

FEBRUARY 2022 | ISSUE 5

Sabha's curtain call

WHAT HAPPENS POST THE WRAP, ONE MONTH AT A TIME

alumni spotlight

With a knack for theatre and a passion to know people, Pulkit is the person to talk to, on days that you want to learn and rise.

Pulkit Grovver graduated from St. Stephen's College in 2018 with a degree in Chemistry. He is the Co-Founder of Ankk Holistic Healing, which is an app which acts as a decision maker for individuals. Pulkit has not let the actor in him down and continues to embrace his love for acting and is in movies and is a brilliant player of basketball, something he started in college and still continues to do.

Read on, as Pulkit talks on love and theatre, and everything in between.



flying into february

An uncanny prelude to summer, cold but not so much. Romantic chaos blooming everywhere and myriads of Shakespeare's 'Romeo Juliet' staging as it is valentines at every crossroad. There's a chaos of perfumed roses — their petals plunging on the paths — and then glitter falling off of those glittery hearts attached to the teddy-bear cards. Love is in the air, and so is the wind of change that mingles with the crisp winter wind to form an amalgamation of something faintly warm; maybe an invitation of Spring.

February fever! But, do you know what is different with February? You are never sure if the rose of love will bloom for you; on top of that, 28th approaches and you miss the two vanished days. Deadlines get closer than usual, but so does the season of flourishing.

Tap to read the above section in [Hindi](#), [Malayalam](#), [Bengali](#) and [Urdu](#).

In this issue we bring to you the blossoming of love, outbursts of emotions, spirals into nostalgia, movie marathons that leave your heart full, songs that you can never get enough of and the never ending conquests of love.

Prepare to take a dive into the month of love and spring with Curtain Call.

Photo via Google



in full bloom: *of love and stories*

This month, we take out time to appreciate love in all its forms but especially in theatre-characters that have touched our hearts in ways unexplainable and have left us believing and hoping, that the beauty of things never ceases to exist.



Dear Lara, Peter, Geet and Aditya,

As I sit down to write this letter, my heart is partly filled with warmth and partly with discontent. The discontent might be due to my own selfish reasons for not having a date this valentine's. But I suppose it's always better to focus on the bigger picture every time February comes around, right? Unless of course, the people you like don't like you and the people you don't like also don't like you—

Anyway. Pay no heed to my pessimistic side, because this letter is to portray my gratitude for all the emotions and values that we received from you. Oh the joy at your success! The tears at your missteps!

So, thank you Lara Jean Song Covey, for being so relatable, so blissfully living in your own world built upon imagination. For your sixteen candles reference and for reminding us that no matter what is at stake, sometimes we just gotta unapologetically be ourselves to fulfill our wants. And Peter Kavinsky, thank you for all your charm that not only fed my already impossible standards for a future relationship but also for providing the right amount of mindful consideration and acceptance towards everything that you faced after Lara came into your life. You really Kavinskied into our hearts there and won us over with just a simple smile.

'Aap convince ho gaye, ki main aur bolu?'

That won't be necessary, Geet, because you convinced us well. Your *ishq* with Aditya *ne really baithe bithaaye jannat dikha di*. The fast-paced world may never be ready for the amount of enthusiasm and energy that you possess but you showed us that the concept of 'following your heart' prevails even when things go wrong and when the brain is too conflicted to make a decision based on logic alone. If it weren't for your caring nature, Aditya would never have been able to escape his depression session to become successful and return the favor. And every time you enter the frame, Aditya, it's always *mauja hi mauja* for us. How must it feel to break an uncountable number of hearts every single time *Jab We Met* is rewatched? I mean, we obviously appreciate your compatibility with Geet, but let's be real, the wish for making you our own will never really die down—yes Geet, we know he's yours but—c'mon!

As I approach the end of this letter—oh and would you look at that, my ink is running out as well! That's the second time this week and—I was definitely not writing letters to my crush who doesn't even know I exist—ones that I will definitely not be sending out (I don't have an action-oriented sister like Lara Jean after all). Besides, if any love letter is worth it, it's this one. Because this love represents faith. And maybe some love stories fail, some have their fair share of ups and downs. It isn't straightforward. Nonetheless, there is always scope for hope and we got a lot of it from taking the right inspiration from the events in your lives. And in time, we'll realize that our precise tries are always worth the while.

Yours truly

Mallika Mandal

in conversation with *pulkit grover*

Look forward to a heartfelt trip down memory lane through the eyes of someone who has been a part of the enjoyment and learning that being a Sabha member entails, as well as a genuine message for the new members ending with a quick fun game

Snippets:

Pulkit: Okay, so the definition of theatre, right. So the experiments that we had, probably changed my view because the first play I talked about Sabha they showed dreams behind the curtain we were playing and we were actually being represented as shadows. Ok now this is something I had no clue about. And also when you come to college, there is a very mature audience, and this audience actually has a better view. In schools, when we talk about them, things are not very serious in nature. But in college, when I came, there were a lot of experiments happening. And the entire focus, whenever a team would come, the energy and you all know, that when we come to Stephen's, we get a lot of perspective. So even in Aadibhav, when we were doing street plays, a lot of perspective was there, new kinds of information were there, like-- what are we raising a voice for? So that purpose, that sense of purpose is what I'm using right now.

So we feel connected. And even the people we work with, they feel connected with us. So that's what I have learnt from Sabha and the theatre.

As for any specific message, I would say, embrace the the vibe, the warmth, the experimentation that Sabha offers and just go all out! Without even thinking about what people will say. I'm sure no one thinks about it when you're all together. And the fun part of it, you know, these Sabha meetings would happen, I don't remember the exact hall— what it used to be called. Uh, but right in front of the café, the hall that is there, we would have these meetings and they were just so awesome. I absolutely loved them, and the after parties, or whatever you call them. So yeah, these years in college, just go all out. Don't even think about, you know, real acting, fake acting, whatever, just go all out as much as possible. That's the moment of it.

Click [here](#) to go through the transcript of the entire conversation. Read through the ultimate Sabha experience of Pulkit Grover and how Aadibhav as well as the overall warmth of this society impacted his life to this day.

stage 101

An Introduction to Stage Production

On 5th February, Saturday an introductory workshop on Stage Production was conducted by Sabha's Stage Vertical— a well-knit and placed introduction to theatre for Sabha's newest laddoos. Although online, the participants showed immense enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn more about how stage productions are brought to life in the college theatre circuits. Ananya Srivastava, the Second Year Head of Production, set the stage (pun- intended) while Agrima Nidhi Sharma, the Third Year Head of Production and Diana Ani Oommen, the Third Year Stage Head conducted the session.

Emphasis was laid on the structure of a stage production that involves three parts: pre- production, preparation and presentation. It also drew attention towards the importance of each and every part of a play: from pitching and scripting to acting preparation and finally its production. A play tends to involve the coming together of people with various skill-sets and their different creative energies. Members of the technical team, the writers, the directorial team, the production team and the actors all contribute equally to the final enactment. Every piece thus, as a result, falls into place to create an enthralling performance bringing theatre to life.

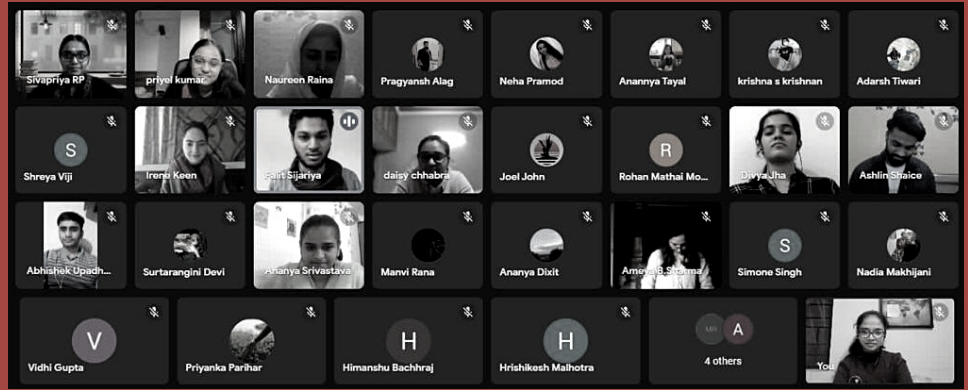
The workshop culminated with the panel taking up queries and sharing interesting anecdotes from the offline era (a homely feeling that we look forward to returning back to) and filled everyone with the zeal to bring a production to life and a story to the masses.

a reinvigorated *halla* Welcoming New Aadibhav Members

As a new month of this year unfolds, Sabha-- The Multilingual Society of St. Stephen's College welcomed its new Aadibhav members.

The Aadibhav auditions, held from the 1st to the 4th of February, 2022 saw massive participation of junior members from various corners of India, with great warmth and fervor. The auditionees tried their hand at acting, scriptwriting and music to be a part of the street theatre vertical. A total of 25 junior members were selected.

An introductory session was conducted on the 11th of this month by the second and third-year members of Aadibhav who welcomed the newest addition to a family as vibrant as Aadibhav's with a performance of a section to one of the most renowned plays in street theatre- *Halla Bol*.



Written by Safdar Hashmi, an alumnus of St. Stephen's College- *Halla Bol* is a play that talks of the plight of the labor force in the nation and dwells on issues pertaining to economic disparities. Originally performed by the Jana Natya Manch, *Halla Bol* was brought to screen once again by the second-year members of Aadibhav. To say that the performance was a sight for sore eyes is indeed an understatement, the audience was left awe-struck as the enactment concluded. It was definitely and truly an 'Aadibhav' experience and received immense appreciation from the new members.

What followed next were zestful introductions and ice-breaking games. Although limited to the pixels on the screen, one could truly feel the bubbling energy in each and ever member and the urge to perform in the offline mode.

With this, the newcomers embark on their journey, looking forward to more cherishing times, making sure that the passion and zeal for theatre continues to flow through the batches with the same level of frenzy. They are the stars in Sabha's pleasant and refreshing atmosphere and cannot wait to make Aadibhav their own.

for your heart to binge *curated just for you*

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Notting Hill (English) | ✓ Nathicharami (Kannada) | ✓ Ammonite (English) |
| ✓ Ok Kanmani (Tamil) | ✓ Before Trilogy (English) | ✓ Her (English) |
| ✓ Fire (Hindi) | ✓ Portrait of a Lady on Fire (French) | ✓ Anuranan (Bengali) |
| ✓ Charulata (Bengali) | ✓ Ye Maya Chesave (Telugu) | ✓ The Lunchbox (Hindi) |
| ✓ Sufna (Punjabi) | ✓ Mayaanadhi (Malayalam) | ✓ Bobby (Hindi) |
| ✓ 96 (Tamil) | ✓ The Vow (English) | ✓ Ardaas (Punjabi) |
| ✓ The Way He Looks (Portuguese) | ✓ Chameli Memsaab (Assamese) | ✓ Ennu Ninte Moideen (Malayalam) |