

August 2021

Issue #6

solucky

Nostalgia

& Fashion

Going back in
time with
the trends

Creator Spotlight

Check out our
exclusive
interview with
Ashley Mehta

Spotify Playlist

of the Month

Special edition
this month, with

Nostalgia &

Childhood Tunes

Ashley Mehta



Ashley recently graduated San Jose State University. She is 22 years old & an artist from the Bay Area! She loves checking out new places & being with friends & family!

IG Handle: [@ashleymehtaofficial](#)

Bianca recently graduated with a BS in Hospitality & Event Management and a minor in Business Administration from San Francisco State University. She is 22 years old, a Sagittarius, & her favorite thing to do is go to music festivals. She hopes to one day open her own business!

IG Handle: [@biancanavrro](#)



Janessa Freeman



Janessa recently graduated with a degree in public health from San Jose State University! She is 22 years old, born & raised in the Bay Area. She loves traveling the world & trying new delicious food!

IG Handle: @jjanessa



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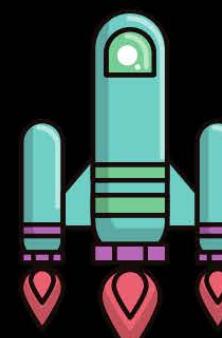
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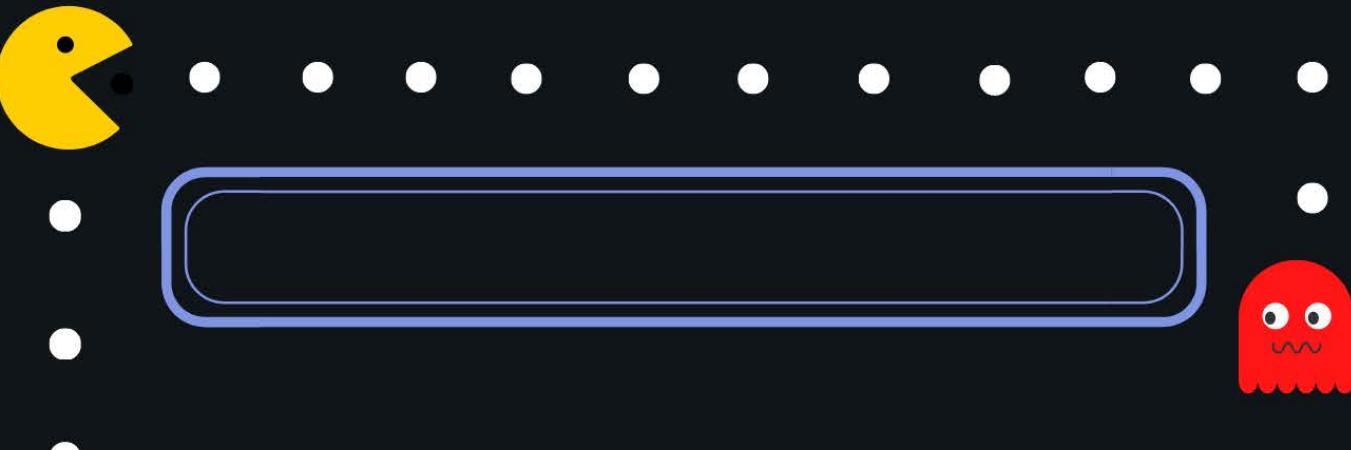
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OVERVIEW

Brand Overview

by Sanjana Solanki

August is a very special month, & we had many ideas come to fruition during this time period. It pushed us towards starting new chapters in our lives through common events such as back to school. For many of us, it also serves as a transition period in which we go from spontaneous summer nights to working hard & tackling life as an adult. That is why for this month's issue, we decided to go back in time & "relive" some of the more simpler moments in our lives. Just to take a minute, rewind, & allow ourselves to reminisce in the glory days of our childhoods before fully diving into our responsibilities as fresh adults.

This month also included a very special date- the anniversary of solucky as a brand. One year ago, on August 10th, solucky was published as a website to a small portion of what our audience is today. Since then, we have insanely grown as each month has gone by. The brand itself went from being simply a website that started off as an outlet for so many of my interests to an ever expanding team of 20 + team members, known as contributors, as well as a dedicated community.

There was no way that one year ago I would have ever thought that I would be sitting here, leading a hardworking team, updating loads of Google Documents, interacting with a loyal audience, & hanging the very first magazine cover on my bedroom wall. So far, we are one year strong & devoted to continue progressing what we have, & reach to others. This month we were lucky enough to introduce four new wonderful members to our team. Liz Heydon, Tori Huynh, Anandita Prakash, & Akhil Joondeph joined the solucky family as contributors!

- Sanjana Solanki, Founder of solucky

new <3



Akhil Joondeph



Anandita Prakash



Tori Huynh



Liz Heydon



Creative Director: Sanjana Solanki + Photographer: Amrutha Gururaja + Stylist: Tori Huynh



Magazine Overview

by Ananya Dutta & Henry Pham

Taking a step back from the chaos of life is, at times, healing. There's comfort in finding how far one has come from one's accomplishments. Or perhaps, even by the comfort of the makeup of said childhood. In this month's issue, we wanted to encapsulate feelings of nostalgia. That be with the act of reminiscing, or imagery that alludes back to the colorfulness of one's past.

The month of August is a month of change. That be by the start of school, or perhaps a time of transition. As many of us head back into our academic obligations, let's take a step back to reflect upon similar times in our lives.

From the blaring nature of arcades, carnival lights, or mnemonic elements that remind us of our unique past.

We've picked out a series of pieces that help spark precious memories, and expand upon them with this month's Solucky issue. Our writers, photographers, as well as graphic designs have worked hard to capture these special moments in their own distinctive interpretations. We hope this varied perspective enriches your own, or perhaps discover new peculiarities.





Nostalgia & Fashion

by Ananya Dutta

Nostalgia & Fashion are closely intertwined. Scrolling through social media, you'll likely find video & image compilations romanticizing the early 80s, 90s, even early 2000s fashion. Grainy pictures of Destiny's Child or Jennifer Aniston's with iterations of the same caption "take me back" plastered on top are common on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok & more. Nostalgia is an integral part of fashion as evidenced by the trends we continue to follow today.

Take for example the comeback of low rise jeans. Their comeback crept up slowly but surely inspired a variety of emotions across the board. Some insisted that we should not permit a comeback whereas others declared them the hottest new style. When all it takes is one celebrity/influencer to popularize something, creating trends isn't hard. Low rise jeans aren't the only example; we've witnessed the same phenomenon occur with multiple other types of clothing/fashion styles. Due to the cyclical nature of fashion, what's old is always given a chance to become new again.

Perhaps my favorite example of nostalgia taking over fashion is the y2k trend. This trend continues to dominate our fashion sense today & takes inspiration from early

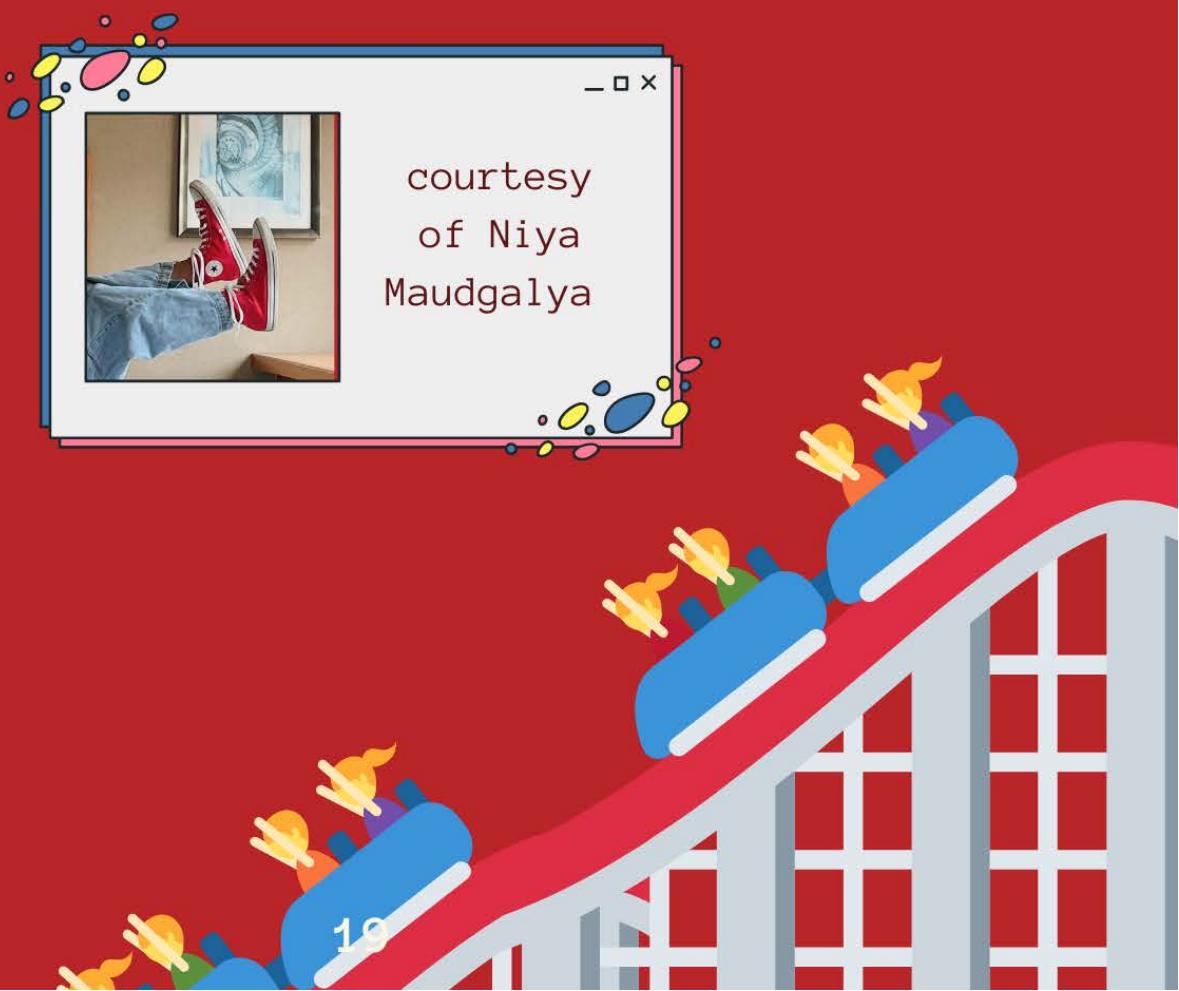
2000s fashion (see: first paragraph). Marked by baby tees, Juicy Couture, & a girlish charm the y2k fashion trend features clothing that would've been considered "out of style" just a couple years ago. For me, this is especially apparent with Juicy Couture's revival. This was known particularly for its matching velvety tracksuits, which were worn in the 2000s by the likes of Kim Kardashian, Paris Hilton, even Beyonce. However, by the time I was in middle school I was looking at my mom's matching tracksuits in disgust & thinking to myself- "Why would anyone wear that?"

Then a couple years later, towards the end of high school, these tracksuits began to pop up on social media once again. Once again, with the familiar captions of "take me back" or "when people dressed like this."

It is undoubtable that nostalgia influences fashion, of course, but the question now becomes "why?" Although I can't say for sure, I definitely have my theories. To answer this question we can look at the function of fashion. It is a way that people use to express themselves & channel creative energy. It is a medium. Filmmakers or writers often return to topics/areas that they grew up around to draw inspiration from, & I believe that people interested in fashion follow suit. We return to the things that we grew up with because they're

familiar & comfortable. Sometimes that doesn't mean replicating them exactly, but perhaps drawing inspiration pairing old with new. This helps us create our personal styles while acknowledging our roots, maybe some of the pieces that got us interested in fashion in the first place.

Overall, I respect nostalgia's place in fashion. It's nice to look in your closet & realize that pair of pants you never threw out is fashionable again. Personally, it also helps me be more confident in my style & combat fast fashion trends. If I dress how I want now & ignore the almost biweekly turnover of fashion trends, chances are it'll pay off in the future when someone will recognize the beauty that I see.



FRIDAY FASHION FAVORITES

By: Riya Patel

Instagram handles of each individual are attached - to find more favorites, check out our Instagram highlights (@solucky.life)!

@meghana.v



@jan.siat



@avineet.ghaii



@esantos02



@kaylanuclaray



@srishti_dansingh



@_ishakale



@megmayt



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Santa Cruz Boardwalk Photoshoot

Shreya Ravi

Shreya Ravi was born in California, & was raised in India. She is majoring in Cognitive Science & minoring in Technology & Information Management at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Shreya explores her different personalities & identifies through fashion. Trying new styles make her feel confident! She enjoys modeling because it helps her embrace her Indian American identity while empowering others that look like her to do the same.



IG Handle:
[@shreyaxoxo](#)



Photographer IG
Handle:
[@tbheileen](#)



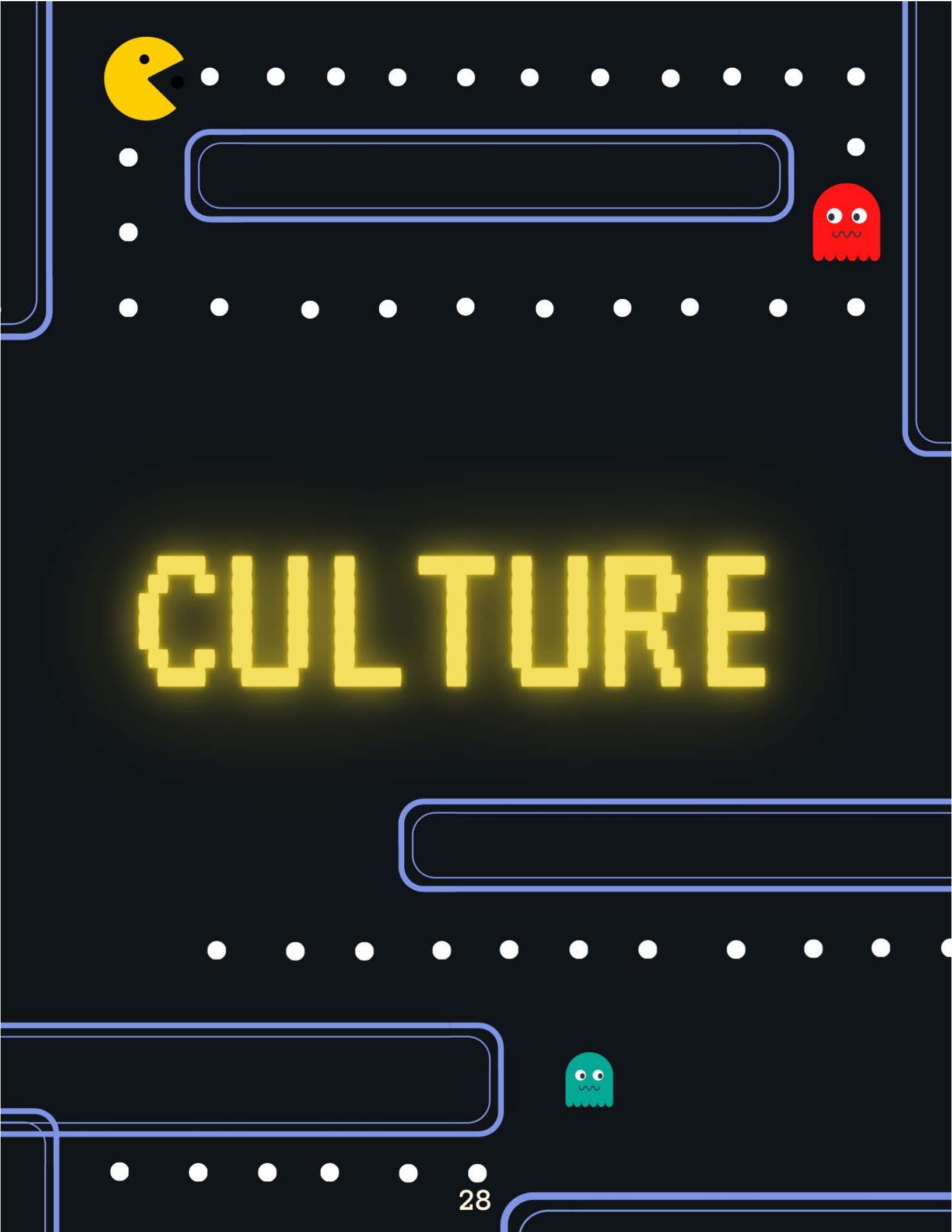
outfit details:

- jeans: hollister
- boots: justfab
- top: thrifted

courtesy of Alie Li



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Creator Spotlight: Ashley Mehta

by Sraavya Apuri

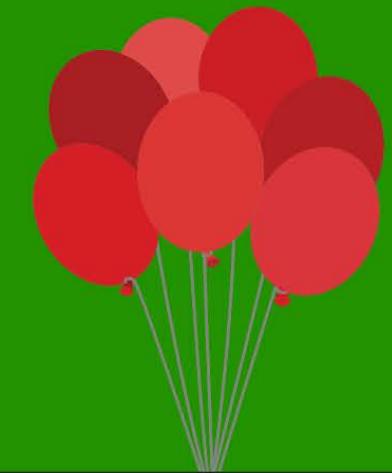
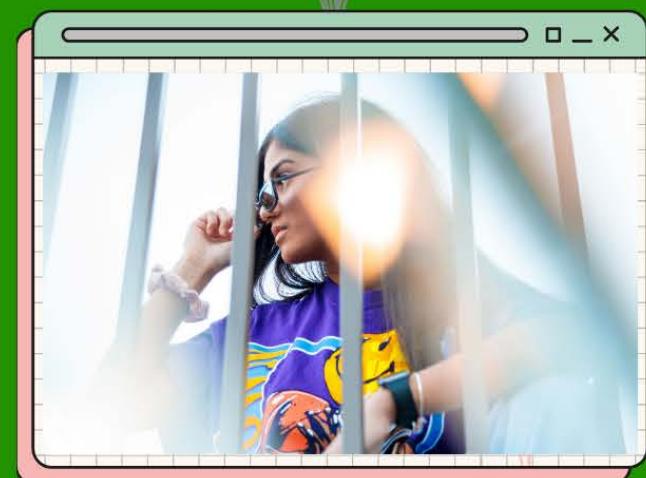
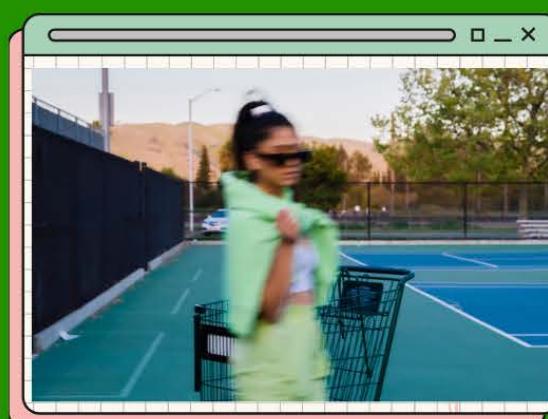
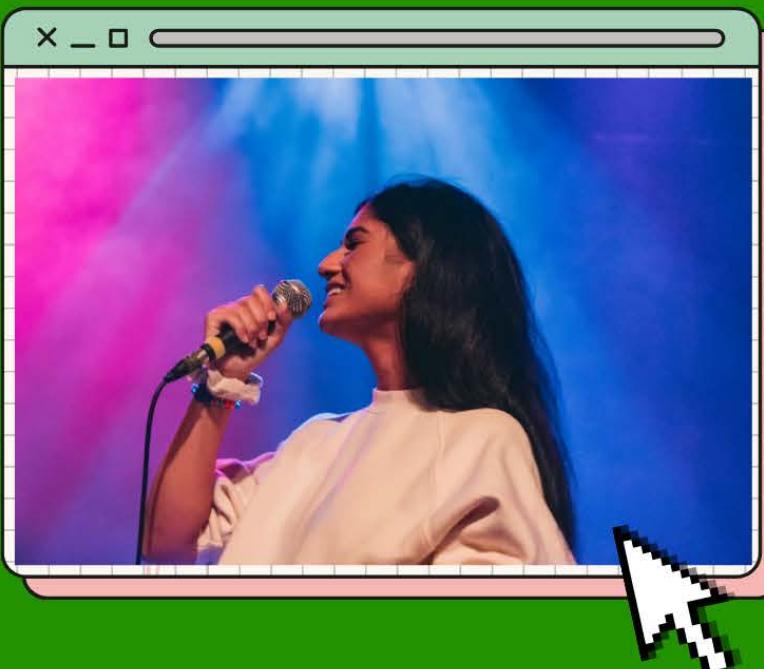
Coming up in the Bay with over two million streams on her single on Spotify is songwriter & music artist Ashley Mehta, who aims to bring out the Bay Area's distinctive energy through her music. Pursuing a career in music is something that was already in the books

for Ashley for the longest time. She elaborates how "for as long as she can remember...[she] has been singing from a young age, & [started] songwriting by the time [she] got to high school." Additionally, Ashley has spent years honing her craft at a young age by "singing in church choir, performing at talent shows, & local coffee shops". Eventually, the years of practice and passion Ashley put into her craft paid off. In a recent interview, Ashley opens up about "getting played on the radio" which she describes as a surreal moment because the "music that [Ashley] created in [her] room was being played in the city that [she] grew up in."



However, this journey that Ashley has gone through to pursue her passion was not always a clearcut road, like many artists who go through "highs and lows," there have been moments where Ashley has faced "writer's block or low energy/negativity." Fortunately, in return, there have been "special moments" like catching the right melody or lyrics.

These particular moments allow Ashley to "practice mindfulness and live in the moment." This has helped her let go of any fear and has taught her about understanding what she can control.





Mango Lassi Recipe

by Hemaxi Solamki

(serving size: 2 / 5-10 Minutes)

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup Mango Pulp (Preferred Brand: Deep)
- 1 Cup Yogurt (Preferred: Pavel)
- 2 Tablespoon Sugar (Optional but preferred)
- ¼ Cup Milk
- ¼ Cup Water
- ½ Cup Crushed Ice
- Pinch of Salt

Equipment:

Blender

Directions:

Place ALL ingredients into the blender.
Blend for 10–15 seconds till mixture is smooth & blended-well.
Pour the mix into your tall glasses & add a straw if desired!



Love: So What?

by Prisha Jain

People need people. It's the foundation of life. We grow up knowing that our lives are not completely our own, that we must share them with someone else.

Biologically, this notion is driven by our need to reproduce. But, let's be real. 7 billion people? I think we're good. Nonetheless, most young people operate based off of the assumption that they will be married with X amount of children. But we never stop to ask ourselves why.

Why is this "other half" ideal forced upon us for our whole lives? Why do we believe without a doubt that we will get married, reproduce, & that doing so will

make us happy? The simple answer: heteronormative culture. That's a big word. Let's unpack it, shall we?

Heteronormative (n): denoting or relating to a world view that promotes heterosexuality as the normal or preferred sexual orientation.

Heteronormative culture is present in everything we do. It's also pushed on us from such a young age by all the adults around us. I made a timeline so you can visualize a little bit:

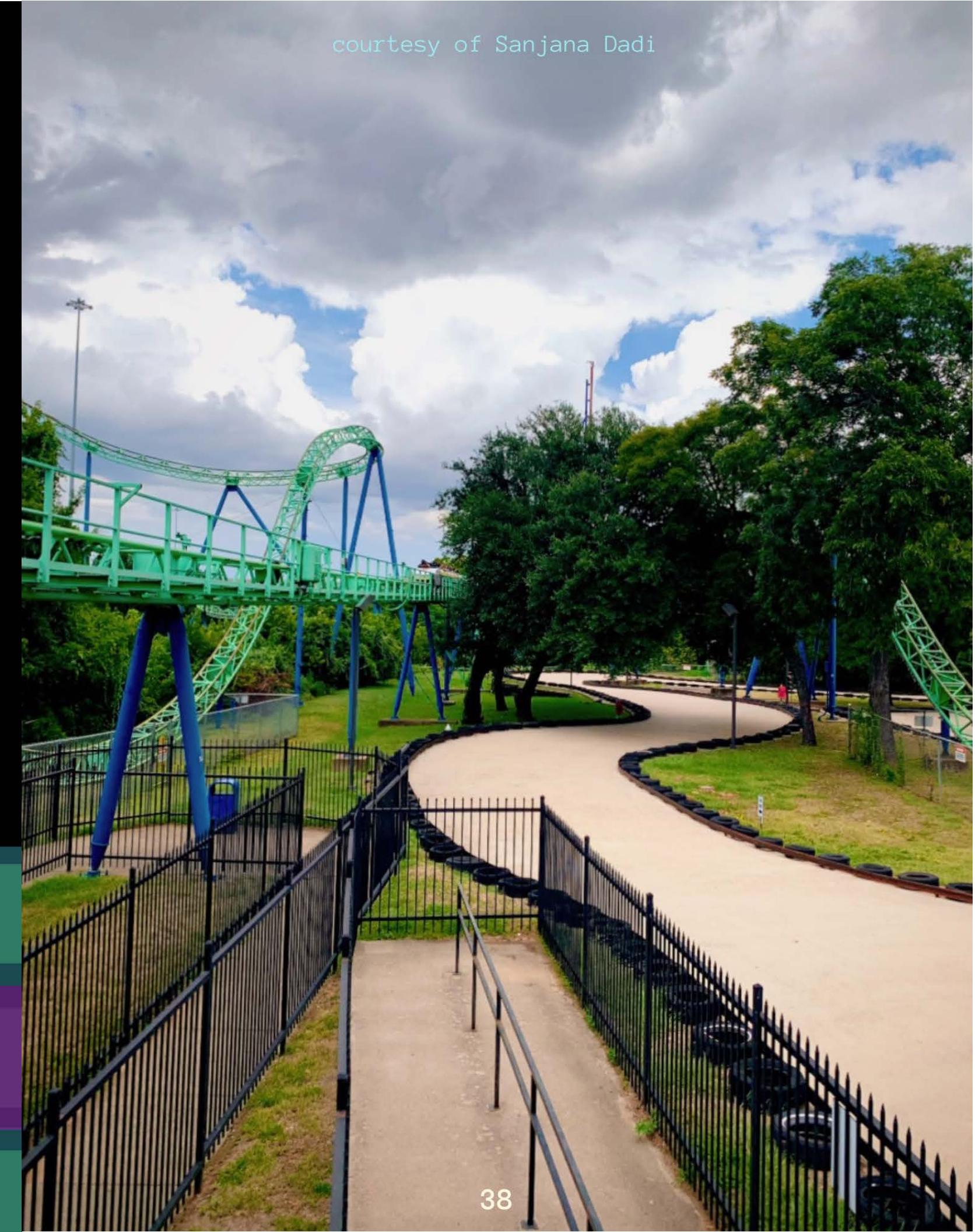
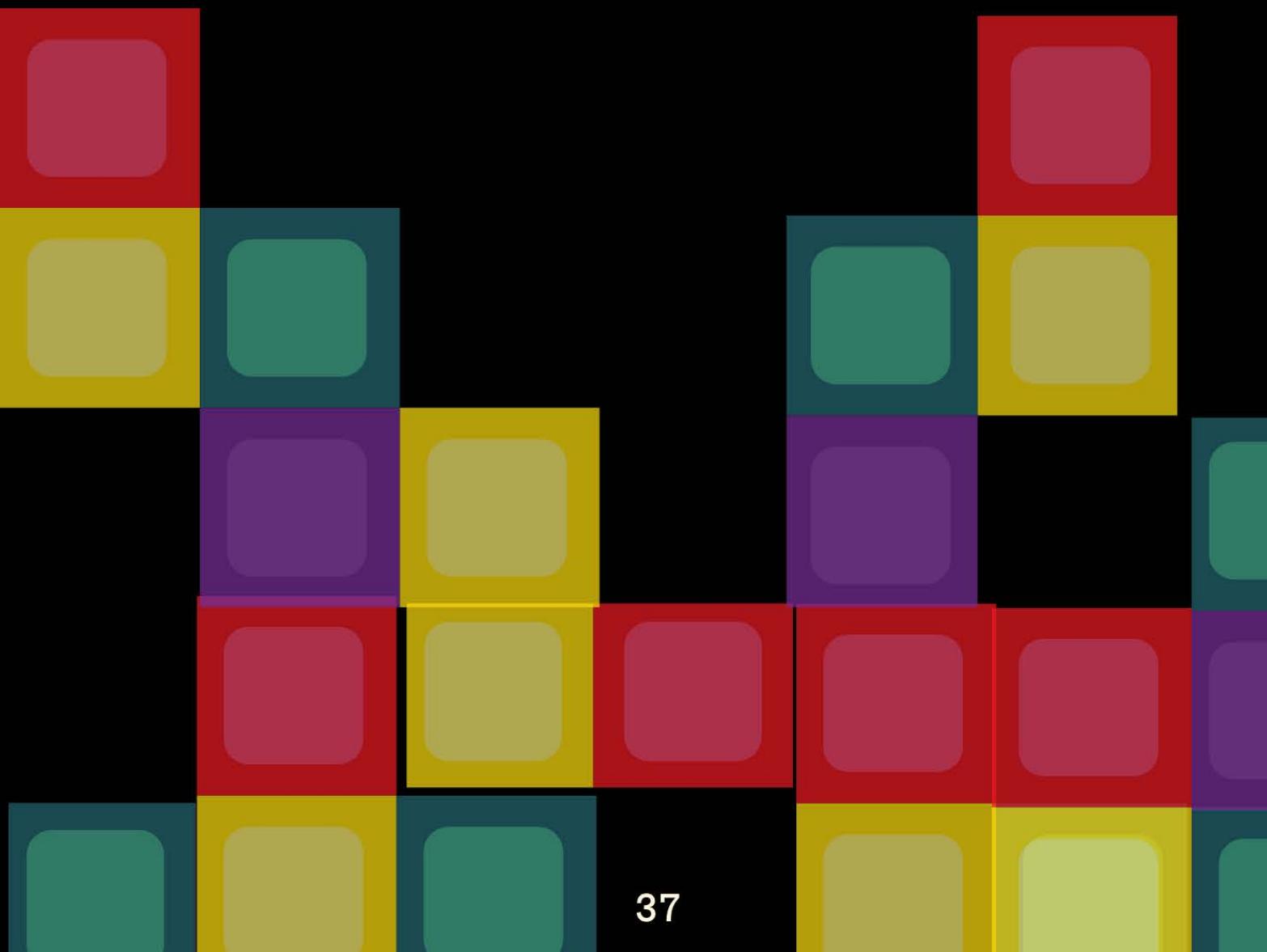
Every single one of us has heard one of these statements at some point in our lives. As such, it's the most normal thing in the world to us. We operate based off of the assumption that we will participate at some point in our lives, regardless of whatever else we accomplish.

Conversely, this makes not participating in heteronormative culture abnormal. For a woman to be unmarried without children after the age of 35 is weird. What's wrong with her? Why didn't she settle down? The constant judgment of those who don't conform makes us terrified of becoming the judged ones. And as we grow, this fear only becomes more pressing as our "window of reproduction" closes.

But there is a very valid response to the fear of "dying alone": So what? Perhaps we do just need to deal with the reality that romantic, committed love is not for everyone. By applying a formula of life to people, we take away our individuality, often too caught up in what should be, instead of stopping to appreciate what

just is. There is no formula to life that works for everyone. What works for me might not work for you, & vice versa. We're able to accept this about most things: pineapple on pizza, cereal/milk first, Captain America vs. Ironman. So why can't we apply the same thought process to love and marriage?

Stop, just for a second, next time you feel as though “no one will ever love you” or “you’ll die alone” or anything else that carries that energy. Just stop, and ask, “So what?”



courtesy of Niya Maudgalya



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REVIEW

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· PLAYLIST



nostalgia

spotify playlist of the month · august

Created by **sanju** · 98 songs, 6 h 4 m



PLAY



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Growing up, music was a huge part of my life. It was something that my siblings & I would bond over. Hence, music from when I was young is something that I hold very close to me. It is what I remind myself of what, as Carly Rae Jaspion & Owl City would say, a "good time" really was for the music industry. Artists like Usher, Kesha, Black Eyed Peas, Bruno Mars, & much more will be featured in one of this month's Spotify playlist, Nostalgia, to help us reminisce how special their impact was on the music industry. These are the artists who have really brought my childhood to life & morphed what my, as well as many others, music taste is today.

Link: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/23aI3tPgMktL8Fow2enSMt?si=0c856793aa5e4a00>
 (I am aware that not everybody has the same taste in music as I do! If this playlist isn't your style, check out this column next month & we'll have something new for you)



· PLAYLIST

childhood tunes

spotify playlist of the month (#2) · august

Created by **sanju** · 160 songs, about 8 hr



Filter

Download



In addition, throughout our childhoods, songs that were exclusively performed for certain T.V. shows & movies were undoubtedly hits themselves.

For this month, there was absolutely no way we could exclude the major influence that Nickelodeon & Disney Channel had on a majority of us. Till this day, the iconic songs that were played from in between shows to plainly Troy Bolton having his dramatic scene on a golf course, find a way to stay relevant in this day & age. That is why, for this month's issue, it was decided that it would only be right to present our readers two different Spotify playlists. Along with Nostalgia, Childhood Tunes will truly help you as a reader, & listener, jump back in time!

Link: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1QSzfFPt9qxOwkzKPqpDey?si=3l58d428d8bc4911>
 (I am aware that not everybody has the same taste in music as I do! If this playlist isn't your style, check out this column next month & we'll have something new for you)





The Resurgence of Nostalgic Media In the Present Day

by Anandita Prakash



courtesy of Heena Bains

The best part of my day growing up would be coming back home right after school, anticipating snack time & being allowed to watch an hour of TV. Me & my sister would make sure that our cable television was set to record whatever shows that our mom allowed us to watch, & we would excitedly turn on the TV to see what episode was coming next. Children's television had a huge impact on my life & cultivated the love that I have for TV shows & movies today. From My Little Pony to The Suite Life on Deck,

there were many shows that I watched in my childhood that I enjoyed. In addition to many others that I was prohibited from watching, which shaped my interests & set me apart from many others.

In the early days of elementary school, my mom would try to find shows that both me & my sister (who's three years younger than me)

could watch. That resulted in me watching many television shows a lot later than the rest of my peers. When everyone was watching shows such as Good Luck Charlie on Disney & Victorious on Nickelodeon, I was watching My Little Pony & Littlest Pet Shop on Discovery Family. However, I didn't mind watching either of those shows, along with various other younger children's entertainment. To me, anything was good enough watching because I was greatly invested in the plot of every show I watched. I loved seeing Arthur, his sister D.W., & his friends interact & go through various challenges & dealing with different scenarios in their own ways at school in the show Arthur. My Little Pony was another show that I genuinely enjoyed.

The concept & importance of friendship was really fun, & I loved keeping up with all of the plots that Twilight Sparkle & her friends Fluttershy, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Apple Jack, & Rainbow Dash dealt with each episode. MLP did teach me the magic of friendship, & the musical numbers along with the funny, magical storylines kept both me & my sister invested.

While I moved on to Disney Channel & Nickelodeon in my later elementary school & early middle school years, I was still not allowed to watch certain shows as per my mom's rules. The strictest prohibition



courtesy of Alie Li

was *Hannah Montana* (which I still have not watched to this day). I think my mom was aware of Miley Cyrus's image in the media & reputation after Disney, so she correlated the two & wouldn't allow me to watch the show, no matter how much I wanted to. Another show that I wasn't allowed to watch initially was *The Suite Life on Deck*; however, with that, I started watching it on my own anyways & once my mom found out, she wasn't happy but she let me continue. Both of these shows are nostalgic to many people around my age, but for me, I still consider the time period in which I saw them very recent. All

of the Disney Channel shows that I watched (& the few Nickelodeon shows I saw here & there) were a little bit immature, but I still had a great time watching them. I enjoyed the antics of Zack & Cody, & the added factor of different school projects & shenanigans that they got involved in with their friends. The characters were refreshing too, & it was interesting seeing "reverse" stereotyping on the show (where the only Asian character, London Tipton, was the rich, dumb girl, & Bailey was the smart one). All in all, even with watching the Disney Channel shows later than everyone else, I still felt that I had a similar experience to those who watched it in their earlier childhood.

Even now, I hear about the allusions of children's shows from all of my friends in the form of rewatching kids' shows during the pandemic. When *Avatar: The Last Airbender* came out on Netflix, many of the characters & plot points went viral for the first time in years; I didn't participate in the phenomenon because I hadn't seen the show as a kid. So many people were rewatching shows from their childhood through Disney+ as well; for a brief period of time, I was doing the same & reminiscing about all the times I watched these same shows in bad quality on YouTube when my parents couldn't catch me. Nostalgia is also taking the form of reboots (for example, with the *iCarly* reboot on Paramount Plus), which is another way in which shows from our childhood still stay relevant. Through all of the different ways these shows come back to us, from new technology to social media, we continue to revel in nostalgia & our childhoods, taking us back to simpler & happier times.

courtesy of Sanjana Dadi



SELF IMPROVEMENT

Letters to the Past

Mental Health Exercise

by Ananya Dutta

This issue is all about taking a moment to relax, reflect, & rejuvenate. A big part of that can involve looking back at our childhoods or pasts. These can often be filled with complex emotions & complicated histories. Take a moment to think back to a time in your life that you either have trouble coming to terms with OR a moment that you really enjoyed. In those periods, delve a little further & think about the people in your life surrounding you during that time. There may be unresolved emotions there, & if so take a minute, sit down, & write a short letter to either a specific person or time period from your past. This can allow you to come to terms with unresolved emotions or can simply serve as a reminder of better times.



Opposites Attract

by Alisha Gupta

The more I learn the more I realize
The common phrase we learn in our
textbooks

Applied to everyday interactions
Is much farther from the truth than it
looks

For how can one truly understand
An experience they've never been through
How do we begin to comprehend
An emotion far from our truth

So the more I learn specifically about
you

The more I wonder, do you get me too?

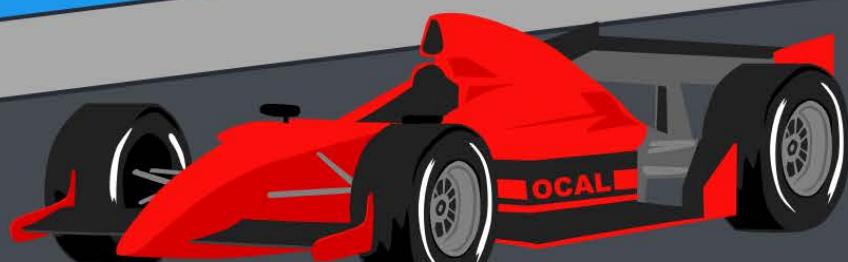
But how do we ignore a compliment
A fit that balances your blemishes &
flaws

The light that ignites your laughter
& a compelling adventure that draws

Because you push me to step out
Of my boundaries & beyond horizons
I even knew existed, but then I shy away
With a fear I'll never catch up even with
guidance

So the more I feel the need to explore
you

The more I wonder, am I interesting to
you too?





Cutting Cake

by Akhil Joondeph

Cake is the classic celebration food. It's sweet, decadent, visually impressive, & generally well-liked. It seems as if almost every family has some sort of "signature" cake, either one that they always purchase at a usual bakery or store, or if they are ambitious, they bake.

My family is of the former type, & for most of my life, we had a standard cake, the closest dessert to perfection in our eyes – or rather, our bellies: chocolate cake with mocha cream cheese frosting from our beloved local bakery, the Prolific Oven.

Every birthday, anniversary, & milestone was accompanied by a slice of this distinct cake. Whether it appeared as a cramped 4-inch cylinder, barely able to supply eight slices, or a vast sheet cake with the power to feed a whole room of people, the moist & decadent chocolate sponge layered with stripes of coffee-saturated cream cheese & decorated with spiked spirals of frosting worked its way into the lives of most of our friends & family members. And so when the bakery announced it would shut its doors forever two years ago, it should come as no surprise that we were all devastated. What other could possibly have the power to bring generations of Srinivasans & Joondephs together to the same crowded dinner table?



Now, instead of the cake, we have our memories of eating it. The void previously filled by the actual taste of the cake was now filled with our fragmented recollections of its delectable flavors. The cake, during its lifetime, catalyzed moments that we reflect upon today, in its absence. & today, we gather around the table & recall those all of those beautiful moments together.

When I was 9, sugar began to be coined as a poison by leading dieticians. My father embraced this demonizing science & cut almost all sugar out of his diet. Being a family of only three, it was difficult for my mom & I to have a separate meal plan entirely, & so we went along with his judgment of our snack choices & enjoyment of desserts & embraced an almost entirely sugar (& excitement) free life. So when my father was not home, I could finally savor the poison that I enjoyed so much. It was the ultimate reward to successfully sneak a piece of leftover chocolate mocha cake from the freezer. The frosting would always be frozen solid, the sponge more like a brick, but the adrenaline rush of stealing such a treasured family treat & enjoying a virtually illegal substance in my household made the quest worthwhile every time.

When I was 10, I was on my way to a dance in San Francisco when I heard of my grandfather's passing. I tried to ignore it as long as possible, to focus on my choreography, for the better or worse. Compartmentalizing my sadness shut me down emotionally & I couldn't properly grieve, not that day nor for a long time afterward. I remember very little from that day, except returning home

with a knot in my stomach. I remember laughing at my mom, so emotionally confused that I did the opposite of what my body told me to do, maybe in a feeble attempt to remain happy or stay strong or uplift my family during a time of grief. & I remember the slices of cake eaten in silence, providing comfort that none of our words or actions could.

When I was 11, my parents celebrated 20 years of togetherness, a testament to the power of love & compromise.

A table layered with multiple gargantuan sheet cakes, vaguely reminiscent of a top-secret research facility's campus from above, was the piece de resistance at their anniversary party. As decades of friends came together to celebrate a couple's longevity, the cake that has lasted almost equally long within our family lore & celebrations, was there to celebrate alongside.

The comforting sourness of cream cheese frosting often greeted me after grueling dance performances, & the heavy, rich layers of chocolate sponge helped calm my nerves & put me to sleep the nights before my first days of middle & high school. When I say the cake was a permanent fixture in every major moment of our lives, I truly mean it.

& even today, a chocolate mocha cake from 2019 sits, untouched, in my grandmother's freezer.

None of us are sure when or why she bought it. But with the closing of the bakery, it has turned into an heirloom of sorts. Perhaps it remains there, not because we will ever eat it, but as a reminder of the power that this cake had over our lives. Not only is it nostalgic in a sense, it carries the weight of a thousand bags of tears & laughs.

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Maybe it's so hard to take that bite & consume the last of this cake, probably from the world, because we are so attached to its existence. It was the ideal best friend we all yearn for – someone who could comfort us in pain, bring us joy when we are suffering, party alongside us, & amplify our celebrations.

Goodbyes are hard, & the cake was an important member of our family community. It, in all honesty, still is. & from its icy abode, it continues to watch over us, in grief, in joy, & in celebration.



courtesy of Sanjana Dadi

ONE BITE OF JOY, ONE BITE OF HAPPINESS."





@meghana.v



@kaylanuclaray



@jan.siat



@avineet.ghaii



@esantos02



@megmayt



@srishti_dansingh



@_ishakale



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Niya Maudgalya



Riya Patel



Henry Pham



Anandita Prakash



Sanjana Solanki



Natnaiel Yishak



APPLICATIONS

Every application listed below can be found on our website, in the applications subsection of the magazine subsection!

Contributors Interest Form

The Contributors Interest Form is for anyone who is passionate about something & would like to contribute/broadcast it through this brand. Being a contributor will give you voluntary experience from solucky as a brand/magazine and/or simply showcase your work submission(s). This form will allow you to choose what kind of position or submission you want for solucky. We welcome any kind of passionate work or workers, so feel free to send us a submission at any time! The link to this Google Form is linked below.

Link ~ <https://forms.gle/7AwTsQG7LfEv9HzG8>

Collaboration Interest Form

Our Collaboration Interest Form is open to anyone who is passionate about a certain cause, product, or kind of service that we can offer to our audience. This collaboration can be for either profit, non-profit, or simply marketing purposes. We welcome any kind of local business owners, small creators, organizations, etc. As long as you have an idea for a collaboration that could work well with both of our audiences, feel free to send us a submission at any time!

Link - <https://forms.gle/7AwTsQG7LfEv9HzG8>

Magazine Interview Interest Form

For a chance to be featured in one of our upcoming monthly issues, submit an application to be interviewed! The Magazine Interview Interest Form is open to anyone who believes they have a good influence on their community overall. This application is open to anyone, feel free to submit an application even if you feel that you are unsure if you fit our description for who to be interviewed. We like to pick those who should be interviewed based on our issue's theme for that month!

[Link ~ https://forms.gle/q6QeGUf2P6qpv6tZ8](https://forms.gle/q6QeGUf2P6qpv6tZ8)

Magazine Ad. Interest Form

If you are a small creator, business, organization, etc., check out the Magazine Advertisement Interest Form for an advertisement in one of our upcoming monthly issues! Your advertisement would be created by one of our Graphic Designers & then placed within one of our monthly issues. Within an issue, an advertisement will take up an entire page, & will include any information/graphics that you provide. Advertisements go for about \$3 each. The link to this application is linked down below!

[Link ~ https://forms.gle/7AwTsQG7LfEv9HzG8](https://forms.gle/7AwTsQG7LfEv9HzG8)



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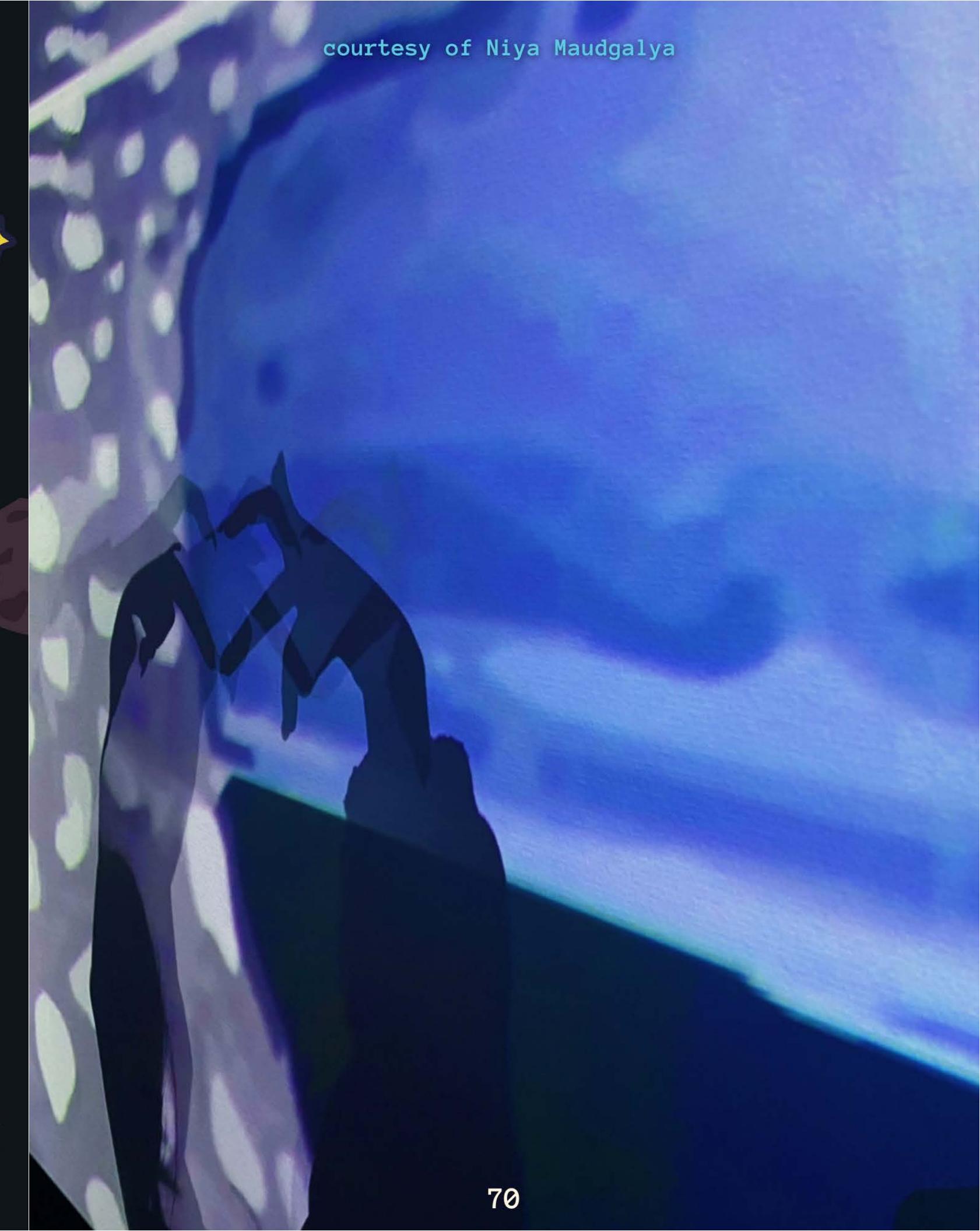
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GAME OVER

Thank you for reading
this month's issue! *

Find more information about solucky & our
magazine by typing "solucky.life" into your
browser

See you next month!

- solucky Team ♥

Text "@solucky" to 81010 for updates