





ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Facebook is paying content creators to use its new features

Recent reports state that Facebook have decided to pay content creators and music artists up to \$50,000 to host sessions in the brand new Live Audio Rooms feature.

For each session, the respective content creator will be paid from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and an additional fee for guests of \$10,000 or more. In recent weeks, production companies working for Meta have reached out to social media stars with this exclusive offer. According to the contract, each creator has to host four to six sessions, each with a minimum of 30-minute airtime.

Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, stated back in July that Meta would pay an upward of \$1 billion to content creators by the end of 2022.

Facebook Live Audio Rooms was launched this June in the US and reports suggest that this promotion aims to rival the audio chat app Clubhouse. Currently, Live Audio Rooms support up to 50 speakers at a time, with unlimited listeners being able to tune in anytime.

Only select podcasts will be available in the US and hosts can choose to support nonprofit or fundraiser organizations during the session. Both listeners and speakers can donate to these causes when the podcast is live.

The other Meta-owned platform, Instagram, has similarly been paying internet celebrities up to \$35,000 to feature Instagram Reels, in a direct attempt to outdo TikTok. Considering TikTok's Creator Fund and Twitter's paid accelerator program for its audio feature Spaces, Meta has been stepping up in the social media competition.



Google Pixel 6A leaked images suggest Google may ditch the headphone jack

Recent leaked photos of Google Pixel 6A, from a reliable Twitter leaker, seem to suggest that the newest addition to the Pixel A-series phones will ditch the headphone jack, reports The Verge.

The previous models, Pixel 5A, 4A and 3A had headphone jacks, so Pixel 6A might be the first midrange Pixel device without one.

The leaked photos further indicate that Google Pixel 6A will be very similar in appearance to Pixel 6, which was released just last month. No fingerprint sensor is visible on the outside, suggesting the sensor might be beneath the screen, similar to Pixel 6 and Pixel 6 Pro.

Pixel 6A, however, looks to be a lot more compact than its predecessors, being measured at just 152.2 x 71.8. x 8.7mm with a 6.2inch display. To compare, Pixel 6 had a 6.4-inch display with measurements of 158.6 x 74.8 x 8.9mm.

There has been no official confirmation on Pixel 6A's release date yet.

EDITOR'S NOTE Safety is the keyword

Technology exists to help us, and if there's an app to keep us safer, then perhaps the world can truly be a better place. Check out this week's cover story to find out more about 'Bachao', the sexual harassment prevention app made right in our homeland.

In Shift, we featured a rather unique side of street-racing: the Kanjozoku racers from Osaka, Japan. We also focused on phones quite a lot this week, with an OPPO Reno6 review and news regarding Tecno Spark 8 and Google Pixel A.

And just for fun, we decided to be a bit harsh on the latest Netflix action flick Red Notice. Happy reading and have a great week!

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Tecno Mobile has launched the new Spark 8 Pro in the Bangladesh market.

The Spark 8 Pro has a 48MP Ultra Clear AI Triple Camera and 6.8-inch 1080P FHD+ display, along with a Helio G85 fast octa-core chip and 6GB of RAM. It also offers 64GB of

Tecno launches **SPARK 8 PRO** in Bangladesh

internal storage which supports up to 256GB of expandable storage.

A 5000mAh battery couples with a 33W USB-C fast-charger. The phone's fingerprint scanner is sidemounted. Available in two colours, Interstellar Black and Komodo Island, the Tecno Spark 8 Pro is now available all over Bangladesh at BDT 16,990.

NEXT STEP



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Will AI help achieve gender equality at workplaces?

Is it because she is a mother? Or perhaps she is perceived as lacking ambition, or leadership qualities? Gender stereotypes continue to hold women back at work, but a handful of tech firms say they have developed AI (artificial intelligence) systems that can help break biases in hiring and promotion to give female candidates a fairer chance.

Employers and the wider economy could stand to gain, too.

"We are at this moment in artificial intelligence, that we either have the ability to hardwire our biases into the future or ... to hardwire equity," said Katica Roy, chief executive of Colorado-based software firm Pipeline Equity.

"A lot of the time that we talk about equity, we talk about it as a social issue or the right thing to do, which it is, but it's actually a massive economic opportunity." Organisations are increasingly turning to AI to help make hiring decisions, prompting concern among digital rights experts who warn that algorithms can perpetuate biases.

An AI hiring tool developed by Amazon had to be scrapped after it taught itself male candidates were preferable to women.

But women's rights groups and digital experts said well-designed tech aimed at targeting bias can "shine a light" on the hidden factors holding women back.

"Bias is as old as human nature, and traditional hiring practices have been shot through with a number of different biases," said Monideepa Tarafdar, a professor in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. "I think AI can be part of the solution. Definitely. But I do not think it can be the only solution."

INCLUSIVE ALTERNATIVES

These equality-focused technology firms are using AI to bypass or review decisions such as scanning CVs or deciding pay rises, and offer personalised, data-based advice.

Software developed by Pipeline Equity, a startup founded in 2014, has a number of human resource uses - from checking for biased language in performance reviews to offering advice on hiring and promotions.

Textio also uses AI to analyse companies' corporate statements and job postings to identify whether they are adopting a masculine tone that will alienate women or members of minority groups, and suggesting more inclusive alternatives.

Pymetrics, another leading firm in the space, offers gamified assessments that it says evaluate potential hires more fairly than reading CVs. Studies have found that businesses led

by diverse teams tend to be more profitable, while boosting women's presence and role in the workplace could be worth billions of dollars to national economies.

But Covid-19 has spurred a "shecession" that has seen a disproportionate number of women pushed out of the labour force. The

International Labour Organization found gender gaps have widened and women's employment is set to recover more slowly. Meanwhile, companies are struggling

to fill open positions with record numbers quitting in the United States in what has been dubbed "the great resignation".

"Businesses have so many roles that they're unable to fill, I mean, empty seats can't do your work for you," said Kieran Snyder, chief executive of Textio.

"You need to hire great people if you're going to have any kind of success."

HELPING OR SPYING?

But AI will not be a silver bullet in creating fairer workplaces, women's rights advocates and researchers said, warning that the technology could raise as many problems as it solves.

The idea that technology offers some kind of unbiased factual truth or objectivity is an illusion, said Manish Raghavan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Center for Research on Computation and Society.

"All AI has to learn from data in some way; it has to learn from past decisions," he said.

"That's not to say it's impossible to use technology to mitigate your own implicit biases, I think it just has to be very, very carefully designed. And I honestly just don't think we're at that point yet where we're able to do that." A lack of transparency about how most commercial algorithms work makes it hard to scrutinise their performance, he added.

Tarafdar, who is leading a research project to analyse how AI can lead to unintentional workplace bias, said effective solutions cannot just pinpoint key hiring decisions but must also look at the wider workplace culture.

Bosses should also carefully consider how much data they can gather on workers before their actions slip from helping towards surveillance, she added.

The real key to change is opening difficult, honest, conversations about bias that can challenge misconceptions, said Allyson Zimmermann, a director of women's workplace rights organisation Catalyst.

But AI tech can help to upend those preconceptions and open opportunities, she added, citing the case of a young woman who got an interview after being selected using technology that "blinded" recruiters as to her gender and age.

"When she showed up for the interview, they just burst out laughing. And it wasn't, you know, a rude kind of laughing. They were so shocked that she was this young woman," she said.

"It really opened their eyes; they thought they would have a middle-aged man coming in ... She went into the interview, she got the job. She told me it was an extremely positive experience."



Tomorrow's Chattogram is being built connecting both sides of the river Karnaphuli

Bangabandhu Tunnel is being built with BSRM



4 TOGGLE

SHIFT





The underground Kanjozoku street car culture and racers of Osaka, Japan, is mysterious yet so legendary. The word 'Kanjo' means 'small to the most'; this may reflect the cars themselves, specifically Honda Civics, being pushed to the limit. The origins of the Kanjozoku remain relatively unknown but it is believed to have started around three decades ago.

Honda enthusiasts have been racing on elevated highways in Osaka, Japan for a long time. The most famous of these highways was the 'Kanjo Loop': an infamous expressway where the roadways connected in a looping clockwise position. After hours, after the night had settled, the racers came to play

Nowadays, the Kanjozoku exclusively uses Civics for races on the Kanjo Loop. They gather at random, undetermined locations to race and test their skills to the limit Keep in mind that the roads are not empty in these eerie hours, nor is it closed for them, so there are civilians and cops on the street when they race. The goal of the 'Kanio Racers', or rather 'the Kaniozoku', is not to let anything stand in their way; dodge anything that is thrown at them.

Inside the infamous KANJOZOKU **CAR CULTURE**

ITMAM BASHAR



as vou might guess, is entirely

illegal and extremely dangerous. The Kanjozoku is often

compared to the world's most notorious 'Midnight Club' and can be compared to the Wangan. However, where the Wangan has wide, straight, and long roads, the Kanjo has tight, shorter routes than the Wangan. Kanjo

has narrow corners. The Wangan is home to ridiculously high-powered cars geared towards top speed, while the Kanjo is perfect for vehicles with mind-blowing 0-60 times and outstanding handling and agility. Now their choice of automobile is exclusively one of the best front-wheeldrive cars of all time, the Honda Civic.

In an interview with Car Throttle, an anonvmous member of Kanjozoku was asked, "Why only EF9, EG6, and EK4 Honda Civics from the 80s and 90s?

"The Kanjo is full of ordinary drivers,



so to weave through the traffic, a Civic gets the job done," he answered

The Kanjozoku have always derived inspiration from the professional motorsport world. During the 80s-90s, the Civic found immense popularity in the Japanese Group-A racing scene. The loop runners were utilizing the same tricks in their cars, starting from styling, engine setup, tuning, etc. The engine mods and tuning are usually not heavy, and in most scenarios, it is a moderately tuned NA B-series VTEC motor. The interiors are generally stripped bare, and things like engine bay presentation don't mean anything to these guys as long as the car is perfectly functional.

The same goes for the tyre and wheel set up; wheels will often be mismatched, and they'll mostly use tires like Advan AO48s or high grip racing tires. The cars may not shine like show cars, mainly because it's designed to show the car owners' intentions or just for racing. The vehicles' cars and owners' identities are often left anonymous with a hinge or dummy license plate and usually with window nets

or owners wearing a mask.

At one point, Kanjo racing became such a massive issue for the Japanese people that law enforcement began crackdowns on illegal racing, members of Kanjozoku were arrested, some had their beloved car's taken away, and the Kanjo loop was locked down. Many racers left the hobby, some moved to the racetrack, and others just left the group or retired because they didn't find that thrill anymore; the rivalry between the Kanio car clubs died down and what's left of Kanjozoku stood united, battling law enforcement while keeping their JDM traditions alive. But even for those who have moved their racing to the racetrack, the distinct Kanjo vibe can still be felt in their cars and driving style.

These days, racing on the Kanjo is unusually rare, and people who have stayed loyal to their traditional IDM activity only do so to keep up a longstanding tradition. Any information on Kanjo racing that exists is unbelievably hard to find and skeptical at best. A lot of it is hearsay and rumors perpetrated by those that wish they were running the loop.

COVER STORY

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

pandemic

About 20 years ago, the sister of Jalal other women.

the 'Bachao' app to connect need of help.

Bachao App

One can easily install and register the 'Bachao' app within a few minutes. This app is available to download from bachao.com.bd or Google Play Store. After installing it, provide your mobile number to get a verification code, and select 3 emergency contacts from your contact list for future purposes. Remember to keep your location turned on so that your emergency contacts or volunteers may know where you are in any kind of danger.

call

For volunteers, keeping the location turned on is a must. You will receive a notification or a red alert from the app if someone around you is asking for

TOGGLE 5

Meet 'Bachao', an app to prevent sexual violence against women

The incidents of rape and sexual violence against women in Bangladesh are on the rise over the years. This number has bizarrely increased during the Covid-19

'Bachao', a platform designed to connect victims with people who are nearby and can help, is a P2P (peopleto-people) app, launched on October 2, 2021, that aims to prevent sexual assault by making nearby people aware before such terrible incidents can take place.

With a determination to save women from the heinous crime

Ahmed, the CEO and founder of the 'Bachao' app, went through a horrific experience of sexual assault. This incident fuelled Jalal to start working on a platform that can prevent such assaults to

Jalal said, "80% of rapes occur in the victim's own neighbourhood. However, there is just one police officer for every 800 people. So local neighbourhoods must act to prevent such incidents. But the problem is getting in contact with the victims. For example, Uber connects the neighbouring taxi drivers to a passenger in need of transport, and Foodpanda connects neighbourhood restaurants to a customer who wants to order food. We have launched neighbourhood volunteers to people in

The team of Bachao also has plans to store, analyse and research data to profile rapists, victims and environments.

How to install and use

If you feel any threat of rape and need urgent assistance, open the app and click on the 'Rape Alert' button. This instantly sends an alert to your selected emergency contacts and nearby volunteers. Both victims and volunteers can see the Live GPS Map Location of each other. They can directly message and call through the app if needed. After clicking the 'Rape Alert' option, the app continues to notify others until the victim presses the 'Safe Now' button. If it is not selected within 20 minutes, that particular case with GPS Data is forwarded to the local police station for further action. A 'Bachao' helpline is also available on the app to

help. Call or message the victim through the app or just directly go to the victim following the GPS Map Location to provide assistance

Latest updates on the Bachao app

'Bachao' has already been downloaded over 68,000 times, and 165 incidents of such kind have been taken care of by the volunteers. Since its launch, Dhaka has topped among all the divisions based on the number of downloads.

Divisional cities have contributed to 74% of the total downloads. 62% of the users are aged between 18-25 years, while 30% are between 25-35 years. Among the users, 54% are male and 46% of them

are female

Till now, 14,000 people have signed up as volunteers, along with 6,500 police stations and a national delivery company's human network.

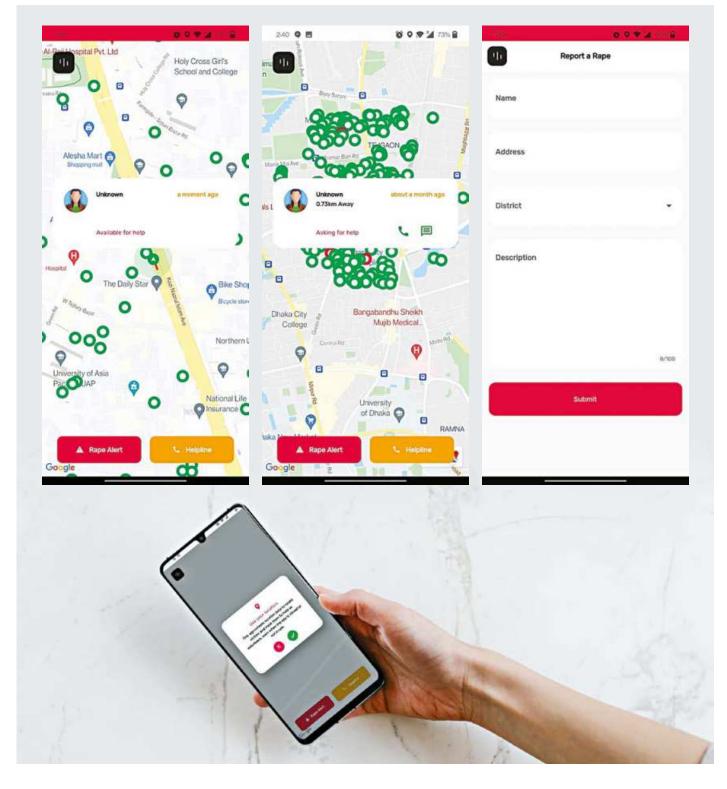
More features to introduce in future

The team of 'Bachao' is planning to add a BTRC shortcode and SMS-only feature for rural illiterate people who have no smartphones. A voice activation feature where the user just needs to shout 'Bachao' is also planned for December 2021.

Moreover, they are working with BTRC to enable this app to run without data or wifi-free during emergencies. The 'Bachao' team is also working with Bangladesh Police and MoH to engage Ansar or VDP and highway police in their vigilance and volunteer network.

'Bachao' is a non-profit initiative. The founder, Jalal Ahmed says, he spent BDT 82 lakh from his own savings to support this project. However, according to him, the project requires more financial assistance to expand it and add more features

"Rape is a social disease, and we all together in the society need to overcome it. The police or just one agency cannot solve this issue. Everyone in the society, in every neighbourhood, every village, every union must come forward against rape", further stated Ialal





OPPO RENO6 The dazzling mid-ranger

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

One of the most frequently reviewed phones by us in the last few years is OPPO. The phone has evolved from its initial mantra and has instead of focusing on a few gimmicky aesthetics, the brand has embraced the needs and wants of the users to bring out several lineups of devices. Today we are going to review one of the newest entrants of the Reno series in the local market - the Reno6. Here's our take:

> Reno is the upscale camera-focused device lineup of OPPO. Usually, these phones are aesthetically pleasing and have above average hardware and come with a price tag of upper mid-range. Reno6 is no different. Interestingly, Reno6 can be termed as an iterative update to the Reno5 5G as most of the specs and form factors are almost identical. Our review unit was an Aurora colour schemed one. To be honest, it is not the most original colour scheme out there, but the grainy metalliclike plastic finish will give you a weird tingly

sensation.

The display on the device is a 6.4 inches AMOLED screen which is gorgeous. The screen does not offer much protection so putting a screen protector is, sort of, a must. The display is bright with 750nits on its peak so reading texts and email under direct sunlight should not big a big deal. The phone comes with a 90Hz refresh rate which is kind of a let-down as most phones in this price range offer a 120Hz refresh rate. The underdisplay fingerprint scanner felt a little bit sluggish but I am sure with use it will start to grow on you.

The camera of the phone is the biggest selling point of the phone according to OPPO and we absolutely do not disagree with it. It has four sensors of which the 64 MP, f/1.7, 26mm works as the primary sensor. We tried the phone's primary camera in different environments and found it to be excellent for stationary photography. The ultrawide camera was also excellent for its class. The macro sensor, however, in our review unit was taking more time than usual to focus on the intended object. The videos came out average in our tryouts. The electronic image stabilisation of the phone was not the greatest we have encountered in this range. However, in stationary mode, the video came out quite well. The front-facing camera offers all the refinements you might want in a mid-range phone.

The performance of the phone was decent. The Snapdragon 720G (8 nm) processor can handle most everyday tasks without much trouble. We only wished OPPO had added a bit faster processor. Then again, we have to keep in mind this is a camera-focused device rather than a gaming-focused one. But that does not in any way mean you cannot play any games on it. We tried Call of Duty Mobile and it ran decent without any lag on medium settings.

A few interesting pointers about the phone: it charges quite fast thanks to VOOC 4.0 with 50W fast charging. The phone has only one speaker grill which is something that might bother you if you love playing out music loud. The headphone that comes with the phone delivers a bit of flat bass.

All in all, it's a great phone for folks who love taking snaps and do not want to put a dent in their wallet.

TECH TIPS

Check out these 5 image editing apps right in your browser

Even with a crowd of dedicated apps to choose from, editing images can be a hassle. However, you don't always need a dedicated software to make your images look fantastic. All you need is a web browser to start glittering them up.

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Your browser lets you access a whole host of fantastic applications from Google Docs to Slack, from Spotify to WhatsApp. Image editors are another range of categories that you can have a go with. You will be able to polish your images with these five fantastic in-browser apps: no downloading or installation required.

Adobe Photoshop

Photoshop has always been one of the most popular editing software. The online version of Photoshop seamlessly syncs



with Adobe's cloud storage locker, letting you work on your files from anywhere with an active internet connection. Photoshop on the web is now available in beta form for Creative Cloud users.

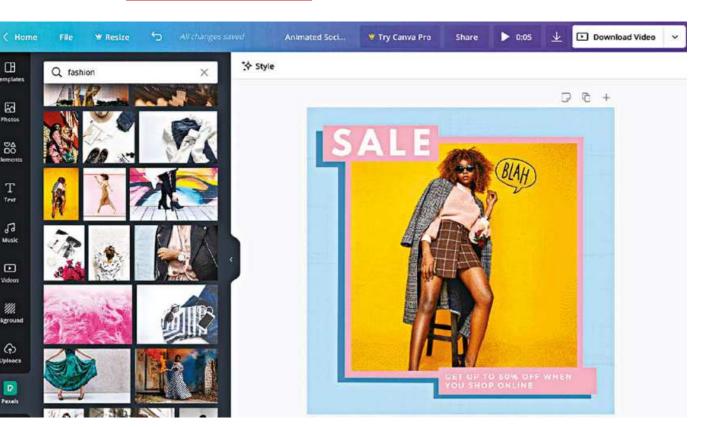
Though Adobe does not have full free access to the app, you can have a free 7-day trial and then prolong the paid subscription from Creative Clouds. Along with classic tools like crop, select, spot heading, fill, eraser, text; the platform supports layers, enabling you to work on complex PSD files. But as this isn't the fully-fledged version of Photoshop, it does lack some functionalities.

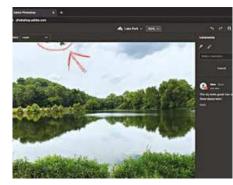
Still, the app works great for collaborating on images with a team, with options for multiple users to leave comments. So, great for some fun teamwork!

Pixlr E

Pixlr E is a streamlined basic graphic design tool for those unwilling to deep dive into edits. It has been giving Photoshop fans a similar experience in a web browser. This app can be used for

TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI





free, or you can pay \$5 a month to get rid of the ads and access more fun features to experiment on your photos (AI, stickers, overlays, and a bigger selection of tools).

Looking into the free version, you might find the interface similar to Photoshop. You get a stash of tools and features to play around with, including heal, dodge, blur, and clone tools, bokeh and liquify effects, and many more. The list gets richer and more filling for advanced users.

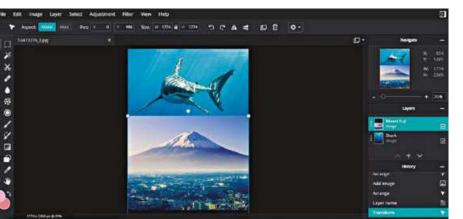
Canva

Most are familiar with Canva as a graphic design app for creating resumes and making posters. However, there is also a touch-up app version fit for your holiday shots. This also offers a generous selection of photo editing tools.

Canva is a very user-friendly and intuitive app to lessen your hassles. Adjusting settings and applying enhancements is straightforward like a desktop app. It also comes with a collection of Instagram-like filters that can dazzle up your photos with one click. You get a host of features for free, but a \$13 subscription will get you a lot more templates and stock images.

Photopea

Photopea is more advanced and sophisticated than most other similar apps. But in terms of photo editing, those looking for maximum features will benefit a lot from Photopea. A lot of its features are free, with a premium subscription



costing \$9 and giving access to more features.

Photopea can produce fantastic results with its ability to correct intricate blemishes, automatically apply fixes to contrast, color, and tone to get the photos to look better with minimum effort. With tools like the magic wand or filters like the oil paint effect, Photopea has you covered in making good edits right in your browser.

Google Photos

Sticking mostly with the basics- Google



Photos is what editors use for minimal edits. By keeping everything simple, Google Photos is very straightforward to use, and of course, it is completely free!

Google Photos lets you instantly apply and adjust the strengths of a range of filters, with an auto-fix filter that lets the AI suggest changes it thinks will give the best results. It is worth mentioning that the AI search capabilities of Google Photos help find pictures of anything, from people to sunsets, in a blink. It sorts your stack of photos in a very organized way for you to find them faster.

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8 TOGGLE

Red Notice: A star-studded waste of potential

Ryan Reynolds. Gal Gadot. Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson.

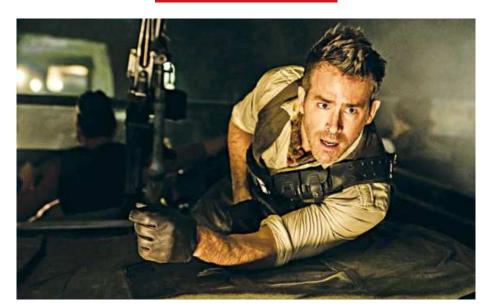
Three of current Hollywood's most exciting names should be a recipe for something great. Sadly, it's far from it.

Ever since the pandemic hit and streaming services received a major boost in popularity and usage, there have been platforms competing left and right to release the most hype shows and movies. Netflix, arguably, has been at the forefront of that competition all throughout, and with *Red Notice*, has broken the record of most-watched film in Netflix opening day history. However, there lies the problem.

The fact that a movie like *Red Notice* made such an impact is a clear indicator of the current mainstream taste: face over quality. A brand new movie starring three big stars is enough to make people tune in regardless of the actual substance to be expected. In terms of said substance, unfortunately, there wasn't much. Minor spoilers ahead.

The story starts with FBI Agent John Hartley (played by Dwayne Johnson) tracking down famous art thief Nolan Booth (played by Ryan Reynolds). Despite Nolan constantly evading capture, Hartley is able to finally put Nolan behind bars thanks to secret information leaked by the criminal mastermind 'The Bishop' (played by Gal Gadot).

However, in a strange twist of fate, Hartley is framed for money embezzlement by The Bishop, stripped of his status as a law enforcer, and is put in the same jail cell as Nolan. To get his life back, Hartley pairs up with Nolan to foil The Bishop's master plan of stealing Cleopatra's golden eggs, a long-lost treasure coveted by international criminals. SHAMS RASHID TONMOY



Thus begins the unlikely duo's fight against the dastardly Bishop, who always seems to be one step ahead of the two blossoming buds.

Let's start with the positives. The main attraction of this movie is the three main actors, and rather expectedly, they perform their roles quite well. 'The Rock' plays the stoic yet protective character of John Hartley excellently, and Ryan Reynolds is basically just Deadpool in the role of a charismatic, joke-loving, non-serious anti-hero. While Gal Gadot as a criminal mastermind might sound quite different from Wonder Woman, she plays the villainous role with similar enthusiasm and charm. The three complement each other almost exemplarily, and as the movie is very dependent on snappy quips, their chemistry pulls off the comedic scenes

nicely as well.

Sadly, that is where the praise ends. Red Notice has a story that is not only filled with plotholes but is willingly left incomplete to tease a sequel. After almost two hours of runtime, having the main resolution end in a random plot twist with little lasting consequence feels like a betrayal to the audience. Add very cheesy lines and predictable action to the mix, and you get a movie that is hard to slog through once the initial charm of The Rock and Deadpool pair has worn off.

The writing in general feels like something inspired from Bond movies but tries way too hard to shove in unfunny jokes during even the most serious scenes. There is also an over-reliance on action to pad the runtime: action that does





little to drive the plot forward. *Red Notice* prominently features some of the most typical action tropes in spy movie history, including but definitely not limited to car chases, museum hijacks, prison break, falling down a waterfall, infiltrating a VIP party, impersonating someone to hack security, and many more.

The writing also did not give the talented actors any quality materials to work with. Most of the dialogue is snappy one-liners or just action-oriented comedic routines, which is a shame because, with this star-studded cast, this movie had the potential to be much better.

All in all, *Red Notice* feels like just another action flick that is good for wasting two hours on. Just don't expect anything meaningful from a film that is made to be a cheap one-time pop.

