

**VIEWPOINT**  
EDITION 04



# THE NOSTALGIC 90's

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER EDITION, '16



# FOREWORD

The era of 1990s will always bring nostalgia to many people even today. The end of the century brought many changes in the functioning of the country, the television industry and the fashion industry; affecting lives of the people who worked for it and of those for whom the industries were for, the people. The changes were not only nationally, but also internationally. The magic of Disney was recreated during the 90s.

This edition also includes the review of the Bollywood blockbuster Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and bringing back all the memories of the best on-screen couple of Kajol and SRK.

There was also a time in the 90s when the outrageous channel of MTV did its debut in India. Were you one of the person who watched it secretly from your parents? Most of us were little kids and grew up watching the amazing magical movies and living in a world which our parents might not have seen before.

We have incorporated a new section for book review in this edition and the food column is waiting to make your mouth water! Let's relive the 90s through the eyes of our writers!

Feel free to get in touch with us at - [viewpoint.sksac@somaiya.edu](mailto:viewpoint.sksac@somaiya.edu) .

## HAPPY READING !

| Editorial |

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# PHOTO OF THE MONTH

by Nitisha Shinde, SY BMM, 2016



When hope dies, faith takes birth.

# DID THE DILWALE STOLE YOUR HEARTS TOO?

by Kushal Shah, TY BMM, 2016

In the list of Bollywood's top 10 romantic films of all time, you will always find the 1995 film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. Also known as DDLJ, this film continues to enthrall audiences with its humor, romance, music, and powerful climax. This is also the longest-playing film in a movie theater; the Maratha Mandir in Mumbai has been playing DDLJ since its release on 20th October 1995 and has no plans to stop showing it anytime soon. The mid-90s were a period of dramatic changes in India's entertainment landscape. Liberalization had brought in cable TV—with the stranglehold of Doordarshan relaxed, people were faced with the onslaught of American culture through MTV and Channel V which changed India's taste in entertainment forever. They wanted something different, a movie that was western in appearance and yet Indian in spirit, that embraced MTV culture without forgetting our traditions. DDLJ fit the bill perfectly.

Aditya Chopra's "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" is a romantic foray of what Bollywood has been known for ages. Raj (Shah Rukh Khan) is a rich Londoner. His wishes to explore Europe for a whole month and is easily agreed by his cool and friendly POPS (Anupam Kher). Simran (Kajol), also from London, does the same after facing a lot of struggle from his traditional, khandani bauji (Amrish Puri). After Raj and Simran play jokes on each other, Raj finally makes her miss her train and they are stuck alone in the mountains of Europe. By the time they both come back, the both fall in love with each other. But, here comes the twist of Simran's marriage which has been arranged with someone from India. Now Raj has to win Simran from her father, using his witty and aadarsh skills.

Though the plot of the movie is totally predictable, it has something in it which is magical. The movie which made girls ponders upon their dream partners to be like Raj and which gave boys an image to cling upon. Breaking the stereotypical image of a mother of 90's, Simran's mother (Farida Jalal) openly talks about her daughter's dream boy and even edged her to elope.

DDLJ is a movie which shows various types of loving nature of fathers around the world. From being protective to wanting her daughter to be happy in her life. It is also a movie which made playing musical instruments cool.

Jatin-Lalit's songs are very attractive and were sung by the youth of the country all over. "Tujhe Dekha Toh", "Ruk Ja O Dil Deewane", and "Mere Khwabon Mein" were some of the best songs in the movie. The songs in the movie are choreographed very well. They are not over exaggerated or over-exposed (compared to current movie's songs). As always, the Yash Raj banner knows how to implement music, drama and combine it neatly in a well-composed package to please a family audience. Overall, the film grew big within itself. It became a stepping stone for the best on-screen couple Kajol & Shah Rukh along with Karan Johar who was the assistant director of the film. Inspiring upcoming talents worldwide, DDLJ is still going strong and will always be a favorite movie from the 90's era.



# PRACTICAL VS THEORETICAL STUDYING

by Neetu Saini, SY BMM, 2016

The greatest aim of education is not knowledge but action. Education is broadly divided into theoretically based knowledge and practical application based knowledge. Though both are important as far as education and learning are concerned, the combination of the two helps a student in their intellectual, personal and social growth, which ultimately enhances their personality.

Though theory helps us understand a concept in its depth, it is often considered boring and formulated. Whereas on the other hand, practical knowledge helps acquire the specific technique to do a task. When it comes to Bachelors of Mass Media (BMM), practical application carries much more importance than just theory. BMM is the perfect platform for a creative mind to speak aloud to the world and to voice a talent.

Universities and colleges must set the syllabus and structure the education system accordingly. This would help all the media aspirants in their career. The current 75-25 marking system is somewhere unjust and demotivating the youth, as this grading system gives comparatively less exposure to the realistic world and focuses more on the theory.

If a student performs well in activities like debate, group presentation, event management etc but is not good at the academic front, then that student perhaps gets only 25% justification for his activities because he/she would be judged on the basis of those 75 marks theory paper which he has attempted. This leads to demoralization and a downfall in their score sheet figures.

There's no fun in simply preaching and lecturing theories irrespective of whether the students are paying attention or not. If that's what BMM is confined to, then what's the difference between the traditional courses and BMM? With the availability of new technology and social media, learning must not be confined within the four walls of the classroom.

Practical learning in BMM doesn't just mean operating a DSLR or edit a film, there's a lot more to it. It involves coordinating, conducting college festivals and workshops, making contacts, taking interviews, shooting films, giving presentations, managing events and campaigns, and so on. Where theoretical knowledge helps us understand the world, practical applications, on the other hand, teach us how to survive in the same world. There must be a balance between practical teaching and theoretical aspects.

At the end of the day, students must keep on exploring because "practice makes a man perfect. Nevertheless, a theory is the root that holds the tree and helps it to grow.



# CHEESE AT EASE



by Anuj Doshi, SY BMM, 2016

We often talk about fancy restaurants and their delectable menus ranging from Italian pasta to Japanese Sushi. Undoubtedly, Mumbaikars love eating outdoors but these pricey restaurants who serve delicious dishes sometimes can be really expensive for your pockets. That's when these two words come to your rescue - Street Food! **"Raju Sandwich"** is one of the best food joints located just opposite HR College, Churchgate. From rolls to sandwiches and from pizzas to burgers, if you haven't ever eaten from here then you are missing out on the most delicious and mouth-watering foodstuffs in Mumbai. Opening the menu with the "pasta roll" which is not a roll on the dot but a bulky and gigantic sandwich overflowing with the red sauce pasta and loads and loads of cheese which will all the way fill your stomach and will make you pine for more. This dish doesn't only just looks enticing to the eye but the taste of it is also heavenly zestful.

Coming to the "Paneer Panini"; Panini is a word of Italian origin. Panino imbottito ("stuffed panino") refers to a sandwich. But the word panino is also often used alone to indicate a sandwich in general. Paneer Panini was stuffed with paneer, veggies and few sauces. The blend of all the ingredients and the taste of this dish is so flavorful that you will just feel like gulping down the whole sandwich in a single go! "Cheese Mayonnaise Garlic Bread" is the most unexpected dish. It is another dish with a blast of cheese. But, the real reason behind calling it as an unexpected dish is that that this is not like the normal garlic bread which you usually eat. The difference comes when the mayonnaise, garlic, and cheese blend together and your mouth is bursting with all the different flavors all at once. The red chutney provided with the bread is another twist of the flavors of Indian spices which goes absolutely perfect with the garlic bread. All these amazingly tasty food items come at a reasonably good price which not only will satiate the hunger of your stomach but will keep the money in your pockets.



**PANEER PANINI**



**PASTA ROLL**

**CHEESE MAYO  
GARLIC BREAD**



# NOSTALGIA ALERT!



by Divya Bhanushali, FY BMM, 2016

Parents used to scream: "Don't watch MTV! Bacho ke liye nahi hai.. your mind will be ruined!" Why not? What is MTV? MTV is a youth channel. Yes, a channel for young people like us who are too cool to watch saas-bahu drama. MTV was launched in 1995 but was soon taken down in India, as many people in India could not relate to western culture shown in its various shows. The tag-line then said 'Do you get it?' Nobody got it, though! The channel had to do something to move out of the western look and to attract viewers.

The change came when MTV became MTV India and came up with its 'desi cool' plot. This desi-coolness changed the plot of the channel completely. Indian faces were brought in and playlists played 70% of local and 30% of International music which soon became a hit in India. Despite the changes, the channel became a target of criticism by various groups about programming choices, social, political correctness, sensitivity, censorship & a perceived negative social influence on young people. But the young generation loved it anyway. For them, it was one good channel that showed all the good shows they wanted to watch. This channel had a carefree attitude and freshness that could accurately represent the youth of that era.

There are some shows the 90s kids really miss today. MTV Select hosted by Nikhil Chinnapa was the definition of 'swag' back in the late 90s. MTV's Most Wanted was a show where VJ Shenaz Treasurywala read the letters of fans with excitement and cuteness of a kid opening Christmas presents. If mainstream pop was your thing, this 1-hour show was the one for you. Even the non-music shows were awesome enough. Whether it was Cyrus Broacha's antics on MTV Bakra, Cyrus Sahukar's MTV Fully Faltoo, Malika Arora's Love line or Anushka Dandekar's Style check, the VJ's back then were pretty cool and rocking. Admit it, you at least had a crush on one of them! Cyrus Broacha was the Bakra king of MTV. 'Cyrus Broacha' and 'pranks' were synonyms. MTV Bakra was the first reality show to take the common people passing on the road on a ride. Bakra became too famous among the viewers, Thanks to our witty Cyrus. He became the face of MTV after this show, which was based on the classic hidden camera show 'The Candid Camera'.

Maria Goretti, the fashionable and witty VJ, Nikhil Chinnapa, the charming hunk, Cute Shenaz Treasurywala, Cyrus Sahukar, Ramona and Malika Arora were the incredible VJs of the 90s who are really missed today.

**Oh 90's, please come back!**





# THE UNTAPPED ADDICTION!

by Manish Bhanushali, FY BMM, 2016

The 90s era was blessed with the best revolutionary games and became a decade of many innovations in the gaming industry and brought a great time for video game lovers. Before 90's, real-time, strategic & arcade games were the only popular games amongst the youth and were played until early years of 1990's. In November 1972, PONG arcade game from Atari, a simple tennis game with two sticks as paddles and a square as a ball, was released. This was the first time a video game was used as a commercial product. Gradually, the trends of this game started to losing their space from the minds of people. In 1980, Nintendo entered the video game market with Nintendo Entertainment System (NES). Some important video games appeared during this era which includes Mario from Super Mario Series.

In 1991, the maturity age for video games, Yoshiki Okamoto's team released Street fighter 2 which the first fighting game which was popular among people. 1991 is often considered as a revolutionary year in the history of 'fighting game' genre.

This game allowed players to reliably execute multi-button special moves, which had previously required an element of luck. The game was also highly successful because of its graphics, characters, and detailed stages. Whereas previous games allowed players to combat in a variety of computer-controlled fighters, Street Fighter II allowed players to play against each other. The popularity of Street Fighter II surprised the gaming industry, as arcade owners bought more machines to keep up with demand. The fighting game genre continued to evolve as several strong 3D fighting games emerged in the late 1990s. In 1995, Mortal Kombat became a popular fighting game due it's sprites being real. People digitalized into the game with graphic and controversial depictions of violence. It was the most controversial video game of that time.

We cannot deny that videos games work as a magnet for children as they are very attractive and are the best source of entertainment. When the era of fighting games began, youth became addicts of this games as such they had never played this type of game. For young minds, this was outstanding but, it became a huge headache for parents. At that time children used to play continuously without blinking their eyes & parent used their famous dialogue of " aag lag jaani chahiye iss dabe ko!" The reason behind this unchangeable quote by our parents is because of children's behavior of continuously playing games which affected their vision, social behavior, the thinking capacity of the brain along with other psychological changes.

In mid 90's, many more exciting games such as Final Fantasy 3 (1990), Doom (1993), Resident Evil (1996), Golden Eye (1997), Tekken 3 (1997), Pokemon red & blue (1996) came into existence & their character build up was so amazing that everyone become fan of them! Some of the kids considered themselves as the hero & tried various dangerous stunts, moves which were physically harmful to kids. The games which consisted of elements like machines, stunts, weapons, arms, cars, swords, stages, villans etc made the games realistic & this was one of the reasons for loving these games.

The success of these games led to the creation of Super Mario 64(1996) which was praised for its 3D environment of wide open spaces and a good graphic at the same time. It was acclaimed by many critics and fans as one of the greatest and most revolutionary video games of all time. The Guinness World Records reported sales of 11.8 million copies for Super Mario 64 at the end of 2007. The thing which made Super Mario so lovable & memorable

# THE UNTAPPED ADDICTION!

(contd.)

by Manish Bhanushali, FY BMM, 2016

was his wonderful audio which was the same in all his series. Super Mario was so amazing game that even today also if we listen to its name, many childhood memories will come flashing in front of our eyes.

In 1999, United States President Bill Clinton stated that "video games like Mortal Kombat, Killer Instinct, and Doom, are the games played obsessively by the two young men who ended so many lives in Littleton, making our children more active participants in simulated violence. This type of violence is seen commonly if you have ever played such violent games. Sometimes a casual fight with your friends turns into big fights where you start biting your opponent. Such violence is only created due to an obsessive playing of violent games and its effects on the young mind.

1990's saw the introduction of three dimensional graphics which made Sony's Playstation and Nintendo N64 entered the market with more creative freedom than before. Overall, the 90s was a great time for the evolution of the gaming industry and brought many new games which are still fascinated by the 90s generation even though they are old enough to play such games..aah Nostalgic!



# THE YEAR OF REFORMS



by Shubhayan Bhattacharya, FY BMM, 2016

There is nothing new in the fact that the world changes every day. But, a sudden and drastic change left its mark on India forever. The change happened in our country 25 years ago was one of the biggest leaps in the Indian Economy. It was the LPG which became a new beginning for the growth of our great nation.

The LPG stands for Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization. It was a range of reforms adopted in the fall of 1991. Liberalization allows the economy to open up of barriers. Privatization constitutes the right to private ownership of resources and businesses. Globalization is a gateway to enter the world market by allowing both inflow and outflow of business. In short LPG reforms opens up free trading of capital, resources, manpower, etc. India adopted these reforms after four decades of the socialist economic model.

This year we cherish the silver jubilee of the most accorded step taken in 1991. The doors of the Indian economy were opened up to invite a great leap of development. It was the most important thing that happened in the 1990s. The India we see now had its roots of progress in 1991. The LPG reforms were captained by the then finance minister Dr. Manmohan Singh under the Prime minister-ship of P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Before 1991, the Indian economy was in a volatile stage with unnecessary state control. More than 70% of the economy was regulated by the government. As per the Constitution, India was a socialist state. It was a time when the world dynamics were changing with the fall of U.S.S.R., reunion of Germany, economic collapses across countries, and much more. India was suffering from chronic inflation and a BoP (Balance of Payment) crisis.

During the course of 1990-91, the BoP situation of India reached its worst phase. There was only 1 billion rupees left in government treasury for imports, enough for just one week. India's main trading partner the Soviet Union had started to disintegrate following internal unrest. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sparked a huge bounce in oil prices, India's main import commodity, further pressuring the economy. To sail out the country from such distressful waters, it needed tough and rapid breakthroughs. The LPG proved to be the silver lining in the clouds.

As students, it is important to understand that the reforms undertaken in '91 were essential and growth-friendly. To make sure that the abundant natural, as well as human resources available in India, are optimally utilized. Many state-owned companies were privatized, multinational companies were invited for investments, and free market, end of 'License Raj', etc. were driven by the reforms. India started to become a new economic engine of the world.

The post '91 scenario changed rapidly. A tide of foreign investments flocked in the economy. Privatization was encouraged; a result was the opening of airways sector to private players. Government's monopoly in telecom, airways, oil and gas, urea, petrochemicals, mining etc ended. A tremendous flow of capital, raw materials, investments, forex, innovation, R&D came to India. MNCs like McDonald's, Citigroup, Emirates, ExxonMobil, Abbott, Hutch, etc. brought billion dollar investments in India. New employment opportunities came up. Many domestic companies came up with competitive goods due to better funding. Prices came down due to cut throat competition. Various sectors developed as foreign technology moved in. Industrial output of India improved. The government's disinvestment plans fetched it more capital for social sector funding. But effects were not just limited to positive, there were negative impacts too. Due to the entry of MNCs, smaller domestic enterprises suffered from customer loss. Their quality of products became inferior to those of MNCs. Unfair trade practices began. India became dependent on foreign sources for investment and commodities. Dumping of goods started to degrade market competition.

Thus the LPG had far reaching consequences on the economic, political and social structure of India. It was an era of reformation. The LPG's importance and necessities cannot be defined on a page, but the spirit of an open, liberal and innovative economic behavior will be the cornerstone of the legacy of India's economic might.

# THE DISNEY RENAISSANCE

by Riddesh Poladia, FY BMM, 2016



Walt Disney was considered as the biggest powerhouse of animation movies for children. Disney had become the prime source for children's entertainment with the introduction of Mickey Mouse and various other characters contributing to the cartoon series. The focus of Walt Disney was not to stay focused on cartoons, but also to expand their horizon to feature films. Their first feature film was based on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and continued with animation movies such as Pinocchio, Dumbo and Bambi. These movies soon became favorites of children and also charmed the older audience.

Since the 1930's, Disney was known for churning out blockbusters after blockbusters of children's entertainment. For most of the kids in the 90's era, childhood became memorable only because of some amazing Disney movies like The Lion King, The Little Mermaid, Pocahontas, and much much more movies. The 90s kid will still cling on to all the movies and feel like a child again while watching them even today.

But once upon a time, Disney's fate wasn't as rock steady as it is today. The 1970's and 1980's - known as the Disney's Dark Age - was a tumultuous time for Walt Disney. The seemingly infallible studio couldn't seem to find its footings in the animation industry. For the first time, the company was in dire straits and it was not until 1989's release of the "The Little Mermaid" that Disney reemerged as the filmmaking champion we now know it to be.

The Disney Renaissance occurred between the years 1989 to 1999; it was termed as the golden era of Animated Movies. The Little Mermaid (1989), Beauty and The Beast (1991), Aladdin (1992), The Lion King (1994), Hercules (1997), Mulan (1998), Tarzan (1998) were some of the films which were released during Disney's Renaissance period.

The very first reason behind the downfall of Disney can be traced after the death of its owner and founder Walt Disney in 1966. People began to fear that the prolific animation powerhouse might have lost some trademark magic, things got so worse that the Disney Board of Directors were inches away from planning a takeover that would dissolve the company and sell it for parts to eager investors. Secondly, there was a tough competition by a former employee 'Don Bluth'. He had started his own animation production house, "Don Bluth Productions". Their first movie 'The Secrets of NIMH' (1982) did 'okay' at the box office but, was applauded by critics. Further exacerbating Disney's pain, Disney tried a hand on Darker Animation Style with 'The Black Cauldron' (1985), 'The Great Mouse Detective' (1986), and 'Oliver and Company' (1988) but to no avail continuing the Dark Age of Disney.

# THE DISNEY RENAISSANCE

(contd.)

by Riddesh Poladia, FY BMM, 2016

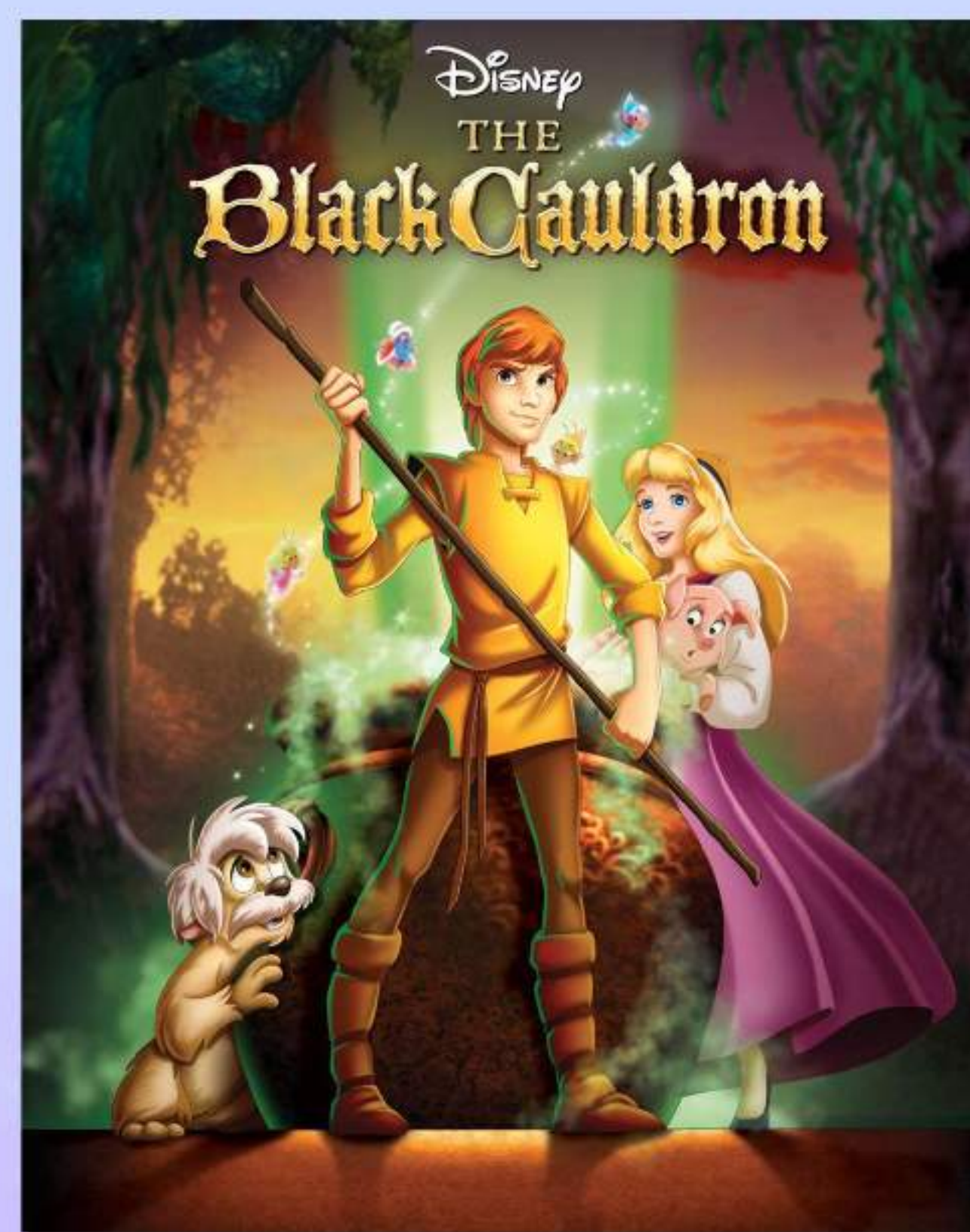


It was high time now by 1989 and just when people thought Disney feature animations may become a thing of the past; the studio came out of their enchanting take on the Han Christian Andersen classic "The Little Mermaid". Disney's new Goal was to "Bring the Golden Era of Animated Musicals". For this, they came up with amazing composers and new animators reigniting the creative spark and production of some genius movies.

Seeing the financial success and creative benefits of "The Little Mermaid", Disney once again was willing to take chances on a big scale animated musicals, marking the start of Disney Renaissance. After the mark of Renaissance, Disney never stopped or looked back to its failures.

Today, Disney remains unrivaled in animation and live-action ventures. After the acquisition of Pixar, Marvel, and Lucas films, Disney has extended its reach into enough films and franchises to ensure its lasting impact on the film and entertainment industry.

***So, let's grab some popcorn and watch Disney Movies in a binge?***



# FASHION FROM THE 90s

by Kinjal Panchal, SY BMM, 2016

Trends in the fashion world change faster than seasons do, especially in the case of women! Styles change for them faster than one can change their socks! One day if ripped jeans are trending for them, then palazzo pants are in vogue the next day.

Bollywood has always been a major inspiration for fashion lovers. Apart from giving birth to blockbuster movies of all time and giving a platform to many potential actors, the 90's was an influential decade in the fashion department as well. It was the transition phase from sarees and ghagra cholis to skirts and dresses. Manish Malhotra experimented with different styles and introduced many trends which were a huge hit among the masses. Costumes designed by him in various films like 'Rangeela', 'Raja Hindustani', 'Dil To Paagal Hai', 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' and 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' changed the face of fashion drastically. Also, brands like DKNY and Tommy Hilfiger became popular among men.

But the era we are living in today, not only new styles are making statements but also the 90's fashion is making a successful comeback. Time has been turned back and many remarkable trends of that time are being incorporated even today. So here's a list of few famous trends from the 90's that are back with a bang!

☒ The '**mushroom cut**' hairstyle donned by Kajol in 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' is being sported by many girls today. It is a most opted for a haircut in the summers especially, to stay in style and keep the heat away. And if your mushroom cut includes forward fringes it will add its own dose of cuteness to your look.

☒ **Midi-dress**: They were a huge rage after Anu Agarwal wore them in 'Aashiqui' and Pooja Bhatt donned them in 'Dil Hai Ki Maanta Nahi'. They can be paired up with a scarf or even accessorized with a choker.

☒ **Flowy sarees**: Raveena Tandon, Madhuri Dixit or Kajol started the trend of chiffon sarees in plain solid colors and even accessories of that same shade. They look minimal and add a formal touch to the outfit. Today they are mostly worn to formal meetings minus too much accessory.

☒ **Bandhini** style dupattas were famous after movies like 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' and 'Dil Hai Ki Maanta Nahi'. They

were mostly worn with plain white long kurtas and salwar.

☒ **Halter necks**: They gained popularity after Urmila Matondkar and Madhuri Dixit donned it in 'Rangeela' and 'Hum Aapke Hai Kaun' respectively. They are pretty much in vogue these days! Be it a saree blouse, top or even kurtas for that matter, they add an edge of sass to the whole outfit.

☒ **Chokers**: It is a close fitting necklace worn around the neck. They can be accessorized with summer dresses, tank tops, and other professional outfits. In the 90's the actresses popularized only pearl chokers but now they are available in beads, plastic, and metal.

Men's fashion was equally dramatic as printed shirts were highly popular. Hairstyles with forward fringes were a fashion in males. Also baggy pants were quite common after Salman Khan sported them in his movies. Colorful dungarees were a quite a rage after the release of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai'. They were worn to make a funky style statement.

So overall, the 90's had been an eventful and significant decade for fashion fanatics. And the incorporation of those trends in the today's times means those trends are still being remembered by people and don't mind re-living the 90's era again. Anything you wear can make a style statement if you carry it off with confidence and of course, you should be comfortable in it.

So, Happy Fashioning to you! ;)



# THIS SONG WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE..

by Ballari Bhar, SY BMM, 2016

"You think it's so easy to change yourself.

You think it's so easy, but it's not." This is how Leila Sales's 'This Song Will Save Your Life' starts. Elise Dembowski was never good at making friends; she believes she was born to be unpopular. She spends the entire summer before her sophomore year trying to change into someone who is considered to be 'cool', someone who wouldn't be mocked, someone who has friends. A series of events made Elise sure that no matter what she tried, she will always be the same.

She found her escape in sneaking out in the middle of the night, walking aimlessly with her iPod. One night she stumbles upon Vicki and Pippa, standing outside a warehouse, where happened to be an underground party. In the warehouse, she found people who shared the common passion of music. She was introduced to the charismatic and charming DJ Char, through whom she found her true passion for DJing. When Char asks her to take his place for a little while, she feels control over a social situation. Later she gets an opportunity for a guest DJ slot. She lives a double life as an ordinary teenage girl and a DJ at 'Start'. Elise's journey is something you can inspire from. Her struggle to not only change the way others look at her but also how she sees herself, how she believes there is something wrong with her is captured perfectly.

I didn't expect the book to make such a big impression on me. We all feel the need to blend in. At some point, we can all relate to Elise. Leila Sales has perfectly captured the struggle of self-acceptance and the peer pressure that a teenager goes through. The book is written perfectly and isn't cliché like I had dreaded it to be before I started reading it. I believed it would be clichéd with typical romance or where someone saved someone, but it proved me wrong. You begin to experience Elise's story with her; when she first entered 'Start', the first time she went to the DJ booth, which was a life-altering moment for her.

The story is heart-breaking, touching, funny and inspiring at the same time; it gives you hope and courage. Changes in life can feel impossible but it's a gradual process. There are many times when you can relate to the situations Elise is in, times when you are heartbroken and feel bad for her and the synopsis doesn't prepare you for the book. Elise finds people who help her embrace her just the way she is. She inspires you, and makes you believe that life isn't always going to be hard, things do get better. The supporting characters are brilliantly written, with varying personalities. The other characters too remind us of a small piece of ourselves at some point. The best part of the book is watching Elise find her passion that transforms her life. Elise is a well-written character and it is easy to relate to her on many different levels.

"Because throughout it all, you are still, always, you: beautiful and bruised, known and unknowable. And isn't that- just you- enough?"