

THE ANNUAL PERFORMING ARTS JOURNAL

MANCH

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**ECHOES OF THE
STAGE**

THE THEATRE OF MEMORY



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WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL PERFORMING ARTS JOURNAL

It gives me immense pleasure to present the 6th edition of our Journal of Performing Arts. As the MIC of Performing Arts, I am proud to witness the dedication, discipline, and creative growth of our students and faculty throughout the year.

This journal reflects not only our artistic achievements but also the sincerity, hard work, and passion that every member of the Performing Arts family contributes. From dance and music practices to stage presentations, workshops, and collaborative activities, each experience has added depth to our shared artistic journey. I am truly inspired by the enthusiasm with which our students explore new ideas, preserve our traditions, and express themselves through various forms of performing arts.

I hope this journal continues to motivate our learners, document our progress, and celebrate the beauty of artistic expression. My heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their efforts in bringing this edition to life.

Thank you,
Rubi Borah Bordoloi
Head of Dance School
MIC : MANCH



*my experience as the editor
in-chief for the last year*

-PRAPTY BORAH



It has been an incredible privilege to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of "MANCH," our Performing Arts Magazine, for the past two years. This journey has been a profoundly enriching experience filled with valuable learning and personal growth, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have led such a talented and passionate team in the 4th Edition MANCH Performing Arts Magazine. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead this publication independently. The world of performing arts is vibrant and ever-evolving, and capturing its essence in the pages of "MANCH" as the sole editor of the 5th Edition has been both thrilling and uniquely challenging.

Working on "MANCH" has been an exciting adventure, allowing me to bring to life the diverse stories and artistic expressions that define the performing arts. From conceptualizing themes and commissioning articles to overseeing the intricate design process and final publication, each step demonstrated my dedication and passion. The satisfaction of seeing my efforts culminate in a beautifully crafted publication that showcases the brilliance of artists and their craft is a feeling I will always cherish.

This role has not only sharpened my editorial and organizational skills but also deepened my appreciation for the dedication and creativity within the performing arts community. It has been an honor to curate and present the vibrant world of performance through "MANCH," and I look forward to witnessing the magazine's continued success and impact.



CULTURAL CAPTAIN

Rhythm Over Voice

-SWASTIKA BORUAH



The air in our home was always thick with music, but my heart beat to a different rhythm. While they focused on my vocal cords, I focused on my feet. The music that moved them to sing moved me to move. Family gatherings always turned into informal recitals, with me perched uncomfortably on a stool, delivering a shaky rendition of an aria. "Breathe from the diaphragm!" my mother would instruct with a warm smile, envisioning my name in lights in a full auditorium.

I was five years old when I started my Bharatanatyam dance journey. It was filled with thoughtful lessons about not only dance, but also life. But it had a twist to it. When I joined AVS, Bharatanatyam as a dance form wasn't an option—the only dance form calling out to me was Sattriya. This choice turned out to be the moment everything changed for me. Taking up a new dance form was not an easy route – it takes a lot of dedication and practice, and that is how I ensured that this is my forte.

My parents' faith and belief in me never failed to flatter me, but I wish it were in what I wanted from my heart. But I've learned – I've learnt to love it in the silence, and maybe that is the way it was meant to be.

For me, this process is not just physical; it's a mental and emotional transformation. Dance becomes a language, a medium for expressing feelings that words often fail to capture. My silent passion became my ultimate expression.



CULTURAL CAPTAIN

~ As the tide washes away

-TANVEER AHMED

Everyone has something in their life about which they care so passionately about that they would not trade it for anything else in the world. For me it was being on stage. The adrenaline and nervousness before a performance, the claps and the cheers during one, and the satisfaction and content after, it is all unmatched; the feeling is pure bliss. And for me, it did not really matter; be it music to theatre, there is something ethereal about the sensation of having the audience scream while you yourself are blinded by the lights and are put in an almost drunken stupor that it is only your body moving out of sheer muscle memory that has been pushed to near perfection through countless hours relentless practice.

And it made me appreciate and respect others' and see through, above and beyond the stage. The effort behind it all and what it took to be on stage. And once you get a whiff of what lies underneath, you realise that it is not just a performance but an art made not just to see or hear but to be experienced by your mind.



As the Cultural Captain of the school, I got ample opportunities to perform, inside and outside, but more importantly, it gave me a chance to see others on the same stage perform with a flair. It gave me a chance to help them push their limits, and hopefully, along the way, they felt what I feel every time I am out there. So even if I no longer have the badge, I will feel the very same feeling once again, where nothing around me mattered and the stage was all mine.

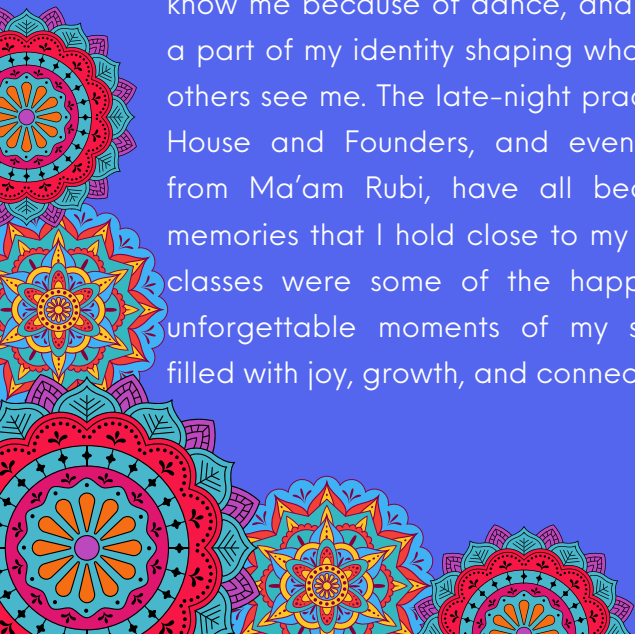


DANCE CAPTAIN

-MYSKINA DEKA

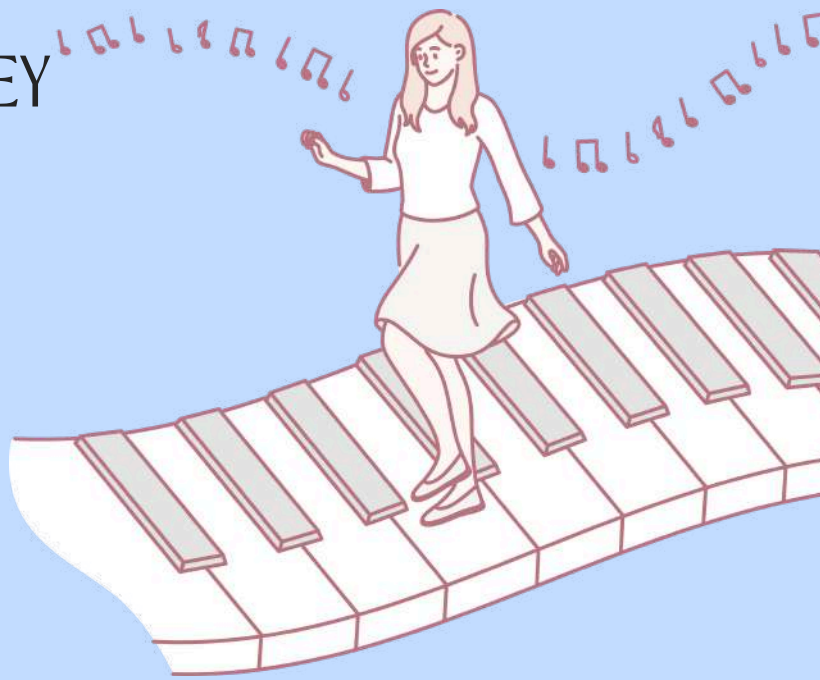
Being the dance captain has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my life. The AVS dance school became my second home, a place where I shared laughter, tears, and all my little gossip with Ma'am Rubi and my friends. People know me because of dance, and it has become a part of my identity shaping who I am and how others see me. The late-night practices for Inter-House and Founders, and even the scoldings from Ma'am Rubi, have all become precious memories that I hold close to my heart. Group 3 classes were some of the happiest and most unforgettable moments of my school journey, filled with joy, growth, and connection.

I had seen many dance captains write their final words, and I never imagined that someday it would be my turn. The school dance trip changed me in ways I will always be grateful for, teaching me responsibility, confidence, and love for the art. Being the dance captain has given me immense love and respect from my juniors, and that is something I will cherish forever. The dance school will forever be my home, and I will carry all its memories within me for the rest of my life.



MUSIC CAPTAIN - A JOURNEY

Zerayah Cadessa Syiem



"Life and love go on, let the music play." — Johnny Cash My time at AVS over the past two years has been an incredible experience. Being involved in such a beautiful art form—music, and being surrounded by the most lovable people—has truly made a profound impact on my life. Having come from a family with a deep inclination towards music influenced me greatly. In fact, it is quite ironic that I once wanted to quit music, but here I am now, writing this as a former Music Captain of AVS.

I began my musical journey at the age of six and learned my first instrument, the piano. I remember constantly wanting to quit playing, yet my grandmother insisted I continue. What a blessing in disguise! When I first joined AVS, I did not know what was in store for me.

"Life and love go on, let the music play." — Johnny Cash



This was a uniquely written story that God had executed perfectly for me and I thank Him for it each day. I started immersing myself in music more and more and realised that it had become my greatest passion, my greatest love. What an incredible journey I have had! The thrill, the intense practices, the rough patches, and the fun all rolled up into a rollercoaster of emotions. Meeting so many talented, humble people who shared my passion was truly amazing. I got the opportunity to learn from my juniors, seniors and teachers, and I grew in knowledge and love for each one of them. I also had the chance to teach my juniors and explore the deepest parts of music by learning many new instruments. Receiving strong support from my best friend and former Choir Captain, Da-i-sha, was a source of comfort and motivation for me when I felt alone or completely unheard. It was just us against the world in the music school, always working hand in hand. I would not trade this for anything else in the world. I am certain the music school is heading for a brilliant period of growth, where it will ascend to a new level and receive the genuine respect and admiration that is long overdue. It was a pleasure working for the music school along with my partner-in-crime, Da-i-sha. It is incredibly hard to let go of this aspect of my life, but I truly hope I have made a positive difference in the lives of others. Now, however, I must let my life move forward and begin the next chapter. The wonderful thing is that music will always have a special place in my heart, and it will never lose its light within me. Like Johnny Cash said, "Life and love go on, let the music play."



WESTERN CHOIR CAPTAIN



THE CORNER ROOM SYMPHONY

DAISHA EMI DIENGDOH

When I first joined this school, I did not think that I would be as involved in the music department as I am now. If one were to tell the younger version of myself that she would become the Western Choir Captain, I assure you she would not believe it. As a matter of fact, being part of the school choir was never really wish on my bucket list. I suppose that is the beauty of this school – it helps identify things one could possibly be passionate about and ensures that their little spark of talent does not go to waste.

Coming here has aided me in discovering different aspects and perspectives, especially in the field of music. We have had several opportunities to expose ourselves to larger crowds and explore our capabilities. I realised that music plays a huge role in many events hosted by the school. We would practice every single day for one occasion or another. I admit that it was quite exhausting, especially when we had to spend the entire day practising the same thing over and over again.

However, with time, I got extremely used to it, and I have to confess that it reached a point where I am emotionally attached to the music school, especially that one small room in the corner of the building where we have our regular vocal lessons. So, no matter how tiring it was, it was definitely worth it. Little did I know that the western music department would hold a very special place in my heart. I will miss the constant rush and excitement that comes along with the work of the music school. I will miss hearing the sounds and symphonies of people's voices in its corridors, the same three songs being played over again in the band room, the chaos that sets in especially during the summer semester that is loaded with events; but most of all I will miss my little music family. I have made several friends out here, some of which I have grown very close to. To describe the love that I have for them would be immensely difficult because it is ineffable. I have enjoyed every bit of the experience that I have shared with them and I would not have it go any other way.

INDIAN CHOIR CAPTAIN

Harshita Das



Every student has that one corner of the school they connect with the most; for me, it was the Indian Choir. When I joined in 2019, I never expected it to become such an important part of my school life. Over the years, the choir room slowly became my comfort zone—a place where the chaos, laughter, and people somehow felt like home. What began as just another activity turned into a space where I felt understood, supported, and genuinely happy.

THE PLACE THAT FELT LIKE HOME



Stepping into a leadership role added a new layer to this experience. Leading the choir taught me responsibility, teamwork, patience, and the importance of staying calm when everything around you feels chaotic. It wasn't always perfect—there were days I didn't want to do it anymore, and full phases where nothing seemed to go right. However, looking back, those ups and downs actually strengthened the bonds. They taught me how to guide, how to listen, and how to bring people together for one final, beautiful performance.



This year, standing on stage for the last time, singing and conducting for the final time with the best people beside me, was surreal. It's strange how you don't realise a chapter is ending until it's already over. And this is definitely the part of school I'll miss the most. From 2019 to 2025, the Indian Choir wasn't just about music—it was about growing, learning, laughing, and creating memories I'll carry with me forever.

DRAMATICS CAPTAIN

-Natasha billimoria

~The Stage In My Heart

Dramatics, to me, has always been very close to my heart. Being captain this year has given me so much to take back. Whether it was Newcomers Evening, the Christmas play, IPSC at the peak of sweltering summer, interhouse One Act or Founders, being part of a theater production is just the best. You find people who love the stage as much as you do, but in so many different forms. You allow yourself to be transported to another realm, where you can escape the madness and bustle of everyday life for a moment. The night before the performance, we rushed out to buy ourselves costumes - the Madhatter and Alice herself.

And maybe it was when I wore that odd, ill-fitting blonde wig, or when I saw my very proper dad in that ridiculous top hat and cape, that I fell in love with the world we create for ourselves when we perform.

Whenever I've been on stage, I've felt more excited and powerful than ever. Nothing matches the sheer exhilaration of a trembling hand before a performance - but somehow when the lights come on, the stage is yours to master and the audience is but a blur. I've always just had a lot of fun. The stage gives me so much happiness each time I'm on it. It's fulfilling in a way no other form has ever come close to. So farewell to my hall and to my journey here, I think I may miss that comical sinking wooden stage more than anything.



DRAMATICS CAPTAIN

All that theatre means to me,

IN ONE PAGE?

~Arushi Jakhmola

Performing arts across all fields is a process, a rather slow pace one that tests you throughout and with every small step. I have been tested, my skill set has been tested, and so has my confidence but throughout it has always led to my growth. The first time I went up on stage merely as a rat in kindergarten, I didn't know this would become my way of expression over the years. Today as I write about something so close to my heart as the dramatics captain of this great institution, I feel fulfilled.

What do I even begin with? Theatrics, drama- the stage has been so much more than a platform to me. If I had to tell everyone how much I love being up there on the stage, performing for the contentment of the audience who has come to watch you, it could be endless. Although, here is a glimpse of all emotions that I have felt all this while and I am sure there is so much more I am yet to discover, that I am yet to see, yet to learn.

It is almost unreal the skills that I have been able to learn through my performances, and something that I value the most, something that matters to me the most, something that I will carry with me till the very end, are the bonds. The people I have interacted with, the artists and actors I have met have always given me motivation, not just to keep going but to do good; meet my true potential.

Now that I can voice my journey and tell people how I got where I got , I want everyone to know; Acting will make you cry, not just tears of sorrow but tears of joy. Going up on the stage will help you explore, not just characters but the kinds of people will live with. Most importantly, it will help you carve a path not just for your future, not just to be a great, talented individual, but a good human being. So, there is indeed a day when you will feel fulfillment, contentment and it will feel like a part of you healed. All this may sound very sentimental but that is what the stage has taught me; to show and respect my emotions, all of them.

So, all my dear young aviators, please take the leap of faith. Go up on the stage, put yourself out there. Act, be it just as a deer or a rat. One day when you worship and respect the stage to the fullest the stage will reward you too, it will call you back, to reward you. Always. People will always be there to lend a hand, hold those fingers and grow. Who knows a few years down the line you could narrate your journey like I am.



PUNE FEST

AT THE 21ST NATIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL IN PUNE, ORGANIZED BY AKHIL BHARTIA SANSKRUTIK SANGH, AVIATORS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MUSIC AND DANCE EVENT CATEGORIES WHERE THEY WON ACCOLADES FOR THEIR PERFORMANCES

Results for dance are as follows:

First Position in Nepali Folk

Second Position in Bollywood

Odissi Solo:

Second Position- Anushka Shivkumar Iyer

Third position in Manipuri Duet

Third Position in Odissi Duet

Results for music are as follows:

Chairman's Award in Solo Category- Darsh Sharma & Umang Pran Gogoi

Third Prize in Duet- Uddipta Hazarika & Meshan Azarel Jyrwa

Chairman's Award for Trio- Kanav Agarwal, Darsh Sharma & Pragyan Protim Ghosh

Third Prize for Group Performance- Kanav Agarwal, Darsh Sharma, Pragyan Protim Ghosh, Uddipta Hazarika & Umang Pran Gogoi



THE ASSAM VALLEY

-DANCE SCHOOL-



**WHERE
HERITAGE
FINDS ITS
FOOTWORK**

Beyond Steps and Stages

IPSC

The IPSC Dance stands as one of the most prestigious platforms for school performers across the country, a stage where young dancers carry the legacy of their institutions with every step. For The Assam Valley School, participating in IPSC Dance this year was more than a competition; it was an opportunity to represent our artistic identity, and the countless hours poured into refining our craft within the walls of our Dance School. Among the four categories we presented, two performances stood out and earned the title of Outstanding Performance, marking an unforgettable achievement for AVS. The Classical Duo stole the spotlight with its remarkable precision, synchronisation, and emotional depth. Their performance was not simply a display of skill, it was a celebration of tradition, and artistic integrity, qualities that truly define dance at AVS.



Rongali Utsav

At The Assam Valley School, Rongali Utsav was celebrated in a warm and intimate evening programme that beautifully showcased the essence of Assamese culture. It was a simple, meaningful evening where the school came together to honour the traditions of Assam. One of the highlights of the evening was the display of traditional Assamese costumes. Students stepped onto the stage wearing graceful Mekhela Sador. The authenticity of their attire made the entire atmosphere feel rooted and connected to Assamese heritage.. The performances were short, sweet, and full of heart



GLIMPSE OF THE 30TH *Founders'*



The essence of performing arts lies in its ability to connect deeply, using every gesture, melody, and phrase to weave narratives that touch the human spirit.

The Assam Valley School marked its 30th Founders' Day with a diverse lineup of events. The celebration featured a range of engaging performances, spanning from theatrical productions and dance routines to musical concerts and visual exhibitions.

Each show was the result of meticulous planning and preparation of the students. The varied productions successfully held the attention of the audience, which included parents and invited guests.

ASSAMESE PLAY

The Founder's Assamese play at The Assam Valley School is a cultural cornerstone. In recent years, the school has successfully staged the popular classic 'Charandas Chor,' an adaptation of the well-known satirical folk story.

This production is distinguished by its high professional standards. It is typically directed by a visiting theatre expert, such as Mr. Kushal Deka in recent years, whose expertise elevates the performance. The play showcases the incredible talent and dedication of the students, who embrace the demanding roles and rich, often complex, dialogues entirely in Assamese.

Beyond the entertainment, the play is a powerful affirmation of the school's deep commitment to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the North-East. By taking on regional classics, students connect with their roots, develop powerful public speaking skills, and master the art of collaborative, disciplined performance, making the event a source of pride for the entire AVS community.



ENGLISH PLAY

The Assam Valley School showcased its theatrical brilliance by presenting the classic tale of Peter Pan in a vibrant and imaginative dramatics performance. The production transported the audience straight into Neverland, blending creativity, skill, and storytelling in a way that felt truly magical.

From the opening scene, the stage design captivated everyone, London's skyline, the glowing fairy lights of Tinker Bell, and the lush green world of the Lost Boys were all brought to life with thoughtful detailing. The cast delivered powerful performances, each student embodying their characters with confidence and charm. Peter Pan, carefree and adventurous, carried the essence of eternal childhood, while Wendy brought warmth, innocence, and curiosity to the stage. The Lost Boys added energy and humour, creating moments of pure joy, and Captain Hook, with his dramatic flair and witty villainy, kept the audience engaged throughout.

AVS's dramatics team ensured smooth scene transitions, expressive acting, and strong coordination between dialogue, music, and movement. Their performance highlighted not just the fantasy of Neverland but also the deeper themes of imagination, friendship, and growing up.

As the curtains closed, the applause echoed through the hall, a testament to AVS's dedication to art, teamwork, and exceptional storytelling.



MUSIC PRODUCTION

The Assam Valley School showcased its musical excellence through a beautifully curated presentation by the Music Department, bringing together the richness of Indian classical music and the vibrancy of Western music on one stage. The event highlighted the school's commitment to nurturing diverse musical talents and giving students a platform to express themselves through rhythm, melody, and soul.

The Indian music segment was a serene and soulful experience. Students performed classical ragas, devotional pieces, and traditional Assamese melodies with precision and grace. Instruments like the tabla, sitar, harmonium, and flute added depth and authenticity, while the singers displayed strong control, emotional expression, and a deep understanding of Indian musical heritage.

In contrast, the Western music segment brought energy and modern flair to the auditorium. The school choir delivered harmonious vocal pieces, while the band performed upbeat numbers with guitars, drums, piano, and bass. Their coordination, stage presence, and confidence reflected hours of dedicated practice and passion for contemporary music.



DANCE PRODUCTION

The Assam Valley School's Dance Department presented the timeless story of Ram Tatha Katha with extraordinary artistry, merging expressive movement, traditional choreography, and powerful storytelling. The performance brought the epic narrative of Lord Rama to life, portraying emotions of duty, devotion, courage, and righteousness in a visually captivating manner.

The dancers used classical Indian dance forms, intricate hand gestures, and precise footwork to narrate the journey of Lord Rama from his exile to the battle with Ravana. The choreography was beautifully layered, allowing even the smallest details to shine through. The portrayal of Sita's grace, Lakshman's loyalty, and Hanuman's devotion added emotional depth, making the story relatable and heartfelt for the audience.

The music, costumes, and lighting were thoughtfully designed to enhance every scene. Traditional attire, soft golden hues, and rhythmic beats created an atmosphere that felt both divine and dramatic. The dancers moved in perfect coordination, capturing the essence of each moment be it the serenity of the forest, the intensity of conflict, or the triumph of good over evil.

The performance not only showcased the students' talent but also reflected AVS's dedication to preserving cultural heritage. The audience left the hall inspired, moved, and proud of the school's artistic excellence.



Glimpes of AVS

DANCE, MUSIC & DRAMATICS



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