

DID YOU KNOW?

The origin of the Bangalee calender

Pahela Baishakh, the Bangalee New Year, falls on April 14 in Bangladesh and on April 15 in West Bengal.

The Bengali calendar emerged approximately 1,500 years ago during the reign of King Shashanka of Gauda, marking the beginning of formal timekeeping in Bengal.

Nearly a millennium later, Bengal and the entire Indian subcontinent were under the control of the Mughal Empire. Following Islamic customs, the imperial government used the Hijri calendar for official business. Dealing with agriculture and taxes became extremely difficult as a result. Due to its reliance on the lunar cycle, the Hijri year is approximately 11 days shorter than the solar year. As a result, its use in agricultural Bengal caused a misalignment with the seasonal cycles that are essential for farming.

Emperor Akbar gave Fatehullah Shirazi, his royal astronomer, the task of creating a new calendar to resolve this conflict. Persian Shirazi cleverly combined Islamic ideas with the native Shaka period, which



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

was common in Bengal and India, to create what the people came to refer to as *Fasli San* (the agricultural year). This calendar began in the year when Emperor Akbar ascended to the throne, which corresponds to the

Hijri calendar year 963. The Hijri month of Muharram coincided with the Shaka era's month of Baishakh in the year Akbar came to power, making Baishakh the first month of the Bangalee calendar year.

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NETFLIX'S ONE PIECE SEASON 2

The faithful voyage continues

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

After a surprisingly potent first season that exceeded nearly everyone's expectations, Netflix's *One Piece* live-action returns for its second iteration, riding a much larger wave of hype. The first season proved that a faithful, heartfelt adaptation of Eiichiro Oda's magnum opus wasn't just possible; it was commercially viable and creatively sound. Now, with the training wheels off and the stakes higher, does the second voyage live up to the promise of the first?

A condensed cruise through beloved arcs

Season 2 adapts material from the Loguetown arc through the Drum Island arc, introducing a host of key characters along the way. For the most part, the narrative remains close to the source manga, with some surprisingly faithful inclusions featuring minor characters and even anime-only figures sprinkled throughout as Easter eggs for eagle-eyed fans.

The cast continues to shine

The core cast continues to be the show's strongest asset, pulling considerable weight to keep the drama engaging. Jacob Romero Gibson's Usopp and Emily Rudd's Nami, in particular, deliver standout performances that feel truly faithful to their source material counterparts. As for the newcomers and side characters, they range from fitting casting choices to actors who look like they have stepped directly



off Oda's pages.

Where the live-action stretches thin

Adapting a series as deliberately cartoonish as *One Piece* remains a herculean task. No matter how much polish you apply, certain elements simply resist realistic translation. The most glaring example is the protagonist himself.

Luffy, by design, is a "cartoon" character. He sports mannerisms and behaviours that no human being could ever naturally possess, made even more outlandish by his constant body-stretching abilities.

Consequently, scenes where Luffy goes full-tilt goofy either had to be toned down or completely rewritten to accommodate

Iñaki Godoy's live-action performance. This results in moments where Godoy is visibly "acting", screaming or contorting in ways that feel over-the-top theatrical rather than realistic or organic.

Iñaki has done a fantastic job bringing Luffy to life, but the character's inherently cartoonish nature means that any live-action portrayal will inevitably feel like a forced performance rather than a seamless transformation.

Similarly, the action sequences lack much of the imaginative flair of the source material. This is not a knock on the production team. Rather, it is an inherent limitation of the medium. A live-action

production, no matter its budget, simply cannot replicate the boundless creativity of Oda's panels without leaning heavily on CGI.

A gateway, not a replacement

This live-action adaptation is not a replacement for the manga or the anime. Oda's oversight on the live-action ensures the spirit of the source material remains intact, but this is definitely not a one-to-one translation. Significant character beats and emotional moments have been trimmed for pacing, and the deliberate toning down of the series' inherent goofiness in favour of grounded storytelling will inevitably disappoint most diehard purists.

However, for everyone else, the series continues to be the best gateway into *One Piece* to exist till date. It condenses the essential spirit of the early arcs into a digestible, high-quality package while retaining the wonder and charm that made the original a worldwide phenomenon.

Verdict: A job well done

This is an adaptation made by people who clearly love the source material, for an audience that either already loves it or is ready to fall in love for the first time. The craftsmanship on display, from the meticulously designed sets to the heartfelt performances, cements Netflix's *One Piece* as one of the most faithful anime-to-life adaptations ever produced. If you have never watched or read *One Piece* but have always been curious, I absolutely recommend the live-action as a starting point.