

RISING STARS

"The movie was awesome, just terrific! Wasn't he (the hero) just wonderful? I've never seen anyone quite like him or I haven't seen a movie like this in ages..."

These are more or less the different ways in which we react after watching a new movie. We comment we criticise, appreciate and argue and finally after a series of agreements and disagree-



ments say that the movie wasn't altogether a bad one or some times even great.

Occasionally a brief debate follows on whether Richard Gere is handsomer than Robert Hedford, Tom Hanks more cute or Tom Cruise or the real musclemen — Stallone or Van Damme. These discussions and improvements of course goes on among friends and often between brothers and sisters in which case it inevitably leads to (small) fights.

Given to rate some movies, if we mark the pictures based on who's starring in those and how good they are, then I'm sure every one of the movies will score equal points. Because when it comes to Hollywood, everyone gives their best shot.

Every one of the actors has equal good looks, stamina and personality, is well-recognized and loved. And yet in that crowd, some stand out. Is it only because he's more good-looking than the others? Of course not.

On the contrary, it is the movie that makes him outstanding, the story that un-

folds the character. It is amazing how the story, the theme changes the setting, the arrangement the mood, the character even the tone in which the people in the movie are talking. And for such things to happen, the story itself must have a substance of its own.

Take the movie "Speed" for example. Anyone would say that it's a brilliant movie, really superb. And now take "Forrest Gump" which is an-

standing. We watch "Speed", we feel tension and excitement only, we revolve for a short time in a world of fantasy, dealing with bombs and explosives.

We also watch "Forrest Gump", all kinds of emotions flicker through our minds, we move in reality and fascinate ourselves with the discovery how a person with such a low IQ can make it so big. The touch of reality, the various emotions the tech-

such as "Scent of a Woman." Hollywood has never failed to amaze us with its contradictory releases — actors and actresses changing their images simultaneously with the imageries in their work, eg. Bruce Willis is arriving with the latest "Die Hard with a Vengeance" after purifying himself with the clean waters of "Pulp Fiction". The former (Die Hard WAV) is a ludicrous story again an unimaginable ride through the world of

successful "The Lion King." Every year, we look forward to the Oscar nominations which always holds something new for us and undoubtedly and definitely something good. Enthusiasms and anticipations are always there among us — as if we are one of them about to be nominated.

In the midst of all these, let's not forget those artists of the past who had created the base of today's acting. For

not forget Audrey Hephburn, Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe, Sophia Lauren or Clarke Gable, Gregory Peck, Rock Hudson, Paul Newman, Himpfrey Bogart, Mick Jagger, Lauren Bacall, Charlie Chaplin etc. etc. etc.

Just as Universal and Fox Studios and Columbia Pictures are earning billions of dollars from movies, they're spending equal



amount in making the set, decorating it, paying the casts, hiring stunts. The asking rate is gradually increasing as the quality of pictures is good. But was Hollywood ever behind when it came to motion pictures? Having created a world of their own, Hollywood has long since

turned out to be a place of tourist attraction as various people from all over the world go there to watch the sets get, a glimpse of the stars and sometimes even see them at work. (maybe take their autographs too).

If anything, Hollywood's flavour is becoming more delicious with every passing day. With progressing times, who knows, maybe we'll see more rapid changes, more amazing improvements, more new faces convenient adjustments, better arrangements so that by 21st century there might be some astonishing achievements. Let's see what and how many more surprises Hollywood then has in store for us!

The Divine Light

by Ishna Neamatullah

THE happiest and joyous experience of my life occurred on a wintry night of January. It was a result of my constant longing and concentration on the Divine Light that God showed me.

It was midnight with the reticent nature outside and sullen darkness engulfing me. I was sitting in my room which was at the end of the house. The windows were all open and a mysterious effulgence fell on my bed. I was in a deep trance, trying to cut off my senses from the corporeal world. I suddenly felt that my brain left the normal stage and entered the beta level, a level in which the super-conscious self gets closer to the soul.

The sound of silence suddenly ceased as my pleading voice broke out to God. I begged him to show me the way along this mortal and immoral world to eternity. A strange longing for God over-filled me. Suddenly rays of luminous colours jumped from wall to wall in my rooms, blinding my eyes. As I sat in the lotus posture with my eyes closed, a grave sound broke my nescience of God's loving powers. Someone spoke from the eternal

depths of my heart.

The voice addressed me and ordered me to wait and over come my hatred of immoral people and to love the sinners and hate sin itself. It told me that I had much more to do in this material world and the time of my understanding of Divine Nature was yet to come. My lust, selfishness and jealousy was pulled out from me with an irresistible force. The Divine Lord was brought to me with that magnificent ardour.

A sudden warmth embraced my heart and opened my eyes. I saw a whole new world, where good and bad existed side by side and where there was always the Divine One above our heads, sheltering us from the negative powers of life. The colours vanished and when I opened my eyes, I saw that the brilliance of sunshine had replaced the darkness of the night. I started a new life from then on.

This was the happiest experience of my life when the whole philosophy of the world was changed in my mind. Whenever feel angry or depressed, I think of this experience and gain hope in my mind.

Patient: But Doctor, I have only one tea spoon.

Doctor: How many people work here?

The boss replied: Oh about one in every twenty.

Help!: Said a drowning man, "I can't swim".

Passer-by: So what? I can't play the piano but I don't go shouting about it.

Farzeen Saleh

A Ride Through Hollywood

by Farhana Yusuf

other much talked-about movie like the former and justify the difference. The only difference lies in this



Top Speed to Shakespeare



particular issue — "Forrest Gump" has a substance, a theme in it that makes it out-

standing and methods and last of all the brilliant performance wins the movie fame and honour.

It is true that the story is mainly responsible for the achievement a movie makes but most of the credit also goes to the performance as well. Sometimes an actor can also change a movie into what could have been a boring one into an exciting picture. When it comes to actors, looks are very important because, if the story happens to be an ordinary one, actors like Jean-Claude Van Damme and Keanu Reeves can change it into a very exciting and enjoyable movie.

On the other hand, actors like Arnold Swarznegger who's always used to casting in action films like "Terminator" and "True Lies" and so forth, it's news for us people when he suddenly stars on a totally different movie like "Junior". But then again, we sit down to watch a movie in a clean head bearing in mind that this particular picture is going to be really good when a well-known actor like Al Pacino stars in a movie with a intriguing story

amazing stunts and special effects Kevin Costner returns to "Water World" from becoming the "Bodyguard" while Tom Cruise turns into the "Vampire" from the earnest lawyer in "The Firm". Julia Roberts suddenly turns into the woman who loves trouble from a pretty woman while Demi Moore turns into a notorious boss in "Disclosure" from the innocent woman at "Indecent Proposal".

Varieties on the way — Hollywood gives its audience a taste of all kinds of movies with their many depicting stories like the goody novel "The Bridges of Madeson County", "Gone with the Wind", Forester's "Howard's End", Grisham's "The Client", the new movie "Batman Forever" to the successful cartoon Batman, the story of three astronauts in Apollo 13 etc. etc.

Adding more to the list of fun and excitement, Disney offers terrific cartoons like "Aladdin" with the enchanting song "A whole new world", Beauty and the Beast and of course the hugely suc-

cessful "The Lion King." Every year, we look forward to the Oscar nominations which always holds something new for us and undoubtedly and definitely something good. Enthusiasms and anticipations are always there among us — as if we are one of them about to be nominated.

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with almost the same eagerness. Hence, in this crowd of so many new faces now, let's

The Missing Machine by Sharier

LEE!!

WELL, WELL! THEY'VE GOT YOU TOO!

JAMRUL ESCAPED! RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES I ENTERED THE PREMISES TO CALL YOU, SOMEONE KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS! THEN I FOUND MYSELF HERE!

GET UP! IT'S TIME FOR YOUR TRIAL!

LISTEN, WHAT DOES MKS GOLENIUR DO? TEA ESTATE OWNER

HOW AND WHY DID YOU GET IN? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU DO?

NO! NOT AN ANSWER! MR TALU! IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE THE DOG-IN-CHARGE LAST NIGHT FOR FAILING TO CATCH TRESSPASSERS! AND APPOINT TWO VICIOUS DOGS IMMEDIATELY!

YOU'RE TERMINATING THAT DOG! THAT'S ALL? IT STOLE MY SHOES!

HELLO!

HELLO? PERSHAD MIA FROM BANGLADESH? YES? YOU ARE COMING TO RUKUS NEXT WEEK? YOU WANT ME TO NAME A GIFT?

MADAME... WHAT DID YOU SAY WHO SHALL I APPOINT?

TWO VICIOUS DOGS. STUPID! JUST TWO DOGS?

LRB : The Band of the Nineties by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

BAND fever is really high in the country, these days. Turn the pages of any local magazine and you'll find ads of recording companies announcing the release of new tapes. The music stores will baffle you with their wide selection of local music. While you're stuck in a traffic jam, you might get to see the known or unknown faces of artists smiling down at you from the billboards. Not to mention the posters everywhere, inviting the eager ones to live concerts. Teens and twentiers here, have always been found of music, but our very own type of melodies was never on top of their 'most wanted list' — till now.

Young people sing popular numbers like — Melay jai rey, Chala bodley jai, Ichche Karey, Firiye dao and many more as they walk along the university corridors or hang out at the shopping malls. Infact, the band craze has spread so far and wide that don't be surprised if you are rudely woken up, one early morning by the blaring sound of LRB's ghumanta shaharey' — courtesy, the considerate 15 year old kid next door. A certain city teenager even uses the deshi group posters as covers for her math copies. That way the subject seems less dull, she explains. So, there is no denying folks, that Bangladeshi music is very much alive and kicking and has captured the hearts and minds of the young population.

Probably someday, it will succeed in winning over the Hindi song lovers too. Among all the leading bands in town, one of the most talked about one is definitely LRB. It was formed almost five years back in March 1991, by four talented musicians. The present band members are — Ayub Bachchu, vocalist and lead guitarist, keyboardist Tutal, Swapan, bass guitarist and drummer Ryad. What's so special about their music? What are their aspirations? Recently in an interview Ayub Bachchu, the ace guitarist-singer of the band answers some of the common queries of the LRB fans.

The formally attired Bachchu, with hair tied at the back hardly seemed like the cool, remote rocker seen on TV. Then he started strumming his guitar, casually practicing for a recording session due later that day. Polite and modest, Bachchu discloses the fact that the band was originally called 'Yellow River Band'.



The LRB Quartet: From left to right: Ryad, Tutal, Bachchu and Swapan.

How did they come up with a weird name like that?

"We just liked that name" — he says. Then, someone suggested the name Little River Band, while they were performing at a local club in their early days. From, then on they became the LRB. There was a band by the same name in another continent, Australia to be precise, but that doesn't bother them. After all as Bachchu states, the Aussie band had already dissolved by the time they emerged.

So far they have released four albums. Their debut album was a double one titled LRB, the second one, 'Shukh', 'Tabu' the third and the fourth and last one as yet, is 'Ghamanta Shaharey'. Many listeners say that 'Shukh' and 'Ghamanta Shaharey' are the successful ones, with most of LRB's greatest hits. Does Bachchu agree? "Maybe" — he shrugs, "but we got more satisfaction from working on our third album 'Tabu'. The music they normally enjoy playing is rock and in 'Tabu' they tried to reflect the social problems with loud music in the background. Same goes for the first double album. Then, how come the other two received more positive feedback? "Perhaps, because the songs in those two tapes were more 'reasonable' — he smiles. Then, explains, "the lyrics were mild and not too thought provoking ie. 'Chala balley jai' talks about the problems between two lovers, a theme listeners could easily relate to." Other popular songs include, 'gatakal rate', 'rupali guitar', 'hashpatale', 'bodley gliche shomoy shomyer srotey', 'shukhi chheley' etc Reasonable or 'too serious' one thing is for sure and that's the fact that singing soppy tunes is definitely not LRB's style. As Bachchu simply believes "some of our best tracks are

making music these days, but, declined to comment on the phony — bands. But the good news is that BTV is soon to telecast a 'real' band show, with 'real' bands. Well, lets keep our fingers crossed.

Band freaks frequently complain about the local concerts. Mismanagement and unruly crowds often spoil the whole programme. What does LRB think? "It's the headache of the organisers to provide proper security for the artists and the spectators, so, that people can enjoy the music without apprehension." — Bachchu comments.

Last but not the least, we the fans, are getting tired of watching the 'india show' on Channel [V], [not the one on Star Plus] We wish to see our bands on satellite TV too. What are LRB's thoughts on that score? For, the time being LRB is not contemplating about appearing on Ch[V], in any case Bachchu made it quite clear, that he is not very impressed with the pro-India channel. But, they do have a wonderful dream of taking our flag outside the homeland. How? Of course by performing live, abroad.

Till their dream turns into reality, we can only wish them all the best of luck and wait. And it won't be a boring wait as Bachchu assures us that their next album is due to be released some time next year. Lookout for that. LRB members send their love to all their fans and wish them good health. After all, "health is the root of all happiness". — Bachchu ends the conversation with a grin.

The Swing by Shumonta A Quaderi

TWO and fro is my rhythm on the swing. This rhythm takes me higher and higher into the sky. I feel as though I have my own wings. And with these wings further and further into the distance I fly. Swiftly and peacefully as I glide through the air. The wind whistles and brushes against my face. The sweet smelling breeze runs through my hair. Swinging up here gives me a view of the kingdom's grace. I knew I should not go any further. Because if I did, I would reach my fate. And down, down, down below. I could see my friends await. Slowly, slowly as I began to go down. I could feel the wind begin to ease. And as nearer and nearer I reached the ground. No more could I feel the breeze. My adventure is over.