

ARCANUM ARCANORUM

ISSUE 3



Editorial

Hello and welcome to the final issue of the Oasis English Press!

Is it easy to wrap one's head around the fact that we're now done with ~75 hours of the 96 promised by Oasis '23? No. However, to see the efforts undertaken by every single stakeholder come so beautifully into fruition has been nothing short of fulfilling.

OEP was no different. In spite of the multiple roadblocks (occasionally self-created), my workforce and I had the privilege of making something larger than each of us come to life. I suppose that that itself serves as an incredibly humbling reminder – that institutions like these live on, regardless of whoever responsible for making it.

I hope that every reader too had the luck that I did, of having a good time, meeting new people, and making memories worth remembering.

Wishing love and luck,
Akshatha.

Team

Godfather, hello, imy, imy, Santa, Cameo, Cameo, inspo

folding come, Ml(sr)A, bestie, **Dead me**, rocktaves, fav, HarshMltA, Lights
Führer, hello, hello, imy most, hello, 2fav, hello, mia

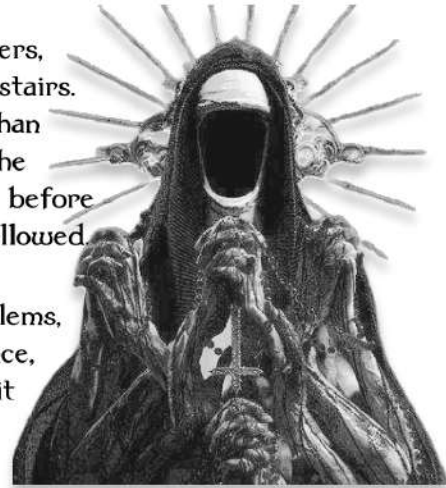
mvp, wya, jsexy, 2sury, wya, mvp, mvp, mac, m(ostest)vp, do on board, dvm,
mvp
pretty boy creep, special someone, lillith, Snata, backstage?!?!?, pulled, ace,
wya, sac roof, gulab jamun, coderbro, akshatha², poach war, Luffy, adhvaith
lookalike

English Movie Screening

A screening event for the movie “The Shining” was organised by MATRIX, the English literature club. Based on the book with the same name, “The Shining” is an acclaimed horror movie. The movie was screened in the J.C. Chaudhry NAB Auditorium.

Before the screening started, students poured into the auditorium in large numbers, with all the seats being occupied, along with groups of attendees sitting on the stairs. Adhvaith, the event coordinator, commented that the turnout was much larger than expected. The lights dimmed and the movie began after a few minutes, filling the auditorium with applause from the audience. Both those who had seen the movie before and those watching it for the first time were excited for the experience that followed.

During the screening of the movie, Matrix faced some HDMI connectivity problems, with the source getting disconnected for a few seconds occasionally. The audience, initially frustrated by the disturbances, eventually got used to it and embraced it as part of the experience. The coordinator tried his best to rectify the issue, but to no avail. To compensate for the inconvenience, the coordinator promised plum cakes after the movie, a gesture which was received with applause and cheers from the audience.



The movie, as expected of a Stephen King adaptation by Stanley Kubrick, was riveting. The audience was on the edge of their seats throughout the movie. The collective cheers and gasps at critical points added to the thrilling and suspenseful ambience created by the masterful movie. As the final sequence began, the audience got more excited with the cheers and applause getting more frequent. At the end, the movie explained the mystery of the Overlook Hotel and the credits began rolling with the auditorium resonating with applause. The audience, satisfied with the movie, asked for the promised plum cakes, but due to a miscommunication, the cakes turned out to be “Plum” kits.

Purple Prose

The Poetry Club organised Purple Prose, a poetry competition which saw participants from multiple locations such as Indore, Kolkata, and Delhi. The theme for the competition was ‘Crossroads of Destiny’, and was judged by Satyam Samrat and Deepali Agarwal.

Originally scheduled for 1:30 PM, the competition started with a delay of an hour and a half. The event witnessed twelve participants, many of which chose to recite more than one of their own poems. This was owed to the fact that there was no restriction on the number of poems.



The melodious poems, paired with the acoustics of the auditorium, enticed an emotional response in the audience. The featured poems were on topics such as lost love, competitive exams, and new experiences. After every few performances, Sindhura, a member of the Poetry Club, recited notable poems from poets like Robert Frost, to the delight of the audience.

The results were announced at the end, and the first place and second place awards were bagged by Anupriya and Shubham Kohli respectively. The event concluded with the poets and judges discussing their passion enthusiastically.

Street Play

Street Play, also known as Nukkad-Natak, was conducted by the Department of Theatre in the FD-II Q T, from 2 PM to 8 PM on Day Three of Oasis. The primary purpose of the event was to raise awareness on social issues, and was judged by members of the Antraal Theatre Group. The event was kicked off by the play Dagra, from Sri Aurobindo College, that focused on the extent of sex education in the country. The play began with a girl sharing her sexual harassment story. The performance left the audience visibly uncomfortable, due to its primarily dark nature. The play ended on a cathartic note, with the girl finding justice and being accepted by the society.



Manipal University, Jaipur picked a more recent topic, and chose to advocate for the LGBTQ community via their play Charitr. The play elicited a lot of interest in the audience, through the story of a young boy who grew up to identify himself as a woman. The performance was well-received by the audience. Enthusiastic applause greeted the Hindi Drama Club of BITS Pilani, as they took their positions to perform Jaadu Ki Jhappi. The play began with some house-workers being put up for sale, and focused on human rights of labourers and their stature in the community. It concluded with a chilling scene that depicted the dire conditions of the workers during the lockdown period. It was followed by an appeal from the actors for respect towards our workers that resulted in prolonged applause.

The LNM Institute of Information Technology also picked the upliftment of the LGBTQ community as their topic, and addressed all the factions of the Queer community. It provoked the audience to ponder on the general dislike and injustice constantly faced by the community. The performance ended with a character aptly stating that 'love is love'.

The event extended an hour beyond its slated time. However, the judges were full of praise for the participants, and claimed that the effort being put in by them and the talent on display had never been greater. In order to further improve their performances, the contestants were advised to focus on basics of projection and scene-smoothening. The Best Direction and the Best Actor Awards were presented to Manipal University, Jaipur. The Hindi Drama Club of BITS Pilani bagged the Best Overall Production Award.

Sukhmanch

Sukhmanch Stage Play was held in the JC Chaudhry NAB Auditorium on Day Three of Oasis. The play was performed by Sukhmanch, a professional theatre group from Delhi. It was an anthology of stories, inspired by those written by Amrita Pritam. The show was scheduled to start at 5:30 PM but began with a fifteen-minute delay. Each segment of the show was preceded by an Urdu verse relevant to the subject matter at hand.

The first part of the play was titled 'Jeevi Ratni Sapna'. It was narrated by a woman who recounted three incidents from her life. She talked about the love and dreams of the people in each story, juxtaposing the conclusion of every incident with each other.

The next part was titled 'Saat Sau Bees Kadam'. It followed the tale of a man, and the tragic ends to his love affairs with both men and women. It explored how the painfulness of these incidents affected his psyche. Despite its heavy themes, the segment managed to incorporate humour that left the crowd in stitches with every joke.

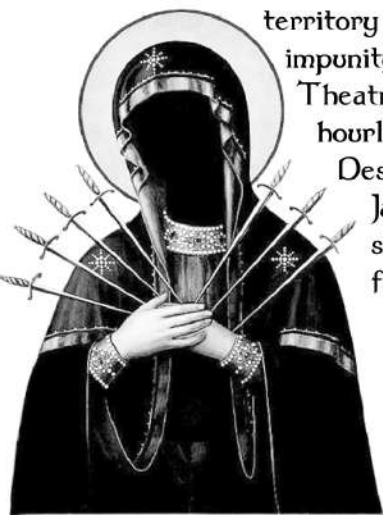
The third part of the play was called 'Laal Mirch'. It told the story of a man who objectified women throughout his life, and his eventual transition into realising the fault in his ways. Its conclusion was applauded enthusiastically, and saw the audience hooting after the man completed his journey.

'Chammak Challo', the next part, was about a girl named Challo and her loss of innocence due to sexual violence. It covered the topic of rape and its aftermath. While no trigger warning was given before the segment, its playwright, Shilpi Marwaha, acknowledged the graphic nature of the story. She explained that she had decided to explore the topic in detail to illustrate its full impact. This was followed by 'Mard', a story centred around a man and his unconditional love for his wife. It struck a contrast between his behaviour and traditional patriarchal standards for masculinity.



Stage Play

It is said that the stage is a magic circle where only the most real things happen, a neutral territory outside the jurisdiction of fate where stars may be crossed with impunity. The second day of Stage Play, organised by the Department of Theatre (DoT), was conducted in Main Audi. The event began at 8 after an hourlong delay. The colleges that performed were Deshpande College, SRM, Symbiosis Law School, and Manipal University Jaipur. Manipal University Jaipur's second performance, 'Antaryudh' shed light on the stark realities of patriarchy, unveiling the oppression faced by women and the haunting spectre of domestic violence.



As the play unfolded, we delved into the protagonist's troubled past and how it affected his current relationship with the people around him.

Deshpande College's drama was themed around honour killing. The performance was about the tragedies faced by a young couple with a rural background, who set out to begin a new chapter of their lives with big dreams but are met with a different reality.

Symbiosis Law School's period drama was a humorous tale that depicted the case of the construction of Taj Mahal with Shah Jahan's court set in today's reality. The vibrant costumes and captivating actions and expressions of the participants left the audience in awe.

SRM University's drama was a piece of fiction titled "Big Brother Is Watching You" that showcased a communist society where the protagonist wishes to be free from the clutches of the "Big Brother Gang" and the extremely censored and carefully controlled environment structured by them.

The judges for the event were Mr Sumit Singh, Mr Vipin Chaudhary, and Mr Amaan Ahmed from the Antraal Theatre Group, a crew that is primarily based in Delhi and Mumbai.

EDM & Hip-Hop Nite

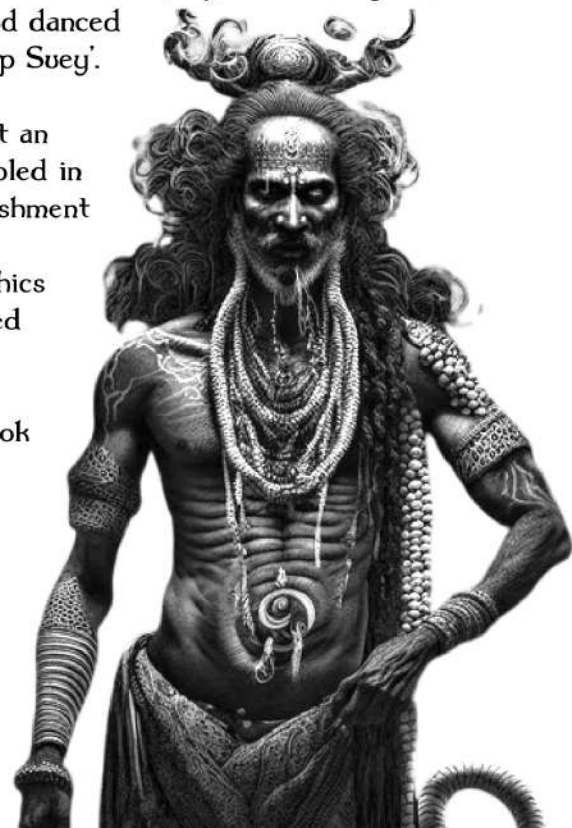
EDM and Hip-Hop Nite was organised by the Department of Professional Events on Day Three of Oasis at South Park. The event featured artists Nucleya, KR\$NA, Foosie Gang, and Dank Rishu. The event was slated to begin at 7:30 PM but received a half an hour delay.

The show began with a hip-hop battle between Arpit Bala, Dank Rishu, and Bhappa. They performed various songs including 'Maharani', 'Bandi Crack', and 'Shaloo Auntie'. However, the most anticipated segment of the show was reportedly lip-synced. It was nonetheless accompanied by cheers from the crowd, confetti, and fireworks. Foosie Gang concluded their performance by performing 'WuShang Clan' as requested by the audience.

KR\$NA continued the show with his appearance at 9 PM. He was enthusiastically welcomed by the fraction of the audience that still remained. At 9:45 PM, SKIPSTER – a turntablist, DJ, sound designer, and songwriter – excited the crowd with his DJ performance. The crowd danced and sang along with his music as he remixed popular songs such as 'Chop Suey'.

The show neared its conclusion as Nucleya arrived on stage and brought an instantaneous change in the atmosphere of the grounds. The crowd doubled in number as people started to come back from their little, two-hour refreshment break. His setlist began with 'Bhayanak Atma' and saw the audience jovially dancing to its beats. His mixes and the incredible graphics on the screen jolted the crowd awake. The energy in the crowd persisted as they cheered the visuals of 'Baba Ramdev'.

Several fireworks marked the close of the show at 11:45 PM. Nucleya took his leave by thanking BITS Pilani for being an ardent audience.



Razzmatazz

'Razzmatazz', a crew-dancing tournament, was organised by the Dance Club during Oasis 2023, the finals of which were conducted at the main auditorium on Day 3. The title sponsor of the event was 'eightfold.AI'. The event faced an unexpected delay due to the malfunctioning sound system.

The first round was marked by the groups showcasing their choreographed performances, including various formations and acts of synchronisation before the judges. Every production began with the traditional hyping announcement of "5-6-7-8."

At 2:30 PM, the curtains withdrew to reveal the dance team of 'Jindal College'. A technical error with the music played caused the team to restart their performance. Regardless of the hiccup in their routine, the group was able to put together a splendid show.

Next came the crew of 'CVS', followed by the team of 'VIPS'. They started their performance with an analogy of the warmth of the dancing fire. With their apt orange costumes, the dance incorporated the members using expressions to describe all emotions.

The team 'Oorja' executed a youthful and modern recital. 'Sensation', the team from KMC, was followed by a team from SVC, both with remarkable performances. The 'Ramjas' team had a well-received performance with multiple costume changes. The crew of 'Miranda House' danced in such a synchronised manner that it appeared almost mechanical.

Lastly, the team from 'Hindu College' performed with intricate sarees and traditional attire. Their presentation was one of a classical-contemporary fusion and left the audience in awe with their stunts.

The second round was 'Footloose', wherein the teams had to spontaneously come up with performances to the song being played. Despite the difficulty of the challenge, the participants managed to think of routines on-spot and synchronise almost effortlessly.

The last round of the competition involved the troupes dancing with given props, with only a twenty minute preparation time. The props involved everyday items such as pillows, schoolbags, chairs, umbrellas, book, etc. The round appropriately assessed the creativity of the members and their ability to adapt to unexpected mistakes during the performances.

The prizes for the first and runner-up prizes were 35,000 INR and 22,000 INR respectively. The winner of the competition was the team 'Sensation', followed closely by 'Ramjas'.



Tandav

Tandav, a dance competition, the kernel event of Ragamalika, aimed at showcasing the diversity and creativity of Indian dance forms, was held on October 30, 2023 at SAC Hall from 10:00 AM. However, there was a slight scheduling issue that resulted in a 30-minute delay, but this did not significantly impact the overall success of the event. The event consisted of two segments: group and solo.



The panel of judges included dance teachers from Birla Balika Vidyaapeeth, Pilani who assessed considering factors such as technique, synchronization, creativity, and overall presentation.

Solo comprised three rounds, each designed to challenge the participants and highlight their skills. In the first round, participants were given the opportunity to perform a dance segment that they had prepared in advance. This round allowed participants to showcase their proficiency in various Indian dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, and more. The competitors delivered captivating and well-rehearsed performances that set a high standard for the competition. The second round, known as "Tala," challenged the participants' adaptability and creativity. In this round, each participant was given an on-the-spot percussion piece to perform. They had only 10-15 minutes to prepare for this segment, and the audience was treated to a mesmerizing display of rhythm, creativity, and improvisation.

The final round, named "Rasa," added a unique twist to the competition. In this round, participants were provided with a Raas (a theme or mood) and were required to prepare a dance piece on the spot, incorporating expressions that matched the Rasa given. Like the second round, participants had just 10-15 minutes to prepare. This round emphasized the importance of both creativity and emotional expression in Indian dance forms.

Tandav: Group competition featured two competing teams that delivered group dance performances. It consisted of two rounds. The first round was same as the Tandav Solo first round. The second round challenged the teams to create choreography on the spot.

Each team was given a piece of music, and they had a limited amount of time (typically under 15 minutes) to choreograph a dance that matched the rhythm and theme of the music.

Overall, the event was a success, truly capturing both technical talent and diversity, along with innovative styles.



Tarang

The Department of Theatre (DoT) organised "Tarang", a Battle of the Bands with an emphasis on Fusion. Bands from different corners of the country participated, and so did the BITS Music Club and Gurukul. While the event was supposed to start at 1:00 AM, a delay of an hour and fifteen minutes was observed.

As the bands poured their heart and soul out in each and every song, the audience proved to be the perfect backing track – roaring in delight to the musical talent displayed. Some bands opted for original songs, some for covers, and some for both, showcasing the true aspect of fusion.

There were various criteria for judgement, such as fusion elements, technical skills utilised, and more. After each band had played their pieces, the results were declared, and the first and second places went to the Music Club of BITS and Gurukul respectively. As the results were unveiled, the audience screamed in fervour, as the home clubs took the top positions in the battle.



Axetacy & Drum Duels

The final rounds for Gurukul's Axetacy and Drum Duels, solo competitions for guitarists and drummers respectively, were held on October 30, 2023. Originally scheduled to be held on October 29, 7:00 AM onwards, the events were postponed to Day 3 of Oasis 2023 on account of the judge being inebriated prior to the competition. The preliminary rounds for both the competitions were held on Day 1 of Oasis, i.e. October 28, 2023.

The programme began at 3:30 PM in VK Lawns. First, the sponsors for the event - eightfold.ai, Acer, and boAt - were introduced. Following this, the first event, Axetacy commenced. Five finalists, all outstation participants, were selected for the final round. Each participant was given a backing track in the genre of their choice. They were given two minutes to warm up and prepare for their performance. At the end of two minutes, they were given three minutes to perform their piece following which the backing track would fade.

Performances ranged from rock to R&B and jazz. All five performances were received warmly by the audience, as indicated by the rounds of applause and loud cheers. After its conclusion, Gurukul presented its second event for the day - Drum Duels. Four finalists were selected from the preliminary rounds. The finals for this competition consisted of two rounds. The finalists were divided into two pairs.

For the first round, each pair had to jam to a bassline for approximately five minutes. None of the participants fully adhered to the switching rule in this round and continued playing despite being given a cue to switch. Nevertheless, the organising team ensured that the event ran smoothly. At the end of the bassline track, the pairs were made to free-jam without any backing track, with cues to switch being given by Gurukul at their discretion.

The best performer from each pair, Hrithik from Music Club BITS Pilani, and Samarth from MAIMS, advanced to the second round of the finals. In this round, one of them was instructed to maintain a groove while the other was made to improvise over said groove. This, in particular, elicited an overwhelmingly positive reaction from the crowd, who was already enjoying the showdown thoroughly. The finals for both competitions came to a close at 6:30 PM. The Gurukul team informed that the winners would be announced by the Department of Controls in due time. They thanked the attendees for making the events a success and urged them to attend their Free Jam later that day.



Pride March

Anchor organized a Pride March on Day Three of Oasis '23. Content creator and alumnus Raghav Sharma was the lead speaker for the event. The march started from the Anchor stall in the Krishna Bhawan parking lot and ended at Rotunda.

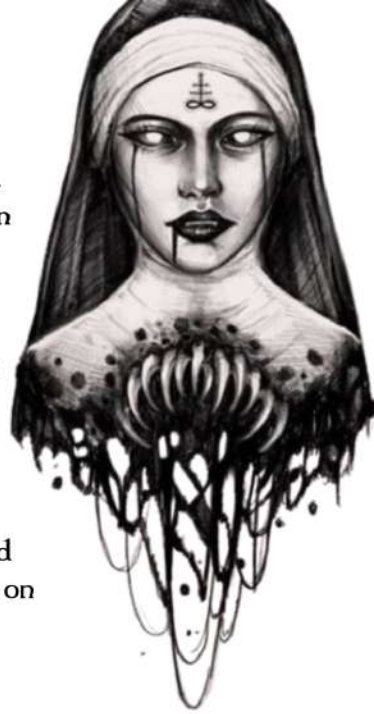
At the end of the march, Raghav Sharma detailed his journey from being a BITSian himself to finally coming out officially in April last year. He talked about how



Anchor had grown from a little Facebook page with very few followers into a club which has created a safe space and is creating positive awareness for the community. He addressed different queerphobic experiences and sentiments that are prevalent in society and expressed his empathy towards its victims.

Talking about the event, Anchor member Pranav Sharma said that planning for the event started weeks ago, with the team inviting speakers to the march in addition to painting posters and writing slogans for it. Pranav added that Anchor had been working incessantly since Day Zero to create awareness for the LGBTQIA+ community and for mustering support for the pride march.

The march was received with joy and support from all the attendees and people could be seen enjoying and dancing. The entire march was also screened live on Instagram on Anchor's official page for those who could not attend it physically.



Garble

“she mar on my gram till l grammar”

“_____ the kinda guy who...”

“do yourself on the board”

“santa has arrived”

“sesh squad never disappoints”



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