

The Quintessential **Holud** Playlist

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Winter is generally considered the wedding season. But recently summer's seen its fair share of weddings and such, henceforth, becoming somewhat of a pseudo-wedding season. So now that it draws near, it's about time we talk about what's really important here: the holud. Also the performances you'll be seeing this holud. So, I've compiled the songs that will undoubtedly be part of the celebration and will be as important as the groom or bride. This is what you need on your iPod to be in tuned with the season:

The All Boys Edition: This is the song that needs words like "boys" or "pola" or the basic description of how cool masculinity is. And how the dancing of the boys in question is also cool and masculine. Now this is the song that can range from being Ananta Jalil's famous "Dhaka'r Pola" to "Make some noise for desi boyz (boys)." Notice how the song titles make sure that you know they are about boys. And if you listen to the songs, I assure you, you'll also realise these songs celebrate the boys more than the occasion.

The PG-13 Romantic Song: These are the songs where the boys and girls pair up. They get close enough to make sure that it seems like a romantic performance, but remain distant enough so the aunties scouting for potential "patros" and "patris" for the next wedding don't leave them out for looking at other men or women. These are the songs you have to be careful with; it's a thin line to walk on. This will determine whether the next wedding's going to be yours or the boy that kept teasing you at school.

The All Girls Edition: Unlike the All Boys Edition, this does not require for there to be "girls" or "women" or any mention of the gender performing it. Neither does it need



to celebrate femininity. It just has to be a song that sounds like something you'd perform a "kathak" to. Doesn't even have to be the song that you *have to* classically dance to, it just has to sound like it is. Like the chorus of *Lean On*, without the rest of the parts.

The Catchy Hindi Song at the Moment: I don't know why this is a trend. But it seems to be. I've stopped trying to find out what the trending Hindi songs are at the moment because I know I'll find out in the next holud I go to. Generally this is the best performance of the night.

The Quirky Song: This is the song that sets your holud apart from rest of the lesser holuds. Some use the Beatles, some use a random Bangla song from long ago, and some

may even resort to an anime opening theme song. Yes. Who am I to question? But it is what makes your holud unique just like all the other holuds.

Aashona: From the movie "Borbaad" this is the one song that I've so far heard in every holud, birthday parties, baby showers, business parties, just about any cultural (and otherwise) event I've gone to in the past two years. If this is not a part of your holud, does it even count as a real holud?

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BEHIND THE SCENES AT A **HOLUD**

RAFIDAH RAHMAN

Boys in crisp panjabi, girls in dramatic kameez, colourful lights, excitement in the air – the yellow fever of our deshi holud is just contagious. With months of preparations and rehearsals comes this event that these days, is undoubtedly more important than the wedding itself.

Especially, to youngsters like us.

Unlimited fuckha, dance offs between the two sides – everything about holud just oozes thrill and exhilaration. But what happens behind the scene? Is it really as fun and effortless as it seems to be? Well, as a witness I'll say, not quite. Here's how:

The Dancers: 85 percent stake of your successful holud is fulfilled with your choice of the right dancers. Now, mostly comprising your friends, you have to play your diplomatic cards to the best possible way so that you

refrain yourself from offending a friend who you have no wish to choose. But it's important to keep your options open too because it's very likely you'd be ditched at least by one of your dancers leaving a deep scar in both your heart and friendship.

The Songs: The right playlist wins half the battle. A lot of thought has to be given to it so that the songs are just the right amounts of classic, contemporary and filmy. There will always be much debate regarding the subject but I, personally, just can't process holud without the old Govinda and Salman Khan songs. NEVER.

The Choreography: Choreography isn't just about steps. It's also about positions and synchronisation. From YouTube, to peeking at other holud videos to rightful imagination – hours and hours are spent to strike the proper balance between absolute energy and sheer subtlety. Choreography and its execution are everything!

The Clothes: Leaving Eid aside, I don't think Chandni Chawk, Islampur or New Market are so significant in anyone's life until before a holud. This is when you grab a target (your mom/sibling/friend) and take them with you on a journey of relentless heat, suffocating crowd and absurd bargaining. From the colour of the panjabi, to the design of the kameez, to the lace that would go on it – everything is decided in just that one visit. It's painful but, hey, looking pretty is a must!

The Venue: A good setting is mandatory too. This is to make sure that the decorations are up to the mark. Also, how the bride and groom would sit, how their dala would be placed, how the DJ and photographers would operate must be taken care of. But most importantly, THE STAGE! It should be big enough to fit all the dancers so that they don't stumble on one another and create a ruckus of their performance.

Battle of the Sides: The holud nowadays are mostly joint ventures where dancers from both parties show off what they've got. But obviously, it isn't just that. There has to be a negotiation between them regarding the timing, playlist and of course, WHO GOES FIRST? The team who goes first automatically gets the advantage of having the audience's full attention since the latter team has to deal with the guests fussing for food. The battle remains till the very end of the performances. Five minutes before one team goes on stage, they intensely gaze at the other team silently notifying one another: THIS IS WAR!

So, the next time you go to a holud, I'm pretty sure you'll observe more keenly and even wonder, what's their story?

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