



PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
November 2017



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Editorial

This Peacock is a packed edition. Thank you to all contributors and we look forward to future articles from new writers.

Front Cover Photo:
Image taken on Open Day
by Mrs Hunt

Back Cover Photo:
Image taken at the Remembrance
Service by Mrs Hunt



LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall and all of our guest writers.



UK POLITICS EDITION

Scandal

A lot has been happening in Westminster since the General Election in June. It has been discovered that a number of MPs, both serving and previous, have been involved in sexually abusing other Members of Parliament or people who work in Whitehall. Several Conservative, Labour and, most recently, one Liberal Democrat, have been accused.

Change of Leadership

The Lib Dems have new leader, Sir Vince Cable, who has been a member of the party for many years and is already 74, making him one of the oldest party leaders in modern politics.

Labouring the point

Jeremy Corbyn wants to re-nationalise the railways, give free higher education and rebuild the NHS. Although these are all good ideas and could really help the country, everyone in the Shadow Cabinet seems to have forgotten that our national debt is £1,688,502,250,000 (one trillion, six hundred

and eighty-eight billion, five hundred and two million, two hundred and fifty thousand pounds!), and, although we are still in austerity, we are not paying it off. This debt looms over us as we head towards Brexit and the unknown.

May Day!

Theresa May is having a hard time too, with her failed speech at the party conference and the way David Davis is negotiating Brexit for our nation. With the way things stand, we probably won't have a trade deal by 2030, by which time our economy might have collapsed.

Hello cruel world...

Brexit is coming and, even though it would appear that the will of the British people has changed, we, and the generation after us, are going to have to cope with it.

William Wale



North Korea

In the past, during the Cold War, North Korea agreed to multiple treaties and laws restricting nuclear development. The first movement towards decreasing the production and development of nuclear weaponry was carried out in 1985 - North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in an attempt to prevent the increase and improvement of nuclear weapons. However, just one year later, in 1986, we can begin to see the bending and breaking of this treaty. At this point, North Korea started the operation of a (five megawatt) nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, following seven years of construction with Soviet aid.

A root cause of both World Wars was the breaking of treaties and mutual mistrust; this played a large role in setting the foundation for which war was sparked, now we see an emerging pattern with North Korea. The country has agreed to around four moratoriums, to put the nuclear programme on hold, yet it has also broken or gone back against all four. North Korea was also hesitant about allowing inspections (from the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1993) of their nuclear waste storage sites, threatening to quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1985 if they had to be examined. Their ultimate acceptance of the Treaty may have been an attempt to seem innocent, but the reluctance over an inspection was suspicious.

In 1994 North Korea signed an agreement with the US to shut down the (plutonium-based) Yongbyon nuclear reactor, in order to gain help in building two reactors that could produce electricity. This seemed to be North Korea moving forward and leaving behind its

nuclear development plans; it looked, for a while, as though North Korea was coming out from the past and settling for peace. However, on 29th January 2002 George Bush labelled Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an “axis of evil” and highlighted the fact that they were capable of building weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, on 4th October that year it was clear that North Korea had contradicted its promise to the US and the NPT and was developing a nuclear programme. This resulted in the US stopping its construction of the two reactors on 21st November; tension between the two countries was starting to build. Soon after, on 10th/11th January 2003, North Korea withdrew from the NPT, sparking rumours that it wanted to develop nuclear weapons. On February 27th, in the same year, the US confirmed that North Korea had restarted its five-megawatt nuclear reactor that had been frozen under the agreement with the US. In addition, from 27th-29th August, North Korea joined the six-nation nuclear talks in Beijing, including other countries: China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the US.

A movement forward, seemingly away from nuclear development, occurred on 10th February 2005 when North Korea officially declared it had nuclear weapons. Following this, North Korea (somewhat reluctantly) agreed to leave the entire nuclear programme after the US, China, Japan, Russia and South Korea declared they would assist the country by providing energy and encourage economic cooperation. However, it was not long before North Korea, yet again, broke its promise by firing long range missiles in July of 2006 and conducting an underground nuclear test on 9th October. Despite this, the country closed its main nuclear reactor on 13th February 2007 in exchange for aid and on 30th September it signed an agreement, at the six-party talks, claiming it would disable its nuclear weaponry facilities. Once again, however, North Korea missed the deadline and failed to dedicate itself to complete weapon eradication.

From 2008-2010 more evidence emerged of North Korea's possession, frequent testing and rapid development of nuclear weapons: six-party talk on nuclear arms broke down, a second nuclear test was conducted, the UN Security Council imposed further sanctions atop its previous regulations and North Korea was found to have a new nuclear facility. An attempt to restart the six-party nuclear arms talk occurred when the US met North Korea in October 2011. Moreover, North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Il, passed away on 17th December and state media encouraged people to welcome his son, Kim Jong-Un, as his successor. Not surprisingly, in February 2012 the State Department announced that North Korea agreed to temporarily freeze their nuclear programme in exchange for food aid but in May the South Korean Defence Ministry declared that, from monitors of North Korea's nuclear grounds, they were ready to carry out a nuclear test at any time.

Regarding the prolonged tension between the US and North Korea, a mirror of the past tensions between the superpowers of the Great War, it is clear that a slight aggravation or trigger in the upcoming years may likely be the excuse needed to start a war. The past years of nuclear competition and control between these two countries can reflect the long-term causes needed to begin any war, and the recent comments and movements of Donald Trump in response to nuclear testing could so easily trigger an excuse for either country to declare war - to declare World War Three.

On 24th January 2013 North Korea's National Defence Commission (who deemed the US "the sworn enemy of the Korean people") proclaimed it will continue testing nuclear and long-range rockets in opposition to the US, leading to "upcoming all-out action" on the US. These words are essentially declarations of a possible war. On May 6th 2015, further indication of tension was presented through an interview with CNN where North Korea

claimed to have a missile with the range to hit mainland America if the US "forced their hand", referring to the excuse North Korea would use to launch its missile. In July of 2017 North Korea announced it had tested an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking any country in the world. Next, an event that could have so easily sparked war: on 3rd September, North Korea carried out its sixth nuclear test using a hydrogen bomb atop an intercontinental missile, causing a 6.3 magnitude seismic earthquake. Trump's twitter response to this was so dangerously specific that it surprises me no movement has been made by North Korea. He said: North Korea is "very hostile and dangerous to the United States." Following this, Trump then condemned South Korea for "talk of appeasement" with North Korea, believing action should be taken against their dangerous activities.

It is so possible, with all the advancement in nuclear weaponry, that war could spark between North Korea and the US. Just looking back, it is clear North Korea never committed to any of its treaties or agreements, but their failure to do this and their continuous breaking of rules continues to be tolerated. A similarity to the appeasements in Germany's favour in the lead up to World War Two?

Georgina Holmes



Acid Attacks and the Sheroes

Following on from the Assembly presented by Anna Burdzy on Monday 30th October 2017, we at The Peacock felt we should expand further on the enlightening address that we heard that morning.

Acid attacks are very much on the rise, especially in the UK, and they are the new barbarism that serious criminals are descending to, to cause as much trauma as possible. They have always been popular in South Asia. They have doubled in the UK since 2016, and in that year, the Metropolitan Police recorded 454 attacks involving corrosive solutions in the City, with 261 in the previous year, indicating a rise of 74%. A rise of 30% was also recorded in the UK as a whole. It's on the rise because of the ease of the crime, the accessibility of corrosive fluids and it being a fairly unsophisticated crime. Amber Rudd, the Home Secretary, is looking to ban the sale of corrosive substances to under eighteens, similar to the ban on knife purchases.

Acid was used with metals for etching since ancient times. In France, in 1879, 16 cases of acid (Vitriol - the name comes from the French) attacks were widely reported as crimes of passion perpetrated mostly by women against other women. This form of attack became much more popular after those cases, with multiple attacks happening in following years and in other countries. The use of acid began to rise in many developing nations, specifically those in South Asia. The first recorded attacks in South Asia occurred in

Bangladesh in 1967 and India in 1982. Since then, there has been an increase in the quantity and severity of acid attacks in the region for various reasons. Recently though, Bangladesh has observed a decrease in this crime in the past few years.

These attacks that specifically occur in South Asia are meant to cause irreparable damage to women, who have 'disgraced' their family, or who have rejected a male's advance, whether it be marriage or relationships in general. These women could then be thrown out of their homes or have to go back to the one who was the perpetrator. They will receive no medical or emotional treatment, possibly being locked away in a room for the rest of their lives with injuries which are soul-altering.

That's where the Sheroes come in. They rescue women from their homes and situations to find them the necessary treatment and support for their recovery. This allows them to grow and become stronger and more confident. Also, some victims go on to work at the Sheroes Hangout where they congregate and talk through issues and trauma, giving each other support and advice.

These are amazing and strong women who have overcome everything to come out the other side. After that Assembly we will be looking into the charity further, seeing if we can do anything more to help. This is an important cause and we must do all we can to continue to support it after the non-uniform day.

By Sophie Puffett

Caster Controversy

She floated to the top and surfaced as a star track athlete in 2009, winning gold in the 800m at the IAAF World Championships. She more recently won gold in 800m at the 2016 Olympics as well.

Caster Semenya, a successful track athlete, was banned from competing after 2009 for simply being 'too fast and too masculine,' stated the scientist Katrina Karkazis. Plus, the IAAF's General Secretary said: 'She is a woman, but maybe not one hundred percent.' This shows people feel her success is unfairly gained due to her physical attributes.

During her time off, she underwent sex tests where it was 'discovered' she has three times the testosterone levels naturally found in a typical woman. (These results were leaked by the media, showing Semenya is not only fighting for justice, but a little discretion when it comes to her private medical situation). This condition is called Hyperandrogenism. For this, Semenya has faced little sympathy from fellow competitors, such as Lynsey Sharp (GB Athlete), who stated after the 2016 Olympics: 'We rely on people at the top sorting it out.' She also receives short shrift from sports officials and journalists.

However, her physical 'advantage' may be a little ironic, since funding in preparation for big athletics events leaves athletes like Semenya at a disadvantage from the start, since she's from a poorer background in South Africa compared to her compatriots in the UK, like Sharp. This undermines people like Sharp's argument since they have the money for

advanced machinery to optimise the efficacy of their training.

As a result of the tests Semenya took, in 2011 the IAAF implemented rules on testosterone levels, predicting it gave a significant advantage – although this has not been proven. Thus this leaves the artificial lowering of testosterone levels the only option open for athletes like Semenya, should they wish to compete internationally in the future.

Furthermore, people including Sebastian Coe, head of the IAAF, said they are continuing to try to minimise the effects of Hyperandrogenism on athletics. Though this may seem fair, Semenya suffers mentally through being at the centre of a controversy which undermines her talent. Some may think her gender puts her at a disadvantage, since men with naturally higher levels of testosterone aren't questioned, showing an obvious double standard which demeans females.

Those who wish to have fairness in sport need to be prepared to stop cherry picking at forms of a supposed 'advantage,' and focus on inequalities in the system. Overall, athletes like Semenya, continue to strive through unsporting situations, despite all the scrutiny, and don't focus on the negatives. They rise to the challenge.

Emily MacTaggart

Robots are coming for your Jobs

We all anticipate that the technology industry will continue to innovate. These are exciting times with the breakthrough of robotics - this science is imminent but how will this impact us? The phenomenon of robotics should be celebrated, but could these sensational devices ruin the world as we know it? How will they impact the world we know today?

Let's focus on the UK: the UK's economy is the 5th largest in the world and in the top three in Europe. Our economy is strongly dependant on the tertiary sector (services). This sector is constantly growing, and takes up 78.4% (est.) of all work, so what will this sector look like in 15 years? How will robots influence and change the service industry in the UK and will this influence the Economic environment?

The current research, development and implementation cost of producing a real robot is not cheap and the cost of an individual purchasing a robot will reflect this. However, the productivity of a robot could outweigh the cost of purchase. Currently, humans typically work 7-8 hours a day and often output standards vary as they get tired. Robots, however, are able to perform 24/7 as they do not get tired and the standard of work remains consistent during the course of the day. Robots would not have a holiday and would probably only need a couple days of per year for

servicing. These robots would be more efficient and would be without human error. Also, they would not get a salary, so you would only pay for their commission and service. Therefore, you could argue that in the long term you would save a lot of money and time as a result of this initial investment in robots.

Robots could change the customer's expectation. Consider an order at a restaurant or even your shopping experience. Will there be shops in the future or will there just be an online market where you can order things from the luxury of your home? Will restaurants be fully automated? Will the people of UK become more demanding and lazy because of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? In Japan, automated restaurants are quite common, where one orders and pays for food upfront using a machine. This allows the customer and the restaurant to have a positive and efficient experience.

We are all familiar with the advances that Apple and Microsoft have presented us with over the last decade; they are true leaders in their industry. With the emergence of robots, I expect that we will have a number of new household names from emerging companies, some of which we have never heard of before. Growth in all technology companies is a fact of the future; as noted above, this future is imminent. I expect there to be a lot of

competition and drive to gain market share. There are so many opportunities and most industries will benefit from the introduction of robots. Once companies make this breakthrough, potentially, humans will not be needed anymore. The role of humans will change; there will be less demand for humans to carry out repetitive tasks as robots could learn this; humans will need to learn new skill sets such as becoming the architects of Artificial Intelligence.

However, in Japan, as an example, there have been innovations which have already started to destroy many jobs. Japanese TV audiences glimpsed a potentially revolutionary contraption from the Matsue College of Technology that rapidly separates closed but empty shijimi clamshells from those with a live mollusc inside. Also in Japan there is now a hotel which has zero hotel staff and is run only by computers and robots. This shows what a social challenge technology can be and how vulnerable our jobs are to the future. A report finds 38% of US jobs will be automated by 2030. 4 in 10 US jobs are at high risk of being replaced by robots. It found that financial service positions are particularly threatened - 61% will be replaced. Despite this, some officials 'are not worried' in the short term and see it happening in 50-100 years.

These robots may not be the doom of our society. They could be the rescuers and the protectors of today's civilization. Imagine a robot that can run into a burning building or a new generation of bomb squad where they are 100 % certain to de-fuse the bomb. These life-threatening jobs will be taken by the robots and they are not susceptible to human error.

So the real question is: should people be concerned for their jobs in the future? It is clear to all of us that jobs and our lifestyles will drastically change. The robots will obviously take some jobs, or companies would not be able to justify their existence. Personally, I

think that humans should alter their thinking about the work environment - I think following an initial learning curve of around 15 years, we will live with robots and have a clearer vision on how this will work. There is no real threat right now. I believe the younger generation should prepare for this change and pick a career that will not be affected by robots. Robots will be able to complete transactional jobs and repetitive jobs very easily, so the younger generation should avoid that line of work. This generation should focus on being the leader and control the robots in order to work in harmony with them. I do not believe that robots are not yet capable of making decisions as a leader but, with artificial intelligence and self-learning, this too will change. The robots are coming and we cannot do anything about that, however we can prepare and be better than them.

By Ronil Magdani

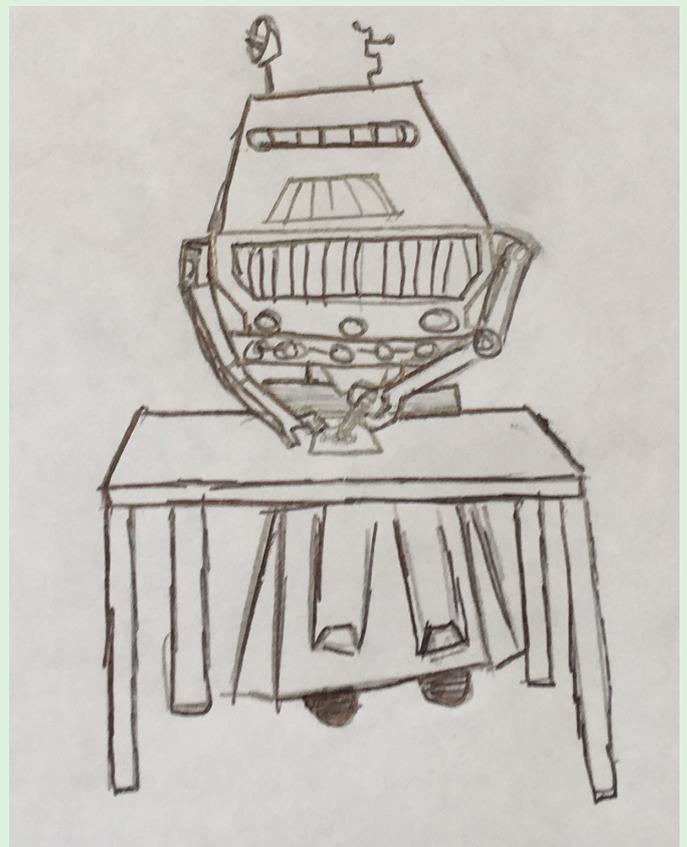


Illustration by Thomas Mann

Playability

Do recording artists have to lose their identity to be accepted by the mainstream music industry?

In this day and age, everyone listens to music, whether this is because they are a diehard music obsessive like myself, or they happened to hear a catchy tune on the radio. However, do the artists that we listen to have any identity or integrity anymore?

The question: "Have artists sold out?" is not a new one; for decades people have been putting this proposition forward. Whether it was calling out *Metallica* for cutting their hair on *Load* in 1996, *Fall Out Boy* for losing all of the Rock and Roll on the ironically titled *Save Rock and Roll* in 2013 and even *Linkin Park* with their abomination, *One More Light*, released earlier this year.

My first grievance is with what has happened to modern day Rock music, i.e. bands that sell out arenas up and down this country. *You Me At Six* are a prime example of a band who 'sold their soul' to the modern music industry - starting out as a bouncy, sarcastic and enjoyable Alternative Rock band. However, they have recently dropped the catchy hooks and huge choruses in order to be ordained 'media darlings' by mainstream radio station. Their latest album *Night People* is just as interesting as watching paint dry, it's like someone took *The Killers* B-side, stripped it of all

the individuality that it had and gave it to a baby *Kings of Leon* who can't play their instruments or sing. The only reason that they did this was not, as they claimed it to be, "a new musical direction" that they felt that they had to take, but was so that they could get mainstage festival slots and prime time air play on Radio 1. While I know this is subjective, I don't think you can justify losing all originality from your music for fifteen minutes of fame. But then again, why stick to your morals and make heartfelt music when you can appear on Sunday Brunch with Tim Lovejoy?

Another band that have given up on being respectable musicians are the *Arctic Monkeys*, who, once they realised that they didn't have to write good music in order to headline festivals, have given up writing any original songs to become a 'D List' *Muse*. The cheeky, energetic and outright fun Indie Rock that they mastered on their debut has been completely removed from their sound so that they don't intimidate beige, Mondeo-driving Dads who buy their music in Sainsburys with the weekly shop.

But this embarrassing trend doesn't stop at Rock music, it continues in the spheres of Pop music as well. The latest artist to give up on music is *Taylor Swift*. Her desperate attempt to be relevant, *Look What You Made Me Do*, sounds about as edgy as a circle. As far as shameless cash grabs go this is the best example of one - how you can go from being the

best Country Pop artist in the world, and I would argue the best Pop artist for a while, to a stripped-down, nearly unrecognisable, electronic rapper? Who in 2017 is thinking “You know what *Taylor Swift* needs, she needs to increase all the electronics and start rapping?” No one and I repeat, no one, wants this.

On a more serious note, the lack of passion and originality in Rock music means that when the “ice age” arrives it will kill off all the old Classic Rock and Metal behemoths. The *AC/DCs* and *Guns and Roses* of this world will no longer be around, nor will their eccentric and gargantuan stadium shows remain and sadly, there will be no bands of their calibre that can replace them. The sorry state of ‘mainstream’ rock music means that from the way it looks there won’t be any bands capable of putting on stadium shows. Even ‘newer’ Rock bands that have recently ascended to headlining stadiums, for example, *Foo Fighters* and *Muse* are both nearing 25 years as a band and they will soon be non-existent as well. All the interesting Rock bands are too underground and do not have enough exposure for them to be able to break into the mainstream. It can be argued that there needs to be ‘bland and boring’ music for there to be a rebellion and backlash that kickstarts and inspires a generation. Just like *Nevermind* by *Nirvana* was a backlash to the overblown and bombastic Hair Metal bands of the 80s and the rise of the *Sex Pistols* killed off the boring and repetitive prog bands of the 60/70s. However, I do not believe that with the ever-increasing power that the music industry has over what we listen to, that there will not be another renaissance for modern rock. The days of watching MTV and seeing genre-changing, decade-defining bands such as *Metallica*, *Green Day* and *No Doubt* are long gone, as the

only “Rock” music that people are now interested in are “Alternative” acts such as *Halsey*, *Melanie Martinez* and *Twenty One Pilots* who, arguably, have no relevance to Rock music! While these artists have not ‘sold out’ or lost any of their integrity, this is because they never had any ‘integrity’ to start with.

All my favourite bands have one thing in common whether they be Metal legends such as *Metallica* and *Rage Against The Machine*, generation-defining Rock bands such as *Nirvana* and *The Smiths* or introspective melancholic genius such as *Radiohead* and *Weezer*. The one thing however that connects these bands is that they never changed to become relevant to the mainstream or fit in to an ‘agenda’. They stayed true to their own music. Just to set the record straight I am not against these “artistic ventures” because they are abysmal, but rather that the artists in question are changing their sound as they know that it is merely a popular, populist thing to do. I admit that I do enjoy some artists who have undergone this mainstream change in their sound (for example, *Panic! At The Disco’s Death of A Bachelor* and *Paramore’s After Laughter*) yet I still do not like the fact that these artists felt the need to change their sound to get extra air time on Radio 1. To put it simply, I preferred it when Rockstars were dangerous and could go off the rails in front of your very eyes, when you could get a nine-minute rock opera to the top of the charts and no one made a fuss. Now our so called “Rockstars” are too scared to lose followers on Instagram and would rather spend their time playing “Innuendo Bingo” with Scott Mills. Then again, who cares about artistic integrity anyway?

By Henry King-O’Reilly

Democratic “Writes”

In all free and democratic countries politics charts a steady rise and fall of power - either in favour of the Left or the Right. This swing from one side to the other defines international politics and often is decisive in elections as we have seen recently in the US (for example, the swing state Pennsylvania voting for President Trump.) Due to this, economic booms and subsequent periods of austerity are often credited to the wrong people, as the after effects of good (or bad) decisions are far longer lasting than many voters realise. This leads to the portrayal of political leaders as either a hero or a villain by the press. This image, fed to the public, and the magnitude of the successes or failures often affect the reputation of said leader's party.

Voters seem to have agonisingly short memories for the successes of politicians and rather focus on those they can blame for their misadventures. A politician's most powerful symbol is their legacy; and this is due to the press: for example, the lionisation of Margaret Thatcher by Right wing media as the saviour of the Right, and Ronald Reagan as the saviour of America despite the questionable ethics of their domestic policies. Consider also the Left wing glorification of the charismatic Kennedy brothers, despite JFK's refusal to sign The Civil Rights Bill (for fear of losing the vote of the southern Democrats); the equally charismatic Tony Blair, 'saviour of the NHS', is written in the history books as the man who started what is potentially World War Three in the Middle East.

Some may argue that the job of the media is to destroy or build legacies and in this they can strengthen or weaken political power, therefore a politician must keep the press on their side to stay relevant. Political parties have always used their ally newspapers to achieve their aims, as proven by Theresa May alongside other leading Tories attending a party thrown by Paul Dacre, editor of the Daily Mail, and “the man that hates liberal Britain”.

The question posed is this: does the press corrupt political power? The Right wing media is run by four people who all have something to gain from Right wing governments and so utilise all methods available to them, including scaremongering and legitimising xenophobia. The Left wing press is frankly, out of ideas, and led by the militant Left Youth Movement: Momentum. Extreme Corbynistas have control over the Left wing papers, making the Labour Party seem to be less of a political party than a cult. This then leads those with centrist views to support the Tories.

For now, we must just hope that Trump continues with his catalogue of disasters and alternative facts that steadily become more unnerving as his years of presidency begin. We must just hope that the press, both Left and Centre-Right wing remember his failures and subsequently discredit the whole neo-imperial capitalist faction worldwide for the next decade.

Aoife Murphy

House Drama

This year's House Drama, as always, was both entertaining and of a very high standard. The school was buzzing all day with students in costume and an all round excitement for the show. All Houses should definitely be extremely proud of their efforts and performances.

House Drama kicked off in the afternoon with Masters and their performance of 'The Accident'. The audience was quiet with anticipation before it even began. The plot followed a slightly confusing but clever and well thought out storyline that included a play within a play. In the first scene the students played actors who were nervous about their performance because neither the stage manager nor the props had turned up and so the show would have to go on without them. This led to a hilarious use of physical theatre throughout the rest of the sketch: from creaking human doors and hard human sofas to ringing human telephones and singing human radios. Nahbi Odeh was first to emerge from the wings in the 'play-within-a-play' modelling a bright red dress, heels, and handbag and talking in a high-pitched woman's voice, much to the amusement of the audience. He played a mother who kept disappearing without telling her children where she was going and they had decided it was time to find out the truth. Her son, played by Nicholas Njopa-Kaba, was especially angry when he received a phone call through the human telephone informing him that his mother's bank account was empty. By following her, they soon discovered that she had been disappearing to a fortune-teller and the scene ends just as the psychic promises to predict their futures. The 'actors' then came together to discuss the success of the play (with

Nahbi often forgetting to speak in his normal voice) and Nick declaring that any success was purely by accident until he is shocked by the offer of a show at a top London theatre. Altogether it was a short but well-rehearsed piece, which, judging by the laughter, and despite coming fourth, was clearly enjoyed by the audience.

Next to the stage was an excellent, clean performance of 'Cinders' from Dukes. They came up with a great plot idea: the modern version of Cinderella, played by Sophie Levy, in which the pushy King and Queen (Fran Jones and Guy Knox-Holmes) attempted to find their son a bride. Josh Blair portrayed a particularly egotistical Prince Charming, sporting a Leicester City top with a mirror and comb constantly in hand. At one point, the prince's bodyguards even sprayed water from plastic guns onto the audience. This interaction with the audience set apart the performance from others, turning it into a successful and engaging pantomime, which ended up winning House Drama. Millie Horne and Georgia Morris were standout characters as the 'ugly' stepsisters. All eyes were on them as they descended the parallel staircases in the tiered seating and their superior physical presence on stage made for comedy magic. The costumes especially, in this performance, were striking with many ball gowns worn and Buttons (Yash Bhatia) dressed up in contrasting colours: a striped blazer and multi-coloured wig. It ended as most great performances do, with an unexpected twist. The shoe turned out not to fit Cinders (who then proceeded to run off with Buttons) and instead fit her grandmother (Jessica Hemstock), who was last seen chasing Prince Charming off the stage stating her desire to have 'always wanted a toy-boy'.

The outstanding performances continued with Judges and their rendition of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. It followed the well-known story line of the film but was cleverly adapted for the stage. Their costumes truly made them stand out and the bright tutus and wigs of the Oompa-Loompas were particularly spectacular. Judges was also the only House to attempt live music with a band backstage playing the majority of their songs, often accompanied by singing from the actors. Most of the main roles were played by members of the Sixth Form but the parents of the children visiting the factory were played by lower school students, which added a great deal of humour. 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' being such a well-loved classic, it was enjoyed by all members of the audience and definitely deserved its second place title.

The last performance of the night was an inspired production from VC's, led courageously by Maria Hancock. It was based on an orchestra who were struggling to get it together in time for a concert. The play featured many twists including the absence of instruments (making playing a concert a little difficult), which then turned out to be an airport drug scandal. This kept the audience enthralled but it possibly confused the younger members of the audience quite a bit. Alex Laurenti, who played an English conductor, acted superbly during his conversations with Maria, who played a Russian cleaner and they brought insight into the contrast between different countries and their cultures in a humorous way. This House used the available lighting to their advantage and they incorporated the green colour that symbolised VC's into their simplistic orchestral uniforms. Despite only making it to third place, VC's evening performance was said to have been better than it was in the afternoon and showcased a lot of talent from younger pupils; the school will certainly see them again in

future productions.

Obviously, congratulations are in order to Dukes who achieved first place. However, those in the other Houses should not despair! There are many more competitions to win and opportunities to gain more House points. In the near future we have Hockey for the girls, Football for the boys and, of course, the much loved House General Knowledge hosted by Mr Willis. Special thanks should go to all the teachers involved in House Drama this year and to those staff and students who worked in Sound and Lighting; none of this would be possible without their help. We look forward to seeing more talent in years to come.

By Charlotte, Roxanna and Vaidehi

House Correspondents



Well Done Cinders!

(It was a "shoe" in! - Ed)

Space Club

At the start of the academic year, all the students of the Senior School were invited an 'Astronomy Masterclass' held on the 22nd of September 2017 from 20:00 to 08:00 the next morning. When I arrived at 20:00, about 30 people had shown up, and everybody was setting up tents for the night. That itself was an experience, because it was the first time I had put up a tent. We were then asked to carry the 'supplies', which consisted of marshmallows, 30 litres of both Fanta and Coke, and some packets of Haribos, from Madame Douglas' car to the second floor of the Pavilion.

After keeping all of our sleeping equipment in our allocated sleeping tents, Miss Allcoat gave us a talk about Space. We learnt about human and natural satellites, supernovas and stars. We also learnt about Black Holes, Miss Allcoat's favourite word being 'spaghettification', where the gravitational forces of the Black Hole stretch you to infinity. After a small break, with people stuffing themselves with sweets, Dr Boyce talked about how he got a PHD and became a 'Doctor'. We also looked through glasses which made the spectrums of light very visible. After looking at some funny photos of Doctor Boyce when he was younger, the participants went outside for a group photo, and then embarked on a walk to the school campfire site. Immediately after reaching, Dr Boyce poured a whole container of fire starter on the wood that we had brought over. After a few unsuccessful attempts at lighting a match, Dr Boyce set the wood in the campfire alight.

Around the campfire, Dr Boyce told us about the star constellations that we could see. Unfortunately, we were not able to use Space Club's large telescope,

because it was a very cloudy night. To entertain us while we hungrily waited for the marshmallows to be cooked, Dr Boyce told us about how he went to France and helped a team build a rocket to be shot for Top Gear (he said that he saw Richard Hammond), and how he managed to climb on the lens of a very large telescope.

When the campfire was ready, we roasted our marshmallows, which was very difficult, because the wind was carrying the smoke of the campfire to our eyes. After eating the marshmallows, we walked back to the pavilion, where we had a few more sweets, before turning in for the night. It was also very interesting to sleep in a tent for the first time, because it was not as uncomfortable as I thought it would be. It was easy for most of the pupils to sleep, because we arrived at our tents at midnight, and everyone was exhausted.

After a nice sleep, Dr Boyce woke us up at 7:15, and we cleaned the pavilion, and loaded our tents into Madame Douglas' car, and at about 08:00 a swarm of parents arrived to pick us up. I think that the Masterclass was amazing, this being the first one organised. It was a very valuable experience, and I will definitely come to masterclasses in the future. Thank you to Dr Boyce and Miss Allcoat for organizing the event, and to Madame Douglas who helped out on the evening.

By Aditya Mathur



Leicester's Manager

Craig Shakespeare was sacked by Leicester on the 17th October, four months after he replaced ex- manager Claudio Ranieri. Craig Shakespeare won 11 games out of a total 26 for the Foxes. He drew 6 and lost 9. In my opinion, it was a good idea to sack Shakespeare, as Leicester were not doing particularly well.

Michael Appleton, the assistant manager, took over for the next 2 games (Swansea and Leeds). He coached the team well with them

winning both matches (Swansea 2-1, Leeds 3-1). Appleton did not want to become the permanent manager and said that he would step back down to assistant for the next manager.

Leicester had many choices for the replacement, but decided to employ experienced manager on the 25th October. He won his first game as manager (Everton, 2-0) and then drew the next against Stoke (2-2). I think he is a good choice as manager and I hope he can lead Leicester into success in the future.

Tom Ellis

Remembrance Service



**History Trip Special
in the next issue**