

SALMAN'S LETTER TO FANS FROM 1990 GOES VIRAL P5

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE | KOLKATA

'MY MOTHER'S DAY WISH IS TO BE WITH DHEER ALL DAY'



Life has given actress Ridhima Ghosh a new role, she's now a doting mother to seven-month-old baby Dheer. Ahead of Mother's Day she talks about acing it, her plans and more

P3

David Corenswet is the latest Man of Steel



James Gunn has dropped an official photo of David Corenswet as Superman! Details hint at the return of the iconic red trunks, which were absent in the previous Superman series. Gunn's Instagram read: 'Get ready, Superman. 7.1.25.'

When is my movie actually going to start?

Niharika Lal

For your last cinema outing, did you arrive 10-15 minutes late to avoid the pre-movie PSAs, ads and trailers? Or did you reach on time and then spend 15-30 minutes waiting for the movie to start while making a mental note to arrive late the next time?

With most cinemas showing an endless stream of pre-movie ads, avoiding them but not missing the beginning of the film has become a game that most cinegoers are forced to play. Moreover, with many recent hits boasting runtimes of three hours or more, audiences often find themselves spending four to five hours at the theater.

I once counted 30 minutes of ads in a movie. We are a captive audience and I really don't want to see Mukesh's kala fedda while munching on my popcorn

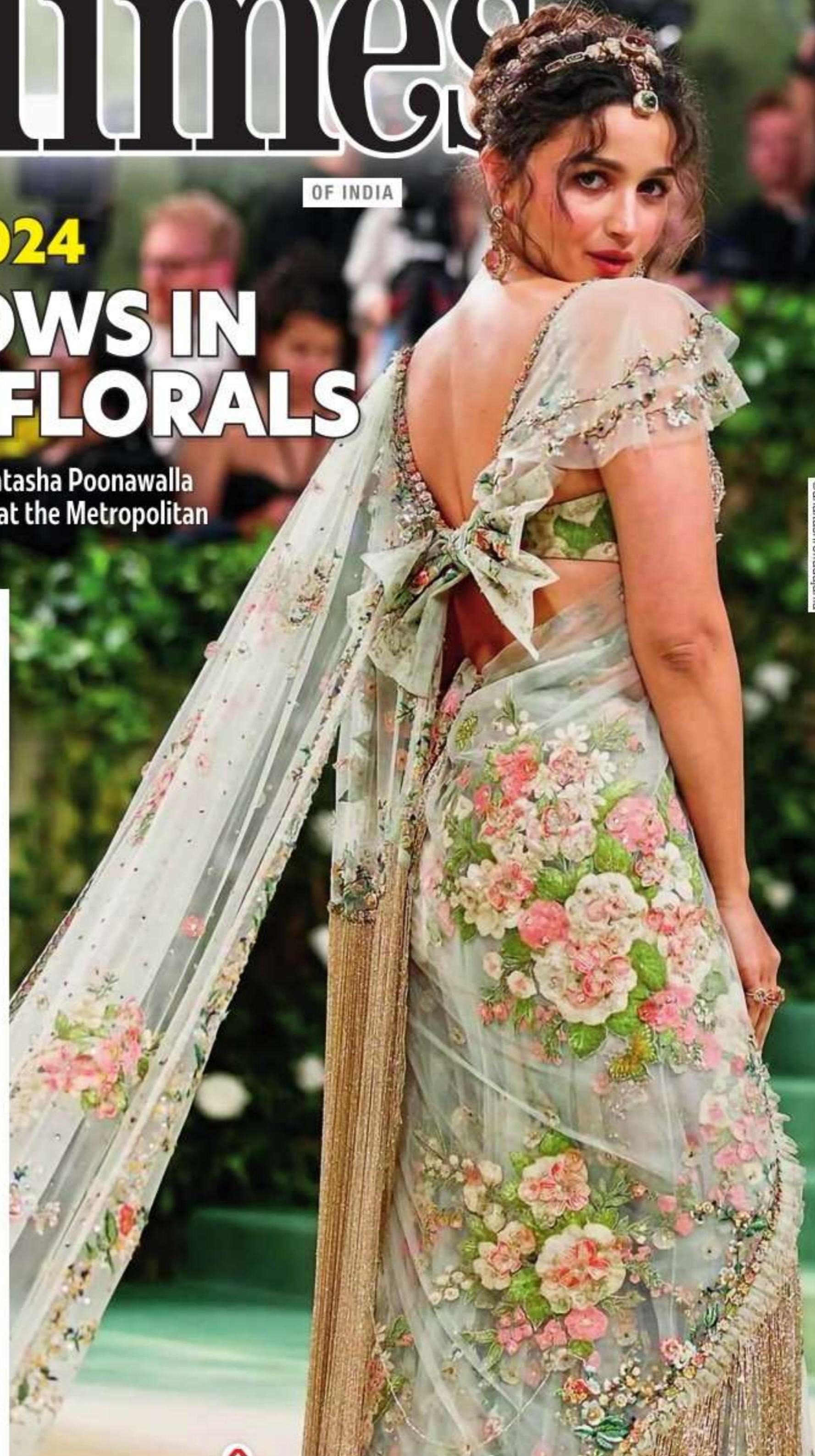
- Stand-up comedian Neeti Palta

#METGALA2024 INDIA WOWS IN VINTAGE FLORALS

Fashion A-listers like Alia Bhatt & Natasha Poonawalla ace 'The Garden of Time' dress code at the Metropolitan Museum of Art green carpet



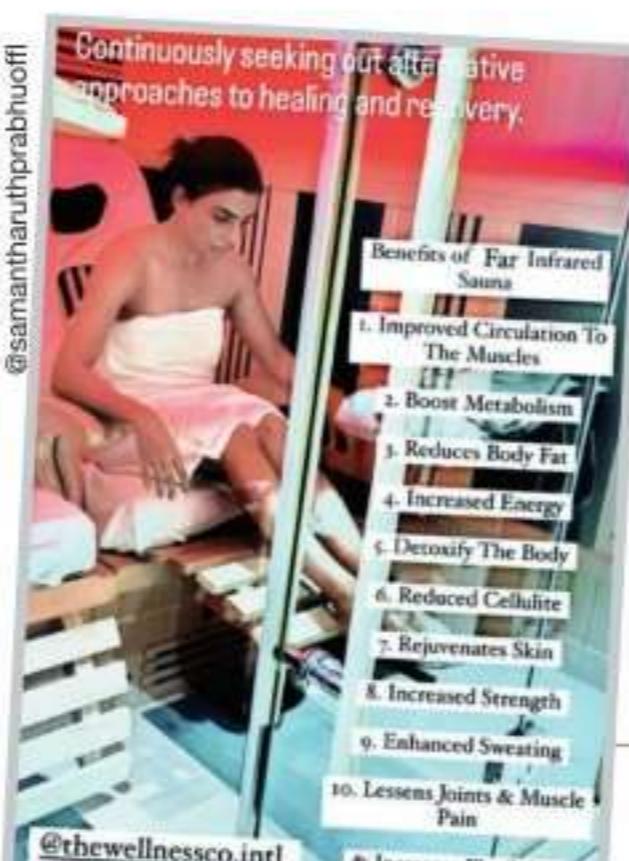
Natasha Poonawalla's Maison Margiela gown interpreted "the fragility of time and life co-existing with strength and permanence"



For her second outing at the prestigious fashion gala, held annually at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Alia Bhatt opted for a floral saree by Sabyasachi that was crafted by 163 artisans. About the outfit and her look, the actress wrote in an Instagram post, "In our journey for an Indian interpretation of this universal theme, the outfit took on a life of its own... Nothing embodies tradition and innovation like the saree... Creating this has been quite an experience... fun and stressful in equal parts [sic]!"

P6

Samantha's fans call out her fake nude picture



Samantha Ruth Prabhu's fans were upset when rumours spread that she had supposedly shared and then deleted a nude photo taken in a bathtub. However, it soon became clear that the photo was false and fans denounced those on social media who were spreading the rumour.

On Sunday, Samantha posted a photo on her Instagram stories to provide an update on her treatment for an autoimmune condition, myositis. In the story, Samantha disclosed that she was trying out a 'Far Infrared Sauna'. Captioning a photo of herself wearing a wrap during the treatment, she wrote, "Continuously seeking out alternative approaches to healing and recovery." A few social media users circulated the photo alongside a fake one allegedly depicting the actress nude. However, her fans were quick to refute and condemn the claim.

<< Samantha Ruth Prabhu (right) posted this photo on her Instagram story that led to the controversy online



'Self-imposed limit on the number of trailers will help'

Cinema business analysts say that a self-imposed limit on the number of trailers and ads in the beginning of a movie can help. Besides, mentioning the film's actual start time is also a good idea. Recently, some cinemas announced special ads-free cinema experience in the more luxury theatres.

Veteran cinema business expert and exhibitor Raj Bansal explains, "People come to cinemas to watch movies, and they are aware that a few ads will play before the film. However, non-stop 30-minute ads are indeed not acceptable. Most people plan to arrive 10-15 minutes late to avoid that. But there is indeed a middle way and if cinemas will promote more ad-free shows then it will boost the attendance too." Arijit Dutta, owner of a single screen theatre in Kolkata said, "We've a strict policy of not running ads for more than five minutes during the interval. As an audience, anything more than five minutes can be very annoying, and it takes away from the movie-watching time."

- With inputs from Sundas Jawed and Aatrejee Mohanta

I went to watch a movie at a city multiplex and it was scheduled to start at 6.35pm but started at 7.00pm. There's a need to understand that we pay for the experience of watching a movie comfortably with the assurance that there will be no delays

- Ritabrata Sen, a chef by profession and a movie buff from Kolkata

I recently went to watch Scorsese's Killers Of The Flower Moon. I knew the runtime is three hours and 26 minutes. But if you add the time it takes to find a parking spot and the duration of the ads, a 3.5-hour film easily crosses 4.5 hours. The bigger the movie, the higher the number of advertisements

- Himanshu Arora

who is in the hospitality business

I love watching films in the theatres but so many ads makes the audience restless. With intervals being over 20 minutes long, it takes away from the movie-watching experience

- Vinesh Sonthalia, financial consultant from Kolkata



One should become a mother only when they're ready for it: Ridhima

Pics: @ridhima.ghosh



Ridhima with Dheer on a vacation at Koh Samui; (right) with Gaurav Chakrabarty and Dheer

One should plan on having a baby when they are ready for it. People kept asking us about our plans, but we only decided on it when we were ready

Ruman Ganguly

This year, actress Ridhima Ghosh will be celebrating her first Mother's Day with her seven-month-old son Dheer (Chakrabarty). She shares her thoughts with CT from Koh Samui about being a first time mother, how life has changed after motherhood, her parenting style and more.

'MOTHERHOOD HAS CHANGED ME FOR THE BETTER'

Ridhima believes things have certainly changed for the better post motherhood. She says, "It is only after I became a mother myself, that I realized how divine the experience is."

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ME-TIME FOR NEW MOTHERS

The actress feels me-time is important for any individual and not just new mothers. However, she stresses on the fact that she's still the same person, just more responsible. Hence, she has never felt the dearth of me-time since she became a mother. "I didn't go through postpartum depression and never felt I was sacrificing everything for my child. My son is hassle free, which has further made my post-delivery days smooth. Moreover, it's been easier because of all the support I've received from my husband Gaurav (Chakrabarty), my mother-in-law and my father.

At moments, when Dheer smiles back at me, interacts with me in his baby language, and sleeps in my arms, I feel like this is the best phase of my life

Will career take a backseat now?

The Rang Milanti actress has never believed in accepting any work that comes her way just for the sake of money, and says it will remain the same. "I'll have to manage work and home at the same time, but there are thousands of women doing it every day, so I'm sure I'll do it too. Both Gaurav and I are hosting a reality show. On the first day of the shoot, I managed my pumping schedule in between the shots," adds Ridhima.



Plans for this Mother's Day

Mother's Day has always been special to Ridhima. "As a child I used to make cards for Maa, and when I started earning, I used to buy gifts for her on this day. I also used to bake cakes to make her feel special. Now, I celebrate it with my mother-in-law," she says. Revealing her plans this year, she says, "Though Dheer is too little to understand the occasion, I will spend the whole day playing with him. I wish my mother was here to celebrate this special day with me."



'GAURAV IS CERTAINLY A HANDS-ON FATHER'

Ridhima feels blessed to have a positive support system at home, and it has only made motherhood beautiful for her. She says, "Relationships do change after having a baby, but Gaurav and I still make it a point to spend some 'our time' too, we go for movies and long drives, all while keeping Dheer's schedule in mind."



Dip You Know?
 Manoj Bajpayee rejected a role in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas



Manoj rejected the offer because he wasn't interested in playing a supporting role. He declined the role in *Devdas* because he was accustomed to playing lead roles in his films. In an earlier interview, he said, "I've always wanted to play *Devdas*. There have been a few adaptations but no one thought of casting me."

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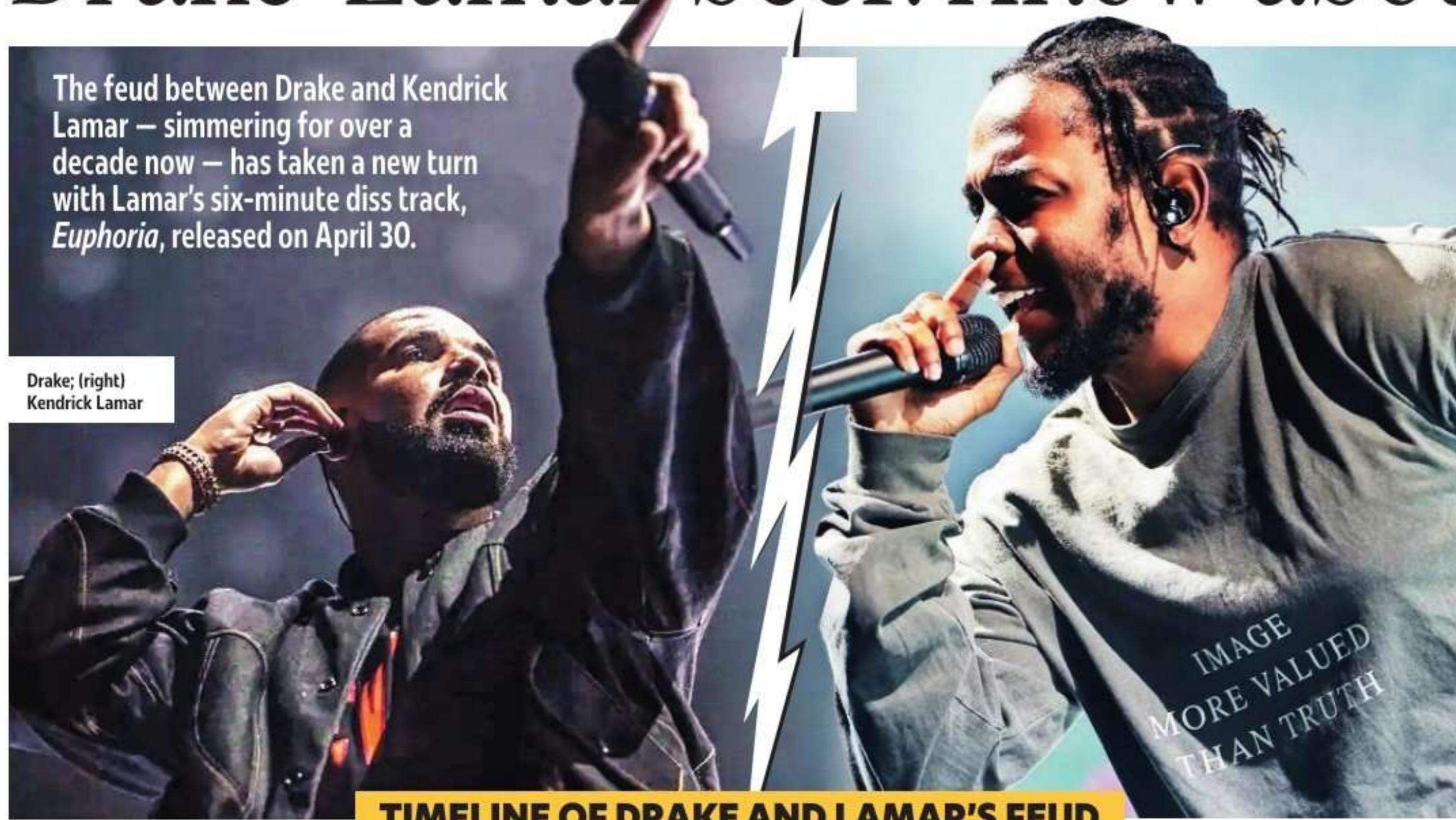
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Drake-Lamar beef: Know about their 'diss-tory'

The feud between Drake and Kendrick Lamar — simmering for over a decade now — has taken a new turn with Lamar's six-minute diss track, *Euphoria*, released on April 30.

Drake; (right) Kendrick Lamar



TIMELINE OF DRAKE AND LAMAR'S FEUD

OCTOBER 2012

Drake was the more established star back then, and Lamar was the rising one when they collaborated with ASAP Rocky on his song *F**kin' Problems*. The duo also joined forces on Lamar's debut album for the track *Poetic Justice*, which reached the 26th position on the Billboard Hot 100.

AUGUST 2013

Fresh off the success of his major label debut, *good kid, m.A.A.d city*, Lamar boldly called out his peers, including Drake, with his and Big Sean's *Control*, in a searing take on the state of the industry. The lyrics shook the landscape as he declared his intention to outshine his fellow artistes.

OCTOBER 2013

Lamar made a bold statement during a performance at the BET Awards. He boasted that his skills had 'tucked a sensitive rapper back in his pyjama clothes'. The line was interpreted as a reference to Drake.

2014-2023

During these years, both the rappers subtly fired shots, but not directly, at each other. Lamar, in his song *King Kunta*, called out Drake over his ghostwriting and penned, 'I can dig rapping/ But a rapper with a ghost writer?' This was in 2015. Drake countered back through the song *100* the same year, rapping: 'I would have all of your fans/ If I didn't pop and I stayed on some conscious s-t'.

OCTOBER 2023

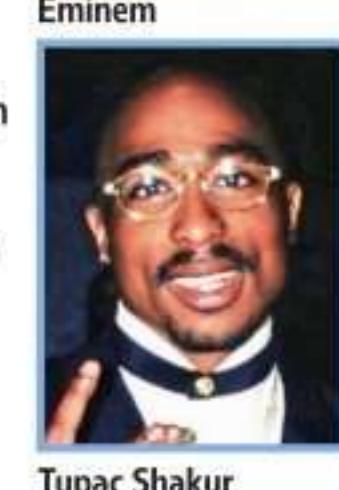
In *First Person Shooter*, J. Cole and Drake dropped the now-infamous 'big three line', referencing J. Cole, Drake and Kendrick Lamar. It said, 'Love when they argue the hardest MC/ Is it K-Dot? Is it Aubrey? Or me? We the big three like we started a league/ but right now, I feel like Muhammad Ali.'

APRIL 2024

Lamar collaborated with Future and Metro Boomin on song *Like That*. He didn't mince words. He dismantled the notion of a Big 3 involving himself, Cole, and Drake and said there are no big three but 'it's just big me'. In response, Drake released the first of two diss tracks, titled *Push Ups*, in which he mocked Lamar's height as well as his collaborations with Maroon 5 and Taylor Swift. Later that month, Drake dropped another song, *Taylor Made Freestyle*, in which he taunted Lamar, calling him a coward for failing to respond. The track uses AI to imitate the voices of the late Tupac Shakur — one of Lamar's heroes.

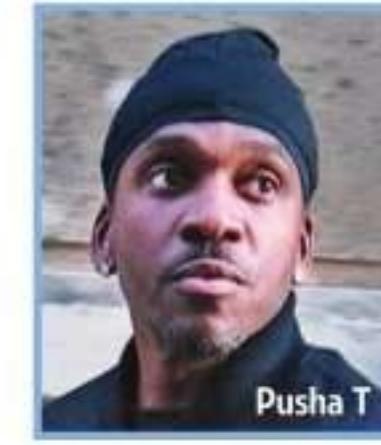
OTHER RAP BEEFS IN THE HIP-HOP HISTORY

- The East Coast-West Coast rivalry of the 1990s, culminating tragically in the deaths of The Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur, is a stark reminder of how feuds can spiral out of control



- Eminem and Benzino's decades-long feud, marked by jabs at each other's appearance, is a testament to the longevity and intensity of some rap rivalries

- Pusha T's revelation of Drake's secret child in *The Story of Adidon* sent shockwaves through the industry, showcasing the strategic power of diss tracks in shaping reputations



— Compiled by Dnyaneshwari Burghate

Bizarre?



Man spins fire sword 73 times

David Rush from Idaho bagged a Guinness World Record by throwing and catching a fire sword 73 times in 30 seconds. Rush, who has broken more than 250 Guinness World Records and currently holds 166 titles, previously set the 1-minute version of the record at 136.



Knee-high or printed: Flaunt your socks in style

The latest visible sock trend that has taken social media by storm involves flaunting your socks. Here's how to hop on the trend on a budget



TIPS AND TRICKS

- Play around with ankle-length, knee-high, or crew socks
- Pair knee-high socks with tights, denims, short skirts or minidresses
- Opt for ankle-length socks with midi skirts, shorts or cute dresses
- Choose crew socks with skinny pants, tights, side-slit maxi dresses
- Solids, prints, floral, stripes, sheer, lacy or with bows — there are plenty of options to pick from
- Apart from sneakers, don't be afraid to show your socks off by wearing them with sandals, stilettos, heeled or flat pumps
- You can also play around by pairing lacy socks with chunky sandals, sheer ankle-length socks with heels, or loafers

Men can too follow the trend by simply pairing the socks with open-toe sandals, flip-flops, or sliders like Justin Bieber. Work this look with shorts, linen pants, or even slim-fit ankle-length trousers

Take inspiration from Hailey Bieber by pairing the socks with a sporty or cute dress. Keep your look neutral, or play it up by clashing colours and prints. Add accessories and you are good to go

If fashion is your middle name, take inspiration from the OG Sarah Jessica Parker. Let the socks be the scene stealer by pairing knee-high socks with block heels, a dress and minimal accessories



@taapsee



@justinbieber

Want to take the easy, casual route? Take cue from Taapsee Pannu, and wear solid coloured socks with a pair of skinny torn jeans and sneakers

— Compiled by Nandini Ganguly

BASSIST MOHINI DEY JOINS WILLOW SMITH'S BAND



Debarati S Sen

Mohini Dey, who has recently been signed up for Willow Smith's new band, is super-excited about the opportunities ahead. In an exclusive chat from the sets of Jimmy Fallon's show in New York, Mohini spoke to us about working with an eclectic set of musicians, and how Willow — the daughter of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith — has a deep India connect. Excerpts:

How did you get around to working with Willow Smith?

I was hired for her band around three months ago. I haven't really spoken about it, and it was kind of a surprise when it launched! When her team called me, they said that Willow was a big fan of my playing and 'she wants you in the band'. I play a lot of fusion, and her music is more pop, but they assured me that her album (released a few days ago) was quite technical and 'kind of fusion'. I knew it'd be fun and would open a huge market for me in the US. So, we did NPR's Tiny Desk (concert series). I finally met Willow and the others in the band a week before that at the rehearsals.

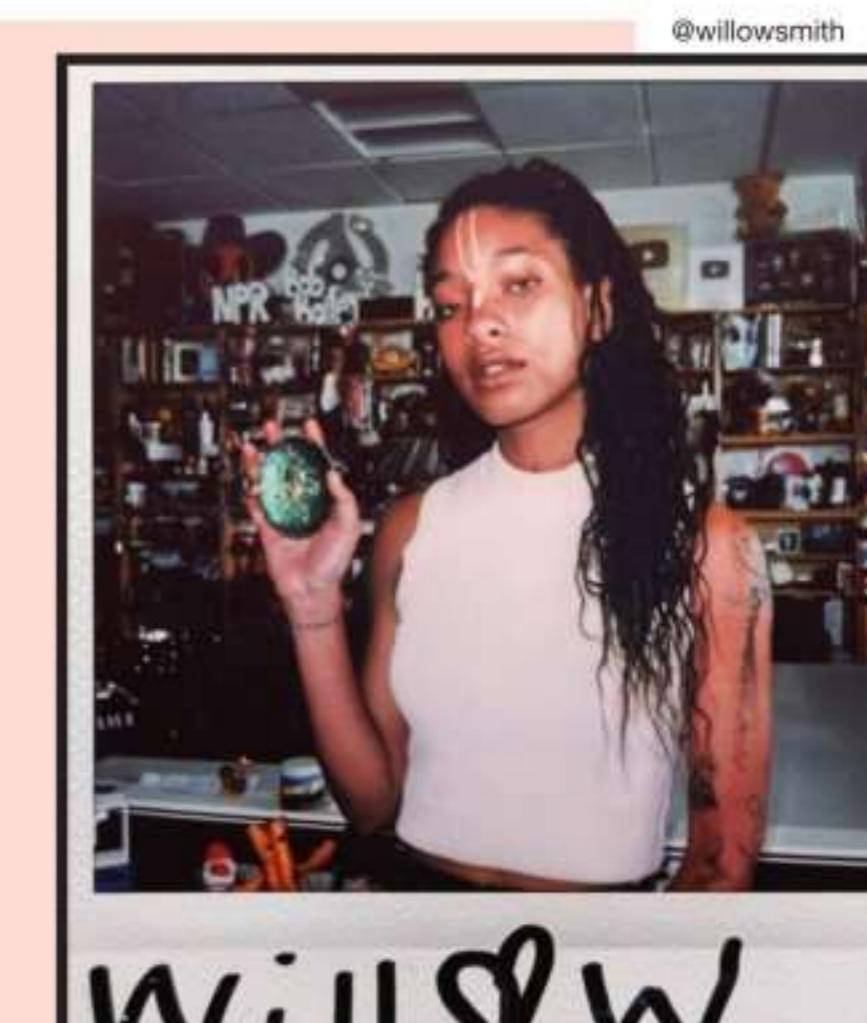


Willow released her debut single when she was nine. Now at 23, she is such a pro. Tell us about working with her.

She has such a great voice and is so talented! She plays drums, bass guitar and sings. She incorporates Indian *gamaks* and African grace notes and she has great vocal control. It was fascinating to see the music she was creating. Willow has a masterful mind. She writes and produces her own songs and is a true musician. I absolutely adore her!

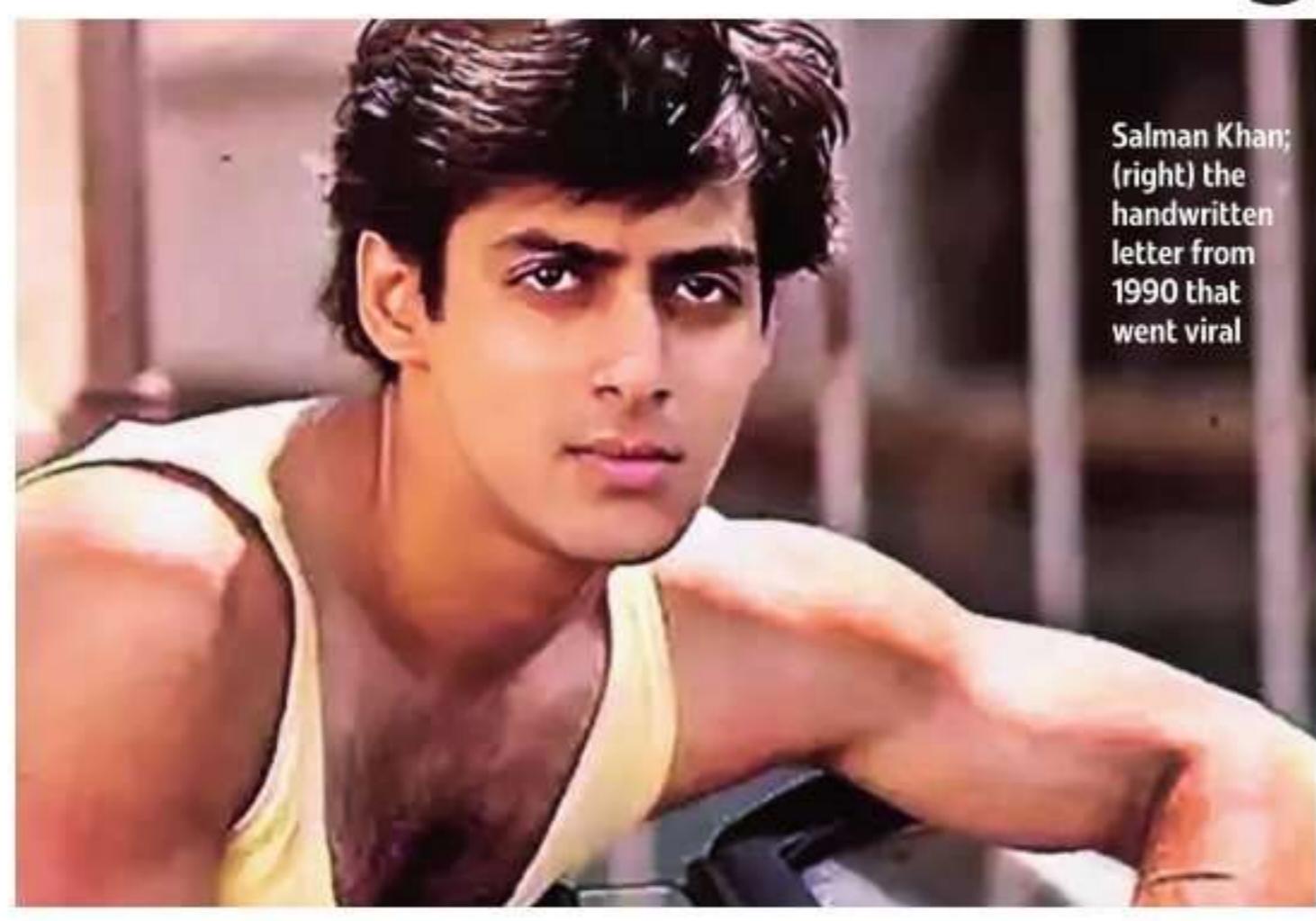
How has it been playing with the eclectic set of musicians who are in Willow's band?

It was my first time playing with The Pocket Queen on drums, Liso Lee on guitar, Zach Tenorio on keyboards and Willow. I'm the newest band member! On the first day of rehearsal, we all just played and fell in love with each other! It was sounding so good — we were playing live, no playback, no clicks, no in-ears! Very few people are doing that in today's time. We're still learning so much about each other and there's a lot of new energy. We're jamming in between rehearsals, coming up with new songs. There's lots going on behind the scenes.



Willow Smith at the Tiny Desk concert

Salman's handwritten letter to fans from 1990 goes viral



Salman Khan; (right) the handwritten letter from 1990 that went viral

So my dear Line Blitz Fans, April 1990

Here is a little something I want you guys to know about me, first of all I have to thank you for accepting me and for being my fans. I hope and will try my best to live up to your expectations in every film I do. I am being very choosy about the films. I am starting and concentrating on good scripts to the best of my judgement because I know that what ever I do now will be compared to 'NAINE PYAR KIYA'. So whenever you hear an announcement, be rest assured that it is going to be a good film and I am going to give it my 100% Best.

I love you and I hope that you keep on loving me, because the day you stop loving me you'll stop seeing my films, and that is the end of my career. Remember you are the people who make people like us.

About my personal life, I don't have much to say, you know it already.

People say that I have made it, I don't think so, I have yet to make it but I know one thing that I have been accepted by you.

Thank you, Your Salman Khan

A handwritten letter from Salman Khan is making rounds on social media, where he expresses gratitude to his fans following the success of his debut lead film, *Maine Pyaar Kiya* (1989). The film, released on December 29, 1989, prompted the letter, which is dated April 1990.

Salman wrote in the letter, "Here is a little something I want you guys to know about me. Firstly, I have to thank you for accepting me and for being my fans. I am doing and concentrating on good scripts to the best of my judgement, because I know that whatever I do now will be compared to '*Maine Pyaar Kiya*'. So whenever you hear an announcement, rest assured that it is going to be a good film, and I am going to give it my 100 per cent. I love you and I hope that you will keep on loving me because the day you stop loving me, you'll stop seeing my films and that is the end of my career. Remember, you are the people who make people like us (sic)."

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Fairy tale meets couture at Met Gala 2024



Co-chair Zendaya served back-to-back high couture moments. Her Maison Margiela's John Galliano dress, based on a 1999 vintage Dior piece featured a hummingbird on her neck

Mindy Kaling donned a beige sculptural gown - a Gaurav Gupta look reminiscent of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's Cannes appearance in 2022

>> While Cardi B donned a black monochromatic look by Windesien, her emeralds had all the eyes



Lana Del Rey brought the forest down the Met steps as she wore a custom Alexander McQueen beige gown with branches down the entire bodice

Dune star Rebecca Ferguson did a costume reveal in Thom Browne as she walked down in a plain black cloak - only to show an A-line blue gown decorated with black ravens

Marking the first Monday of May, celebrities sashayed down an off-white carpet dotted with teal borders at this year's Met Gala. Despite the absence of Rihanna and Taylor Swift, and with many looks drawing inspiration from the costume exhibit titled *Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion* over the dress code: *The Garden Of Time*, the gala witnessed lots of floral, vintage, and fairy tale-inspired looks.

Garden Of Time: An ironic but fitting theme

JG Ballard's dystopian narrative *The Garden Of Time*, serving as the inspiration for this year's dress code, provides an ironic & fitting backdrop for the gala. Within the tale, time freezes, trapping the wealthy in lavish yet motionless environments. This theme serves as a poignant commentary on current social affairs, especially as the Met Gala is marked by the contemporary elites. In parallel, protesters gathered on the outskirts of the gala in solidarity with Gaza.



Clutching a sand-filled hourglass in one hand like the Goddess of Time herself, Water singer Tyla ascended the Met steps in a Balmain look without touching the ground

>> Designer Harris Reed wore a three-dimensional corset, a draped train and a halo lined with black arrows

>> Kim Kardashian snatched her waist in a tight silver corset by John Galliano. A breathtaking look - quite literally!

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