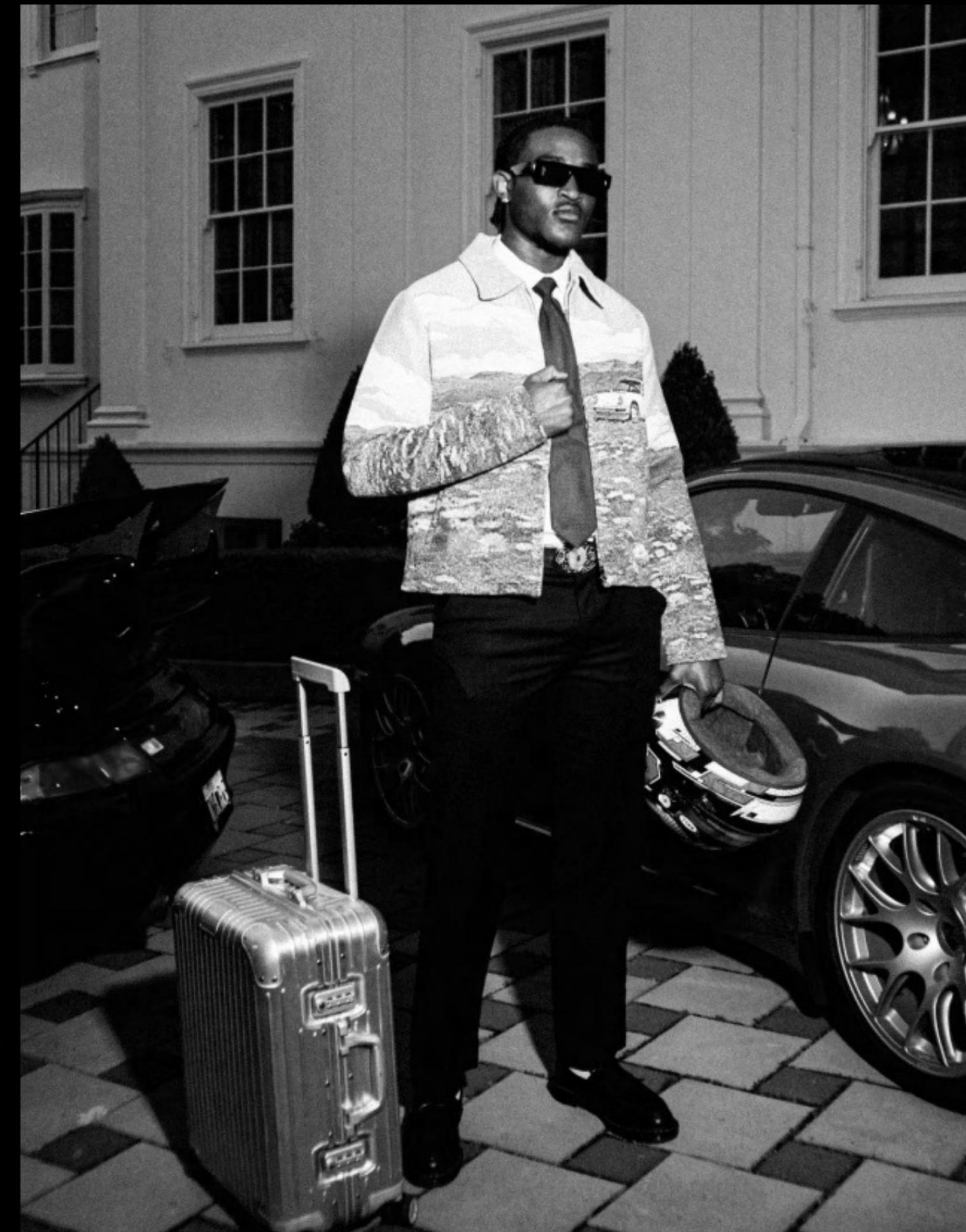
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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS



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SUBMITTED BY PRESTON AKUBUO-ONWUEMEKA



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TAKEN BY SANA KAMBOH



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# FOR THE C O M U N I T Y

As we conclude our observance of **Black History Month** in March, solucky seamlessly transitions into honoring **Women's History Month**. Focusing on past contributions, from civil rights luminaries like Rosa Parks to scientific pioneers such as Katherine Johnson - these women have indelibly shaped culture & society with their resilience & brilliance- as beacons of hope & inspiration.

Black women have confronted not only systemic racism & oppression but also gender-based discrimination & marginalization. Despite these formidable obstacles, they have persistently risen above, breaking barriers & paving the way for future generations- & inspiring waves of ingenuity. Here at *solucky*, we encapsulate the latter's excellence, & extend it to our community by **dedicating our feature to Black Women on our cover**, extending their legacy to our community.

Through **storytelling & advocacy**, *solucky* reaffirms its commitment to amplifying the voices of Black community & fostering a more inclusive & equitable world.

Together, let us honor their legacy & ensure that their stories are not just remembered but revered, inspiring future generations to continue the pursuit of progress & social change. This ongoing process of building bridges, enriching our understanding, learning from one another, & celebrating our collective identity is not just a homage to our melting pot; it's a celebration of our shared journey. We embrace our differences & unite in harmony, strengthening the bonds that make us unique & vibrant.

TAKEN BY AMRUTHA GURURAJA





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SUBMITTED BY HAZOOR ANAND

## FROM THE FOUNDER

WRITTEN BY SANJANA SOLANKI

*From Pollen to Potential*

ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SANJANA SOLANKI

**F**rom Winter to Spring, the transition of seasons marks a period of new beginnings. With graduation season right around the corner, emotions are flaring up like the pollen in the air. It's big changes & fresh starts. Embracing a **classy theme**, we chose a black-and-white palette with a hint of **red** to create a look that is both **high fashion & elegance**, practically mimicking a **newspaper**.



Speaking of **new beginnings**, our team is determined to expand ***solucky*** & enhance its versatility. We recognize our brand's **potential** & are focused on executing our **vision**. In the upcoming magazine issues, you can expect a brand new website, continuous inventory updates, dynamic marketing campaigns, exciting events, & exclusive ***solucky*** merchandise.

We are also continuing to expand our team, bringing in hardworking, dedicated, & passionate individuals to truly help us achieve our goals. Despite all the talk regarding upcoming changes, our mission remains the same: ***to deliver the best work & push for complete professionalism.***

- Founder of ***solucky***,  
Sanjana Sofarki <3





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TAKEN BY SANJANA SOLANKI



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SUBMITTED BY SANJANA DADI

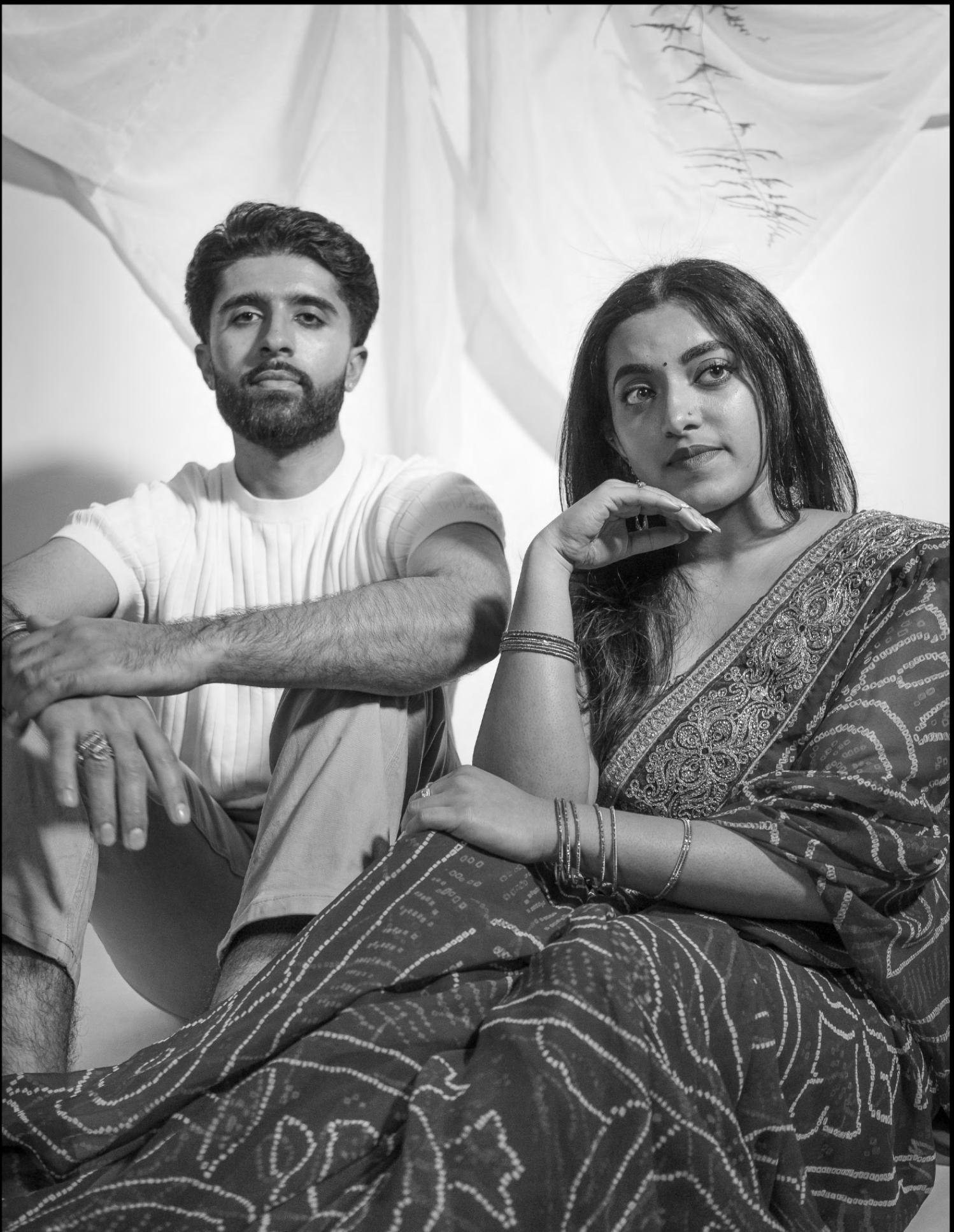


# WARDROBE

Need **new** clothes for your **new** job? Entering your **modest era**? Discover everything you need & more in the ***solucky wardrobe***. With this issue's additions, you'll find boot-cut slacks, plaid blazers, off-the-shoulder sweaters, & more. Explore into our extensive inventory, featuring listings from Issue #13 to Issue #21, with **many more to come**. Our collection includes a **wide range of aesthetics, themes, & styles** to suit your preferences. Stay updated with our latest additions & magazine **releases** by following @solucky.life on Instagram! Feel free to reach out to us at any time through our DMs!



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TAKEN BY JULIAN CABELLERO



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TAKEN BY CHINMAYI BOLISETTY



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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS



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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS

INTERVIEWED BY JOSEANGEL GUITERREZ + WRITTEN BY SHAYARI SAHA

*Who's That Guy?*

@PRESTON.XYZ ON IG

ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY PRESTON AKUBUO-ONWUEMEKA



Preston Akubuo-Onwuemeka, a model from his hometown Hercules, CA, has an extensive career in catalog & runway modeling. Driven by his childhood dreams of being a neurosurgeon, Preston recently began working as a surgical assistant. He sees each day as a step towards realizing his dream of becoming a neurosurgeon.

He finds strength in his faith, stating, “**apart from being a model, I would just say that I am a man of god.**” He attributes his success to his belief in divine support, which he applies to all aspects of his life.

Preston also explains that from a young age he never felt like he was creative because of how involved he was in academics. He didn't know that modeling could be a creative avenue until he started. This realization occurred when he was in Nigeria, & since then he has been chasing that dream.

**“I feel like the best thing about it is to be able to create.”**

In addition to his modeling & medical career, Preston is a talented writer & has published many interesting articles. As he stated, “generally my writing is mainly about consciousness” - Preston explains that consciousness is the ability to think beyond yourself while being present within yourself.

This sparks from his appreciation of life, “**because there is a one in a quadrillion percent chance of you being born.**”

During his free time, Preston likes to read, meditate, workout, hike, & of course - Clash of Clans. He uses these to wind down as he has a very busy schedule while also romanticizing his life.

Preston admires the creativity of Louis Vuitton & dreams of collaborating with them. He specifically draws fashion inspiration from Pharrell as he has been in the industry for a long time. If Preston could pick an era of style to model in, he would have chosen the 2009-2010 pop culture era, as he was always so fascinated with the Justin Bieber “Never Say Never” music video. One of his favorite outfits on his instagram is actually inspired by that era.



@PRESTON.XYZ ON IG





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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS



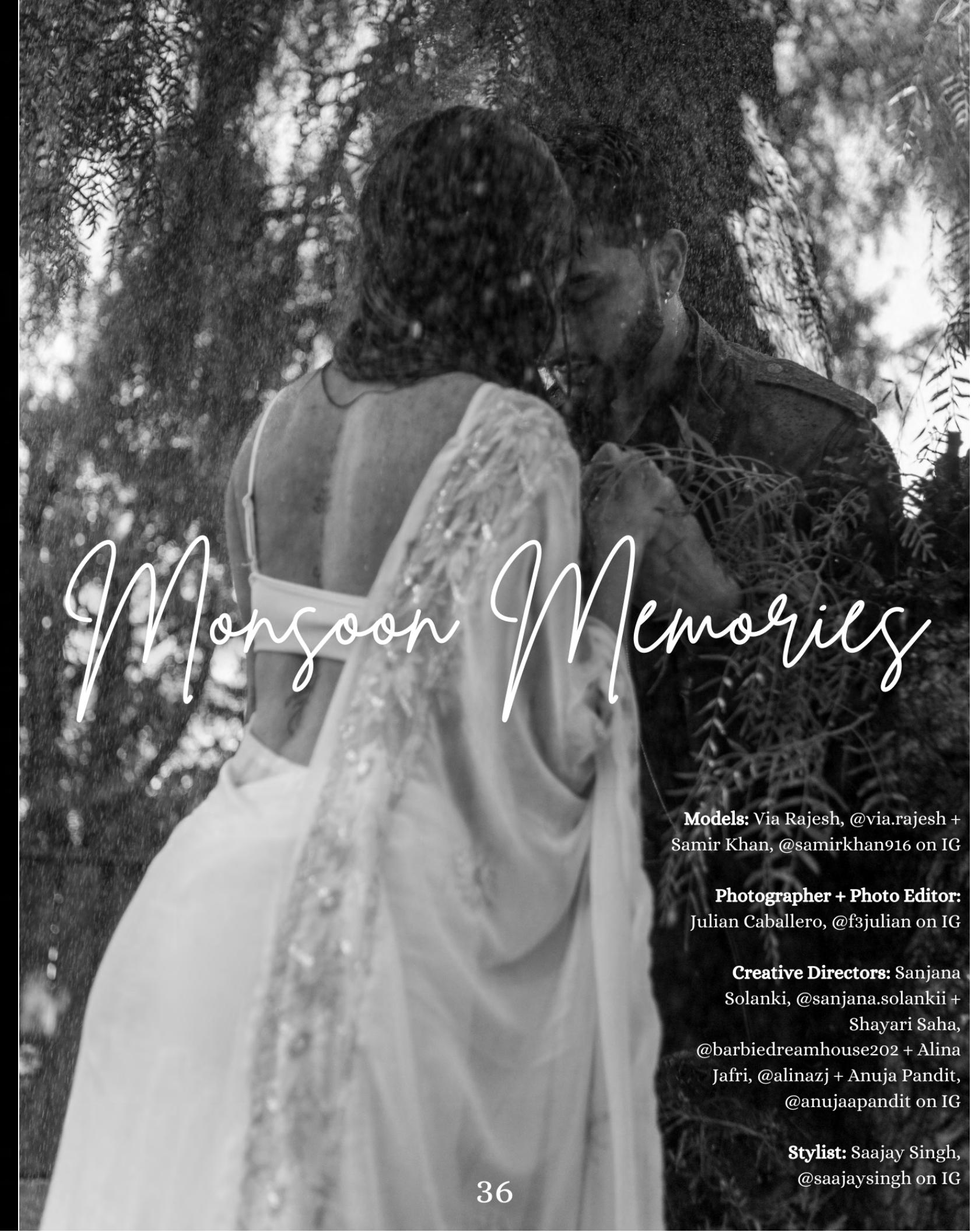
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SUBMITTED BY HAZOOR ANAND



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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS



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Shayari Saha,  
@barbiedreamhouse202 + Alina  
Jafri, @alinazj + Anuja Pandit,  
@anujaapandit on IG

**Stylist:** Saajay Singh,  
@saajaysingh on IG



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*Inspired by the memorable scene from "Aashiqui 2" ~ "Tu Hi Ho"*



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TAKEN BY SANJANA DADI



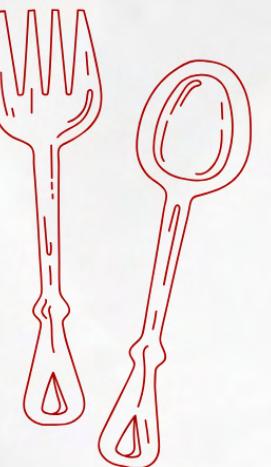
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TAKEN BY NIYA MAUDGALYA

WRITTEN BY MIKAILA BRAMLETTE

# Let's Eat!

If you're searching for a culinary gem in the Bay Area that flawlessly blends tradition with a modern twist, look no further than **LeYou Ethiopian Café**. In the heart of San Jose at 1100 N First St, this **Black women-owned business** is redefining **Ethiopian cuisine** with an eco-friendly & innovative approach. As soon as you step inside, you're transported to a world where vibrant Ethiopian artwork adorns the walls, & the air is infused with enticing aromas of warm spices. The soulful sounds of Ethio-Music set the tone for an unforgettable dining experience.



**LeYou Ethiopian** prides itself on serving dishes that are as wholesome as they are delicious. Their menu is a testament to this, with offerings that are low in saturated fat & feature 100% teff injera – a fermented, gluten-free Ethiopian flatbread that's a true staple. Start your meal with their delightful appetizers. The Kategna is a must-try: crispy injera toasted with herb-oil & spiced chili powder, served with a side of creamy yogurt. Or, if you're feeling adventurous, dive into the Kitfo Bites – a flavorful mix of minced ahi tuna or salmon, onions, jalapeños, cardamom, avocado oil, & the fiery mitmita chili pepper, all served on toasted bite-sized injera.

Their menu doesn't stop at appetizers; **LeYou** offers a variety of hearty stews that promise to satisfy your cravings. & for those with a sweet tooth, their dessert options are plentiful & equally enticing. Whether you're planning a cozy dinner for two or a lively group celebration, **LeYou Ethiopian** has you covered. They offer group reservations & private party options, making it the perfect spot for any occasion. So, if you're ready to embark on a flavorful journey that marries the timeless essence of Ethiopian cuisine with a contemporary flair, head over to **LeYou Ethiopian Café**. *Your taste buds will thank you!*







# 3-|||—1

OUTFITS

*with a  
little black dress*



**Models:** Sanjana Solanki, @sanjana.solanki + Bubba Manchenella @bubba.n.pickles on IG

**Photographer + Photo Editor:** Amrutha Gururaja, @amruthaguruaja on IG

**Creative Directors:** Sanjana Solanki, @sanjana.solankii + Shayari Saha, @barbiedreamhouse202 + Alina Jafri, @alinazj + Anuja Pandit, @anujaapandit on IG

**Stylist:** Jahnava Manchenlla, @jahnavimanchenella

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TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS

## SPECIAL EDITION

INTERVIEWED + WRITTEN BY INIKA MEHRA

# Heart of Gold

***"Feel the fear & do it anyway-- let's be comfortable being bored, too."***

**T**hat's the driving force for young entrepreneur **Hiba Siddiqui** who has **woman-made** her own company, **SAHHI**, from a sheeted mental list of ideas to a full-fledged, impact-generated, passion-centric company that is day-by-day transforming South Asian lives through knowledge, scope, & empowerment. With nothing but floating ideas & the Nonprofit Book for Dummies under her belt, she has dedicated her life's purpose to the **South Asian community**, fighting for their knowledge, health, & the prevention of cardiovascular disease & heart health within her community. It wasn't always easy for 21-year-old **Hiba** to transform her passions into professions. Facing much contemplation & difficulty as she navigated the company beginning at the ripe age of 19, many thoughts sped her mind in the midst of her journey towards a Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences & Medical Spanish. Would I be taken seriously as a young Bachelor? Would I garner the impact I yearn for? Her accomplishments say rather otherwise.



ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY HIBA SIDDQUI

@\_HIBASIDIQUII ON IG



As an undergraduate, she served as a Teacher's Assistant in an enriching Pathophysiology graduate standing course & is set on her way to furthering her research in cancer at DFCI & Harvard program for the next two years. That's not all— she's hosted Health Galas, educational seminars, & collaborative events filled with delicate knowledge, variety in health perspectives, music, dancing, & more. She makes healthcare fun & transforms lives while doing it.

She works daily to enlighten her community in broader scales to achieve the lifestyle, empowerment, & knowledge necessary to live a life they can be in control of, proud of.

Good things never come rightfully easy & Hiba battled her own struggles before turning them into gold. At just nine years old, she experienced the heart-wrenching event of a loved one's first heart attack, & it left her shocked, confused, & frustrated. Young Hiba couldn't understand what had occurred, why it occurred, & oh, how she fought to get to the bottom of it. Through this pain, confusion, & frustration, she found a new means to live & give back through her extensive knowledge within heart health, nutrition, lifestyle, & stress management interventions.

Her impact is inspirational. She has reinforced new styles & habits of eating, living, & taking care of the mind, body, & spirit within her family. While she is a goal-driven & ambitious young leader, she advocates for healthful mental health days, cell-phone detoxes, & embracing the art of resting.

***The brand is excited to follow along for her journey & is inspired by her relentless ambition towards heart health for our fellow South Asian community.***



TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS

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TAKEN BY NIYA MAUDGALYA

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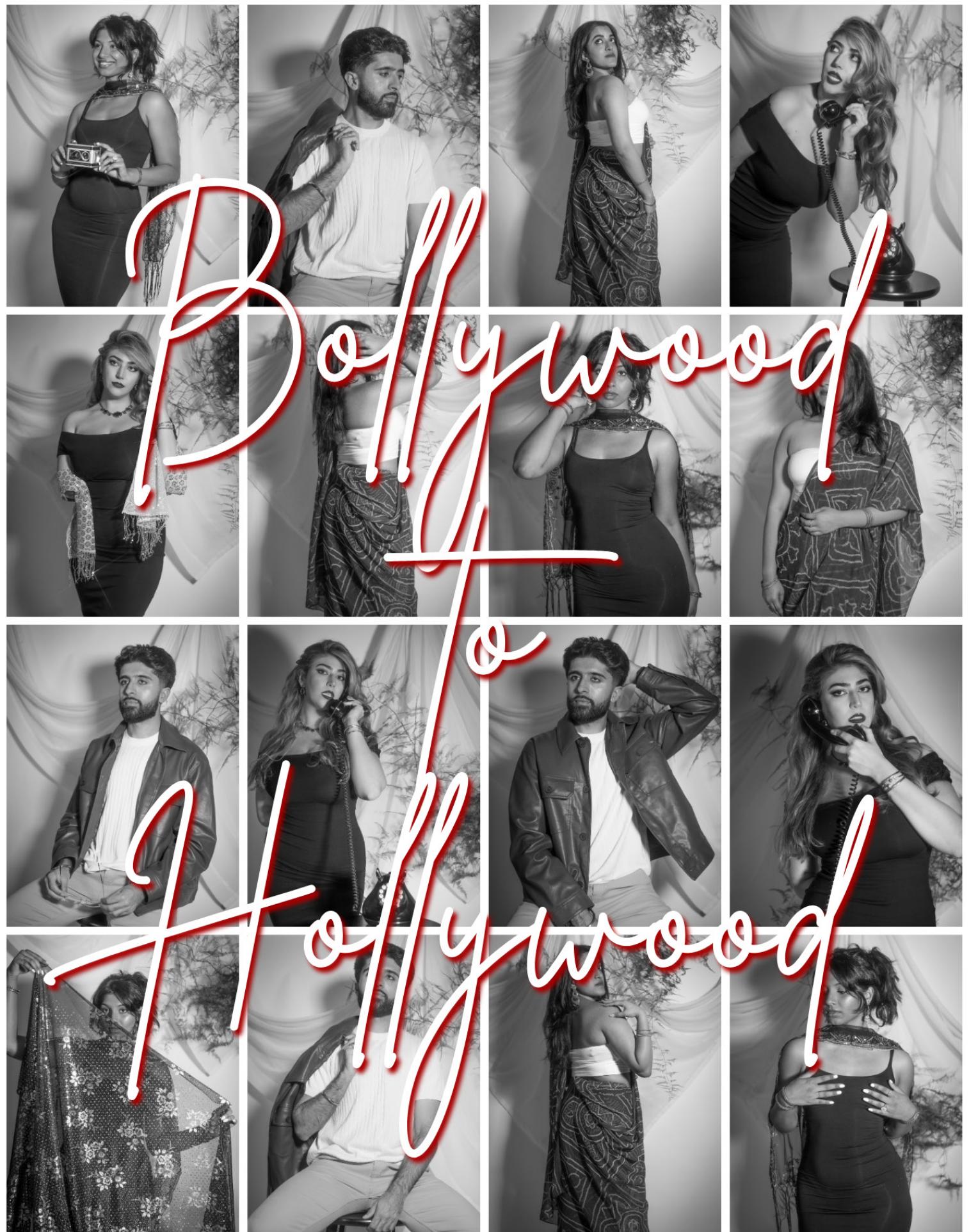
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TAKEN BY NEHA RAMAKRISHNAN



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TAKEN BY NEHA RAMAKRISHNAN



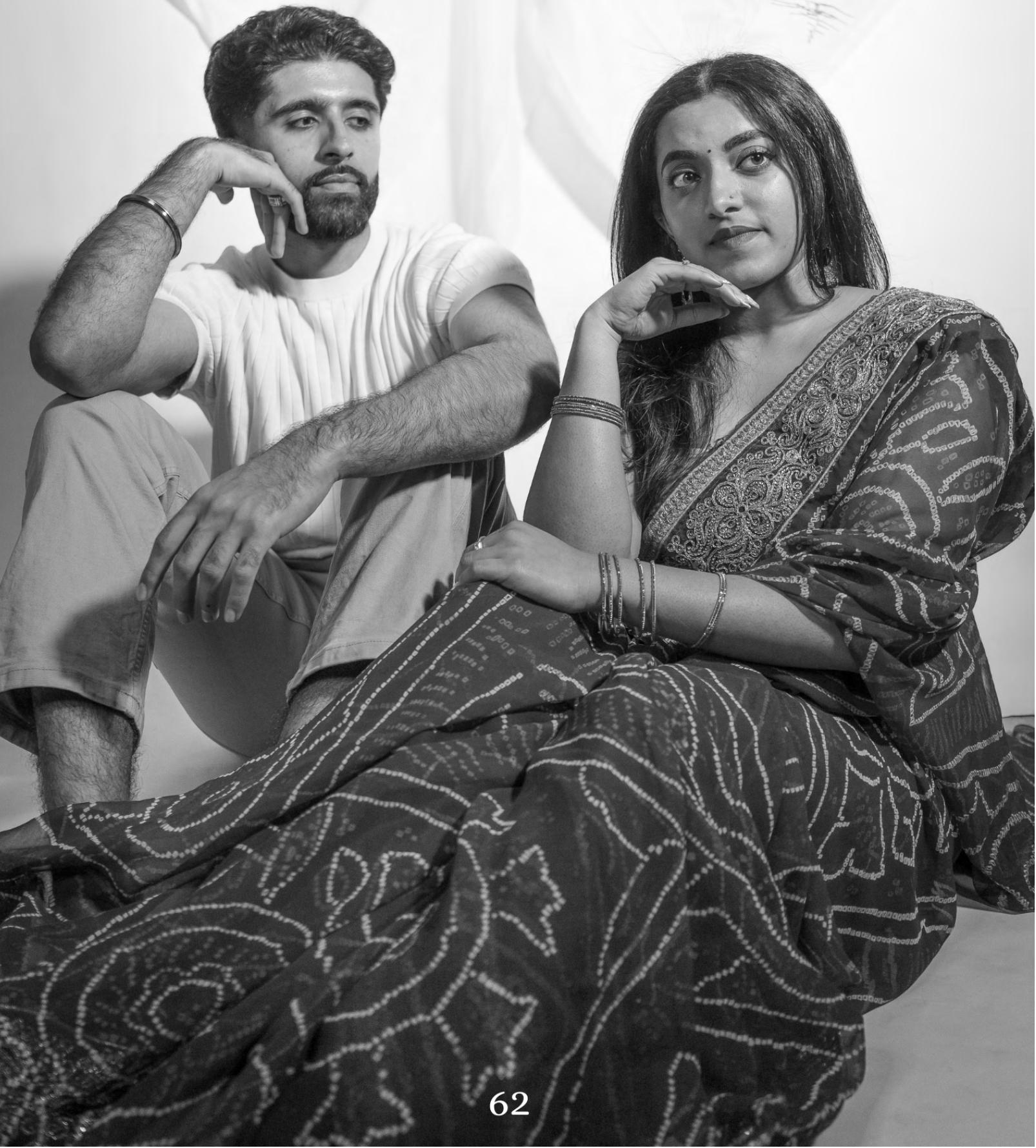
Bollywood  
Hollywood

**Models:** Shreya Kamath, @shreyaaa\_ + Rishitha Boddu, @rishi.boddu\_07, Donya Mirzazadeh, @persephonee.\_ + Rohan Judge, @rohan.j248 on IG

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**Creative Directors:** Sanjana Solanki, @sanjana.solankii + Shayari Saha, @barbiedreamhouse202 + Alina Jafri, @alinazj + Anuja Pandit, @anujaapandit on IG

**Stylists:** Donya Mirzazadeh @persephonee.\_ + Karthik Punati, @karboyyy on IG





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TAKEN BY NIYA MAUDGALYA



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TAKEN BY NATALIE GETZ

a solucky curated edition

# SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

**Written & Curated** by Mikaila Bramlette

If this playlist does not fit your music taste, do not worry as we will have a new curated playlist in our next issue for you to explore! In addition, make sure to check out our all-time favorites on our Spotify account - the “gems” playlist!

scan the code in the app's camera to listen to our newest playlist :)



TAKEN BY HEENA BAINS

**Springtime Classics**

Amy Winehouse, The Beatles, Lesley Gore, & more

A lasting cloud of **love, nostalgia, & pure musical enchantment** with our 'Timeless Essence' playlist, crafted to echo the spirit of classic modern love songs with a captivating twist. Stroll into a harmonious journey where the allure of vintage charm meets the soul-stirring sounds of iconic women artists like **Amy Winehouse & Lesley Gore**, alongside legendary bands like **The Beatles**. Inspired by the unforgettable crosswalk scenes & April showers of yesteryears, each track on this playlist evokes the romance of downtown strolls under umbrellas & the magnetic pull of **true love**. From the hauntingly beautiful melodies to the poetic lyrics that tug at the heartstrings, these songs capture the essence of a bygone era while remaining eternally relevant in their emotional resonance. So, let the music transport you to a place where time stands still, & every note carries the **promise of everlasting allure & passion**.

Find all this playlist by scanning the code (on page 67) through the Spotify app's camera!

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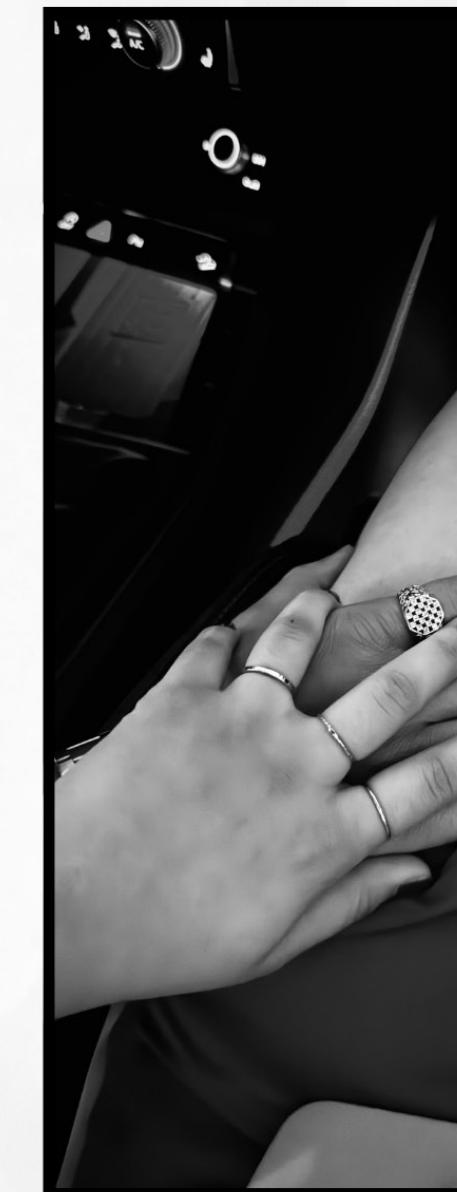
SUBMITTED BY HAZOOR ANAND



WRITTEN BY YASH AGGARWAL

## Coloring Book

@YASH\_THEORY ON IG



A hazy display of shades of gray  
Filtering vision every day  
Forever wandering every way  
Towards a field of **colors** bloom  
That fill my heart & take up room  
Showing off just like a plume

If you are Yin then I am Yang  
If you are monochrome then I am **color**  
If you are stars then I am the night sky

For you fill my world with **color** & light  
From the **color** of flowers to the starry night  
Without you, I don't feel right  
& I am black & white

To KitKat <3

TAKEN BY YASH AGGARWAL



TAKEN BY SANJANA DADI



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SUBMITTED BY NIYA MAUDGALYA

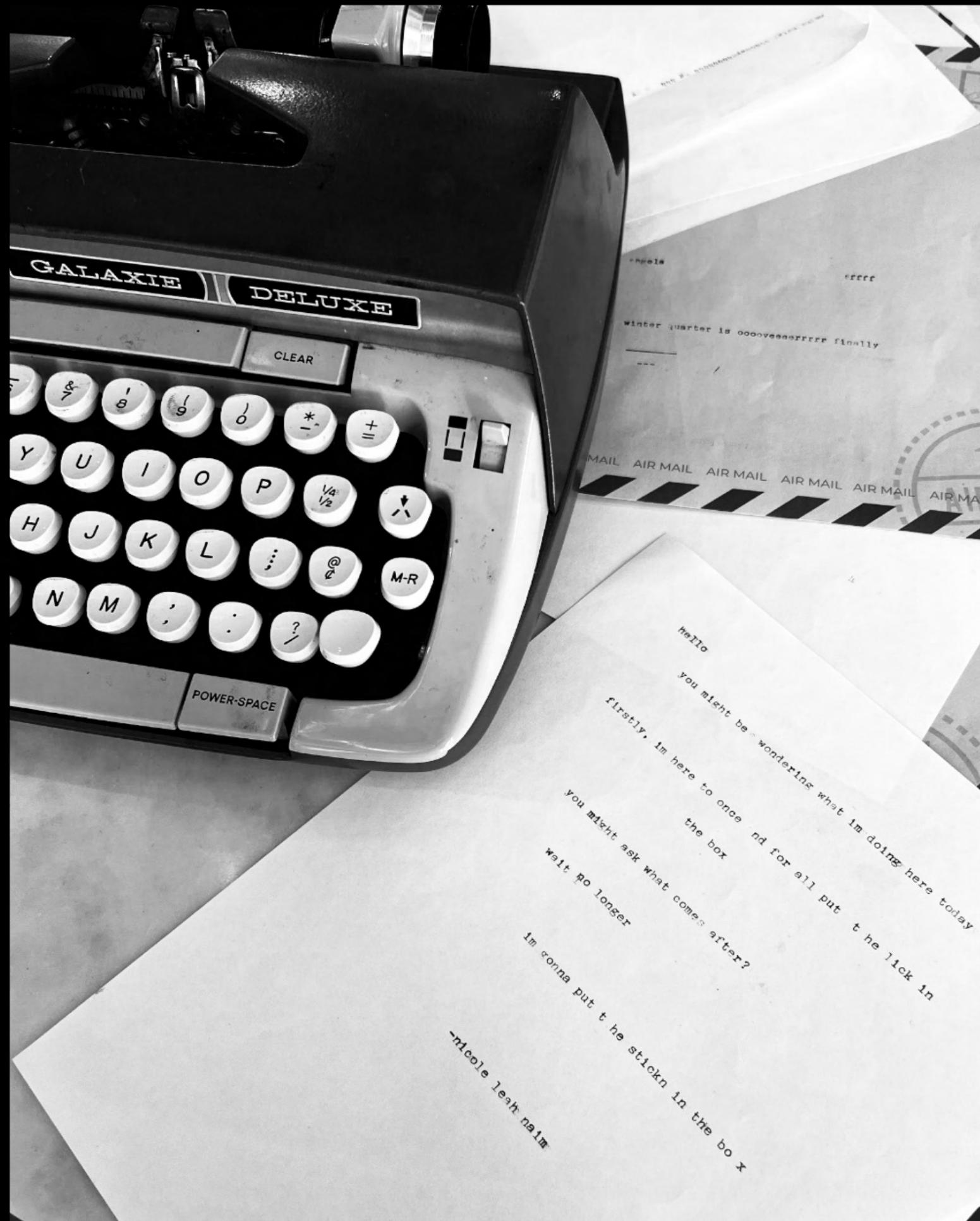


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SUBMITTED BY NIYA MAUDGALYA



SUBMITTED BY HIBA SIDDIQUI



TAKEN BY SANJANA DADI



# APPLICATIONS

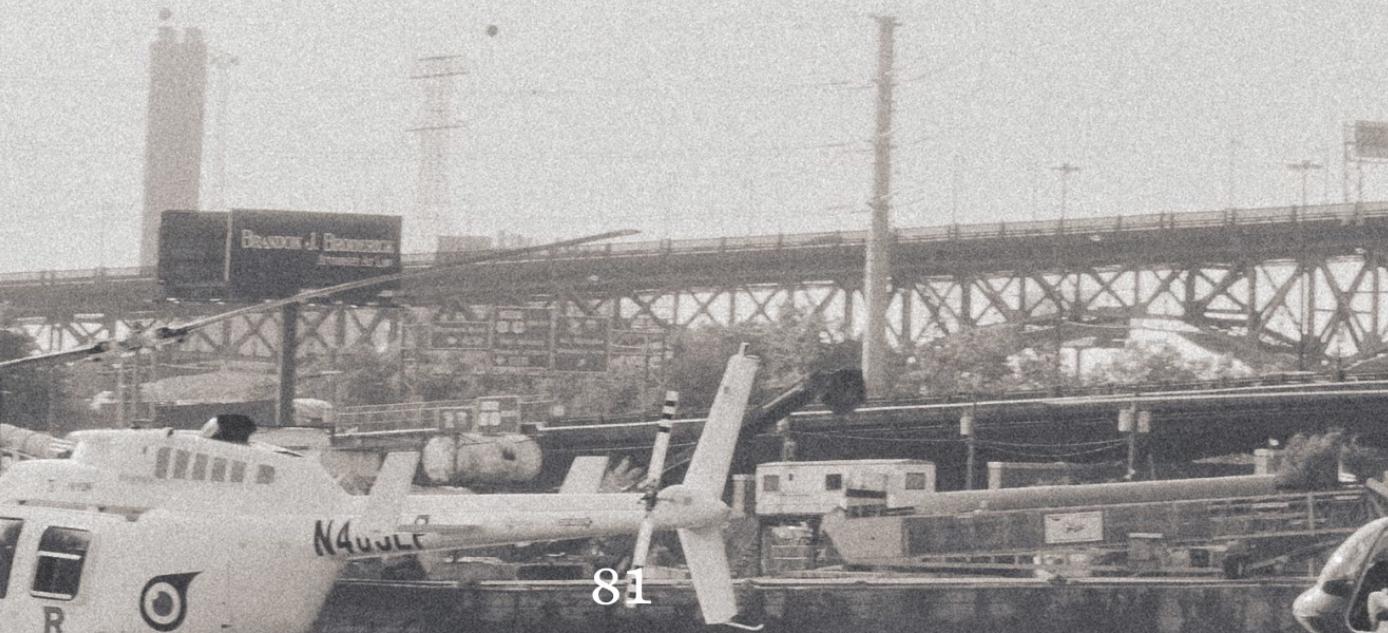


*be a part of the solucky journey*

# CONTRIBUTOR

## INTEREST FORM

The **Contributors Interest Form** is for anyone who is passionate & looking for an opportunity of a creative outlet to contribute. Being a contributor with the solucky team will give you voluntary experience from solucky as a brand/magazine &/or simply showcase your work submission(s). This form will allow you to choose what kind of role or submission you would want with the brand. Our team is composed of **multi-talented writers, photographers, editors, designers, & curators**. We welcome any kind of passionate work or workers, so feel free to send us a submission at any time! This experience is perfect for **resume building & finding the right experience for you!**



# COLLABORATION

## INTEREST FORM

Our **Collaboration Interest Form** is open to anyone who is looking for a **marketing opportunity** to expand the audience reach of their services. We welcome any kind of **local business owners, small creators, organizations, etc.** Previous collaborations have included jewelry, clothing, photoshoots, etc. If you have an idea for a collaboration that could work well with both of our audiences, feel free to send us a submission at any time & **we can discuss it!**





*take your chance.*





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TAKEN BY SANJANA DADI



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SUBMITTED BY SANJANA DADI



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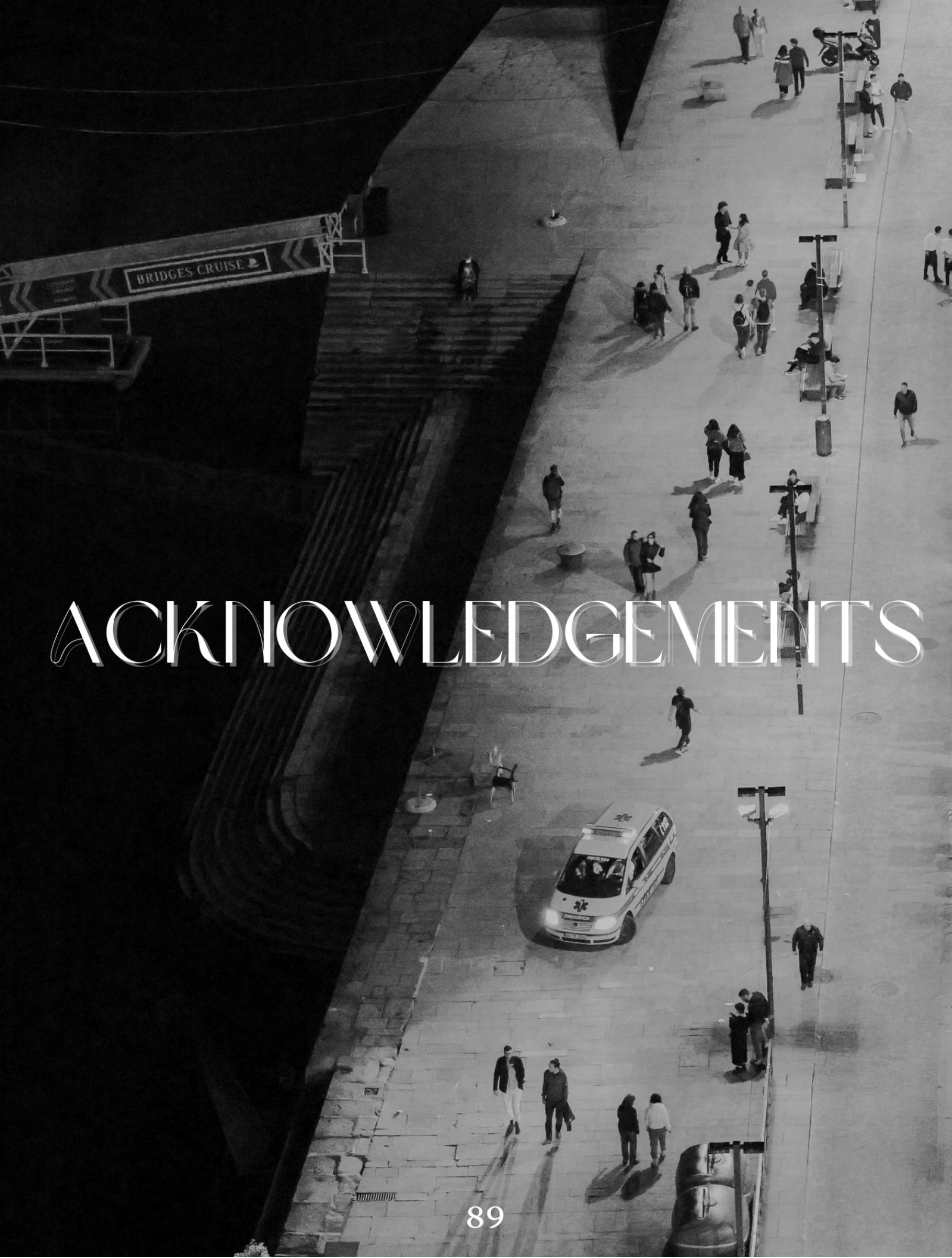
TAKEN BY SANA KAMBOH



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TAKEN BY HAZOOR ANAND

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Rohan Judge  
Rishitha Boddu  
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Samir Khan  
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Sanjana Solanki  
Via Rajesh

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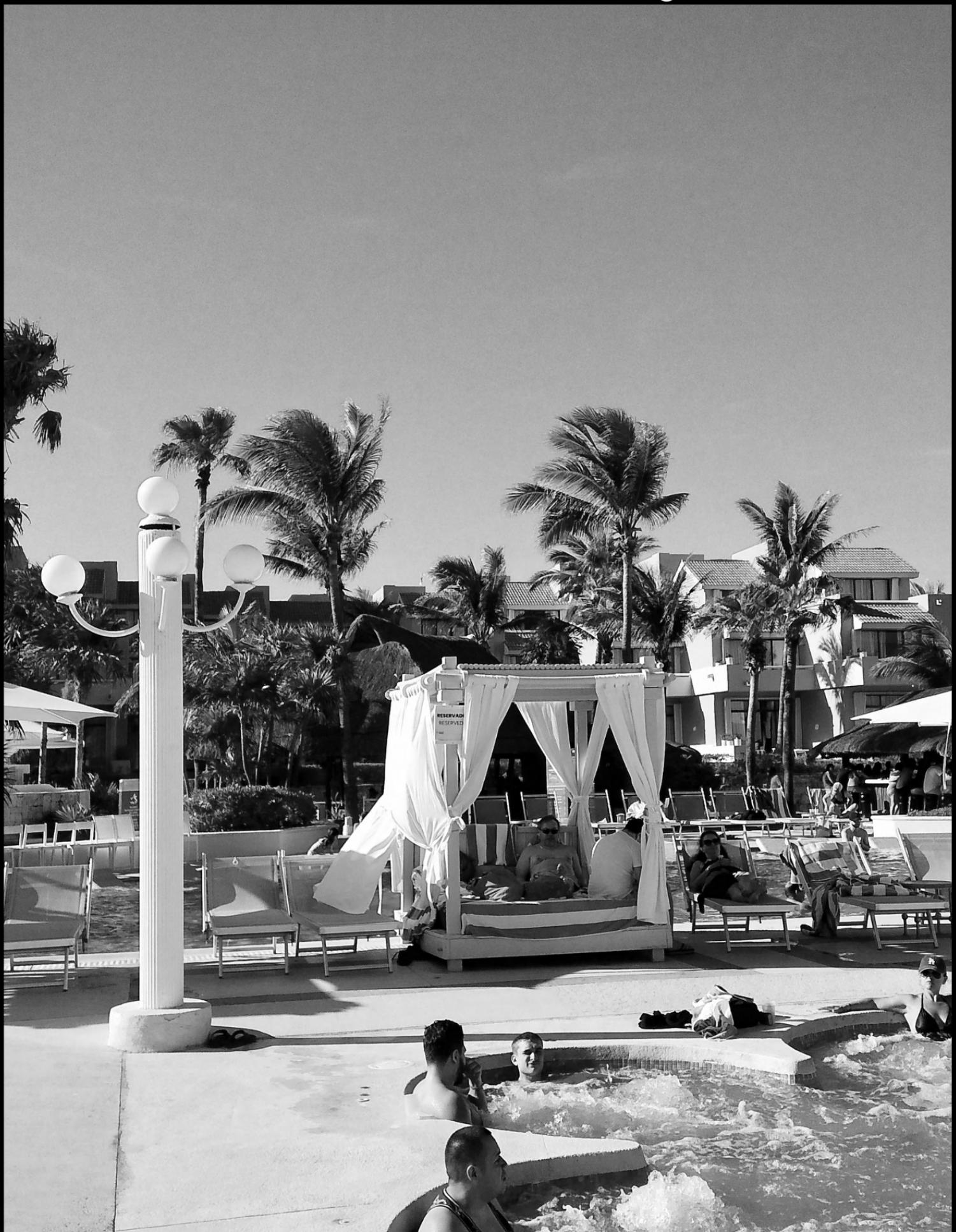
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SUBMITTED BY SMRITI PANCHAL



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SUBMITTED BY NIYA MAUDGALYA



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TAKEN BY SANJANA SOLANKI



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TAKEN BY AMANI CHOWDHURY

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TAKEN BY AMRUTHA GURURAJA



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TAKEN BY SANJANA DADI

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solucky & our magazine by  
following us on Instagram,  
@solucky.life or by typing  
"solucky.life" into your browser

I love  
you too  
much

See you next time!

- solucky Team <3

THANK YOU!

