

ISSUE 53

20
25
February

THE DEMON

FASHION, FILMS, SPORTS
AND MORE INSIDE!

LOVE
Born This Way
xxx
IS LOVE

Contents

Health and Lifestyle

- Best Nutella recipes for World Nutella Day
- Affordable Valentine's Day gifts
- Love is in the air - but why?!
- Things to do on Valentine's Day
- Galentine's Day

Creative Writing

- The memories of the nameless woman
- Happy Space

Writers

- Evan Alexiou
Amina Ali
Dan Ball
Jess Bourne
Oluwatomiwa Ilerioluwa Awonaike
Louise Kiernan
Molly Lee
Patrycja-Monika Michalewska
Harry Pape
Bronze Sparks
Maya Zamman

Student News and Discussion

- The power of Muslim comedy
- The evolution of representation in Media
- Who determines what's funny

Fashion and Beauty

- Valentine's Day fashion

Designers

- Evan Alexiou
Amina Ali
Jess Bourne
Mariana Cardenas Gaviria
Beth Cox
Oluwatomiwa Ilerioluwa Awonaike
Molly Lee
Bronze Sparks

Entertainment

- Best romance films to watch in February
- Entertainment releases

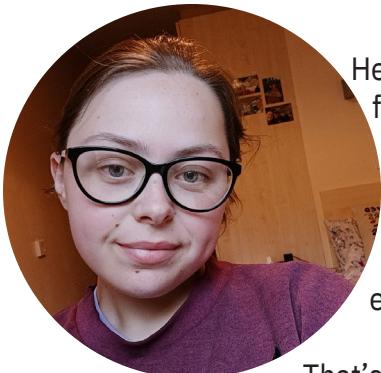
Sports

- WWE on Netflix

Photographers

- Aliki Alexiou

Editor's Message



Hello! Welcome to the February issue of the Demon Magazine. I'm so excited for you all to get stuck into reading the brilliant articles that have been written this month.

This issue is jam packed full of articles! We have articles that will spread the love ready for Valentine's Day, best recipes for World Nutella Day and the evolution of representation in the media.

That's not all though! Whether you want to rewatch a classic movie or see a new one, we have all the best ones listed and if you're looking for inspiration for Galentine's Day, look no further! Before you get stuck in, I want to thank everyone who has written, edited or designed for this issue. Without your help the magazine wouldn't be what it is! Here's to the Demon Magazine and I hope you all enjoy it as much as we have loved creating it! See you in the next edition!

Jess Bourne
Editor-in-Chief

Meet the Demon Editors



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Raising awareness of cardiac arrest with annual Run for Redfern

The annual Run for Redfern is back for the third time, in March, to raise awareness of cardiac arrest in young adults and to remember De Montfort University journalism graduate, Adam Redfern.

Run for Redfern was established in 2022, a year after Adam passed away from a cardiac arrest in March 2021. The idea came from one of his alumni friends, Abi Battisto.

The first run saw 12 of Adam's friends take part on a sponsored basis and successfully raised £300.

Since the inception, Ian and Christine, Adam's parents, turned the run into a mass participation event, so instead of those wanting to take part getting sponsorships, they now just buy a ticket for £5.

"We have the 5k run here in Leicester, which starts in Victoria Park and ends at De Montfort Student's Union steps. People can pay £5 to enter, and an additional £5 for a Run for Redfern t-shirt," Ian said.

They also have the option for Adam's friends to take part in the run from around the UK. All they have to do is buy a virtual ticket and take a selfie and post it on social media.

"A lot of the ones that [take part in the run] are people that were either at university with him or knew him through work, and even friends from school. They come together as a team to remember Adam," said Christine.

"Firstly, we're incredibly grateful, but secondly, it means a lot as it means that people are here for a reason and to remember Adam and to celebrate his life. It means a lot to us to know that Adam is still fondly thought of," said Ian.

A Heartsafe team race has also been set up, which involves a team of four – it follows the same route, but this race ties into the Heartsafe Campus initiative.

This initiative aims to ensure that students know how to perform CPR if an emergency occurred.

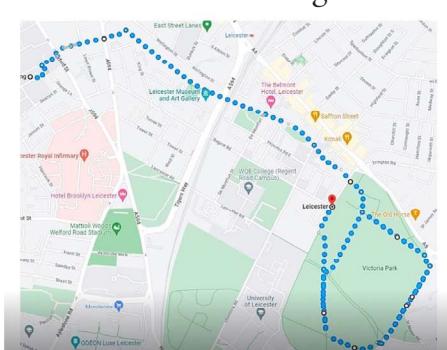
Ian said: "The message we want to get out there is that everyone should learn how to do CPR, because nobody knows when you might need to use it. It could be a relative in the house, it could be somebody you're playing sport with, it could be somebody you work with, it could be somebody you study with."

"We want to get as many students, or even all students, to actually learn CPR. Those students at

DMU live in the big wide world, and spend a lot of their time with family, friends and people outside of DMU. So, you may not use those skills at DMU, but you might use them in a different environment. The benefits of it are well beyond DMU."

Ian and Christine are also stressing the importance of not solely focusing on the running aspect of the event.

"We stress it's called a fun run. Don't focus on the word 'run', focus on the word 'fun'," said Ian. "Fundamentally, it's an event about people coming together and celebrating Adam's life, raising money for the fund and a platform for us to raise awareness for cardiac arrest in young adults."



Run for Redfern: The 5k route that people will be taking on Sunday, 9 March

Adam's parents have also come up with the idea of walking 600km in 60 days, between January 2, which is Adam's birthday and March 2, which is the anniversary of him passing away.

They are also striving to get DMU clubs and societies involved by the Champion Fundraiser Challenge. They have awards for the group that brings the most members, the one that brings along the largest percentage of its members and the group that has had the most valued contribution to the event.

In terms of other events throughout the year, the annual Adam Redfern Memorial Football Tournament will be held at the end of May and more details about that will be coming out shortly.

The British Heart Foundation have a tool on their website called RevivR which is an online training course on CPR.

All you need is a cushion and then your phone, tablet or laptop. It involves you practicing on the cushion and your device will monitor what you're doing and tell you whether it's too light, too deep or just right. RevivR takes 15 minutes and in the future, it could save someone's life.

Follow their Instagram and X (Adam Redfern Memorial Fund) to keep up to date with everything going on.



What to do when someone is experiencing a cardiac arrest?

- If someone is having a cardiac arrest, they will be unconscious, unresponsive and not breathing (or not breathing normally).
 - If you see someone suffering from a cardiac arrest, it's vital to call 999 and start CPR right away. Put your phone on speaker next to you while you speak to the dispatch operator, but do not hesitate to start CPR right away - it could save their life.
 - If a defibrillator is nearby, ensure you make use of this.
 - Performing CPR will continue the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain and the body and a defibrillator will send a controlled electric shock in an attempt to get the heart beating normally again.
- (British Heart Foundation)

What to do when someone is experiencing a heart attack?

- If someone is having a heart attack, they may feel chest pain, pain in other parts of the body, feeling lightheaded, sweating, shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, anxiety and coughing or wheezing.
 - The first thing to do is call 999 and wait for the ambulance to arrive.
 - While waiting, if aspirin is available, it's recommended to chew or swallow one to help thin the blood and improve the blood flow to the heart.
- (NHS)

Best recipes for World Nutella® Day

Wednesday, 5 February 2025 marks World Nutella® Day.

The day of celebration for the beloved chocolate spread was established in 2007 by American blogger and Nutella lover Sara Rosso. She began celebrating the day by sharing pictures, ideas, inspiration, and recipes on social media. Here are some great recipes to try for World Nutella® Day!

Nutella® Croissant

Let's start off simple with an easy Nutella® Croissant. There are two ways to do this – it depends on your preference. Simply cut your croissants in half and spread a generous amount of Nutella®. Or, if you feel extra fancy, you can buy Jus-Roll Croissant dough. Unroll the dough, following the instructions on the packaging, and spread as much Nutella® as you'd like. Then cut the dough into triangles. Roll the triangles into a croissant shape and brush an egg wash onto the outside of your croissants to get that lovely golden, flaky pastry. Bake your croissants in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes at 200°C and enjoy!



Porridge with Nutella®

This quick and easy breakfast recipe will help you get the energy you need for the day. All you will need is 70g of rolled oats, 350ml of milk, and 2 tablespoons of Nutella®. Place the oats and milk in a saucepan, bring it to a boil, then turn down the heat to cook the mixture for 3 to 4 minutes. For good measure, you can also add another spoonful of Nutella® on top. To make it your own, feel free to add other toppings, such as hazelnuts, bananas, and more.

Nutella® Crêpes Another quick and enjoyable breakfast recipe that includes a good amount of Nutella® only requires four ingredients: 1 egg, 125g of flour, 250ml of milk, and 1 tablespoon of Nutella® per crêpe. Whisk the milk, flour, and egg together. Then add the tablespoon of Nutella® and mix until smooth. Heat up 1 tablespoon of butter in a pan on medium heat and add some batter. Cook the crêpes one by one until both sides have a light golden colour. Enjoy your yummy start to the day!



Nutella® Muffins

For this recipe, you will need 175g of unsalted butter, 175g of caster sugar, 3 medium eggs, 175g of self-raising flour, and 150g of Nutella®. Preheat your oven to 180°C while you are making the muffin batter. Mix the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then add the eggs one by one. To finish making the batter, gently stir in the flour. Scoop the mixture evenly into your muffin tray. Put a spoonful of Nutella® in each muffin and make a swirl. Bake for 20 minutes until golden, and they're ready for you to enjoy.



Nutella® Stuffed Cookies Be prepared for melt-in-the-mouth goodness with these Nutella® stuffed cookies. You will need 15 teaspoons of Nutella®, 115g of unsalted butter, 175g of light brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, 1 medium egg, 275g of plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of salt, 1 tablespoon of cornflour, and 200g of finely chopped chocolate. For the gooey filling, freeze heaped teaspoons of Nutella® on a lined tray for 30 to 60 minutes. Preheat your oven to 180°C and make your cookie dough by mixing all the ingredients together. Split your cookie dough mixture into 15 portions. Flatten each portion of dough, place one ball of frozen Nutella® on top, and then wrap the remaining cookie dough around it. Bake in the oven for 11 to 13 minutes for a gooey cookie!



Nutella® Brownies

This three-ingredient recipe is a great Nutella® recipe. You will need 400g of Nutella®, 3 medium eggs, and 75g of plain flour. Preheat your oven to 180°C and line a square tin with parchment paper. In a mixing bowl, add Nutella®, the eggs, and plain flour, and mix thoroughly until combined. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake the brownies for 20+ minutes, or until baked to perfection. The shorter the bake, the gooier. Feel free to add any extra toppings to your brownies.



Written and designed by Molly Lee

Love is in the air- - but why?!

Did you know that the day gets its name from a famous saint, but we don't actually know exactly who Valentine was?

St. Valentine was a priest back in third-century Rome who didn't think the law should get in the way of love. When Emperor Claudius II banned marriage, he started doing secret weddings for couples who wanted to be together. Eventually, he got caught and ended up in jail. While he was in there, he formed a close bond with the jailer's daughter. On the day he was set to be executed, February 14, he sent her an emotional love letter, signing it "from your Valentine." That simple act linked that date to love and courage, giving it a whole new vibe.



The first official Valentine's Day was in
the year 496 AD!

There are many other stories, but gradually, people started using St Valentine's name to express their feelings to those they loved.

Modern-day Valentine's Day: Beyond Romance

When we think of Valentine's Day these days, our minds often jump to candlelit dinners, heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, and red roses exchanged between couples. But what if this holiday, so synonymous with romantic love, could be reimagined as a celebration of all the different kinds of love? Love is far more diverse than the one-dimensional portrayals we're used to seeing. It's familial, platonic, selfless, and even self-directed. Love in all its forms is everywhere. And love is very powerful.



Familial Love: The Obligatory Bond

Ah, family. The people who love you unconditionally, even after you spent your teenage years slamming doors, rolling your eyes, and arguing over every inconsequential decision. Familial love is the kind of love that persists throughout our lives; these are the people who are always there through the good and bad times.

Sure, siblings fight, families argue, and maybe even split up. Nevertheless,

the irrevocable bond shared is unequivocal and eternal. Even if they do repeatedly bring up your most embarrassing moments at family occasions – deep down, they'd fight a bear for you. Probably.

This Valentine's Day, maybe give your family some love. Or at least answer their calls – you know they'll just keep ringing.



Friendship: The Drunk-Text Safe Zone

Friendship. That rare and inscrutable bond that only friends understand. The people that willingly listens to your long-winded stories, tangential rants and rambles that would make you look insane to anyone else but them. And yet, these are the ones that still stick around. These are the people who'll laugh with you over your worst decisions, judge you over your relationships, steal your fries, and relish in your triumphs.

Friendship is the love that we choose and display in our own affectionate way. So, send your friends some love this Valentine's Day— or memes. Actually, just memes. They'll get it.

Self-Love: The Art of Treating Yo'self

Let's not forget the MVP of love: you. Self-love is what keeps you from spiralling after reading the comments section or eating an entire pizza and calling it a balanced diet.



It's giving yourself permission to wear sweatpants all day or binge-watch that reality show you swear you hate but secretly love. Self-love isn't selfish; it's necessary. After all, you can't pour from an empty cup—but you can pour another glass of wine.

Acts of Kindness: Love for the World (and Its Weirdness)

There's a special kind of love found in doing something nice for others, like holding the door for a stranger or pretending to care about a coworker's lengthy weekend recap. True altruism is rare, but when these small acts occur, they are often remembered. Whether it's buying coffee for the person behind you in line or choosing not to vent on social media during your morning commute, these small gestures of kindness remind us that love is about making the world a little less chaotic. You earn bonus points if you can do it without rolling your eyes. Altruism is a quiet form of love that doesn't receive enough recognition, yet it is crucial for making the world a better place.

So, this Valentine's Day, spread the love—or at least don't side-eye that person who's taking forever to order at the coffee shop... Progress.

Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a rom-com montage of perfect dates and dramatic kisses.



It's a chance to celebrate all the quirky, chaotic, and comforting kinds of love in our lives. From the family that drives you crazy to the friends who keep you sane, from the kindness of strangers to the tail-wagging joy of pets—love is everywhere.

Valentine's Day reminds us that love isn't just a fleeting emotion but a force that shapes lives and connects us to something greater than ourselves. It's proof that the most profound power lies in the way we care for, uplift, and inspire one another. So grab some chocolate (even if you bought it for yourself), and toast to love in all its wonderfully messy forms. Cheers!

Written by Harry Pape and Louise Kiernan

Illustrated by Oluwatomowa Awonaike

WHO DETERMINES WHAT IS FUNNY

Laughter, jokes and the short-term happiness thereof all stems from the social and psychological concept of humour. Humour, according to the Oxford dictionary, is defined as the "quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech." We all laugh at different things, situations, agendas and so on. But who really determines what is funny? Is it the individual telling the joke or the audience receiving it? This article will delve into the answer to this question and explain the factors that come with it.

Research has shown the mostly simplistic answer of the audience determining what is deemed amusing or not. Although, this is relatively true, I believe it is more complex than a person saying the joke and the audience laughing or not laughing at it.

Firstly, there is a cultural or demographic-specific context that determines a joke. People from specific countries, societies or areas can make a joke about such an area that can be funny to those who live there but unamusing to those who don't. These jokes often revolve around shared circumstances and situations, which lies on the concept of relatability. Humour varies across different areas.

This also differs amongst personal taste, background and upbringing. All of these shape what is called funny. People joking about being in broken homes, having thoughts of suicide or people dying through unfortunate illnesses, which most people often call dark humour shows what is funny. In this aspect, they use this as a coping mechanism to understand the world and its proceedings. This is an individual's taste of funny which does not fully consider the audience hearing it.

Where a person is situated at that time also determines what is funny. What is funny in a formal event would be different to what is funny around close friends. This is based on the societal norms and expectations that people assume should be aligned based on the environment.

Societal norms, expectations, influences also determine what is funny and can change what funny is. What is acceptable is funny and what is not is not. With the introduction of social media and its increasing virality in the present day, it can help introduce what society should see as funny or not depending on the age group and other criteria, especially with the use of popular memes and videos. To professionals who use humour, such as comedians or writers, also change the perception of what is humorous based on great punchlines, creativity and good deliverance.

Due to all these factors, being able to laugh with people or even with yourself can increase bonding and build relationships. Even misunderstanding or awkwardness, which can make someone laugh, doesn't necessarily make it funny to them. What I'm trying to say is: What is funny is determined by many things and not solely by the audience.

WRITTEN BY: TOMIWA

DESIGNED BY: EVAN

The Power of Muslim Comedy

Written and designed by Amina Ali

When I was younger, I remember calling out to my family members whenever I saw a Muslim on TV. Whether it was in a Hollywood blockbuster, a politician in Parliament or even on Eastenders, there was no denying how representation made me feel.

Even now, I feel a little pride in my fellow Muslim brothers and sisters when I see one gracing the screen.

For me, comedy was one of the first avenues where I saw a mass of Muslim performers. It proved that we could be what others didn't want us to be.

Funny and successful at the same time.

Why do so many Muslims turn to comedy?

I always knew Muslims bore the brunt of harsh, borderline racist ‘jokes’ growing up. Whether it was comments about how we prayed, what we wore or the languages we spoke, it always hurt.

I also knew that the few Muslims I grew up with – including myself – turned this bullying into strength.

And this isn’t a strength only Muslims have had to find. Other comedians such as Alan Carr, Russell Howard and even Chris Rock suffered from bullying.

Not only this, but Muslim childhoods often differ so much more than the typical British childhood.

Off the top of my head: we eat halal, we don’t drink or eat pork, most of us went to Quran classes after school where we hoped the teacher forgot about our Quran homework.

(They never did).

Our parents tended to be immigrants, meaning we

had to learn financial and legal jargon to help them with whatever bill or letter came through the post.

Comedy has become a way to take control of our own narratives and honouring our past. It also switches the situation many of us had growing up. Instead of people laughing at us, they laugh with us.

One of my favourite standup routines is when Tez Ilyas did Live at the Apollo. In it, he talks about a dinner he had with a friend. Yet, he humours, explains and educates the audience on Islam, British society and its stereotypes in less than five minutes.

Muslim comedians have found the perfect balance of inclusion in their routines. They manage to educate those who may be ignorant about Islam, while making Muslims and non-Muslims laugh.

They can relate their unique experiences to everyone in the British public, while keeping their faith on show.

Comedy should now be a legitimate avenue for young Muslim men and women to pursue, no matter the background.

We’ve seen success in Shazia Mirza, Guz Khan, Hashu Mohammed, Fatiha el-Ghorri, Nabil Abdulrashid, Ola Labib, Abdullah Afzal and so many more.

So, to all the Muslims reading this, if they can beat the odds in their industry, why can’t you?

And to all those who aren’t Muslims, give these comedians a watch. You might just find a new favourite!





Entertainment RELEASES

In the ever-growing digital age, there has never been more choice of entertainment, films and TV shows. New releases are constantly being shown to audiences worldwide, exacerbated by the rise of streaming platforms such as Netflix, Prime Video and Disney+. This is a look at just some of the entertainment coming out in February.

Written By Dan Ball

Designed by Mariana Cardenas Gaviria

By far the biggest and most anticipated movie release this month is the latest instalment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, **Captain America: Brave New World**. Arriving on the big screen February 14, it stars Anthony Mackie as Sam Wilson who, having taken up the mantle of Captain America, must uncover the mastermind behind a sinister global plot. Starring alongside him is Harrison Ford, as President Thaddeus Ross, who is at the heart of it all.

This film has undergone huge amounts of rewrites, reshoots and lots of negative test screenings. Do not be alarmed, however, it looks to have great action scenes and follow a more grounded, realistic plot – well, as realistic as superheroes can get.

Another Valentine's Day release, and one more befitting of the time of year, is the latest entry in **the Bridget Jones franchise: Mad About the Boy**, based on the novel of the same name by Helen Fielding.

Renée Zellweger reprises her role as Bridget Jones, now a widowed single mother, the drama coming from her pursuit by both a much younger man and possibly her son's teacher. What could possibly go wrong?

Prefer to spend Valentine's Day with blood and guts? **Heart Eyes** may be the one for you. In this slasher, the 'Heart Eyes Killer' has been murdering romantic couples for years, the terror returns this year and no couple is safe. You can see it from February 7.

For fans of more fantastical worlds, Netflix is expanding **The Witcher** franchise with the new animated film **Sirens of the Deep**. Based on one of the original Witcher stories, Geralt of Rivia is drawn into a long-standing conflict between humans and merpeople. Doug Cockle lends his voice to the project which releases on Netflix February 11.



So, those are some of the movies coming out this month, now for television.

Based on the hit comic book by Robert Kirkman, the superhero animation **Invincible** returns to Prime Video for season three on February 6.

It follows teenage superhero Mark Grayson AKA Invincible, as he balances family, friends and fighting crime all whilst preparing to defend Earth from the impending invasion by the brutal Viltrumite empire. The series features a unique animation style and incredible voice acting from an all-star cast including Steven Yeun, Sandra Oh, Seth Rogen and J.K. Simmons.

Following on from the success of the original series, **Suits: LA** was scheduled to release this month on NBC. Arrow star Stephen Amell plays Ted Black, a former New York prosecutor who has reinvented himself leading a new team of attorneys and representing some of the biggest clients in Los Angeles.

However, the emergency situation due to the LA wildfires has paused production, and it is possible the new series will be delayed.

Premiering February 19 on Disney+ **Win or lose** is Pixar's first ever original series. This animated show follows a middle school softball team during the run up to the championship game. Each new episode of this show follows the perspective of a different character.

There are many other films and TV shows that I haven't mentioned here, but hopefully it provides you with an idea of what's to come this month.





In the ever-growing digital age, there has never been more choice of entertainment, films and TV shows. New releases are constantly being shown to audiences worldwide, exacerbated by the rise of streaming platforms such as Netflix, Prime Video and Disney+.

This is a look at just some of the entertainment coming out in February.

BY FAR THE BIGGEST AND MOST ANTICIPATED MOVIE RELEASE THIS MONTH IS THE LATEST INSTALMENT OF THE MARVEL CINEMATIC UNIVERSE, **CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD**.

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"Comedy Nights"
By Evan Alexiou

Affordable Valentine's Gifts

Just like every other holiday, Valentine's Day is heavily commercialised, which means it can get quite expensive. There's often random pressure to buy a pricey gift for your loved one. If you have the money to buy your partner a fancy piece of jewellery, then go for it, but here are some affordable gifts for you

to choose from!

Written and designed by Molly

Chocolates

A classic gift for a loved one is a box of chocolates. It doesn't even have to be the fanciest chocolates; it can simply be their favourite type. Personally, I'm a big fan of Galaxy, so I'd be happy with a bar!

If you want to personalise the chocolates more, you can buy personalised chocolate from businesses on Etsy or Not on the High Street.

Either way, chocolate is a safe option that your partner will enjoy.

Flowers

Another classic gift for your partner is a bouquet of flowers (their favourite ones, if you can remember). There are plenty of places where you can buy affordable flowers, such as supermarkets like Lidl, Tesco, and Asda.

If your partner is like me and has bad hay fever, there is a way of giving them flowers without setting off their allergies! You can buy fake flower bouquets or fake flowers shaped like a teddy bear – they look just as nice as real ones.

The teddy bear flowers are commonly made by small businesses and advertised on Facebook and Etsy, so definitely have a look.

Teddy Bear

It doesn't matter how old you are; you're never too old for a teddy bear! With the rise in popularity of Squishmallows and Jelly Cats, there are plenty of teddies to choose from for your loved one.

Jelly Cats even have a designated Valentine's range, so why not buy your partner a plushie heart toy?

Just be prepared to have less room on the bed when the teddy moves in!

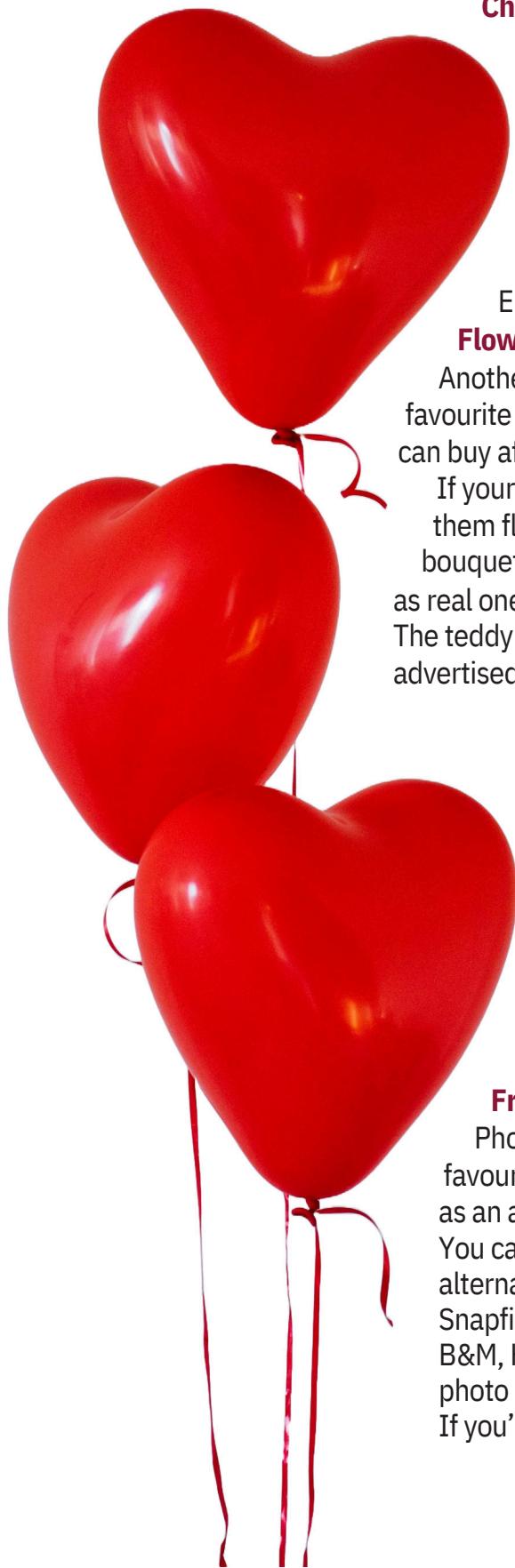
Framed Photograph

Photographs hold memories made with a loved one. If you have a favourite picture of you and your partner, print it off and put it in a frame as an affordable Valentine's Day gift.

You can print your favourite photo at Boots or Max Spielmann, or alternatively, you can order it online through apps such as Freeprints and Snapfish.

B&M, Home Bargains, and other shops sell different-sized and coloured photo frames for you to use.

If you're feeling extra crafty, you can decorate or personalise the frame!



Valentine's Day Fashion : Date night inspiration

As Valentine's Day is approaching, whether you are in a relationship or have a date, it is the ideal time to dress up and make a statement. No matter if you are spending a cosy evening at home, going out on a casual date, or having a romantic meal.

The colours red and pink are the most common choices for Valentines Day. Passion, romance, and femininity are all evoked by these hues. Selecting a blush pink gown for a more delicate, gentler feel or a sleek red dress for a striking self-assured look, will perfect your Valentine's date.

Fabrics like satin and lace are popular because they are sophisticated and elegant. If you are considering going to a formal dinner, you can think about wearing a body con floor length or midi dress with minimal jewellery and strapped heels. The ensemble will be completed with a stylish handbag or clutch purse in a different colour.

Some Valentine's Day activities don't always require formal wear. Without going overboard, you can still look put together for a laid-back date like a movie night or a coffee shop hangout. If

you're opting for an outfit that is both comfortable and fashionable, choose a thick knit sweater with leggings or jeans and ankle boots. A fitted coat or jacket adds to the whole look, and adding a cross-body handbag creates style.

Getting ready for a comfortable evening at home? Style does not have to be sacrificed for comfort. A silk or velvet loungewear set that matches can feel cosy and opulent for women. You may feel effortlessly stylish by adding a little makeup and a pair of soft slippers.

Valentine's Day fashion is all about showcasing love, uniqueness, and self-assurance. Whether you are channelling classic romance, playful trends or edgy sophistication, the goal is to wear something that makes you happy and complements your personality. With these ideas and inspiration, you'll be sure to turn heads and make your Valentine's Day genuinely memorable.

*Written by
Maya Lamman*

*Designed by
Bronze Sparks*

GALENTINE'S DAY

Galentine's Day! February, the season of love and appreciation. With the popular Valentine's Day coming up, celebrating our love with romantic partners. Galentine's day first began with the popular American TV show, Parks and Recreation, where the main character's passion for organizing parties led to the invention of this unofficial holiday. February 13th, Galentine's day is to celebrate lifelong friends, ride or dies or just people who have meant the most to you this year. So how do we celebrate this upcoming holiday? Whether it's with your favourite roommate or your inner circle, these are one of the best ways to spend Galentine's day!

Before we start anything, the most important thing is planning! You have to figure out what you want to do that day to really have the most fun. I'm not saying you have a whole schedule strictly follow each hour, but it's a really good idea to know what you and your loved ones want to do. So, here are some ideas:

DIY AND CREATIVE PROJECTS



Starting at home, for craft lovers, DIYing can be a great idea for a day or night with the girls. You could do a sip and paint, friendship bracelets, cute handmade mugs or even photo scrapbooks or collages of all the great time you've spent together. Baking heart shaped pizzas, cookies and cupcakes can be a great way to bond and have fun with a great result, great food! For those who want to really achieve their goals this year, a vision board with those who support and love you can be an amazing way to unwind and spend your time.

THEMED PARTIES

A themed party is a classic and timeless way to spend with friends and it can be based on anything,

a hobby, your favourite TV show or maybe a memorable moment that has been shared between you all! And a great way to laugh at each other's costumes when you get there! Besides the classic ones done at home, a bottomless brunch party is one of the more popular ones, but can I blame

them? Food and going out is never a bad combination. With a great spa day after doing your nails and having funny and long conversations about what's going on in each other's lives! Or even a DIY one at home depending on the budget or convenience. With these themed events can go with a game night which can either be invented through nostalgia or interest which can be in the form of classic board games, card games or even video games. To wrap up the night with some rest, a movie marathon with the theme in mind like feel-good movies, rom-coms, or friendship-centric films.



ADVENTURE IDEAS

For those who love to stay outside other than going to a nice restaurant to eat, a road trip can be a great idea, visiting a nearby area, an aesthetic place, a place you have all wanted to go to or maybe just going to your favourite chill spot! With this you can have a cute picnic or a small outdoor movie. There are also cultural activities that can be done like going to the museum, going for a craft class or a live performance of any kind.

THEMED GIFT EXCHANGE

With all these suggestions, there can be gifts. There can be themed or funny gifts, crafty gifts or thoughtful gifts that can be given to one another. Or even cute baskets filled with chocolate, skincare or a surprise gift! This can be an inside joke or an emotional one. Inclusion for virtual celebrations for those who are international students or don't have the luxury of being with loved ones on this special time, these days can still be memorable by spending time together. This can include fun virtual games, Netflix movie marathons at the same time or online crafting activities. There can also be gifts to be shared through sending them before the day and opening them together as a bonding moment of fun and laughter.

All these ideas and suggestions can be paired with times of gratitude where you can all say how much you love one another and care for each other and cry over a tub of ice cream. Whether through written or said language. This can be a great way to write and exchange heartfelt letters or cards.

To those who would be alone for this day, Galentine's day can be celebrated with all of these! A solo date, a crafting session and so on. You can also include self-care sessions like journaling, meditation or doing what makes you happy.

Regardless of what you're doing this time of the year, it's all about gratitude, celebration and cherishing all the kinds of friendships including those with yourself, a simple but mostly taken for granted part of life.

**WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
OLUWATOMIWA AWONAIKE**

LGBT Representation in the Media

Written by Harry Pape

The evolution of LGBT representation in film and television is a story of resilience, progress, and ongoing struggle.

Over the decades, the way queer individuals and relationships are portrayed on screen has reflected broader societal attitudes, marking milestones in visibility and acceptance, but also highlighting the persistent challenges of stereotyping and erasure.

In the early days of cinema, LGBT characters were often relegated to the shadows, appearing as coded figures whose identities were implied rather than explicit. The strictures of the Hays Code, implemented in Hollywood from the 1930s to the 1960s, prohibited overt depictions of homosexuality, forcing filmmakers to resort to subtext. Queer characters were often villainous or portrayed as tragic figures, perpetuating harmful stereotypes. Films like "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955) and "Ben-Hur" (1959) carried queer undertones that were detectable only to those attuned to them, leaving

LGBT audiences with crumbs of representation.

One poignant example from this era is "The Children's Hour" (1961), starring Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MacLaine. The film, based on Lillian Hellman's play, explores the devastating consequences of a rumour suggesting that two female teachers are in a lesbian relationship. While the word "lesbian" is never explicitly mentioned, the implications are clear, and the film underscores the suffocating societal taboos of the time. The story's tragic conclusion reflects the oppressive environment in which LGBT people lived, where even the suggestion of queerness could destroy lives.

The landscape began to shift in the 1960s and 1970s as societal movements for civil rights and sexual liberation gained momentum. This era saw the emergence of films like "The Boys in the Band" (1970), one of the first mainstream movies to center openly gay characters and their experiences. While groundbreaking, it was also emblematic of the period's limited perspect-

ive, focusing on white, male, middle-class gay life and often reinforcing notions of internalised homophobia and despair.

The AIDS crisis of the 1980s brought LGBT lives into the spotlight in a way that was both illuminating and devastating. Films like "Longtime Companion" (1989) and "Philadelphia" (1993) humanised the epidemic for mainstream audiences, presenting queer characters with dignity and depth. However, these stories were often steeped in tragedy, reinforcing the trope of queer suffering. Despite this, the period marked a turning point where LGBT stories began to be told with more empathy and authenticity.

The 1990s and early 2000s heralded a more vibrant and varied depiction of queer lives on both the big and small screens. Television shows like "Will & Grace" and "Queer as Folk" brought LGBT characters into millions of living rooms, balancing humour and drama to explore themes of love, friendship, and self-acceptance. These series were instrumental in normalising queer identities for mainstream audiences, though they were not without their critiques, particularly regarding their focus on cisgender, white, gay men.

Films during this period also began to tackle queer themes with greater nuance. "Brokeback Mountain" (2005) broke new ground with its tender portrayal

of a love affair between two men, challenging stereotypes and capturing the complexity of their relationship against the backdrop of societal repression. Independent cinema played a crucial role in amplifying diverse voices, with films like "Pariah" (2011) and "Weekend" (2011) exploring the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality with authenticity and care.

Some characters in television, however, began to step away from storylines centered exclusively on their sexuality, presenting LGBT individuals as multifaceted people with rich, varied lives. One iconic example is Captain Jack Harkness from the popular reboot of "Doctor Who." Introduced in 2005, Captain Jack—a charming, pansexual adventurer—was portrayed by John Barrowman with wit and charisma. His identity was a part of who he was, but never the sole focus of his character arc. Jack's relationships, both romantic and platonic, were woven seamlessly into the narrative, offering a vision of queer representation that emphasised inclusion without tokenism. This approach allowed audiences to see LGBT characters as fully realised individuals rather than as defined solely by their orientation.

Another example is the depiction of David Rose in "Schitt's Creek." The Emmy-winning series broke barriers by normalising pansexuality through David's

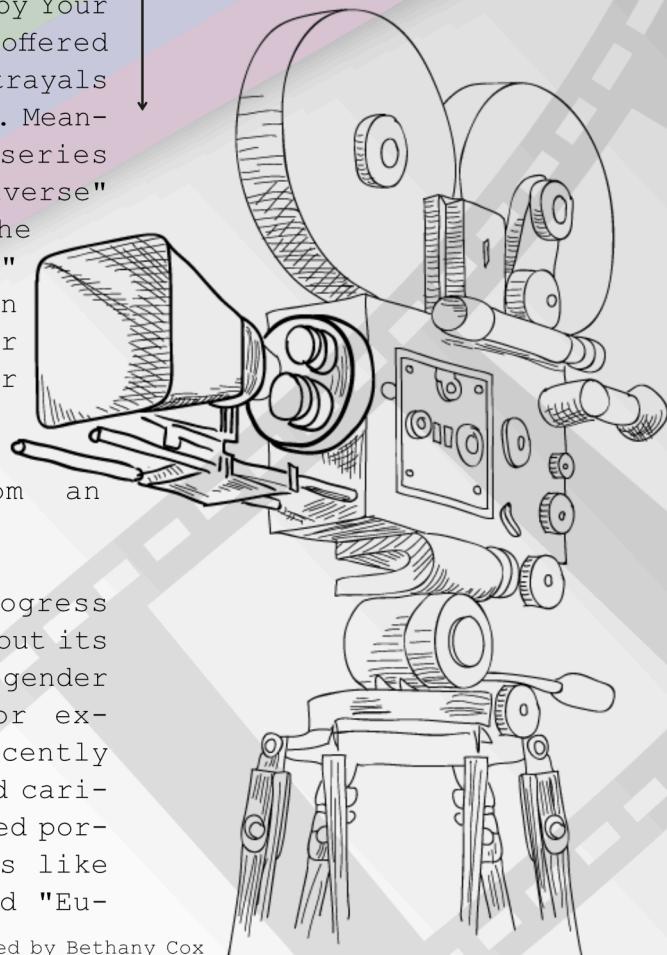
romantic journey, culminating in his marriage to Patrick Brewer. The show's handling of David's identity was refreshingly matter of fact, focusing on love, humour, and personal growth rather than emphasising the challenges often associated with coming out. Such portrayals help audiences connect with LGBT characters on a human level, highlighting universal experiences while also celebrating the unique aspects of queer identity.

In recent years, the breadth of LGBT representation has expanded significantly, encompassing a wider range of identities, experiences, and narratives. Shows like "Pose" have celebrated the resilience and creativity of the trans and queer communities of colour, while films like "Moonlight" (2016) and "Call Me by Your Name" (2017) have offered tender, nuanced portrayals of love and identity. Meanwhile, animated series such as "Steven Universe" and "She-Ra and the Princesses of Power" have broken ground in presenting queer themes to younger audiences, fostering inclusivity and understanding from an early age.

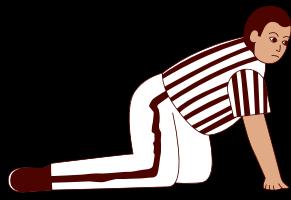
However, the progress achieved is not without its shortcomings. Transgender representation, for example, has only recently begun to move beyond caricatured or victimised portrayals, with shows like "Sex Education" and "Eu-

phoria" leading the charge. Even now, many LGBT characters are written by creators outside the community, leading to questions about authenticity and representation. Moreover, the industry still grapples with systemic barriers that prevent many queer creators from telling their own stories on their own terms.

The journey of LGBT representation in film and television mirrors the broader fight for equality—marked by hard-won victories, painful setbacks, and a constant push for greater inclusion. As audiences demand more diverse and authentic storytelling, the hope is that the screen will increasingly become a mirror that reflects the true richness of human experience, celebrating all its colours, complexities, and contradictions.



Designed by Bethany Cox



WWE on Netflix: A Milestone That Could Reshape Sports Broadcasting

January 6, 2025 – A Game-Changer for Sports Broadcasting?

On January 6, 2025, history was made. The pro wrestling show, Monday Night RAW, streamed exclusively on Netflix. Why was this historic? Simple. It's the first time ever a sports-adjacent show was shown only on streaming. I say sports-adjacent because obviously, pro wrestling is not a sport. It's an entertainment show with sports elements. However, this deal between WWE and Netflix could have rippling effects through the sports world and could change the way sports are broadcasted forever.

The Deal: A \$5 Billion Gamble

WWE announced its Netflix deal back in January 2024. Worth \$5 billion, the deal spans five years, with an extension bringing it to a 10-year agreement. This deal revolves around Netflix securing the exclusive global streaming rights for RAW. Viewers outside the U.S. will also have access to other WWE shows currently airing on TV in the U.S. But for the first time ever, Monday Night RAW will be available only on Netflix worldwide. This marks a dramatic shift in the way sports-related entertainment is delivered to fans.

Traditional Sports on TV, Streaming's Potential Impact

Sports broadcasts have long been a staple of television and radio. Networks have held the broadcasting rights to major sports leagues like football, basketball, and American football for decades. While RAW may not be a traditional sport, if this Netflix deal proves successful, it could open the door for other sports to consider making a move to streaming. To be fair, Amazon Prime and Netflix have streamed individual games here and there, but a full year of sports or an entire competition has never been offered exclusively on streaming. This could be about to change.

A Smooth Stream, No Issues

How did the stream go? Thankfully, there were no issues. When Netflix streamed the Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson fight, there were problems with lagging and crashes. However, RAW ran smoothly with no major technical issues. An interesting note for international viewers: outside the U.S., there were no ad breaks during the show. The broadcast just kept rolling, and when announcers did vocal plugs or advertisements, the noise was silenced. This created a much cleaner and more enjoyable viewing experience for international fans and U.S. viewers using a VPN.

The Show: A Major Hit

The show itself was incredible. It featured fun matches, engaging promos, and loads of cameos from wrestling legends. I watched it with my girlfriend, who's not a wrestling fan but is warming up to it. She found it fun and entertaining. And so did I.

Impressive Numbers: 4.9 Million Viewers Worldwide

RAW on Netflix delivered impressive numbers, with 4.9 million people worldwide tuning in to watch the live broadcast. Of those, 2.6 million were from the U.S. These numbers are staggering, but anything with a sports-like following could expect similar viewership. This is why TV networks and streaming platforms are all in on sports—there's a massive, loyal

fanbase that delivers high viewership and plenty of advertising opportunities.

Though this was just one episode, the ten-year deal in place shows that WWE believes this streaming model could work long-term. If successful, we could see other sports follow suit. Imagine the Premier League on Amazon, the UEFA Champions League on Disney+, or

the NFL on Netflix. With a more affordable price than traditional cable TV, streaming could become the new standard. And the accessibility of streaming means fans around the world can watch on any device, whenever and wherever they want.

The Future of Sports Streaming

This reality could come sooner than we think. According to rumours, the rebranded FIFA Club World Cup is currently searching for its next broadcast partner. Sources say Apple+ is a potential suitor. If this deal happens, it would be groundbreaking. Will it? Only time will tell.

Conclusion

While RAW's debut on Netflix was just one episode, it has the potential to reshape the future of sports broadcasting. If successful, streaming could become the go-to option for live sports and sports-like entertainment. With more affordable pricing and greater accessibility, this shift could be just the beginning of a revolution in how fans watch the games and shows they love.



Written by
Evan Alexiou

Designed by
Bronze Sparks

Best romance films to watch in February

Written and designed by Jess Bourne

With February now here, we're all looking forward to one thing... National Pizza Day... But there's another day that people tend to look forward to and I think we all know what it is... Valentine's Day. Whether you love it or you hate it, you see it everywhere you go, but at least you can get cheaper chocolate the next day – there's always a silver lining. If you're a hopeless romantic or happily in love, here are 11 romance films to watch during February.

The Notebook

It was only this year that I watched this film, and it broke me.

This film tells the story of Noah and Alice, played by Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams, through a series of flashbacks. The story is told by Duke, and he is reading to Alice about her life, but suffering with dementia, she doesn't know that Duke is actually Noah. Anyway, back to the plot, Noah and Alice fall in love, but societal pressures pull them apart and Alice is forced to move away. For years, they don't see or speak to each other and start to continue with their own lives. Alice gets engaged; Noah renovates a house. After their lives cross once more, Alice takes a trip to Noah's, and they pick up where they left off. Then it's the whole 'Will they? Won't they?', but in order to be a romance, it has to have a happy ending, and they live their lives together, and I will leave the ending to you before it sets me off again... Get your tissues.

Prime Video

La La Land

Not sure I can really call this a romance, especially with the ending - I'm still not entirely over it...

But it's a musical, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone and has dancing, so it's got to make the list. The story follows Mia, an actress, and Sebastian, a pianist, and after they have a meet cute, and several encounters Sebastian finally wins Mia over. They fall in love (it's textbook) but due to their busy lives and following their own dreams, respectively, it's decided they call it quits. Fast forward a few years, and have they rekindled their relationship? Nope! Mia has started her own family, and Sebastian has made it as a pianist. The final nail in the coffin is the

last look between them and all you want is them to run to each other. Despite my issues with this film, the first 90 minutes are great, but maybe just turn the film off to save your heart.

BBC iPlayer

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

Clear your schedule, grab your snacks and prepare yourself for a cinematic masterpiece. Troy, played by Zac Efron, and Gabriella, Vanessa Hudgens, have made it to their final year at school and with college



looming, they have a decision to make... where are they going to? As a way to say goodbye to school, they decide to 'stage the perfect prom' - which is filled with some iconic Disney songs. With Gabriella set to attend Stanford, the decision is on Troy. So, as in every other film, they break up, and she heads to California leaving Troy heartbroken. But Troy travels all the way there to see her and brings her back to East High for the show and graduation. The film is the perfect end to the trilogy and has been my Mastermind topic since I was three years old.

Disney+

Titanic

Before anyone says, it is a romance and Jack had to die in order for the film to have an effect – I could talk about this all day.

The film follows Rose, Kate Winslet, and Jack, Leonardo DiCaprio. Rose is an upper-class woman, coming from a wealthy family and is arguably trapped in her life and then Jack, a talented artist. Their meet cute is arguably on the stranger side, but the film cannot be faulted. We all know the story of Titanic and it follows the events of the tragic night, while also following Rose and Jack as they get separated, then rekindle and spend the final hours onboard the ship. And then the part of the film that everyone has an opinion on. Was there enough space on the door for both of them? Nope! Not at all. Jack had to go in order for the film to have an emotional impact!

Netflix, Disney+

Bridget Jones' Diary

I relate to this film on a personal level. I am a Bridget Jones and proud to be one!

Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Jim Broadbent, Sally Phillips, Celia Imrie and many more iconic faces... the casting director needs a raise. So, Bridget Jones, played by Zellweger, starts writing in her diary about how she intends to change her life around. But a certain Daniel Cleaver, played by Hugh Grant, catches the eye of Bridget and it's a nice story line. But the one that captures my heart is Mark Darcy, portrayed by Firth. Granted they don't get off to the best start, but Mr Darcy is the sort of man that I would want my daughter to marry. Anyway, we flip back and forth between which man she will end up with, but in the end it's Mr Darcy who steals her heart, I mean how couldn't he when he says things like: "I like you very much. Just as you are."

NOW

Honourable mentions:

When Harry Met Sally – Harry, played by Billy Crystal and Sally, portrayed by Meg Ryan. We see their friendship grow over a number of years as they navigate the way through their life.

Notting Hill – Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts – that's all we need in a film. William and Anna fall in love, but her level of fame makes things difficult for the pair.

50 First Dates – Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore are Henry and Lucy in this 2004 film. He becomes smitten with trying to win her over, in which he does over and over after realising she suffers from short-term memory loss.

Forrest Gump – Tom Hanks... the man you are! The film portrays Forrest's life all the way from childhood until his own son starts school. Talk about full circle!

You didn't think I was going to do this list without some Christmas classics.

Love Actually – They should just rename this 'Every UK actor you can think of...' It tells the story of eight couples encountering love as they lead up to Christmas Day. And I have to mention Hugh Grant's dancing...

The Holiday – Iris, played by Kate Winslet, and Amanda, Cameron Diaz, swap homes over Christmas and unexpectedly fall in love with the two local guys. Oh, and Jude Law, I can see why everyone loves you!



VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIVITIES



Valentine's Day is a day when emotions and feelings are raging, a day when each of us—**you and I**—exchange small gifts with family and friends, share moments together, or enjoy a casual chat over coffee or tea, not forgetting a delicious cake in a nearby café. Let's remember, however, that Valentine's Day is a day when we must take care not only of our relationships with others but also of our own well-being. Here are a few suggestions that will help you brighten up this joyful day with a pinch of love:

FOR COUPLES:



1. Cook or bake a romantic meal at home and add snacks of your choice.
2. Recreate your first date or a special memory.
3. Create a little scrapbook with your photos together.

FOR FRIENDS

1. Cook or bake a romantic meal at home and add snacks of your choice.
2. Recreate your first date or a special memory
3. Create a little scrapbook with your photos together.



FOR FAMILIES



1. Bake heart-shaped cookies or cupcakes together.
2. Throw a themed party with themed outfits, drinks, and snacks.
3. Have a fun family movie or game night.

FOR OURSELVES

- 1.** Treat yourself to your favourite meal or dessert.
- 2.** Enjoy a relaxing bath with bath bombs, candles, and flowers.
- 3.** Explore a city and take a photo of anything that catches your attention.



**WRITTEN BY PATRYCJA-MONIKA MICHALEWSKA
ILLUSTRATED BY OLUWATOMIWA AWONAIKE**



"Bittersweet Storm"

By Bronze Sparks

THE MEMORIES OF THE NAMELESS WOMAN AND THE MOST REMARKABLE NIGHT OF HIS LIFE.

It was a scorching summer in Athens. The temperature soared above 40 degrees. Sizzling heat, a blazing sun, and people everywhere. The bustling city never stopped. People moved hectically, trying to navigate the concrete jungle. It was in all this heat and madness that Matthew decided he needed a break. The work was gruelling, the money was not enough, and his parents were always arguing. He was young, only 19, but he needed a break from everyone and everything.

His break came in the form of a well-rolled blunt. He wasn't a junkie, but he enjoyed smoking every now and then. He wandered through the city, searching for a location that was discreet. After walking through Athens' cobbled streets, he found it - the perfect spot.

A nice little hillside with trees, grass, and a few scattered rocks. A small paradise, especially because it lay in the shadow of the magnificent Acropolis. He settled under a tree for shade, pulled out his lighter, and lit up his blunt.

He basked in solitude under the sun, sipping Mythos beer. Greek hip-hop blasted through his headphones as he chuckled at random memes on his phone. At that moment, life was great. After a while, he decided to take a stroll to stretch his legs and find somewhere to relieve himself.

As he was gracefully peeing behind a bush, it happened. He saw her.

She was sitting a little further away, smoking. She wore a flowing summer dress, her long, raven hair tumbling over her shoulders, complemented by stylish Ray-Ban sunglasses. She looked like a summer goddess – graceful and radiant. A small scar adorned her shoulder.

To Matthew, it was like spotting a divine being. He quickly washed his hands and dried them before approaching. Unsure of what to say or do, he decided to sit beside her. "Hey," he said, trying his best to sound cool.

She turned to look at him, raising an eyebrow. Before he could say anything else, he lost his balance and fell flat on his ass. She burst out laughing.

"Hey, kid," she said. "You good?"

"Ouch... I mean... Always, babe," he replied, with the voice of a 13-year-old trying to sound like Batman. An awkward silence followed.

"So, what's a beautiful creature like you doing in a place like this?" he asked, trying to sound smooth.

"Kid," she said, as she exhaled smoke. "You don't know what you're getting yourself into. Just let it go."

"Oh, I get it. You're taken."

"Nope. Recently single. But I'm telling you, I'm no good."

She was dark and mysterious, her tone hinted at a past full of secrets. A Greek femme fatale. But Matthew didn't care. She was older - he liked that. Mysterious? Even better.

Dangerous? Who cared?

"Give me one night," he said boldly.

"What?" she asked, baffled.

"Let me take you out for one night to prove to you I'm worth it," he said proudly.

"You are very persistent, kid. I'll give you that. Fine, when?"

"Tonight?"

"And when does tonight start?"

"Tonight starts now," he said with a mischievous wink.

They hit it off instantly. It was a night like no other. Matthew took her on an adventure through Athens' vibrant streets. They listened to street performers, shared laughs at a cozy café over some tasty Greek brew and enjoyed charred corn from a street vendor. They had a blast. He made her laugh a lot. She started to loosen up, though her worries remained. She was much older than him and had a tragic history full of trauma. She considered herself a bad person - someone who had hurt others and didn't deserve happiness. Matthew, on the other hand, had the whole world in front of him. As they walked, a flicker of hope sparked in her mind. Maybe, just maybe, she deserved a second chance.

"Hey, kid," she said suddenly. "Wanna hit the nightclub?"

He nodded, trying to mask his excitement.

The club was electric. Neon lights, alcohol, music. Sweaty bodies grinding against each other. They both had a drink before they hit the dance floor. They danced closely. Very closely.

"Don't be startled if I kiss you," she whispered in his ear.

He opened his mouth to reply, but before he could speak, her lips met his in a passionate kiss.

"You know what's crazy?" said Matthew. "I don't even know your name yet."

"You can have my name when you make me scream yours," she said seductively.

The night had been magical. They stumbled out of the club, laughing, her hand in his. But their bliss was interrupted.

"Where do you think you're going with my girl, kid?"

An older man with a cold face appeared, his eyes locked on the woman. Her face went pale the moment she saw him.

"Alex," she whispered, a flicker of fear crossing her face.

"I don't know what you're talking about, man. We're just—"

"You think you can just take what's mine?" Alex growled.

"Shut the fuck up. I don't belong to you," she snapped.

"You think this kid will save you? Turn back the clock?"

"Hey," said Matthew with bravado. "Don't talk to her like that."

"Shut up," the man growled, pulling a gun from his jacket.

Matthew's heart pounded.

"Alex, please. Don't do this. It's over. It's done. Just leave."

"Listen, man," Matthew said, trying to stay calm. "We didn't mean any harm. Just let us go, okay?"

"You think you got a girl, huh? She used to be a hooker. She's nothing."

"So what? I don't care about who she was."

"Well, I do," said Alex, as he raised the gun.

She stepped forward, her hand on Alex's arm, stopping him. Her voice was low and steady, but full of command. "No, Alex. This ends now."

For a moment, the world stood still. Slowly, Alex backed away.

"Go, kid," the woman shouted, her voice fierce. "It's over. You've got a life ahead of you. Don't waste it on me."

Matthew hesitated, but her eyes told him there was no other choice. All he had left were the memories of the nameless woman and the most remarkable night of his life.

WRITTEN BY EVAN ALEXIOU

DESIGNED BY BRONZE SPARKS

HAPPY SPICE

POLICE PUBLIC
CALL BOX

It was a sunny day in Harriet Park, with the sun making rays between the oak trees which lined the edges of the park. Sat between the trunks were small wooden benches with names of historical figures carved into the backrest.

The bench that Hannah had always chosen was named after Vincent Van Gogh, who had been known for his Pandorica Opens painting. It had always brought her inspiration.

Every day, she drew the same sketch of the park but added a different character from her favourite series, Doctor Who. Today she had decided to draw the Judoon from the episode “Fugitive of the Judoon” stood next to the lake in reference to the thirteenth doctor’s joke about the platoon of Judoon near the lagoon. “It isn’t a lagoon, but it wasn’t actually a lagoon then either, so it will have to do.” She thought giggling to herself. She was then interrupted by a shy man gently coughing to get her attention as she looked up, she saw his Converse All-Stars followed by his blue trousers, striped with thin light blue vertical stripes with a matching jacket, white shirt, burgundy tie, and gel spiked hair. She gasped quietly at the interruption and his familiar outfit.

“I’m so sorry to bother you but I don’t suppose that you would have a rubber that I could borrow, do you?” He asked fiddling with the buttons of his jacket, of which only three were buttoned out of four. Hannah sat there, lost for words at this curious man. The man seemed to notice the awkward silence growing between them.

“Hi I’m John Smith.” He said, hoping that by telling her his name, she would feel more comfortable.

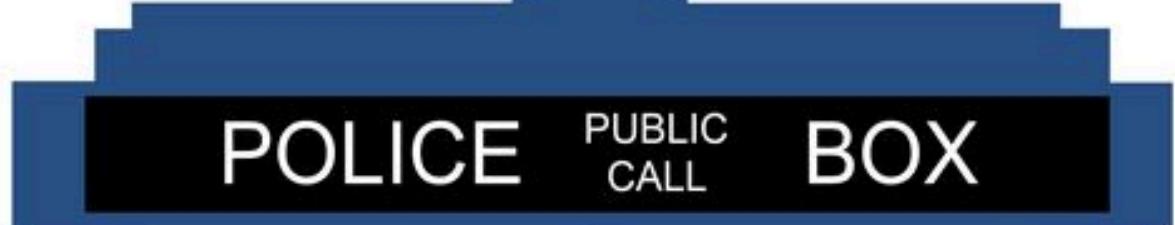
“Seriously?” She laughed. Seeing his confused look she elaborated. “Sure you are doctor.” Seeing him look even more confused and that he was starting to look at her as if she were crazy, she decided to explain. “I’m sorry but you look exactly like this character in this sci-fi show, and you even have the same name that he uses when he doesn’t want to be recognised.” He looked less confused after she had explained but still had a blank expression on his face. He blinked slowly and it was his turn to be left speechless. Hannah pulled out her phone and showed him what she meant. Seeing the picture, he burst out laughing.

“He’s like forty! I’m not that old! He’s way older than me!” He said in between laughing fits before eventually choking on his own saliva, causing his laughter to finally calm down. She looked at him in amusement.

“I think you will find that he is about a billion years old by this point, but you have to admit the similarities!”

He looked at her with a grin.

“I see, I look similar to a billion-year-old man! I’m not sure whether to feel complimented or offended!”



POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX

He joked holding his hand to his head, implying that he would pass out from the offence. They giggled together for a few more minutes before Hannah checked her watch. It was nearly time to leave. John interrupted her thoughts once more by talking to her, not that she heard what he had said to her. He judged on the blank look on her face that she hadn't heard him.

"Can I see what you have been drawing?" He asked.

"Only if you agree to watch an episode of Doctor Who, at least you will understand why I like it. Also, you are not allowed to judge!"

"Ok, ok!" He laughed, looking at her drawing. "What is wrong with that rhino.

It looks like a person and a rhino had a kid but its in its emo phase!"

"Hey! You said that you wouldn't judge! It's called a Judoon, It's like an alien police officer!" She yelled back at him playfully.

"Let me guess, Doctor Who?" He said, shaking his head in mock disapproval.

She nodded at him, smiling with a small giggle.

"Ok I have to go now, or my mum will get worried." She said before getting up to leave. They said their goodbyes and returned to their respective houses. She hadn't finished her sketch for the first time since she had started doing them and he still hadn't managed to erase his mistake.

Hannah returned to the park the next day, she planned on drawing a few Ood, standing in a circle around a tree inspired by the episode called, "Planet of the Ood" which she had rewatched for the sixth time last night. She decided to add the Doctor with them in the circle after the strange meeting yesterday, she thought as she made her way to her bench. She noticed that there was someone already sat down as she approached. She decided to walk past and find a new bench for today before she heard a voice calling her voice from behind her. She turned around to see John sat at her bench.

"John, I wasn't expecting to see you here." She said before walking back to her bench and taking a seat on her usual part of the bench.

"I decided to watch an episode with the Judoon last night, it took a while because I couldn't spell it." He laughed. "I eventually found it and watched it, I can't lie, I was so confused, I had no idea what was going on, but it was soo good! The episode was so interesting, and I think that I might be addicted."

You were right!" They giggled together and talked for hours.

They repeated this every day, Hannah even stopped bringing her sketchbook after a week.

Then one day, Hannah turned to John, "do you want to come round and watch my favourite episode with me?" John nodded.

A few years later, they were married and were about to have a beautiful baby girl who they would name Donna, after their favourite Doctor Who companion.



THE DEMON

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someone still believes they’re better off dead
than being themselves.”
— Sterling Graves

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