



# HAKUNA

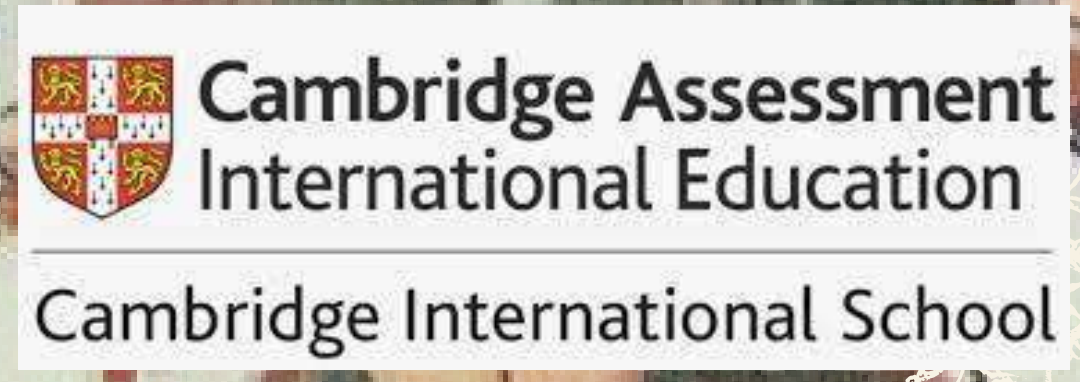
# MATATA

Keep the change, you filthy animal.

the year

CHRISTMAS (noun)

The only time of the year in which one can see a dead tree and a pair of socks.



# EDITORIAL

Christmas is just around the corner, and most of us seem to be losing ourselves in daydreams of mugs of hot cocoa and getting a chance to put on our cardigans and unwrapping Christmas presents. Perhaps the first thing that comes to mind when we think of Christmas is how it was portrayed in the 1990's, a truly iconic decade that has had a long-lasting effect on pop culture. This newsletter combines two of our favourite things as a cohort-Christmas and the 90's. Even today, most of our favourite movies and shows are invariably from the 90's. As the year comes to an end, it is the perfect opportunity to look back and reminisce.

One can only dream of a time machine, which can transport us back to a time when fashion was at its peak, cinema was all one could talk about, and the chorus of holiday music made the world come alive.

This edition explores various facets of the 90's, with a touch of the festive cheer. As we stay tethered to our homes, the warm movie nights become our getaway to Rockefeller Centre or witnessing the first snowfall of the season. Even closer to home, this edition takes us through Christmas fairs and decorating cookies with Christmas themed frosting only to fail miserably. For most of us, Christmas is synonymous with drives to Park Street, marvelling at the LED lights that paint an unforgettable picture. Spotting the street food carts while driving would simply make our day, for begging our parents for an ice cream despite it being winter will never get old.

As we sign off for the year, we hope this edition made your Christmas more memorable, and from our IGCSE family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Vaibhavi Gupta and Jiah Karmakar

# ZELUS

## Campus News- Back to School

While joyously exiting the school gates on 13th March 2020, after the end of our examinations, none of us could have ever imagined that this would be the last time for another year and a half. After 613 days of impatiently sitting in front of a screen, adjusting to online learning and having limited social interaction, we were finally able to go back to school on 16 November.

However, when we finally stepped into the doors of the building we were once so familiar with, the last one and a half years seemed to melt away. The building was exactly the same as we had left it. Although life had moved on, although we had transformed into completely different people with completely different lives, time had stood still in those hallways.

After all those days of wondering whether we would ever see our school again, the feeling was surreal. Every step flooded our minds with more memories.

Although we only had an hour, the joy of being back was indescribable. Though I was apprehensive about going back to school in terms of my health, all precautions were maintained. We stood six feet apart from each other and were double-masked.



Experiments with learning

It was enjoyable meeting our teachers in real life, as they struggled to identify the students behind the masks.

I was set to go to the Chemistry lab to perform various experiments. It was a fascinating experience, watching compounds mix and create vivid colours, right in front of my eyes, rather than merely watching a video. It made my classmates and I fall in love with the subject even more.

Although the experience was unlike anything it had been in the past, it was wonderful being back in school after all these months of fear and uncertainty. I go to the school building with an extra sense of gratitude now, as I have learnt not to take it for granted. We do not know what awaits us in the future but we can make the most out of what we have now.

-Ishana Kandhari



# ZEEWS



## The protest's yield

On 17th September 2020, three acts collectively known as the farm laws were passed by the Indian Parliament. These three acts are called The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020; and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020.

These laws have faced widespread opposition, especially the third act. It proposes that farmers can sell their produce to anyone, and removes the law that states they are only allowed to sell in state agricultural markets, or mandis. However, farmers are worried that this new law might cause government agencies to decrease their demand in these 'mandis' and farmers might have to work with private players. This leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and will also dismantle the MSP (Minimum Support Price) system which protects farmers from sharp price falls. The MSP is fixed for each crop every year, and is the price that the government procures crops at. Since November 2020, farmers have been camping around the outskirts of New Delhi, protesting these laws. They had been protesting for more than a year, with many rallies and tractor parades.

They have also marched towards Delhi and had blocked the NH9 railway.



Farmers protesting the three laws

Many farmers participated in "Rail Roko" Protests, where they attempted to stop trains from moving along their regular routes by sitting on the tracks. Protestors have often been dealt with brutality, and were met with water cannons and tear gas on some occasions. There was even a protest on 26th January, India's Republic Day which eventually turned violent and marked a dark day in the movement's history.

However, almost all farm leaders and protestors have since apologised, and called the incident appalling while renouncing the section that turned violent. On 19th November 2021, after a year of negotiations and protests, the Central Government announced that it would repeal the three farm laws. As the winter session of the Parliament begins, the official process to repeal these laws will be initiated. The Cabinet of Ministers has already cleared the repeal. This is a major win for the farming community and a hopeful end to a year-long protest.

-Vaibhavi Gupta



# ZEUS

## COP26

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) was conducted in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021. It was scheduled to be held in 2020 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost 200 countries participated in this climate summit. Their main aim was to set targets to reach net-zero emissions in order to stay below a 1.5-degree increase in average global temperatures. The failure of their plan would result in a loss in biodiversity and the collapse of entire ecosystems, while threatening human existence.

At first, COP26 seemed to be the climate summit that would save our planet. Environmentalists were hopeful that the required rapid action would be taken. However, after the conference, experts have conflicting judgements. COP26 was successful in several ways. The Glasgow Climate Pact had 197 signatories. 120 countries, consisting of 90% of the world's forests, vowed that by 2030, they would protect and reverse deforestation. 100 countries have promised to cut down methane emissions by 30% by 2030. The environmental impact of this greenhouse gas is 80 times more detrimental than Carbon Dioxide. The USA and China also agreed to cooperate and collaborate to combat climate change. Countries agreed on halting fossil fuel subsidies.



The official poster for COP26

The 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit had promised \$100 billion per year to developing nations so that they could fund their transition to renewable energy. However, this goal was not attained. A new target has been set. Developing nations will receive a total of \$500 billion from developed countries in the next five years. The 'Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero' has been formed, which will collect \$130 trillion to combat environmental change.

When the terms of the Glasgow Pact had almost been decided, countries such as India and China interrupted. They insisted that rather than 'phasing out' coal, it should be 'phased down'. After much debate, the terms were modified. Several countries such as the Marshall Islands expressed disappointment at this decision. The exact implication of 'phase-down' is unknown. This may cause a problem in reaching the 1.5 degrees target. Alok Sharma, the President of COP26, apologized 'for the way this process had unfolded'. COP27 will be held in Egypt in 2022, where countries will further discuss their climate targets.

-Ishana Kandhari

# SCIENCE

## "Element" of Surprise



The Hubble Space Telescope

These are some of the most influential inventions in the 90's that changed the way we look at the world.

The World Wide Web (WWW) was invented in the year 1989 and launched on Christmas Eve by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee at CERN. Berners-Lee wrote the first proposal in March of 1989 and the second in May, 1990. Organizing global information using computers, data networks, and hypertext technologies was the basic idea behind the WWW.

The first Web page address was <http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html>. The page contained information about the WWW project, including a description of hypertext and instructions for building a Web server, as well as links to other Web servers. In 1991, Tim Berners-Lee finally released his WWW software. A critical point was that the web should remain an open standard to be used by all and not locked into proprietary systems. Today, we all know the WWW as an easily accessible information system, thanks to scientific developments made in the 90's.

In spite of its size and age, the Hubble Space Telescope is by far the best telescope created by humans. The idea of a telescope in space first originated in 1946, but it was launched only in 1990, by NASA in collaboration with the European Space Agency. Since then it has revolutionized astronomy with 1.4 million observations and 18,000 science papers on its findings. It has provided us with images of objects as close as the moon, to the remotest of all galaxies. Its position above the earth gives it an advantage over other telescopes as it does not have to deal with light pollution, rain clouds, weather phenomena and atmospheric distortions.

With the help of the Hubble Telescope, scientists now predict the age of the universe to be 13.75 billion years, as compared to the previous estimation of 10-20 billion years. The data sent in by the telescope, helped scientists realize the universe was expanding at an accelerated rate. Three people were also awarded the Nobel Prize for this discovery. Ever since its launch in 1990, this telescope is still a gold mine for space exploration.

- Ananya Mishra and Sanjeev Sharda

# Felsted



## Meet and Greet



Felsted School is a prestigious institution located in the United Kingdom, and they host some amazing global education programme every year. In 2020, the school began hosting virtual global symposiums and held its annual Summer School online. It made for an extraordinary experience, and we were provided with a platform where we could exchange our views about relevant, global issues. Participating in the event, with deeply passionate students from all across the world, gave us a broad, multicultural perspective. We were all incredibly delighted to meet Mr Emmerson and have a lively discussion about the school and its Global Educational sessions. Meeting Mr Satyajit Sarkar was an equally great experience. We got the opportunity to discuss the CAIE board at length, giving students a peek into relevant and interesting details about the same.

After the interactive session, our school hosted a meet and greet session with prospective IGCSE parents. The students showed their experience with the curriculum through a short presentation that showcased a few innovative activities and experiments which had encouraged them to think outside the box and had enhanced their learning experience. They displayed some interesting presentations which we have worked on over these last few months and linked them to Cambridge learner profile attributes. The Hakuna Matata magazine of the IGCSE cohort was also on full display, providing our guests an insight into the creative efforts of the students.

The following day, the Global Ambassadors of Felsted School from MHS took Mr Emmerson and Ishana Malkani for an excursion around Kolkata. They explored the history of the city through old monuments and exhibitions, as well as Bengali art, culture and food, including delicious 'mishti'. Their experience was posted on Felsted Global's Instagram page, for the world to be introduced to Kolkata.

-Ishana Kandhari

# BUSINESS

## Christmas Tree Farms

Christmas trees are a classic element of traditional celebration associated with Christmas. Ever since the inception of this trend, the trees have been cut from forests annually. However, with growing demand, the concept of a 'Christmas Tree Farm' was established. These farms are now found in many locations across North and South America and Europe.

Christmas Tree farms produce trees for Christmas celebrations, but they also promote the agro-tourism experience of cutting your own trees which can be a special experience. For a festival that is celebrated with family and friends, having a Christmas tree that one has invested in and cut on their own adds a personal touch of joy.

Most Christmas tree farms earn most of their revenue during the holiday season. These farms help provide employment to workers who help harvest, cut and transport these trees. These farms are usually family-owned and run businesses and make an annual profit of roughly \$15000 to \$20000. These farms help support the local economy. This industry has been doing slightly better in recent years than normal as people have once again started looking towards buying real Christmas trees.



"Snow" Place like a Christmas Tree Farm

Such businesses often do not have profit maximisation as their primary objective. This is because they require one to raise large amounts of capital, are long-time investments, and are not profitable for almost the first 10 years. While this is a long period, it cannot be helped as Christmas trees take a long time to grow. For Christmas tree farms, it is important that they cultivate good relationships with customers and promote themselves well.

Many Christmas tree farms often promote their product as an experience, decorating their farms with Christmas decorations, and letting families drive upstate to these farms, while organising candy and holiday-themed activities for the younger ones. Such farms can truly add an element of charm to Christmas.





# sports



## Playing the long game



"Tiger Woods hitting a legendary shot"

The 1990's were an exciting decade in the field of sports. Along with breaking world records, setting new ones, and advancing as never before, the decade held some amazing moments for the world. From the Italia 90 to Tanni Grey-Thompson winning four gold medals in the Paralympics of 1992, we take a look at some of the most interesting sporting moments of the decade.

In 1994, West Indies and Warwickshire cricketer Brian Lara became arguably the greatest player in a match versus Durham at Edgbaston. He is acknowledged as the best batsman, with his record-breaking 501 not out. Interestingly, this global record would never have happened if bowler Anderson Cummins would not have stepped over the line while delivering a threatening stump yorker. It was ruled as a no ball, and Lara was only on twelve runs at the time. Statistically, he delivered 10 sixes, 427 deliveries, and 64 fours, shocking audiences around the globe. A miraculous feat, his record has not been matched over the course of 26 years.

In 1997, Tiger Woods had a string of victories under his belt, but a record-breaking Masters victory cemented his status as the world's most recognised golfer. It was the 21-year-old's first major tournament victory, and his margin of victory -12 strokes over his competitors, was only surpassed by Old Tom Morris at the British Open 135 years earlier, when he won by 13 strokes. Woods' victory was indeed the greatest modern accomplishment Golf had ever seen! With this, he became the youngest golfer to win the Masters at the Augusta National Golf Club. It also made him overcome racial barriers as he emerged as the first man African to win a significant professional championship.

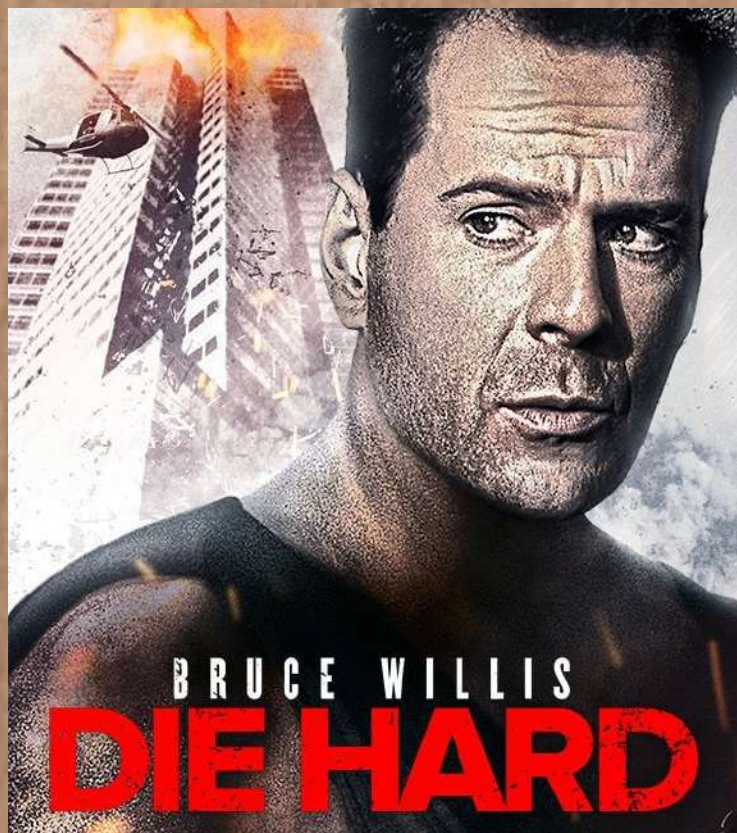
The 90's saw a lot more awe-inspiring highlights, stunning revelations, astounding scandals, and award-winning performances when it came to legendary sports moments. Whether it be England winning back-to-back five Nations championships in the field of rugby, or Michael Jordan triumphing his way to rule the basketball world, the 90s were filled with iconic sports achievements that would be cherished forever.

-Priyal Binani and Yashvi Sarđa



### CLUELESS-

Released on 19th July 1995, 'Clueless' starring Alicia Silverstone explores high school drama and is a soft satire on teen drama movies based on Jane Austen's 'Emma'. The movie follows Cher, a rich, materialistic and careless girl learning lessons about friendship and love. This is an iconic film of the 90's and also features some of the most celebrated fashion looks of that time.



### DIE HARD-

The movie 'Die Hard' features a New York police officer who gets caught in a terrorist takeover during Christmas. This movie is an amalgamation of action and romance, perfect for the eve before Christmas. This movie keeps you on the edge of your seat constantly, rooting for the protagonist. What makes this movie so special is the relatability of the protagonist as he is not idealistic but multidimensional.

### TITANIC-

Titanic, a classic 1990's film, earned roughly eleven Academy Awards. The visual effects, costumes, and makeup make the film appear so real. Titanic brilliantly holds the audience's attention, and their emotions are bound to surface while watching. Despite the film's length, every minute is worth watching. The plot revolves around a seventeen-year-old girl, Rose (Kate Winslet), who comes from an affluent family and is about to marry. When she boards the Titanic, she meets Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio), an artist, and falls in love with him.



### DDLJ-

This movie is about two youngsters, Simran and Raj, whose paths cross in Europe by pure chance. From becoming friends to falling in love, the quick-paced romance thrived through an adventurous journey. Their dreams are shattered when Raj finds out Simran is someone else's bride. To win his true love he must win over his beloved's father setting off on a thrilling mission to reach his bride.





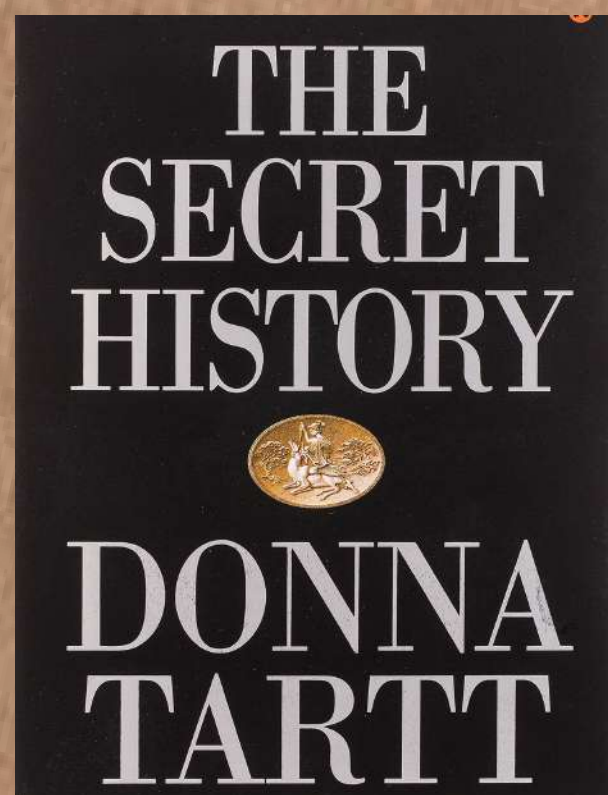
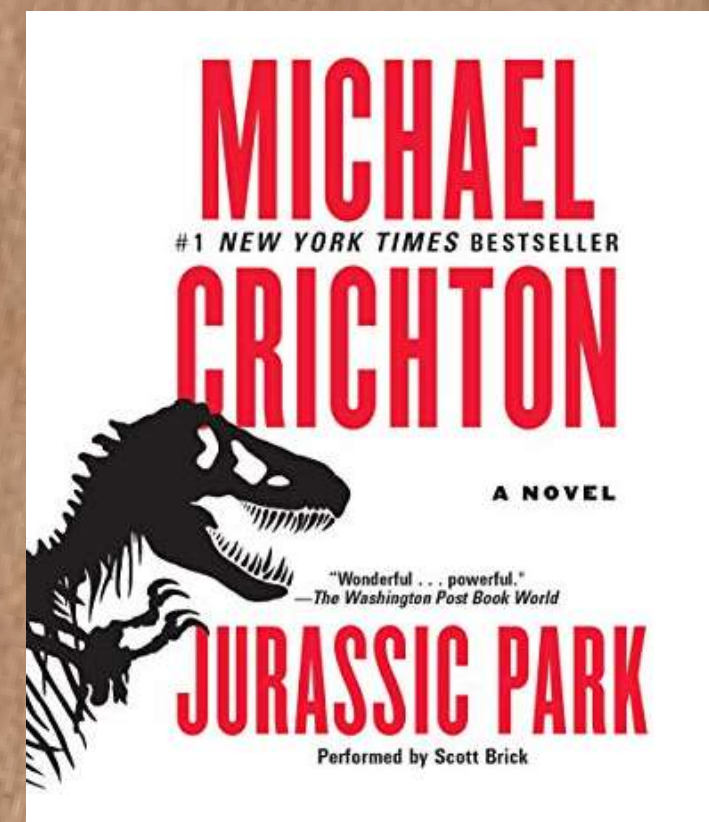
# BOOKS



For this 90s themed edition of Hakuna Matata, we thought it would be interesting to create this section based on revolutionary books that defined the 1990's.

## 1. JURASSIC PARK BY MICHAEL CRICHTON-

What better way to usher in the technological age than with a botched scientific experiment, a demolished theme park, and a swarm of ferocious dinosaurs that return from the dead? Jurassic Park was the most popular science fiction novel of the nineties. Its movie adaptation, directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Crichton, was the highest-grossing movie in history until Titanic surpassed it. It's a must-read if you love science fiction and enjoy thriller novels.

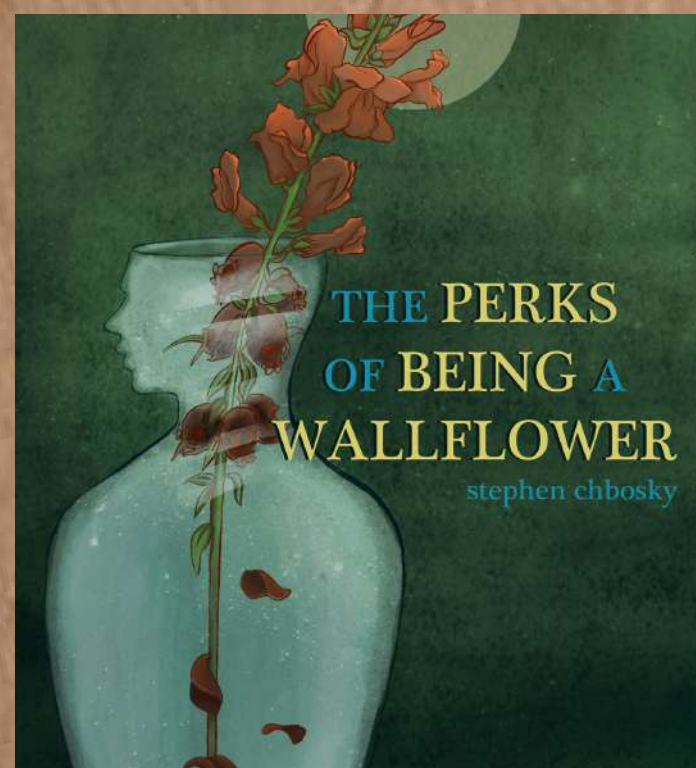
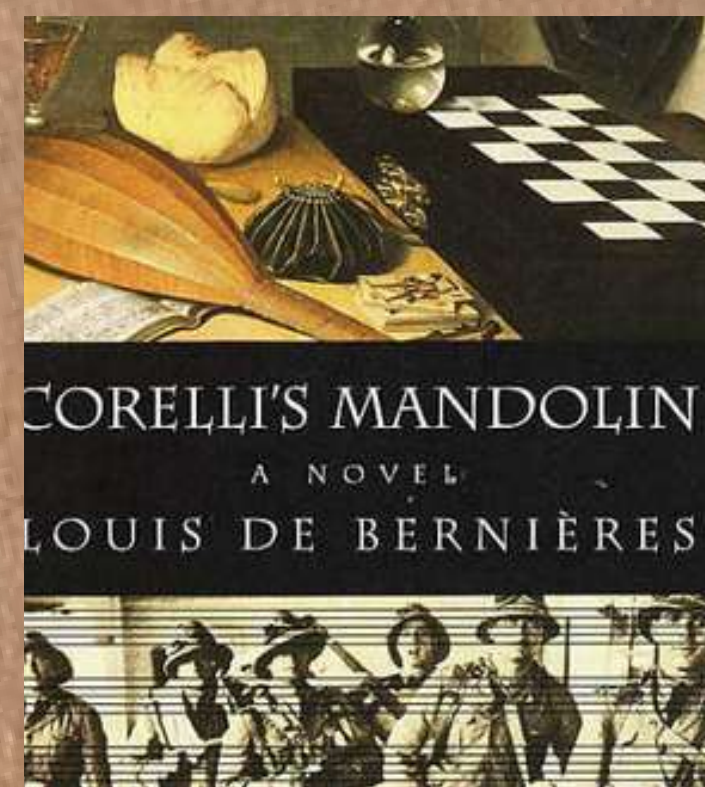


## 2. THE SECRET HISTORY BY DONNA TARTT-

This novel follows a group of pretentious 20-something classics students as they plunge into catastrophic lunacy fuelled by Greek mythology, and it's a smorgasbord of style and story. They murder one of their members after a classic rite goes wrong, and things only get worse from there. Meant for lovers of psychological fiction, mystery, and Greek mythology - this book should definitely be on the top of your to-be-read lists.

## 3. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

The must-have beach accessory for British visitors in the late 1990s was this fascinating epic wartime love story blended with the real aroma of Greek island life. The tale of love, battle, heroism and a mandolin-strumming Italian soldier who values life's pleasures over the fascist cult of death tugged at hearts all around the world, selling millions of copies and remaining on bestseller lists for four years.



## 4. THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

"The Perks of Being a Wallflower" is perhaps one of the greatest books written in the 90s for a variety of reasons. It is not only a fascinating peek into the psyche of a teenager dealing with grief, friendship, loneliness, and heartbreak, but it's also a reminder of things that happen in High School that we may not be able to alter, but that we can make the best of. The main character, Charlie, is the subject of the book, and his letters to an unnamed recipient whom he calls "Friend."



# RECIPES



## Gingerbread Cookies

The most awaited season, winter is here, and so is Christmas! What better way to welcome this season than a plate of delicious and comforting gingerbread cookies with your favourite Christmas movie? With just the right kick of ginger and the aroma of warm spices, this is bound to get you in the right mood for Christmas! Make sure to have fun decorating your cookie with icing, sprinkles or whatever you please, making it a visual and gustatory delight!

### Ingredients

#### FOR THE COOKIES-

- 1 ½ cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ⅓ cup honey
- ¾ teaspoon ginger powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon powder
- ¼ teaspoon clove powder
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg powder
- ¼ teaspoon cardamom powder

#### FOR THE ROYAL ICING-

- 4 tablespoon icing sugar
- 1 teaspoon corn flour
- 1 teaspoon milk

### Method

- Sift flour with baking powder and baking soda. Add salt, and all the spices and mix well. Keep aside.
- Add dark brown sugar and softened butter in a bowl and whisk until it turns soft and fluffy.
- Add honey and whisk again. Now add half the flour and fold until well combined. Add the second half of the flour and fold until all ingredients are well combined. The dough will be soft and smooth in texture. Wrap in a cling film and pop into the fridge for about an hour.
- Preheat the oven to 160 degrees Celsius. Take out the dough from the fridge and roll it into ¼ inch thick, cut shapes with a cookie cutter. Place them on a baking tray lined with parchment paper, keep them 3 inch apart. Freeze the cut cookies for 10 minutes.
- Now bake for 7-9 minutes. When cookies are done, remove and let it cool completely before you decorate them.
- This is optional but to make royal icing, mix all the ingredients mentioned under the list 'for royal icing'. Divide the icing into equal portions. Add required food colors and mix well. Put them into individual small piping bags and decorate the cookies. Let them sit for 20 to 30 minutes to dry.



Gingerbread Cookies baked by Vani and Soumyaa

Now, it's time to grab a plate of cookies, snuggle under a blanket and laugh with your family to your favourite Christmas movie! Don't forget to leave some out for Santa!  
Merry Christmas!

-Vani Saraf and Soumyaa Mall



# FASHION



## In Style

Fashion is a form of self expression. Across the ages, the arrangement of clothing and accessories worn by a person have been believed to reflect their individuality and autonomy. Through a semblance of colours, prints, designs, patterns, forms, material and sparkle, the ever-changing trends of fashion are indicative of different time periods. The 1990's are widely regarded as one of the most memorable decades in terms of their vogue, so much so that even today, some of their looks can be found as a recurring mode among the youth. Here is taking a look at some of the most iconic trends and looks from the evergreen 90's-

### OVERALLS

Sleeveless denim overalls entered the market and were a sensational hit in the 90's. The casual appearance of the outfit is testament to the energetic and relaxed atmosphere associated with the decade. This trend is seen sported by Jennifer Aniston, in a scene from the popular TV show 'F.R.I.E.N.D.S'



### MATCHING PLAID SETS

The combination of plaid-on-plaid, often complemented by knee high socks was a staple fashion statement for the younger demographic. Sensationalised by Alicia Silverstone, who carried the look in her movie 'Clueless', this became a manner of adding style to a simple two-piece attire.





## REVENGE DRESS

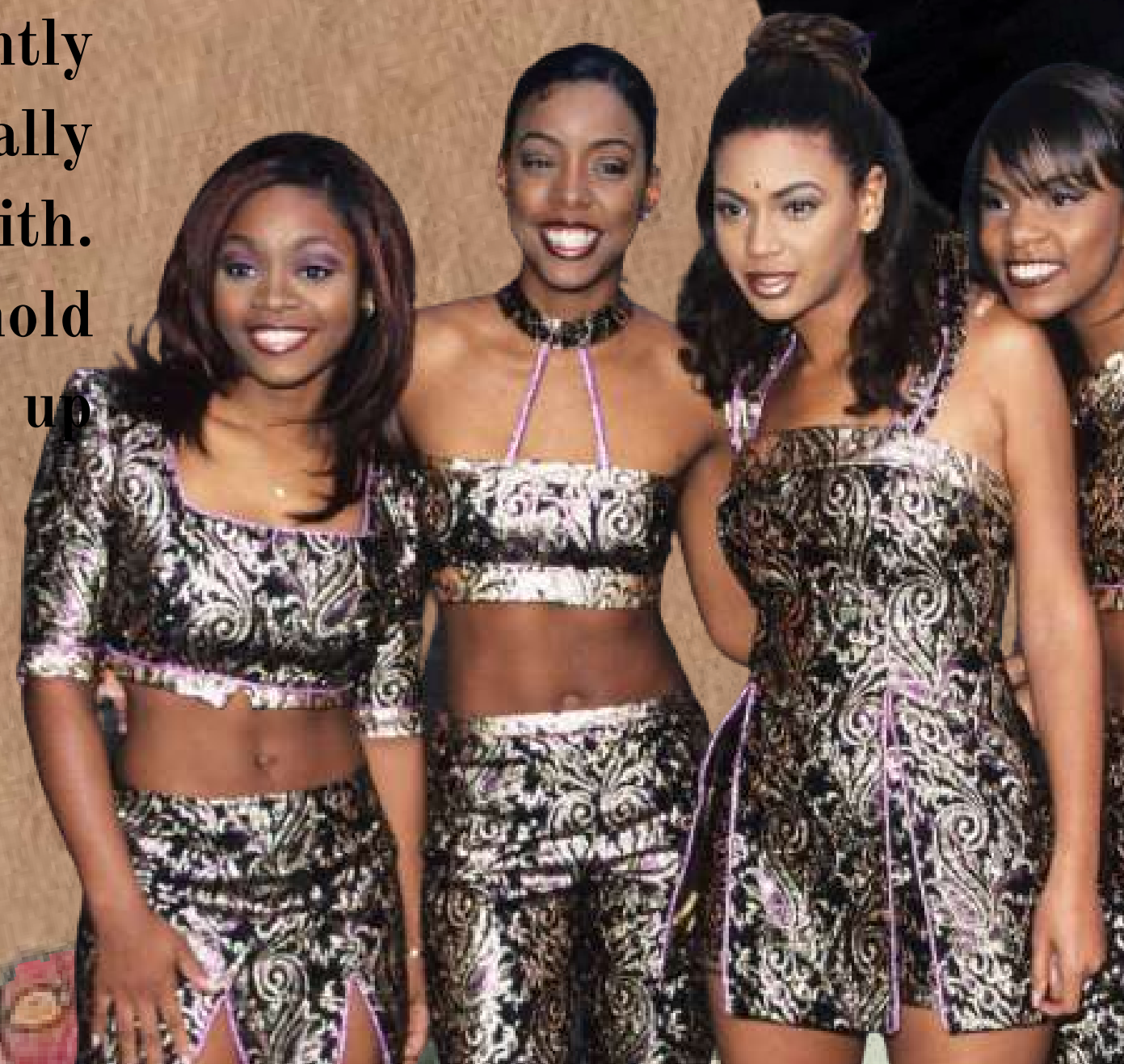
Undoubtedly one of the most iconic looks of the 90's was Princess Diana's 'revenge dress', made for her by Greek designer Christina Stambolian. Princess Diana wore this dress to the Serpentine Gallery in 1994, on the same night that Prince Charles admitted that he had been unfaithful to her. Though it went against the royal protocol of dressing, but it was a powerful way of using fashion to make a bold statement and created a legacy of acknowledging the role fashion can play in creating an impactful narrative.

## ANIMAL PRINT

The leopard print being a timeless rage found its place on hats, coats, dresses and trousers as all the rage. However, the 90's were a special time for the Zebra print to shine, as it was sported through the decade with undying energy, much like that of the famous musical group, Destiny's Child, who are seen wearing it in this picture.

Part of the reason why the 90's are currently dominant is because designers are generally fascinated by the clothing they grew up with. Trends come and go in fashion, but the 90's hold on the fashion world is strong-and it won't let up anytime soon.

-Ananya Misra and Yamuna Seth



# Kind Thoughts

"Just remember, the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart."

~ Tom Hanks

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

~ Jaenice Maeditere

-Jafnavaa Yaduvanshi



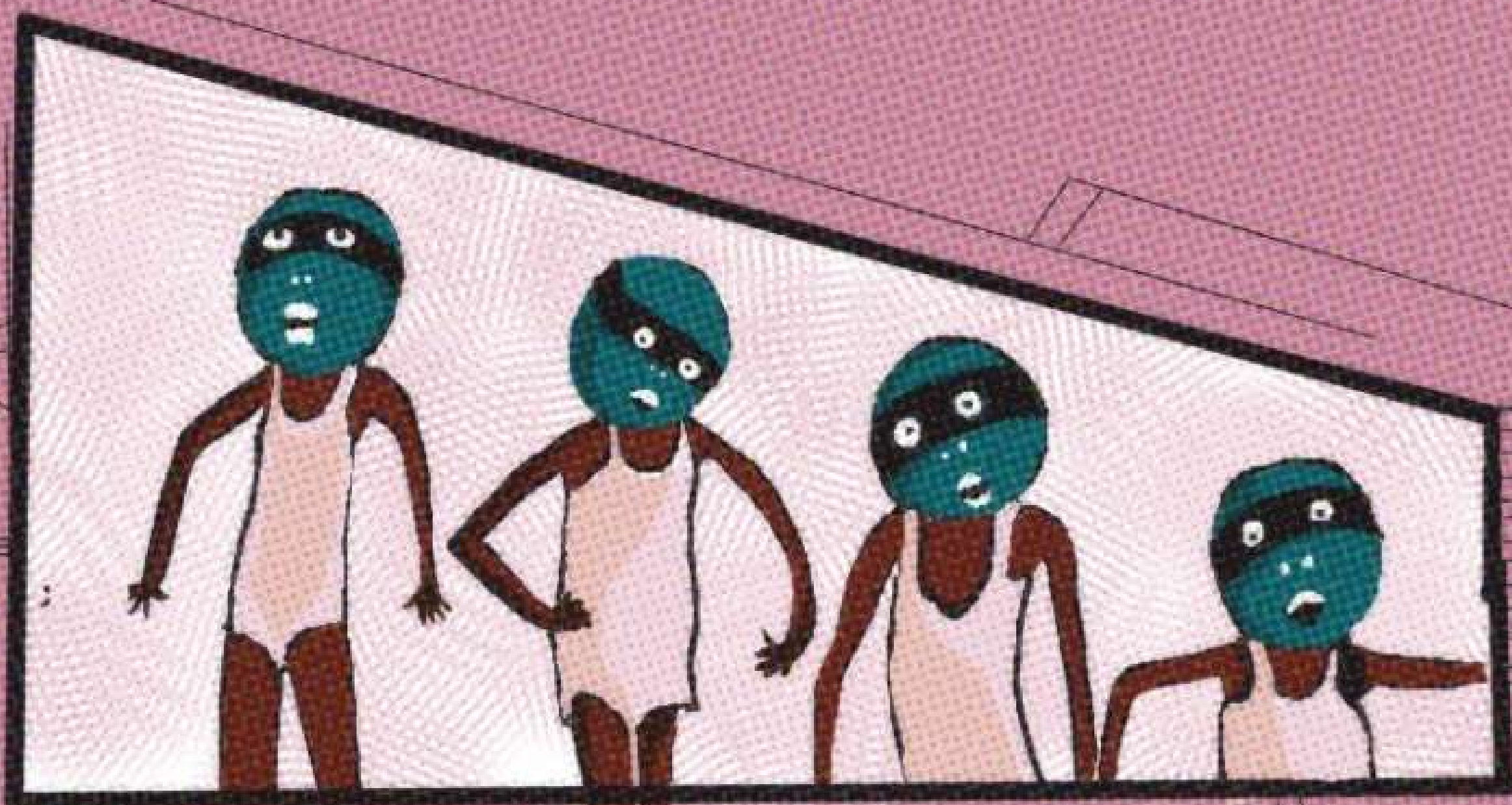


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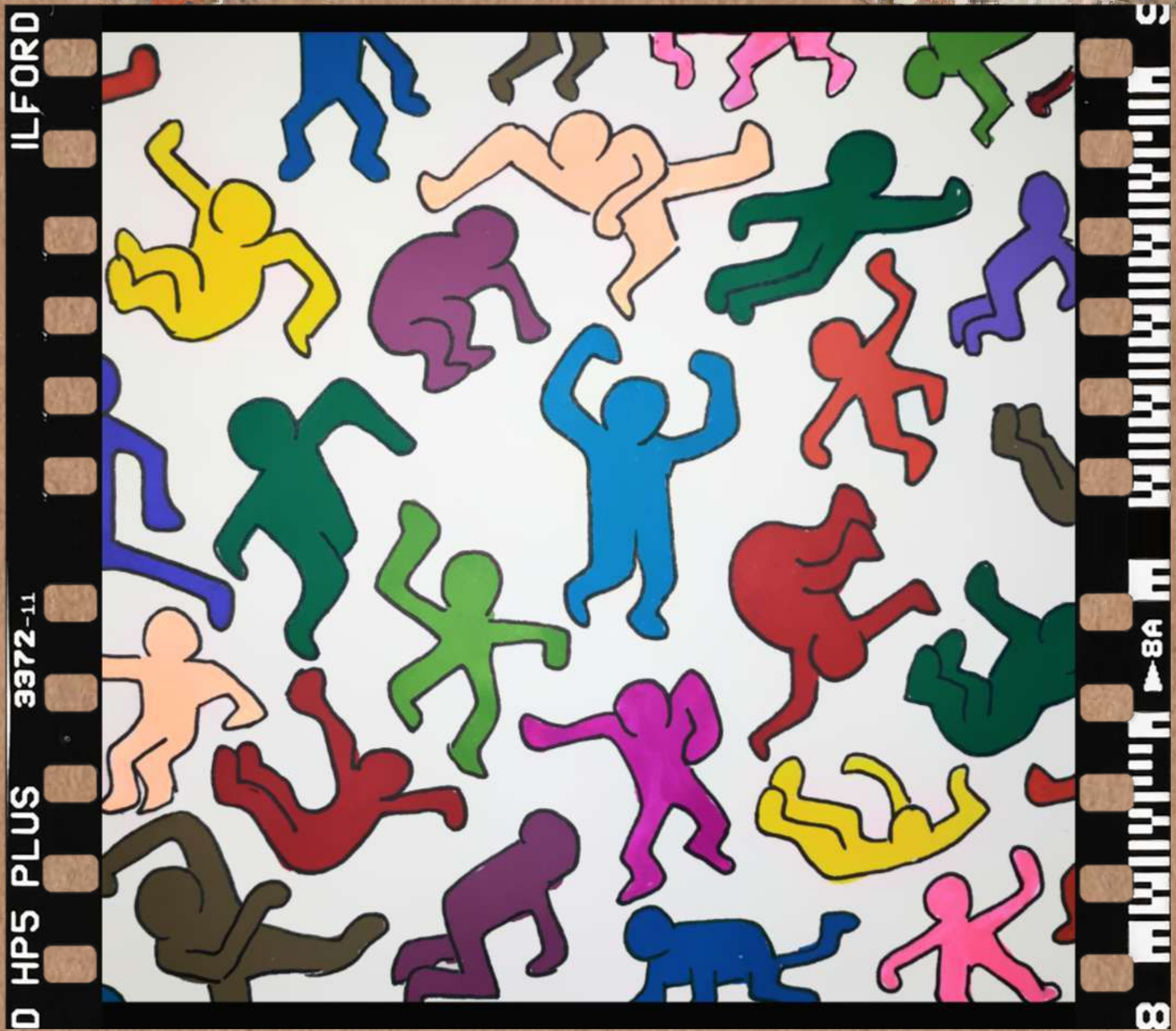


Artwork by Priyal Binani

One of the most interesting pieces in the art of the 1990's, this artwork is inspired by a contemporary artist by the name of Laylah Ali, who made a series of paintings from 1996 to 2005 titled the 'Greenheads'. An undeniably captivating ideal, Ali used these 'Greenhead' characters, freeing them from categorical differences of gender, race, height, and age. She took her inspiration from events around the world, from protest signs to interactions of world leaders, but gave them a distinct sense of uniqueness and style of her own. The entire series draws from the world around Ali, giving them a socio-political meaning, yet interestingly making them creations which exist outside these confined realms. For this particular artwork, I used a digital medium to show the transition of technology in art, converting the paper painting into a form of pop art. Not only is this piece significant in terms of removing categorical differences between humans, but it delivers a much deeper essence of what truly defines our differences as individuals.

-Priyal Binani





Artwork by Sanvee Sharda

Keith Haring was one of the most widely celebrated artists of the 1990's, and his legacy still continues today. His vibrant, eye-catching, cartoon-like drawings might seem more simplistic than traditional artworks, but they are no less respected in the art world. His art, characterized by simple shapes, outlined with thick black lines but filled in with bright bold colours, took influence from the pop movement. His paintings reflect on a range of social and political movements, from love and humanity to apartheid in South Africa. The simple, faceless figures represent humans as unique but equal beings, despite gender, race, sexuality or religion. Haring wanted to emphasize the importance of individuality and how every human was different, always changing and important. Meanwhile the dancing figures clearly evoke joy, energy, fun and a sense of community.

-Sanvee Sharda



# Bengal Art



The 1990's were undoubtedly an age of modern expressionism in art. Bengal art flourished in this era, progressing forward since the colonial-impacted art. There was widespread creativity as both senior and junior artists started experimenting with new techniques in their creations.

Indian artists began to expand the range of forms they utilised in their work in the 1990's. Indian art began to bring new thoughts and work both within and outside of prior academic traditions during the country's economic liberalisation throughout that decade. Modern Indian art is often influenced by Western styles while incorporating Indian themes and images.

Devajyoti Ray, for example, pioneered a new type of art known as Pseudorealism, in which he used unusual colours and abstract shapes to show everyday events in Indian life. Akbar Padamsee is a contemporary Indian painter who works in a variety of mediums, including oil painting, plastic emulsion, water colour, sculpture, printmaking, and computer graphics. He's worked as a filmmaker, sculptor, photographer, engraver, and lithographer, among other things.



"The Masks" by Ganesh Pyne

There are several notable Bengali artists from this decade, including Ganesh Pyne. Known for his "poetic surrealism", fantasy, and dark imagery, influenced by Bengali folklore and mythology, Pyne was one of the most notable contemporary artists of the Bengal School of Art. A leading artist during the post-Independence period of India's history, K G Subramanyan explored post-Independence Indian identity through art. As his works reflect a strong cubist influence, Subramanyan's paintings are known for their sensuality, nighty backdrops, and reflective faces. Subramanyan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2012.

Indian and more specifically Bengal art flourished during this decade, leaving us with a rich history of art to reflect on and be inspired by.

-Ananya Mishra

# Reflections

## Christmas: Then and Now



Festivals are about traditions and family rituals but over time, all festivals change. Not in their meaning or significance, but in how we celebrate them. Christmas too has changed over the decades, perhaps not in spirit but in the manner in which we celebrate it. Looking at how Christmas was celebrated in the 1990's and then today, the change is evident.

First of all, things were simpler in the 90's. Get-togethers with family and friends were more frequent, and less planned out or formal. Neighbours dropped in with homemade cookies and cakes more frequently. Now, smartphones have become ubiquitous to the festivals with a phone in every hand and "Instagram updates" often taking away time from actually having conversations with our dear ones.

Christmas entertainment in the 90's was defined by Christmas movies like "Home Alone." Now that streaming platforms like Netflix have become all pervasive, the idea of going to the VCR stores and renting Christmas movies seems far-fetched. However, binge-watching classic Christmas movies has become a Christmas tradition. Mariah Carey's album, "All I want for Christmas is You" continues to be one of the most popular holiday albums of all time.

Family visits remain a continuing tradition, though the gifts we carry have changed. Ties for grandparents and reindeer sweaters knitted by grandmothers were once popular Christmas gifts. Nowadays, smartwatches and phones have become more popular. Shopping itself was different and weeks were spent going to one mall after another to pick up the season's hit gift. Store catalogues like the famous JCPenney Christmas catalogue have now given way to online shopping and last-minute deliveries by Amazon.

The Christmas tree has changed, from the real trees decked up with handmade decorations and fairy lights, taken out year after year to synthetic trees and cheap, 'Made-in-China' baubles that are replaced every year. Above all, Christmas was simpler with warmer personal interactions. The festival today is more organised, expensive, driven by marketing strategies and as much a commercial fest as a family event. However, the spirit of Christmas is always the same. The same joy in the air. The same excitement every year, and of course, the same family we spend our lives with. However, ultimately, every festival is what we make of it. This Christmas, it might be time to reinvent some family traditions for ourselves.

-Smera Kanaujia

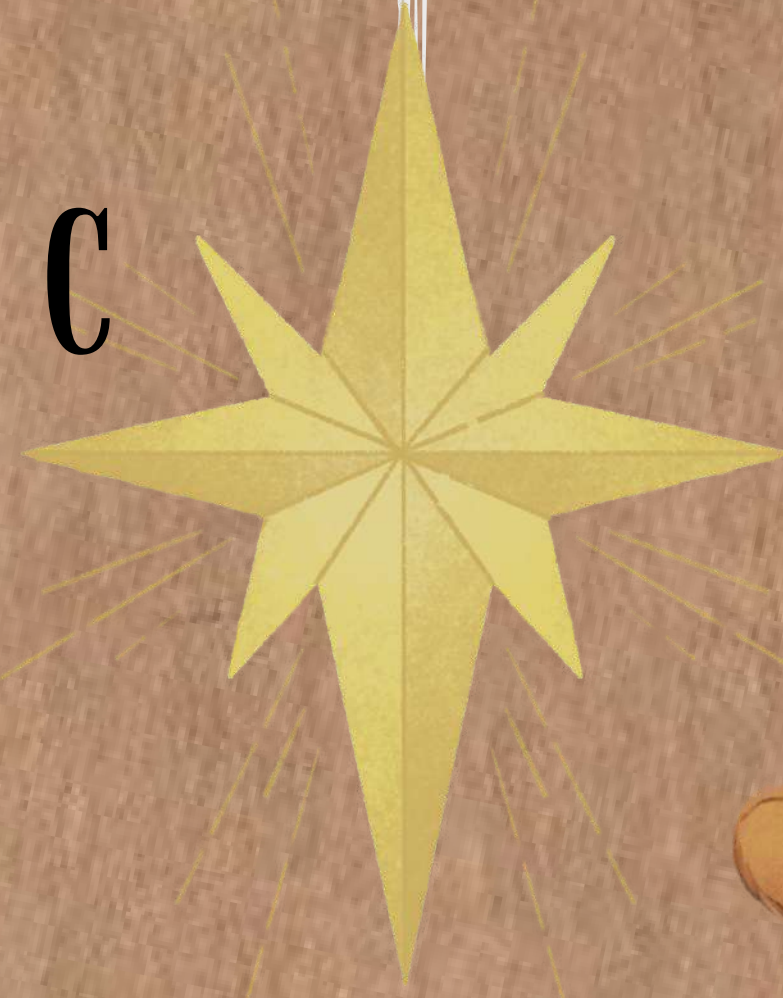
A



B



C



D



*Pick your favourite Christmas ornament!*

E



F



G



# What does it say about you?



**A** Classic Orbs/Baubles - Like most people, you believe Christmas is about the spirit of the season rather gifting. You're a person who likes to do things in the spur of the moment and enjoy living life spontaneously.

**B** Glass drops - Your design aesthetic is reflected in these ornaments. You're a minimalist in almost all areas of your life. You have a few close friends that are like family to you, and you would go to great lengths to help them.

**C** Colourful Shapes- You are enthusiastic and lively! You undoubtedly march to your own beat and nothing can deter your cheerful spirit. People enjoy being around you.

**D** Felt animals - You are a free thinker who enjoys being creative and letting your imagination run wild. You don't enjoy being the centre of attention often but will not shy away from taking credit when it is rightfully yours.

**E** Snowmen - You are definitely a nostalgic person and you tend to prioritise family over all else. You are playful and fun with just a dash of innocence.

**F** Traditional Brass Ornaments- You are old-school and tend to be artistic and imaginative. You are strong and gritty, and have an appreciation for the finer things in life. Determined and passionate, you have a strong work ethic.

**G** Food-themed ornaments - With a cheerful, light personality, you are a great friend who is always there for your loved ones. People often come to you for advice and your inputs are valued.

~ Jafnavaa Yaduvanshi



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