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BI-WEEKLY

Issue: 69



Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE. 501(C)3. The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Eight-state of NY-NJ-CT-NE

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PM Modi Lists 5 Pledges to Turn India into a Developed Country in 25 Years



FIA COMMEMORATES AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV, HOISTS INDIAN TRI-COLOR FLAG AT TIMES SQUARE

History created as DSP Sings National Anthem Live on Times Square to Mark 75th Year Anniversary of the Motherland India



Over a thousand members of the community gathered in the heart of Times Square as the Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE held its annual Indian tri-color hoisting on Times Square.

The flag was hoisted by Hon. Consul General of India Mr. Randhir Jaiswal and in attendance were the famous rockstar from India Devi Sri Prasad (DSP), renowned composer and singer Shankar Mahadevan and Mayor of New York City Hon. Eric Adams,

Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi and Assemblyman from New Jersey Raj Mukherji. Also present were Indian-American NASA Astronaut Mr. Raja Chari and Indian American Formula-3 Race Car driver Atharva Desai.

From the motherland, political stalwarts Dr. Samit

Patra and Mr. Kailash Vijayvargiya also participated and addressed the gathering.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. CG Mr. Jaiswal said that today we celebrate freedom, democracy, and all that we share with this great country

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- the United States of America. He expressed confidence that the two nations will continue to strengthen ties and continue building and expanding India US relations.

Mr. DSP expressed his excitement and pleasure to be at Times Square on this historic occasion and sang a few lines from 'Har Ghar Tiranga' - a song composed by him and released on the eve of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He then sang the

national anthem live along with the gathering.

Mr. Shankar Mahadevan sang lines from the patriotic song 'Ae Watan Aabad Rahe Tu...' and expressed his joy to join Devi Sri Prasad in celebration of India. He was proud to represent India at Times Square and in the presence of his family.

FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya thanked distinguished guests in attendance and offered special thanks to the NYC Mayor, who during his council years offered his assistance to

the community through FIA and would also review the incorporation of Diwali as a holiday. Vaidya expressed his gratitude and joy in witnessing the celebrations of the motherland being participated in large numbers on a Monday morning and thanked the distinguished guests, who were in attendance including the sponsors, Amneal, Dunkin and State Bank of India.

FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai said that he takes immense pride in the fact that the Indian

National flag is being hoisted at this iconic landmark and saluted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his vision and efforts for celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which encompasses the Global community. Dance score on DSP composed song 'Har Ghar Tiranga' was performed by Rudra Dance Academy to commemorate the 75 Years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Hon. Raja Chari, US Astronaut and commander of the NASA

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Mayor of New York City Hon. Eric Adams addressing the gathering at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



Hon. Consul General of India Mr. Randhir Jaiswal addressing the gathering at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



NASA Astronaut Mr. Raja Chari at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



Formula-3 Race Car driver Atharva Desai addressing the gathering at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



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SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the ISS, served as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station for 177 days in orbit. During his time on the International Space Station (ISS), he performed two spacewalks and helped in capturing and releasing three SpaceX Dragon spacecraft and two Cygnus cargo

vehicles, expressing his joy in participating in this historic celebration of the motherland's 75th anniversary. Raja Chari expressed his pride in attending the celebration and said his late father, who hailed from Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh, would have been extremely proud to see him being the guest of honor.

Atharva Desai and his father

participated in the event. Atharva, who was dressed in his racing car suit, expressed his joy in being a part of the celebrations on Times Square and being in attendance of distinguished personalities.

Later in the day, the Iconic Empire State Building was lit up in the tri-color of the Indian National Flag - saffron, white and green. In attendance were

DSP, Shankar Mahadevan, Hon. Raja Chari and DSP who was overjoyed and emotional while performing the lighting ceremony.

In the evening, a 220-ft Khadi tri-color was flown over the Hudson River - a spectacle photographed and shared on social media in the thousands within the first two hours of the Times Square building lighting.



Devi Sri Prasad and singer Shankar Mahadevan at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



Dr. Sambit Patra, Mr. Kailash Vijayvargiya, Mayor Meera Joshi and Assemblyman Raj Mukherji at the Flag Hoisting ceremony



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FIA committee at the Hudson River for the 220-ft Khadi tri-color flying above the river

Empire State Building lit up in the tri-color of the Indian National Flag

India Shines at Boston



Times are never actually repeated, and so are perhaps memorable events; that was the scene created in Boston, for celebrating India's 75th Independence Anniversary.

It happened, and it happened really big, in a city that is well known not only for its culture and history but more importantly, for being the birthplace of Revolution to gain freedom from the same colonial power that India gained freedom 75 years ago. So, Boston was an appropriate place for the first-ever FIA's India Day parade.

The whole community in a show of solidarity, hailing from different strata of the society, turned out to commemorate the occasion. In the not-too-distant past, it was tough to imagine a world clapping and cheering for India and its successful struggle for India's independence, 75 years on.

As if that was not enough, there were floats representing 32 nations of the world, including Vietnam, Nepal, Burma from Asia; and many South, Central and North American countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, in addition to India and the United States. How is such a

thing even possible? It takes guts and josh, as was pointed out by the leader of this movement, Mr. Abhishek Singh, the President of the New England Chapter of the Federation of India Associations (FIA).

The Boston event attracted nearly a thousand participants. Indian-Americans representing every region of India showing cultural programs of music and dance. India's tri-color, flying high in the sky, stole the hearts of the public at large. It was not just an ordinary flag, it was a 220-feet long Indian tri-color flying along with an American star spangle being flown by a small airplane in the blue sky, scattered with white and grey clouds as if they helped smile sky on the event very broadly. For all of us, we looked up to India, we looked up at the sky that showed the flapping of the tri-color so beautifully.

The Grand Marshal Mr. R.P. Singh, the famous Indian cricketer, said that he has been bowled over by the show of patriotism and said that the Diaspora continues to make India proud through their significant contributions in every field. FIA Chairman Mr. Ankur Vaidya said that it was a

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Flag Hoisting at Rhode Island State House

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 5

proud moment and an honor to be a part of the first ever India Day Parade in Boston and lauded the efforts of all the volunteers, who worked tirelessly day and night to put the event together.

Recalling the countless, valiant

sacrifices of founding leaders, who won India's freedom, FIA President Mr. Abhishek Singh said, "Our forefathers bought our freedom with their hard work and sacrifices. Now we must work hard to create a better nation for generations to come. You don't change the course of history by

turning the faces of portraits on the walls. Our founding fathers fought for India's freedom. Let's make sure we know more about them by attending the 76th India Day Celebration organized by FIA". He further said, "India should once again become a *Vishwa Guru* and the hub of

innovation and knowledge. For that to happen, it is important to increase awareness about numerous aspects of Indian heritage and culture in our younger generations and inspire the young budding minds to absorb the values embedded in them."



Indian cricket player Mr. R. P. Singh and several politicians from Massachusetts and New England at the Flag Hoisting ceremony

FIA New England is celebrating 75 years of Independent India under the banner of "The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". In Hindi, the phrase *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* means the elixir of freedom, the elixir of inspiration for the fighters of independence endeavors, the energy of Independence,

the elixir of *Atma Nirbharta*, the elixir of fresh thoughts and commitments. FIA NE President Mr. Abhishek said he is happy that just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had envisioned, *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* is taking the form of a mass movement, with people from every section of

society participating in different programs across the state. This event will showcase to the entire globe the accomplishments of the independence movement and will reflect inspiration from the freedom fighters, self-reliance, fresh resolutions, and new visions. While we take

pride in originating from our native country, India deemed the world's largest democracy, we are equally as proud and grateful to be able to call the US our home, where democracy and personal freedom are held at the utmost priority.





FIA New England committee members at the India Day Parade



A 220-feet US-India flag flying high in the sky over Boston attracted everyone's attention during the first-ever India Day Parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the country's independence



**THE
DIASPORA
BI-WEEKLY**

75 years of
India's Independence

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

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House Passes Sweeping Climate, Health Care Bill

The United States Senate has approved a \$700 billion economic package that includes big measures on healthcare, taxes, and climate change. The bill aims to reduce the price of some medications, increase corporate taxes, and reduce carbon emissions.

The passing of the bill - a flagship part of President Joe Biden's agenda - is a boost ahead of mid-term elections. But it is a significantly scaled-back version of the \$3.5tn package that was first proposed by his administration.

The bill, a product of 18

months of intense wrangling, passed by a margin of 51 to 50 on Sunday with Vice-President Kamala Harris casting the deciding vote. It was previously blocked by two Democratic senators, who shared Republican concerns about its cost.

It will now be sent to the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, where it is expected to pass in a vote on Friday, 12th August before the president can sign it into law.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes legislation that would allow the government to negotiate lower prices

for prescription medicines provided under its Medicare health insurance programme for those aged over 65.

That is expected to save hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade, according to estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The package also includes a minimum 15 per cent tax on most corporations that make more than \$1bn a year in profits. That measure, an issue of contention during negotiations in Congress, is opposed by business groups who argue it will limit investment.

The bill also includes \$369bn for climate action - the largest investment in the issue in US history.

Some households could receive up to \$7,500 in tax credits to buy an electric car, or \$4,000 for a used car. Billions will also be spent in an effort to speed up the production of clean technology such as solar panels and wind turbines.

There will also be \$60bn given to communities that have suffered the most from fossil fuel pollution. The authors of the bill say it will cut the country's carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2030.

Senator Vin Gopal honored by Leading National Mental Health Non-profit

Mental Health America (MHA), considered a leading community-based non-profit, recognized 11 state legislators as MHA's 2022 Legislative Champions, among them Indian-American Vin Gopal of New Jersey. Each was honored in Denver at MHA's Regional Policy Council (RPC) meeting, the organization announced August 2, 2022, in a press release.

New Jersey State Sen. Vin Gopal was recognized "for his



Photo: newsindiatimes

work to establish a state-wide crisis system of care, efforts to increase suicide prevention training, and his focus on school-based mental health education," the press release said.

Tweeting about the recognition as MHA's 2022 Legislative Champion, Gopal said, "Honored to be one of 11 state legislators throughout the country. We accomplished so much as it relates to mental health, but we have so much more to do. Thank you to all the stakeholders who continue to work on this issue."

"These legislators are all working tirelessly in their states to improve mental health support and increase access to care for their constituents," Debbie Plotnick, executive vice president for state and federal advocacy at MHA, is quoted saying in the press release. "We at MHA appreciate their commitment and commend their achievements in school-based mental health, parity, crisis care, telehealth, and more. They are an inspiration to the other legislators in their states and nationwide."

British Regulator 1st to OK Moderna's Updated COVID Booster

British health authorities have authorized an updated version of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine that aims to protect against the original virus and the omicron variant. The British Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency said it had given the green light to Moderna's

combination "bivalent" vaccine, which will be used as an adult booster shot.

Each dose of the booster shot will target both the original COVID-19 virus that was first detected in 2020 and the omicron BA.1 variant that was first picked up in November. British regulators said the side effects

were similar to those seen for Moderna's original booster shot and were typically "mild and self-resolving."

"What this (combination) vaccine gives us is a sharpened tool in our armoury to help protect us against this disease as the virus continues to evolve," said Dr. June Raine, the head



Photo: latimes

of Britain's health care and medicines regulator.

PM Modi Lists 5 Pledges to Turn India into a Developed Country in 25 Years

Addressing the nation from the historic ramparts of Red Fort on 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for moving India forward with five pledges to achieve the dreams by 2047.

PM Modi said that India must be a developed nation in 25 years. As we enter the *Amrit Kaal*, we must resolve to fulfil the dreams of India's freedom fighters.

"We must resolve to work

towards a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and remove any vestiges of colonialism from any corner or in our hearts," said the prime minister.

"In the coming years, we have to focus on 'Panchpran' (5 pledges).

"Working towards a *Viksit Bharat*, remember the time before Independence... Yes, people had different methods of working but the goal was the same and the goal was big - the freedom of India. In this *Amrit*

Kaal we have to come together and work towards another big goal of a *Viksit Bharat*," he said.

PM Modi urged the youth of the nation from the rampart of Red Fort to dedicate the next 25 years of their lives for the nation's development. He said that we should work towards the development of the entire humanity.

"When the dreams are big, hard work is important. It needs to be inspired by the pledge and the determination of freedom

fighters who dreamt of a free India," PM added in his historic speech.

Modi said that we have to put India first and this will pave the way for a united India.

First: to move forward with bigger resolutions and resolve of developed India; second: to erase all traces of servitude; third: be proud of our legacy; fourth: the strength of unity; and fifth: the duties of citizens that also includes the PM and CMs

**Narendra Modi
Prime Minister**



Photo: nriww

Joe Biden Calls India, US 'Indispensable Partners'

US President Joe Biden on August 15 called India and the US "indispensable partners" on the eve of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

"The United States joins the people of India to honor its democratic journey, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of truth and non-violence," Biden said.

India and the United States are indispensable partners, and the US-India Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the rule of law and the promotion of human freedom and dignity."

The two countries are also bound by "deep bonds" between their people, he added with a shout out to "the vibrant Indian-American community in the US (that) has made us a more

innovative, inclusive and stronger Nation".

Biden concluded his statement saying, "I am confident that in the years ahead our two democracies will continue to stand together to defend the rules-based order; foster greater peace, prosperity and security for our people; advance a free and open Indo-Pacific; and together address the challenges we face around the world."



THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

Issey Miyake, Japanese Fashion Designer, Dies at 84

Issey Miyake, the Japanese designer famed for his pleated style of clothing and cult perfumes, and whose name became a global byword for cutting-edge fashion in the 1980s, died on Friday, August 5th in Tokyo. He was 84.

Mr. Miyake is perhaps best known for his micro pleating, which he first unveiled in 1988 but has lately enjoyed a surge in popularity among a new and younger consumer base.

His proprietary heat-treating system meant that the accordion-like pleats in his designs could be machine washed, would never lose their shape and offered the ease of loungewear. He also produced the black turtleneck that became part of the signature look of Steve Jobs, the *Apple* co-founder.

The death was announced on Tuesday, August 9th by the Miyake Design Studio, which said the cause was liver cancer.



Photo: timesofindia

Jagdeep Dhankhar Elected India's 14th Vice President

Jagdeep Dhankhar, former Bengal Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate, has been elected as the Vice President of India on Saturday, 6th August. Dhankhar bested joint opposition candidate Margaret Alva to emerge winner.

President Droupadi Murmu said the nation will benefit from Dhankhar's long and rich experience in public life and extended her best wishes for a productive and successful tenure.

Modi met the vice president-elect at the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and greeted him with a bouquet. The prime minister later thanked all those MPs who voted for Dhankhar.

"At a time when India marks *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, we are proud to be having a *Kisan Putra* Vice President who has excellent legal knowledge and intellectual prowess," Modi tweeted.

"Congratulations to Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji on being elected India's Vice President with resounding support across party lines. I am confident he will be an outstanding vice president. Our nation will gain tremendously from his intellect and wisdom," he said.

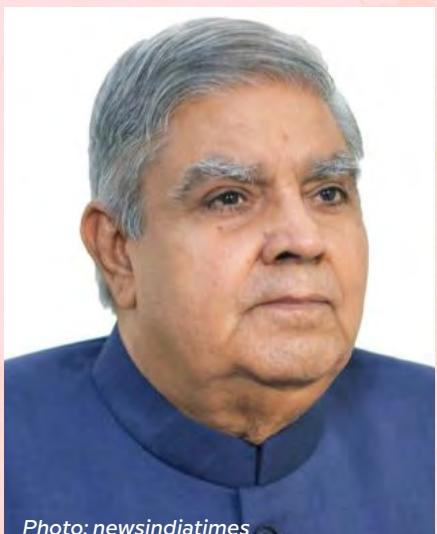


Photo: newsindiatimes

After Lithuania, now Latvia and Estonia Quit China Cooperation Group

As China increases military pressure on Taiwan, an island it claims as its own territory, and deepens connections with Russia even as the invasion of Ukraine continues, on Thursday 11th August, Latvia and Estonia withdrew from a China cooperation group.

The two countries followed in the footsteps of Baltic neighbour Lithuania, which withdrew last year.

Lithuania's relations with China deteriorated after the former allowed Taiwan to open a de facto embassy last year. The nation also endorsed US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. China condemned the move as "erroneous," accusing the Baltic NATO member of violating the one-China principle.



Community News

Indian Woman Commits Suicide, Ministry of External Affairs of India Assures All Support to Her Family in India

The social media platforms and the South Asian community across the country were shocked as Mandeep Kaur's suicide hit the bulletin as she had released a video prior to the suicide. Thousands condoled her death and social media was taken by storm after Mandeep Kaur's video went viral. In the video, she alleged that her husband Ranjodhbeer Singh Sandhu had been torturing her. Narrating her ordeal in a video that she uploaded on social media, Mandeep Kaur — a young New York-based NRI — could be seen sobbing while her children cried in the background.

The viral recording, documenting eight years of abuse Mandeep suffered at the hands of her husband Ranjodhbeer Singh and in-laws for not birthing a son, has spawned a web of vigils in New York, with people seeking justice for the 30-year-old. It was not her time to die, says Japneet Singh, a local political worker, adding, "Enough is enough."

Expressing grief over the suicide, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) assured steps of redressal. The MEA further stated that the Indian embassy and consulate are in touch with the family of the deceased and local authorities in the US.

"The suicide of Mandeep Kaur, an Indian living in New York, was very tragic. Our Consulate in New York is in touch with the local authorities, police, family and the Indian community. Our embassy in Washington DC is in contact with US authorities, who assured us of appropriate action," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said during a press briefing.

Bagchi also said that the US authorities have assured that perpetrators would be held liable and stringent action under their legislation will be taken.



Photo: Twitter/@gurshamshir@ANI

Indian-American Man Gets 4 Years in Prison for Defrauding American Express

Jasminder Singh, 45, of Fremont in California was sentenced in the Eastern District of New York to four years in prison for defrauding American Express of nearly \$ 4.7 million.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between November 2017 and December 2019, Jasminder Singh used four business entities that he created and controlled and 10 American Express credit cards in those entities' names to purchase thousands of Apple iPhones.

He then sold the iPhones to overseas purchasers for millions of dollars. As part of his scheme, Jasminder Singh falsely told American Express that he was unable to repay approximately \$ 4.7 million in charges incurred from the purchase of the iPhones, and created fake payment invoices in order to secure additional credit from the company.

Jasminder Singh then used the proceeds of the scheme to pay for personal expenses and to buy luxury items, including a \$ 1.3 million home and a luxury vehicle. He was ordered to pay over \$ 4.6 million in restitution and was ordered to forfeit over \$ 3 million.

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Community News

Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) held its one of the spectacular annual Summer Picnic event on 14th August, 2022 at Thomson Park Monroe. The packed event was attended by an estimated more than 700 community members, as per the press release from BJANA.

The event was filled with all kinds of fun activities for kids and adults, musical instruments performed by community kids, and delicious authentic food from Bihar and Jharkhand. The members also enjoyed Bollywood and Bhojpuri karaoke singing and dancing.

BJANA President Mr. Anurag Kumar addressed the guests and told them about BJANA's fundraising and its charity programs. He thanked the community members for attending this event and praised the work done by BJANA committee members and volunteers.

This much awaited event was attended by people from NJ, NY, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The purpose of the event was to bring community members together for fun and entertainment during the summertime. The event included activities like cricket, BINGO, sack race, tug of war and book swap. People enjoyed different games and social bonding activities, and all these activities brought laughter and plenty of fun to kids, young people and adults.

The event was supported by Oxford Energy, Coca-Cola, and New York Life. The event was held on the eve of India's 76th Independence Day, so people remembered their homeland and took a selfie with *Tiranga*. The event also displayed made in Bihar and Jharkhand products and promoted tourism and investment through various placards and a quiz contest.



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Meeting ID: 918 7178 8492, Passcode: 897402



DARLINGS

(2022 / Dark Comedy / Netflix)

PERFORMANCES AND INTENT SHINE IN THIS OFFBEAT AND RELEVANT DARK COMEDY!

Director

Jasmeet K Reen

Cast

Alia Bhatt, Shefali Shah, Vijay Verma, Roshan Mathews, Rajesh Sharma

Writer

Parvez Sheikh, Jasmeet K Reen



Plot

Badru marries Humza, the love of her life. She has some rosy eyed dreams and life goals, and so totally in love, with the love that she has for her abusive husband that she refuses to give up hope that he will reform.... until something pushes her tolerance over the edge. And then begins a game of vengeance which is funny, naive, unrealistic, unethical but does provide, if I may say so, some relief to our aching hearts and a fair amount of morbid satisfaction (pardon me for this).

Analysis

One of the major advantages of a dark comedy is that it can dare to take up disturbing subjects in a lighter vein, making way for an easy watch, without actually trivialising it.

Darlings is one such film that centres around an abusive relationship and highlights domestic violence, skewed power dynamics in genders roles and toxic misogynist set ups that women give in to.

The first half of the film takes its own sweet time to build up the premise. It does seem repetitive and slow, could have been better. But in the maker's defence, I would like to add

that maybe they wanted to emphasise on the vicious cycle of abuse, facade of love, guilt and hope. The vicious cycle that abused women find so difficult to get out of, sometimes because they are actually dependent and sometimes because they believe so and, in some cases, due to Stockholm syndrome. In Badru's case, I think it was a mix of all three which had begun to exasperate us as much as it did Shamshu (Badru's mom).

The dialogues between the policeman and Shamshu sum it up as simplistically as possible.

So finally, when she broke out of it, I did not mind the loopholes, just relished the vengeance lashed out.

The writer-director team has made a good attempt in

delivering something which says so much without going preachy.

They highlight what scores of women go through in their lives, their fears and hopes that keep them captive, their captor's mindsets which are often fed by their own fears, their fragile courage which often crumbles, their aspirations which keep them going.

It has a pace of its own, yet is so engaging all the time.

Focuses on just a handful of well etched out characters, which come with their own colours – black, white and greys.

The fantastic cast adds shine to these characters.

Shefali Shah is brilliant as ever. Loved the shades in

her, played so convincingly. A tenacious character played by a powerful actor with spit - fire eyes.

Alia shines as ever and brings alive Badru's innocence, vulnerability, pain and resolve.

Loved Roshan Mathews. Saw him last in *Choked* and man he has been so good in both the characters so varied. Would want to see more of him.

Vijay Verma is equally fantastic as the putrid tempered toxic man with facades that flip in seconds. He makes us hate him with all our hearts.

The film is a passionate effort with an offbeat narrative.

Offbeat because, it is not actually funny, does not certainly aim to make you laugh; It is not totally dark but makes you cringe at places only to lighten up the very next scene; It is not entertaining in a typical way, follows its own course while keeping you engaged. Doesn't go preachy yet coveys so much, all with a pinch of salt.

That is how our protagonists carry on with their tough life and circumstances, with a pinch of salt.

The film might not appeal to all. I loved it. I would suggest watching it to know which side you are on.



THE UNHOLY

(Horror / 2021 / Netflix)

AN ENGROSSING RELIGIOUS HORROR WITH TEPID SCREAMS BUT AN ENGAGING STORY!

This supernatural horror based on a book revolves around a place that experiences miracles, is declared a shrine but is inflicted by evil

Director Evan Spiliopoulos

Cast Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Cricket Brown, Katie Aselton, William Sadler, Diogo Morgado

Based On Shrine by James Herbert



Photo: wall.alphacoders

Plot

Somewhere, in 1845, a witch is executed by the church.

Hundreds of years later, the same place experiences miracles. A girl, who gains voice for the first time in life, claims that Lady Mary has cured her and speaks through her.

A tainted journalist sniffing for a story stumbles upon this goldmine but has to make a choice between fame and the

truth.

Analysis

If you have a bent towards supernatural horror, you would agree that there's something about religious horrors.

As often portrayed in these films, if you believe in the power of Good, the other end of the spectrum is bound to exist. This whole connection and tussle between the good and the evil

is often the crux of this genre.

And the way they are able to connect the dots amongst faith, good and evil is the key for us to be able to relate to the film.

For me, this is where *The Unholy* wins over as a film despite a floundering third act.

More than the horror tropes, what I liked about the film was its story line and the intrigue it carries with it.

Though I feel the third act

could have been handled better, I thoroughly enjoyed the watch.

Recommendation

I believe there are very few perfect horrors. Moreover, there are many different elements which appeal to different horror enthusiasts. So, I am sure this could appeal to many. You would like the concept and story.

THE NIGHT HOUSE

(Psychological Horror / 2020 / Disney Hotstar)

IMPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERICS, ROUSING PERFORMANCE & EMOTIONAL TUG!

The story revolves around a woman coping with the aftermath of her husband's suicide

Director David Bruckner

Cast Rebecca Hall, Sarah Goldberg, Vondie Curtis Hall

Writer Ben Collins & Luke Piotrowski

Plot

Beth's perfect life comes to an abrupt end when her loving husband commits suicide leaving a cryptic message and loads of secrets.

Reeling under emotional trauma, she starts feeling his presence. When she starts digging into his life that she never knew of, startling facts tumble out.

Analysis

The moment you enter the story as an audience, there are two aspects which immediately impress you – Fantastic setting, and a very emotional premise.

The beautiful lonely cottage on the waterfront in a picturesque suburb provides for an excellent location.

(Though it also makes me laud the characters for being unnecessarily brave for living in the middle of almost no-where and upright for refusing friends' help to tackle loneliness)

Rebecca Hall's superb performance as the wife struggling to come to terms with the tragic turn in her life, is absolutely overwhelming.

Her heart felt portrayal not only adorns the entire film like a highlight but also keeps you emotionally involved.

It also continually keeps us in doubt if what she feels is real or just a manifestation of her pain.

The film, though had ample opportunity, refuses to tow the treaded path of typical jump scares or horror tropes.

Despite that, during the entire proceedings, whether during day or night, there is an air of uncertainty and creepiness hanging all the time. That tingling feeling of uncertainty and fear is what makes this horror such a delight.

There are also the mysterious secrets of his past life that keep tumbling out and you are trying to place them like a puzzle. The

intrigue they add is absolutely thrilling.

Quite many times throughout, you doubt whether you are watching a supernatural horror or a psychological horror. The climax hovers between the two.

Being a horror buff, I reconcile with the fact that rarely do you find a horror climax that is conclusive as well satisfactory.

This one leaves you pondering a bit, but I think it panned out perfectly well.

A delightful horror sounds such a paradox but that is how I felt about it.

A must watch for horror fans.

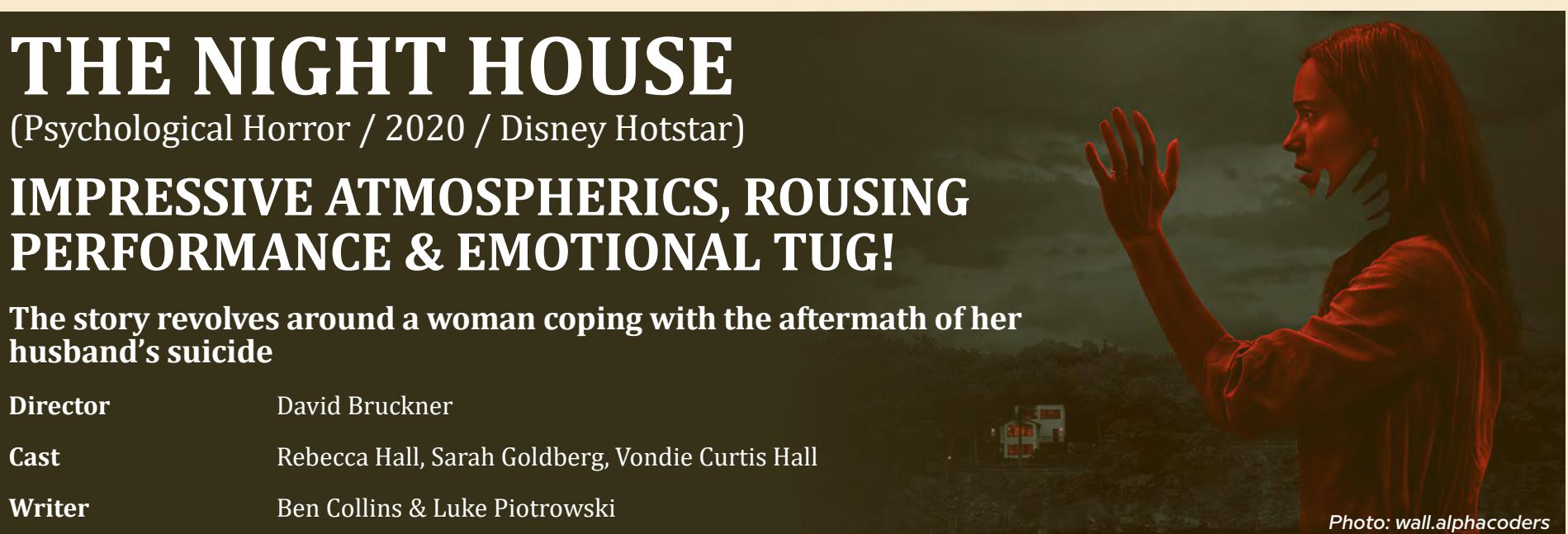


Photo: wall.alphacoders

Olivia Newton-John, Grease Star Passes Away at 73

Singer-songwriter and actress Olivia Newton-John, the star of beloved movie musical *Grease* passed away on Monday, 8th August. She was 73. The news of her passing was announced by her husband, John Easterling who shared a statement on social media channels of Newton-John. Emotional tributes have been

pouring in for the late four-time Grammy-winning star.

The statement shared by the late actress' husband said, "Dame Olivia Newton-John passed away peacefully at her Ranch in Southern California this morning, surrounded by family and friends. We ask that everyone please respect the family's privacy during this very difficult time."

"Olivia has been a symbol of triumphs and hope for over 30 years sharing her journey with breast cancer. Her healing inspiration and pioneering experience with plant medicine continues with the Olivia Newton-John Foundation Fund, dedicated to researching plant medicine and cancer."

In May 2017, Newton-John



had announced that she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The actress was known to refer to herself as a "cancer thriver," acknowledging that she led a full life despite her scary diagnosis.



Photos: ew.com

Anne Heche, 53, Succumbs to Injuries Sustained in a Car Crash

Anne Heche, a versatile actress whose career spanned 4 decades in television and films, passed away after she was taken off the life support, she was placed on after sustaining critical injuries in a car crash.

The car, which she was driving, crashed into a home on August 5 in Los Angeles and erupted in flames. Following the crash, she sustained critical injuries and severe anoxic brain

injury depriving her brain of oxygen and had to be placed on a ventilator.

Heche was an award-winning actress who appeared in films like the 1998 "Psycho" remake and the rom-com "Six Days Seven Nights" alongside Harrison Ford. She also directed a segment of a 2000 HBO film "If These Walls Could Talk 2" and in her 2001 memoir, she revealed her lifelong struggles with mental illnesses after being abused by her father.

Will be Exciting to Explore the Characters Out of High School: Zendaya on Euphoria Season-3

Sharing her candid thoughts about the forthcoming season of *Euphoria*, Zendaya said that "I think it'll be exciting to explore the characters out of high school. I want to see what Rue looks like in her sobriety journey, how chaotic that might look. But also with

all the characters, in the sense where they're trying to figure out what to do with their lives when high school is over and what kind of people they want to be".

The actor even talked about the cast of *Euphoria* including Sydney Sweeney is nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for *Euphoria* for

her phenomenal Cassie Howard act at Emmys 2022. Zendaya asserted, "What was special about this season was that we got to dive into (the other characters) in a much deeper sense. I think we can do that again with the third season. There's so much talent, you want to make sure everybody has the chance to have that".



Mrunal Thakur: I am Thrilled with the Warm Welcome in Tollywood

Mrunal Thakur has made a strong Telugu debut and is overjoyed with the response to her film *Sita Ramam*.

In the film's success meet, Mrunal thanked the Telugu audience for giving her a warm

welcome.

She also stated that she only received such a mature part so early in her career thanks to filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi. Mrunal concluded by expressing that she is hoping for more roles like this in Telugu cinema.


Photos: indiaglitz
विदेशी भाषा संस्कृति विभाग INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

John Abraham Announces New Film Tariq; Film Set to Release on Independence Day 2023

On the occasion of 76th Independence Day on Monday, 15th August the actor took to social media to make the announcement.



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Federation of Indian Associations (NY-NJ-CT-PA-MA-NH-VT-RI)

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