

TOP PICKS



Bridgerton

Aarya Haresh Trivedi

Bridgerton, a Regency-era romance series, is now back for a new season. The new season is all about a new Bridgerton sibling's search for a good marriage match. Season 2 improves on Season 1 by moving the show to an ensemble-based narrative. The dynamics between the lead characters Anthony Bridgerton, Kate Sharma, and Edwina Sharma, combine the enemies-to-lovers and love triangle romance tropes. Bridgerton takes the necessary stance that people of colour ought to be represented in historical fiction.



Uncharted

Adarsh Tripathi

The Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg starrer 'Uncharted' fails to impress, and is not nearly on the same level as the famed video games it is based on. While the action in the film is exhilarating, it feels disjointed as the producers have tried to distill the essence of video games that take days and weeks to complete, into a 2-hour film.



RRR

Mayura Ghate

A masterpiece made by S.S.Rajamouli after two hit films like Bahubali and Bahubali 2. 'Rise Roar Revolt (RRR)', released on March 24th, 2022, is a fictional pre-independence story which revolves around two major themes namely friendship and patriotism. With a stunning use of VFX and camera work, the story has maintained the regality of the film. If you enjoy stories with themes of friendship and solid musical numbers, you must watch RRR.



The Fame Game

Pranjal Nangare

The Fame Game starring the evergreen actress Madhuri Dixit is a gripping attempt to peek behind the facade of stardom. Streaming on Netflix, it revolves around the sudden disappearance of a Bollywood actress Anamika Anand (played by Dixit) and the enigmatic underbelly of what goes on in the lives of such stars. With twists and turns in each episode, it will have you sitting on the edge of your seat till the very end.

Live Debate: A First for SCMC

Vijayhardik Joysula

Being in the newsroom on Election Day is on the bucket list of every budding journalist. The students of the Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication (SCMC) experienced it as they covered the latest election results.

March 10, 2022, created electoral history in the political landscape. Yogi Adityanath broke the Uttar Pradesh jinx. He got re-elected for a second term with an overwhelming majority. The last time it happened was three decades ago. For SCMC, the first-ever live debate conducted in a simulated newsroom is an event of similar proportions.

Students from the batches of 2022 and 2023 volunteered to be a part of the event. They donned the roles of the people involved in the broadcast of a news bulletin. On the day of the election results, a few students took up the roles of news anchors, party spokespersons, and political analysts. The remaining students were a part of the audio-visual team and the research and graphics team.

The news anchors guided the discussion and evoked interesting responses from the guests on the panel. Behind the scenes, the research and graphics complemented the live debate providing visual aids for the audience.

The two-hour live debate was split into two segments. The first segment of the debate focused on the politically charged states of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Abhishek, a student of the journalism specialisation, anchored this segment.



The entire team that made the live-debate a success

The early trends showed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) buck the exit poll predictions and secured a strong lead. The political analyst Shirin opined that the breakaway of votes from Mayawati's BSP helped gain the OBC vote.

As the discussion moved to Punjab, the farm laws and subsequent protests dominated the debate. Pranoti, the expert on Punjab, raised concerns that the freebie-economics of AAP would burden the distressed economy of Punjab.

The second segment of the live debate, hosted by Aadhya, resembled the broadcast of a mainstream media channel. The BJP and Congress spokespersons represented by Somalika and Soham got into a heated war of words. The Congress spokesperson blamed the EVM for the electoral defeat in Uttar Pradesh but accepted the Punjab mandate.

Guest expert Professor Amitabh Das Gupta called out the hypocrisy of the Congress spokesperson. He posed tough questions to the BJP spokesperson. The answers provided did not carry weight. He gave an insight into Goa politics and what the elections mean for politics in the country.

During the event, professors dropped into the studio to congratulate the students for their effort. Students speaking in front of the camera researched and talked to friends to gather information about the topic. The research team took help from Professor Jaideep Kumar to enhance the aesthetic quality of design cards.

The entire team was ably guided by Professor's Kabir Upmanyu and Sagar Gokhale during the planning and execution of the event. This collective effort made the live debate a success.

The self-taught inventor

Keerthana Unni

Necessity is the mother of all invention but when adversity strikes, the motivation to do something different increases tenfold. Such is the story of Mohammed Farooq Yusuf, a forty-year-old man who used invention to overcome the hardships in his life. Yusuf earned his livelihood by filling air in vehicle tyres and revolutionised the standard method of using handpumps with his creativity. Having bought a compressor from his friend, he improved upon the technology to make use of a Bajaj Chetak to fill air in the tyres of Motor Vehicles.

A typical attempt at filling air using a handpump consisted of pumps per tyre, which resulted in great pain and injury to his legs. Yusuf used rubber strips as casts to support his legs and worked relentlessly to earn a livelihood. He never once went to the doctor and relied on warm steam and massages to treat his troubles.

It was then that he decided to innovate for the sake of his family.

Having had used a handpump for more than 8 years that caused a lot of agony, he decided to do something different. The idea to convert a Bajaj Chetak into an air pump was in thought for more than a year but implemented within a month. Yusuf invested a meagre amount of 10,000 rupees, innovating the device that yielded a lot more in returns. His standard rate was charging 5 rupees for each tyre, 2 rupees from which would go towards buying petrol and 3 rupees were profit for him. The device is completed with a meter that detects how much air has been filled.

With the onset of the pandemic and lockdown, Yusuf was plunged into a great deal of debt and trouble. He was thankful for the momentary relaxation of curfews as it saw an influx for his business.

He was sustained by his wife, two children and brother. Yusuf's main motto in life is "Zindagi me haar nahi maan na aur koshish karna important hai". He believes that working and trying hard and using the full capacity of your brain will help one overcome any problem.

He chose the current street intersection for his operation for convenience as it is close to his residence in Yerwada. When asked if he wanted to change the location of operation as it would yield more profits, he expressed that "zyaada lalach se dikkat aati hai". With the help of his wife's income as a women's tailor, he can sustain his family in Pune, while educating his children and paying for basic needs.

Yusuf invented the device out of necessity, with no outside help or formal education his aspirations do not end here. He looks forward to working more mechanically, as an untrained engineer and wishes to innovate using his experiential learnings and God-gifted intellect.



Mohammed Farooq Yusuf

The making of a musical

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Shirin Pajnoo



Aryaa Sharma

What was the most challenging part of directing your batchmates and juniors?

SP: We all were meeting offline for the first time. Suddenly we were interacting with people in person - 66 of them, including the cast, crew and the club heads. To strike a chord and manage the compatibility of all these people every day seemed like a herculean task at first. But later, it got smooth, as we were all directing our energies towards a singular purpose.

Conversely, what was your favourite part of directing?

SP: It was my first time. To be honest, I still can't believe that the musical is over. I woke up every morning, looking forward to creating a practice schedule for the day and sharing it with the team. My favourite part is surely getting to know a lot of people, seeing all the juniors getting comfortable with each other and witnessing a massive talent hub, that's SCMC!

What advice would you give to the next heads of the theatre club and future directors?

SP: Never doubt your capabilities. Go that extra mile. Go beyond your comfort zone. Do it for the spirit of the team, for your passion and for the love of art.