

EDITORIAL

Welcome 2021.

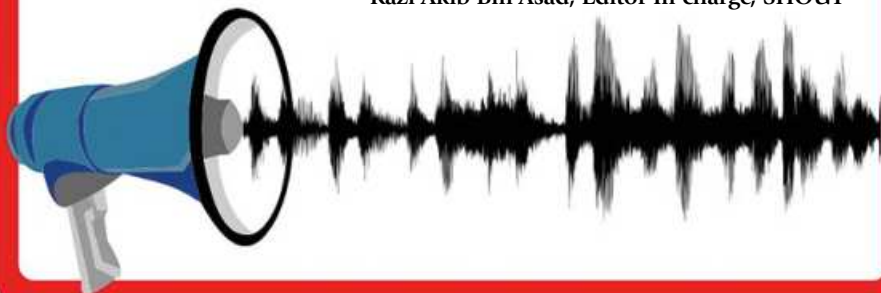
And no. As much as we want to, we cannot forget 2020. It's like that chewing gum your friend stuck on the back of your head in class two that still hasn't come loose. But we move on, and we do so with an important message.

I recently logged in to my LinkedIn and felt like I was facing a stampede headed for me; the onrush of men and women in their corporate attire armed with their peachy success stories. I couldn't have logged out any quicker.

While we do celebrate successes, and we should, let's take a moment to focus on our failures. We've all failed in some way or the other. Be it with a simple class test or having a perfect image of oneself in others' eyes, there is failure. However, let it not stop us in our attempts, efforts and endeavours. A single rung doesn't make a ladder, nor is it the last rung that takes a person to the top. Our success stories will shine through all our life, but let us not forget that these successes were built on failures.

It is okay to fail, my dear friend. Success tastes that much sweeter when you do.

-- Kazi Akib Bin Asad, Editor In-charge, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH

TV SHOW REVIEW



The Masterpiece That Defined Quarantine

FARIHA S. KHAN

The Hulu adaptation of Sally Rooney's 2018 novel *Normal People* will undoubtedly go down as one of the greatest pieces of modern television. Readers of the novel will recognise just how precisely the directors transitioned every scene from the book and added immense depth to the pre-existing storyline. New viewers will find themselves in awe of every aspect of the series, starting from the ground-breaking acting that defines the series to the development of the storyline.

Played by Daisy Edgar-Jones and Paul Mescal, *Normal People* follows Marianne and Connell as they transition from high school to college, grow up, and navigate their relationship, whether it be one defined by romance or just friendship. The chemistry between the actors is electric - it is beautiful, passionate, palpable, marvellous, and makes you truly *feel*; it will leave you clutching your heart out of both pleasure and pain. "It's not like this with other people," Marianne tells Connell. "Yeah," he agrees.

Rooney's extraordinary writing captures every aspect of first love; it is no wonder that many have labelled her one of the greatest millennial writers. On top of Rooney's genius, the cinematography, soundtrack, directing, and acting delivered a show that is so profound that critics will talk about it for decades to come. "We were given such great writing, I really felt like there was an opportunity to show something that was really truthful

and accurate," Mescal says in an interview with ET Canada.

Quite simply stated, *Normal People* depicts the tale of two people falling in love, but when you probe further, you find there is *so much more* to the story. It's a story about first love but also one about heartbreak and pain. It's a story about being there for each other, even when you're far away. But perhaps, most importantly, it's a story about growing up. It's one that focuses almost exclusively on the journey of two people in love and their relationship throughout the years: how it grows, how it falls apart, how it shapes them, and how it doesn't.

"When they're together, they're just happy," Mescal said. "It's deeply frustrating when they're not together." He's completely right. When they're apart, it makes you want to tear your hair out and scream into the void. But the time apart almost seems worth it when they come back to each other.

Unlike many other novel adaptations, this is one that stayed true to almost every aspect of the book. Regardless of whether you are delving into the story through a paperback or through the big screen, *Normal People* is bound to overwhelm you with feelings. The impact it will leave on you is so powerful that you will grapple with it for weeks. It's brilliant, beautiful, earth-shattering, ground-breaking, riveting, passionate, immaculate, staggering and it will most certainly leave you begging for more.

