

The Homecoming Chapter

Pg. 5



Lights,
Camera,
Action!

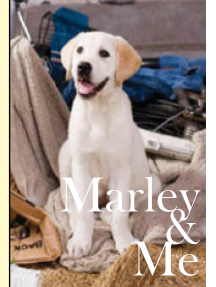
Parthiv Gargo on the Inter House Movie Making Competition

Pg. 2-3

THIS WEEK'S
QUARANTINE
WATCHLIST

Featuring:
Marley & Me
Tenet
Wonder

Pg. 6



The Capitol Siege

-Naviya Chamariya, XI

Imagine the Indian elections; BJP has lost the majority votes and a new Prime Minister is being elected in the Parliament. Just then, a huge mob of armed, radical Modi supporters march towards the Parliament and break into it. Chanting slogans and claiming a rigged result, they cause the politicians to immediately evacuate the building following which they disrespect the very sanctity of the building. In the process they shoot a bullet or two, causing a few deaths and but they still run around with BJP flags wrapped around themselves. If this was way too much to imagine, then the US Capitol definitely went through a lot!

In the 2020 United States' Presidential elections, Joe Biden from the Democratic Party had rightfully been elected the President of the United States. Having lost, Trump made the most absurd claims of the elections being "rigged by radical democrats", "fraudulent", and false with absolutely no proof and recurring rectifications by the Judiciary. With nothing else working and his desperation at its peak, Trump started instigating his followers, feeding them with the same lies every time he got a chance! With his promises to keep "keep America great" and persistent speeches, he caused a mob of very angry supporters to march right into the US capitol while a joint session of all the Senators to officially confirm Joe Biden's victory, was in process.

"And after this, we're going to walk down there, and I'll be there with you, we're going to walk down...to the Capitol and we are going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women. And we're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them. Because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong." A woman was shot at the US Capitol, by the group of

protesters supporting Trump. Would it be too out of line to say that Trump now has the blood of this lady on his hands? The lawlessness of the demonstrators showcased the epitome of disrespectful behaviour by breaking windows and doors that led up to the House of Chambers, brining violence within the Congress. Many were waving "Trump 2020" flags, wearing t-shirts and hats with the President's signature, becoming an absolute nuisance for the lawmakers.

Trump, like the responsible leader that he is, took to social media and asked the demonstrators to go back home comforting them that despite the election having been 'stolen' from them they must maintain peace and return. With his constant remarks like "We love you", "I know you're hurt" and "It was a fraudulent election, but we can't play into the hands of these people" it was about time he had his social media accounts banned, which Zuckerberg finally had the courage to once he was certain the tides indeed had gone the other way. His final promise was a smooth transfer of powers to Biden, however with another two weeks of Trump looming in the horizon, nobody in the power circle of Washington DC nor around the world, can rest easy.

Being a citizen of the largest democracy in the World, it sends chills down my spine to know that an event as undignified as this had occurred in the world's oldest democracy. Yes, the very essence of democracy is right to express oneself but does that really justify violence, and the absolute disregard of law and order? It is said that any strength over extended, becomes a weakness. While this is a road block that the oldest democracy in the world will tide over, it gives us food for thought if whether our feeling of entitlement to our rights may not just shake the roots of the very institution of democracy.

Lights Camera Action!

-Parthiv Gargo, XII

In a year that saw the world turn into a horror show, art is the one thing that brought us all together. From cinema to books to music, art was what kept us all sane through the lockdown. And although art was the saving grace, the artists who made these gems had a much harder time creating when the world around them was in literal chaos. Writers were not sitting in cafes mulling over their work, filmmakers weren't on sets anymore, and the silence in the recording booths was loud, deafening even. But just like the world around them, artists stepped up to the challenge and added meaning and life to a whirlwind of a year.

Aviators too found themselves in a precarious position. However, in the true Aviator spirit, the four Houses took up the challenge and participated in the 8th Annual Inter - House Movie Making Competition. Screened on the 31st of December, the contest featured stellar work from budding filmmakers in the School. What made the screening all the more significant was that each of these movies were shot and edited across the distance.

A FEW INCHES BELOW HEAVEN

A Subansiri-Namdang Production

“What would it feel like to get lost”, says one of the characters in the opening scene of the Subansiri - Namdang film, and it is from that moment onwards that the audience is lost in this mesmerising story written and directed by Letminlun Haokip. The film follows three primary characters in the guise of unrequited, imprisoned, and abused love. Aesthetic shots along with brilliant performances by the cast, ‘A Few Inches Below Heaven’ felt like a breath of fresh air.



THE ART OF LIVING

A Boroli-Lohit Production



The first movie of the night, ‘The Art of Living’ by the Blue House followed the journey of Samay, played brilliantly by the new actor on the bloc, Kaustav Arya, as he navigated through life and through his problems until he decided to look at life through a more mature and empathetic lens. The stunning cinematography by Bornam Bora combined with the heartfelt and deeply moving script by Gayatri Sapru, the film managed to capture the sense of feeling lost and lonely, and how as the clock ticked, time eventually did heal.

ACCEPTANCE

A Jinari-Manas Production

Awarded Second Position, 'Acceptance' by Jinari – Manas is a tale of grief and mourning, and a trauma so strong that it clouded one's judgement of reality. It is the story of Rohit, played by the School's seasoned actor Shubhajeet Dasgupta, and his denial of the reality at hand and how that had shaped in his head a world of his own. Done in black and white, the biggest achievement of the film is the effortless editing by Jeremy Jahau. Shot separately and at home by the actors themselves, the film flowed effortlessly and was completely cohesive in its execution.



WARPED

A Kopili-Dhansiri Production



The winner of the 8th Inter House Movie Making Competition, 'Warped' was the story of Aahan – a 19-year-old who wished to escape his problems, only to realise that time spent cannot be recovered. A record 3rd time consecutive win for the House, the film featured stellar work from Director, Cinematographer and Editor, Hrishiraj Sureka, who lived up to people's expectations of him as the Media Captain. Unconventional in its storytelling, the film examined the idea of pain and questioned the notion of time healing pain.

The Award Winners

BEST SCREENPLAY:

Letminlun Haokip

(Subansiri-Namdang)

BEST EDITING AND SOUND DESIGN:

Bornam Bora

(Bhoroli-Lohit)

BEST ACTOR:

Shubhajeet Dasgupta

(Jinari-Manas)

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY:

Jeremy Jahau

(Jinari-Manas)

BEST DIRECTOR:

Hrishiraj Sureka

(Kopili-Dhansiri)

THE HOME COMING CHAPTER

(I) "This pandemic has made me realise how much AVS, my teachers and my friends mean to me and how incomplete my life is or would be without their presence. I thought I'd be happier once I go back home but I was wrong, I've come to realise that AVS is a part of me which no one or no other institution can ever replace and it has made a huge impact on my life.

I still remember how excited I was to come back to school and how I shopped for my school supplies after we had received the mail to return to campus. I

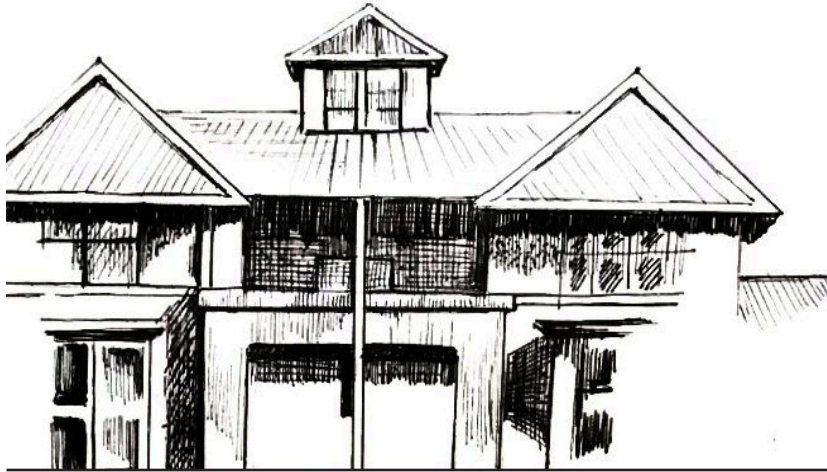
waited impatiently for the 15th when we were all to return back to school. The excitement, the nervousness and the eagerness to see my friends and teachers out me on tenterhooks and I find it difficult to put it into words. Words would fail to express how happy I was as soon as I entered the gates of AVS, it felt like as though I was back to where I belonged. Although it still feels a little surreal, but we seem to fall into a routine we had known for so long, seamlessly. In the final years of school life, I wish to be

all that I was not and make best of these days that seem to filter away like the winter sun. AVS will always be the special place under the sun that will always remain home."

(II) "I believe that the cosmos does not knock once, but is perpetually reaching out, leaving whispers in the wind, constantly. Most often, it is the unexpected and life changing when you heed the call and that is when realisation dawns that this was the best moment waiting to happen. 'Coming back to School' amidst the pandemic was

something that was being spoken off in hope and was being waited for eagerly. Since the notification, and our return to campus my life has never been more exciting, consuming, and full of laughter. Meeting my friends after such a long time was definitely overwhelming; the fact that the teachers felt our absence and are now content since we are back, is more fulfilling."

(III) "As months passed, I had lost all hopes of returning to school. Then one day we were informed that we will be going back



Written by:

- I. Vidisha Pradhan, XII
- II. Karma Chamling, XII
- III. Kavisha Poddar, XII
- IV. Sushmita Modi, XII

to school. I was so ready to get back even if I would have to get up at 6am in the morning, give up my phone, Netflix and home food. All I wanted was to see my friends, sit on the desks that we dreaded the most and spend my last few months of school life in AVS doing at that we had once taken for granted. I thought that it would be awkward re-seeing my friends after so long that it would feel unreal but now it feels like we have never left. The teachers and the House helps did not let us miss home. It

was so nice spending Christmas and New Years with my friends. I am looking forward to having lots of fun and taking back with me a suitcase full of memories. I am a little homesick but I am glad to be back."

(IV) "After nine long draining months of being unproductive and having no contact what so ever with my friends, I felt rejuvenated at the very sight of the school gates as I completed the necessary procedures before reaching the boarding house. My joy knew no bound as I finally

met my friends after months. We amazed ourselves when despite the excitement we maintained social-distancing! It felt unnatural but what the reality of the moment. I was surprised to see that nothing had really changed and it felt like it was just yesterday when we left the campus. I could not wait for my quarantine period to be over so that I could go around the campus with my friends. Even during the quarantine, I had lots of fun as I got to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas with my friends for

the very first time and I also got to interact with people who I did not really talk to and this was a really good and a special experience for me considering I am an introvert. After my quarantine got over, I was very overwhelmed when I met the rest of my classmates and also my teachers who were understanding and welcoming. In conclusion, I would say that I'm very happy to be back at AVS because during the past few days I have made and still am making memories which I will cherish for a lifetime".

CAMPUS NEWS

Back to School!

On the 31st of December, 2020, after a period of nine months, the WMH came alive once more with the sound of morning assembly. Maintaining the necessary protocols, the Class 12s and the Class 10s along with staff gathered at the WMH on the last day of the year to bow their heads in gratitude and thanksgiving for the opportunity to have ridden through the difficult period side by side as a community. Prayers were said and hymns sung and the congregation was addressed by the School Captain, The Head Girl, the Head Boy, Mrs. Banu the Director of Academics and the Headmaster. The bright December morning rung loudest with the School song 'Pass it On', sung with gusto by Aviators who have understood well that difficult days pass faster when they are dealt with, together.

Ms. Ishita Malhotra & Ms. Deepanjali Figg have joined The Assam Valley Family in the position of Political Science Teacher & an English Teacher, respectively, this month. We welcome them heartily to the AVS family and wish them a long, happy and successful tenures ahead.

The portrait that made it to World's Top 10



Picture Courtesy: Anikaith A. Joshi
In Frame: Anushcka Joshi

Anikaith Anant Joshi of Class 8, has been featured on one of the top ten photographers from around the world, on the theme 'Portrait' in the Sony World Photography Awards Youth competition is the month of November, 2020. Below is the shortlisted entry from Anikaith from the November competition, for photographers aged 12-19 years. Heartiest Congratulations to Anikaith, his proud parents and mentors.

Alumni to represent India



It gives us much pride to inform that Kekhriesilo Rio (Riding Captain, ISC 2018) is the new winner of the FEI (International Federation for Equestrian) World Show Jumping Category A in India on his horse, Claudette. The competition was held at Embassy International Riding School, Bangalore. He has been invited to represent India in the Finals of the FEI World Show Jumping Challenge scheduled to be held in Europe this year.

Chanelling grace!

The Odissi Annual Dance Examination held virtually by the Sarbabharatiya Sangeet -O-Sanskriti Parishad, in July awarded 1st Division to the following danseuses. May they continue to make the Department of Dance proud and dance on to many more awards: Natasha Billimoria, Shambhavi Jindal, Anvita Dey, Urvee Rathi, Deborah Bhuyan, Diksha Baruah, Dweepshikha Nath, Ankita Sarkar, Dharini Karwa, Siddhi Gupta. Congratulations to the students and AVS Dance School!

We're in a Festive Mood

On the 14th of January, the School came alive with a lively hussorie as the community came together to celebrate Bihu. The morning began with the burning of Meji followed by an elaborate Jolpaan. A cultural program next kept the audience engaged. The afternoon ended with a scrumptious lunch filling stomachs and hearts at the same time.

The Quarantine Watchlist

Need help finding a gem amidst a sea of monotony? Grab a cup of coffee or tea and dive into the world of these enthralling movies. Here is a list of suggestions:

MARLEY & ME: A slice-of-life story of a family whose lives revolve around their notorious pet-turned-family member, Marley. But can Marley, the 'different dog, weather the final storm of his life?

TENET: The most awaited movie of 2020 was an exciting sci-fi thriller, attempting to restructure fabrics of reality. True as they said, the credits rolled yet the plot was still a mystery to them.

WONDER: A special child, dysfunctional families, high school life and sibling's affection and at times, rivalry. Wonder is an imperfectly beautiful tale of an imperfectly perfect family that could get you teary eyed.

AFTER WE COLLIDED: A movie our young adults or teenagers would appreciate. Riddled with slices of teenage life and dramatic romance, some part of it is laughable and calls for a nice light herted watch for an afternoon with friends.

Ripple #149

-Moom Lego, XI

Withered rose petals

spread the table

*The chaos outside did not
faze her*

*She started to arrange
them back in desperation*

*He had promised he would
be back*

*Before the flowers wilted
away*

Keep It Reel!

The Moon Smiled

-Letminlun Haokip, Deputy Editor



Editor-in-Chief: Jeremy Jahau

Deputy Editor: Letminlun Haokip

Associate Editor: Anoushka S. Rabha

Correspondents: Ojas, Lavanya, Ssara & Neelabh

Design & Layout: Tanisha Bhadra & Jeremy Jahau

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela, Eloziini Senachena and Tanisha Bhadra

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Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School

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