

HANGOUTS

RELAXING AT THE RED WINDOW

DYUTY AURONEE

People who have gone through my past articles under this section know how upset I am for the lack of good dessert and coffee shops in and around Dhanmondi. However, recently, there has been an influx of new dessert shops among which The Red Window is mentionable for a lot of reasons. The name reminds me of the Little Red Riding Hood and the place is as cute as the story. Located in Dhanmondi Road No. 16, close to the HSBC Bank in Dhanmondi 27 road, this spot is a new favourite for people who have a sweet tooth or just want to hang out with friends.

The place is quite cosy. It's almost like a flat with big, red windows that has been renovated to accommodate a glass showcase full of good-looking treats on one end and 'little' chairs and tables on the other end. There are also couches inside for those who want to relax without space constraints.

The first time I went there, I was with a



group of friends and so I could try a lot of items. Firstly, the highlight was the red velvet cheesecake with a crunchy Oreo base. It's nothing like the red velvet cake at every other place these days. The cake's moist and totally melts in the mouth while the biscuit base gives it an interest-

ing texture. Priced at BDT 250+, this is worth a try.

Peanut butter cheesecake shooter priced at BDT 150 comes in a shot glass. I think it was a good deal while two of my friends weren't very impressed. Not everybody is into peanut butter, anyway. We also tried the chocolate profiterole shakey priced at BDT 250. It's served in a mason jar with a profiterole/donut on top. I would have loved it more if it was a little more chocolaty.

The lemon cheesecake shot was creamy but the biscuit base was light and not very appealing to me. If you are a fan of all things lemon, you might try this one out. Among the savoury items I only tried the pizza cone priced at BDT 150. This was super delicious and very refreshing to the palette, especially after we had gobbled down so many sugary items.

The eatery has an extensive list of coffee items and also savoury mains which I am yet to try. For first timers, I would

suggest the red velvet Oreo cake that I mentioned earlier and the pizza cone. While none of the items stood out very much on its own, I must say that I have been to the place twice already and probably going sometime soon again. With the chilled ambience, interesting decor and warm hospitality, The Red Window is the new Dhanmondi favourite to many.

Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/The-Red-Window-800620250061162/?ref=br_rs

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Whitewashing in Hollywood

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By now most of us are familiar with the term whitewashing. But for the very little who are not, it is referred to the phenomenon of when a previously character of colour (any race that is not white) is played by a white person. Such as what happened with Prince of Persia, the Egyptians Leads in Exodus, Aang, Sokka and Katara from the Last Airbender – to mention a few. The most recent of these outrages were the result of Scarlet Johansson playing the role of Motoko Kusanagi in Ghost in the Shell.

This has been going on in Hollywood for a long time. White characters have always been considered the default. Yet now, once white characters – like Iris West – are being portrayed by non-white actors, so why is that not a cause for an outrage?

To put it simply, Hollywood has rarely been a diverse world, despite the fact that USA does harbour people of various races and cultures. Whether we're admitting to it or not, media is the starting point of trends and what we want to achieve. When a power tool like the media is homogenised by a single race that is what we start to consider as the norm. When we see European beauty standards being solely appreciated, that's what we hail as



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superior. Furthermore, certain races only playing certain characters – black actors playing thugs, East Asian-American actors playing the exotic/spiritual guide – strengthens stereotypes surrounding these races. Especially, when only white actors get to play diverse roles. There's also the

issue where white actors are called for most casting, while actors of colour find it difficult to land acting jobs.

However as previously mentioned, non-white actors have also been cast in the part of white characters. As much as it would be preferable for more diverse

characters to be created rather than changing the old, established ones – it's given fact that it's difficult to break the status quo. Spiderman is still more famous than Ms. Marvel. So regardless of Kamala Khan being a great character, the black Spiderman – Miles Morales – will be more popular.

Moreover, in certain cases casting a white actor in a non-white role becomes breaching of the culture from which the story originates. Such is the case for Ghost in the Shell which is at its core a Japanese story, whose context lies within the politics of Japan. It is not a story that can be westernized and thus Scarlet Johansson playing the lead becomes difficult to accept.

Despite all of the outrage, Hollywood won't change overnight. In addition to that, portraying five non-white characters in a movie instead of two won't ultimately change people's perception. Yet, it has become a cause for concern as movies are art, and art is the reflection of a society. So, it doesn't make sense to leave out a large portion of society when creating it.

Fatimah Akhtar is a food and fiction enthusiast with a soft spot for bulldogs. Redirect all your complaints, queries, and feedbacks to her at fatimahaakhtar@gmail.com