



The Rambling **ROSE**

Clifton High School Pupil Newspaper



SECOND ISSUE

APRIL 2023

Foreword

Underneath our beech tree, the camelia flower is budding and blossoming. The hole in the wall is now open to take sixth form students to the new Sixth Form Centre and there is a buzz in the air at Clifton High at the time of writing these articles.

After such positive feedback from the inaugural issue of The Rambling Rose, producing articles for this second issue has been a pleasure. Our meetings (every Friday at 1.30pm) are zippy and productive, with such a wonderfully diverse range of passion projects by our team of journalists who are keen to explore their interests and develop their writing skills. With this in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight that our pupils are not (yet) qualified journalists and it is possible for some factual errors to have slipped in despite our best efforts. We are sure you will see this in the spirit of learning. In this issue, we have articles to take you from the Moomins to Marie Antoinette; from German Christmas markets to guns in Yugoslavia; and from Othello to Feminism.

We also hope you take a moment to appreciate the front cover of this issue: the winning image of the competition we ran.

Above all, Aneline and the team are keen that this is a pupil newspaper through and through. We are proud of the efforts made by our team, steering this project by themselves (with only a couple of pointers from Mrs Lyons-White and Miss Gottesman). We hope that your Spring and Easter time are full of peace. Find a sunbeam, curl up somewhere comfy and enjoy reading this Rambling Rose.

Table of CONTENTS

EDITOR: *Aneline Wood*

BIOGRAPHY

Ted McIntyre

LITERATURE

Mrs Lyons-White



FICTION

Matthew Tsang

ECO MATTERS

Louis Hellier

Seb Parke

HISTORY

Phoebe Stafford

Charlie Amter-Collins

Jason Tsang

FASHION

Nadia Namulondo



BRAIN TEASER

Luka Gaudon

TRAVEL

Charlie Amter-Collins



GAMING

Wilf Paulson

Aayan Sen

Alfie England

FEMINISM

Sienna Rubino Ilsley

Phoebe Stafford



BIOGRAPHY

Tove Jansson



Tove Jansson was born in 1914 and grew up in Helsinki with sculptor father, artist mother and two brothers. She learnt to draw at a very young age by watching her mother draw the designs onto postage stamps and used this talent to imagine a large number of characters

— one of these characters being a malicious troll that followed drunken men and caused them to behave rashly and violently: surprisingly, this troll would go on to evolve into the Moomins as we know them today. Her talent for illustration was recognised by a satirical magazine called *Garm*, who commissioned her before she had even left school; however, Jansson had always craved the chance to paint: she enrolled in a fine art course in 1933 but later dropped out due to the fact that she found the lessons boring. She did not discover her passion for writing until later, from writing letters to a friend during the Soviet Union's partial invasion of Finland.



First brought to life in 1945 with the publication of Tove Jansson's first book, *The Moomins and the Great Flood*, the Moomins are an outgoing family of white, plump, velvety trolls who resemble hippos. Jansson wrote consistently, publishing Moomin stories ranging

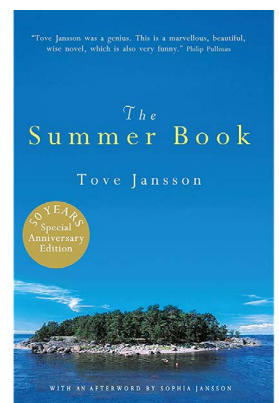
from short stories, to picture books, to full novellas, as well as a daily comic strip in a British newspaper that reached twelve-million readers worldwide, all with gorgeous, original pen and ink illustrations. But the drawings aren't even the best part: Jansson's writing explores poignant ideas, in an incredibly profound yet succinct manner, making the books wholesome reads for adults and children alike.

As the Moomins began to eclipse her passion for painting and her desire to branch out, Jansson broke down and declined the renewal of her comic strip contract. She found love in the fellow Finnish artist Tuulikki Pietila, and was inspired by her to write. The pair moved together to Klovharun — an island of scarcely 6,000 square metres, located in the Gulf of Finland.



After her penultimate Moomin story was published, Jansson began to move into adult literature. She would go on to write one more book to conclude the Moomin series, as well as eight books for grown-ups. Of these, *The Summer Book* is the most well-known.

Released in 1972, *The Summer Book* follows an elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter as they while away a summer on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland (not dissimilar to Klovharun). The two adapt to the remote life and to each other as a fierce yet understated love emerges - one that encompasses not just them, but the island itself, with its mossy rocks, windswept firs and unpredictable seas. The story is full of blunt humour and wisdom, as well as gorgeous descriptions of the nature and people that surround the island. The book's success is marked by "A Winter Book" — an anthology of short stories written over the course of Tove Jansson's life published after her death in 2001.



ECO MATTERS

Clifton High School Eco Committee

Since last term, the School's Eco Committee has been hard at work. Our four main focuses have been: raising awareness, transport, waste and biodiversity.

Raising Awareness

One of the biggest challenges the Eco Committee faces is raising awareness across the School community. However, through the regularly updated notice board in the School Green we spread information and ideas about how people could have had a greener Christmas. This included simple things like the idea of gifting an experience for Christmas. The board is also regularly updated on energy and transport. Hopefully with the Eco Matters article in the previous issue of *The Rambling Rose*, we further increased awareness across the School.

Transport

We have carried out a pupil survey to assess what kinds of transport pupils are using to get to School every day and have found that the majority of pupils (over 300) travel by car. To try and reduce this number and increase the number of people travelling actively, the Eco Committee has developed an action plan which includes using the app *Strava* to create a competition between the year groups to see who can walk or cycle the most. We have also discovered that a lot of people would like to cycle to School, but are unable to due to various problems. We have attempted to address these problems in various ways. For example, we have created the Golden Lock Competition where one person who cycles to School

is selected at random every Wednesday to receive a prize from the Golden Box. If you cycle to School, you have the opportunity to receive a prize, so watch out for the Golden Lock on your bike! In addition, to make it easier for people who cycle, we have introduced an emergency bicycle repair kit which is available for both staff and pupils to use and can be collected from the School Office. Dr Bike came into School in January to complete maintenance on pupil's bikes.

Waste

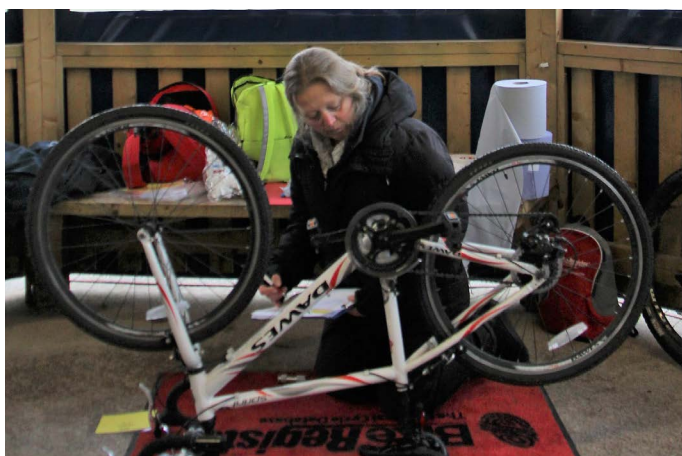
Waste is a broad topic, but we have done a lot to tackle all aspects of it. Around the School, in every single classroom, there is meant to be a green recycling bin (for plastic bottles, cans and cardboard) as well as a black recycling bin (for paper and magazines). After surveying classrooms, we realised that the majority do not contain both of these bins. This has a detrimental impact on pupils' ability to recycle which is why we are aiming to ensure all rooms are fitted with both of these resources; we have even created signs to educate those who are unaware of what materials go in which bins. Furthermore, you may have all noticed a new outdoor recycling bin by the MUGA, which we hope provides even more encouragement to recycle across the School.

In a more traditional manner, the Eco Committee has been working with the BEP representatives in the School to organise litter picks in Clifton, where pupils can take part to represent the School.

Biodiversity

Last but not least, we have plans for a potential gardening club that would be for all years in the Senior School, working to increase biodiversity in the School grounds one small bit at a time. If you are interested in gardening, or even just have an interest in nature, this could be a great opportunity. Through our cake sale last term, we managed to raise nearly £100 which was donated to Avon Needs Trees.

Our next main aim in the Eco Committee is to evolve the curriculum to implement eco and climate change topics throughout the subject areas.



FASHION

Marie Antoinette & Rococo Chic

Who is Marie Antoinette?

If you grew up in the early 2000s, love Sofia Coppola or simply found Marie Antoinette to be an 18th century fashion icon, you may already know about the final Queen of France, Marie Antoinette. Antoinette became the Queen of France in 1774 at the tender age of 14 years old. Consequently, this led to the teenage monarch living a lifestyle that many could only dream of. This included gambling, lavish dinners and excessive spending on glamorous fashionable pieces. I think it is time to move away from the view of this historical figure as the epitome of “everything wrong with the monarchy” and towards a more favourable consideration of her as an influencer of fashion.

Hair

Though Antoinette was largely praised for her voluminous locks and delicate hair styles, she was also heavily criticised by the public for having an

“uneven hairline and high forehead”. It must be a trend that royals get critiqued for their hair loss. This led to the young royal pushing her hair forwards and using powder to help make up for the unevenness. In fact, during Marie Antoinette’s time in the French court, it was made mandatory to powder the hairline. Léonard Autié - her famous hairdresser - became renowned for his ‘new’ style, the pouffe (as displayed below, left). This had the French public stunned and in awe of how her locks defied gravity. However, due to stress and emotional pressure from the French public as tensions were rising, her hair began to fall out. To compensate for this unfortunate occurrence and to avoid questions from the public about her competence, she began to wear wigs. In addition to this threat to her sense of self-worth, Marie Antoinette began to go grey - alarmingly early - by the age of 30. This was largely attributed to her country’s political unrest and her increasing loss of control over her own life.



The pouffe



Burgundy dress

Style

Fun fact: Marie Antoinette wore clothes! But in all seriousness, Madame Marie knew how to dress. Antoinette opted for burgundy dresses - a sought after format of style in France at the time. Due to the Queen's influence, the colour red then became in incredibly high demand in the 1770s. In the 18th century, the middle and upper classes wore reds and purples frequently- to flaunt their wealth. Fabric of these shades was expensive due to the difficulty dress makers had to go through when dying garments such colours. Hence, the surge of prices for red or purple dresses as they symbolise wealth and power and allow the French to show off their wealth and status. However, popularity can quickly turn, as we know. Towards the end of the 18th century, during the French revolution (a time when the lower classes decided they had seen enough of wealthy privilege), these colours became immediately disliked by the public: the association of these colours and fabrics with Marie Antoinette and her power was now deemed to be excessive and distasteful.



Rococo style

The Rococo Style

The direct definition of Rococo is “florid and excessively elaborate”. The Rococo style, a style without limitations for glamour and extravagance, is closely associated with Marie Antoinette, though she was born mid-way through its emergence. The Rococo era lasted from 1700-1770. This style - especially in fashion - glorified the nobility. This is ironic because Antoinette - the last queen of France - was widely hated and was eventually beheaded after many protests and general political unrest. The Rococo style - which was only a fraction of the Rococo era - celebrated the idea of monarchy and living a ‘carefree life’. However, this was only true for the ones who were actually reaping the benefits of their environment; this included the wealthy upper-class and the monarchy. The whole design of Rococo fashion was flamboyant and highly decorative. Compared to the previous Baroque style and era of the arts, Rococo adapted larger and curvier motifs with the fashion associated with it, as seen in the ideal styling of Rococo dresses (below).

Antoinette, pictured to the left, epitomised Rococo fashion. This infamous image shows Antoinette with vast sleeves, her signature pouffe, immense pannier skirt and wispy frills and bows. This was most likely a very heavy and hot dress to wear. Due to hygiene being relatively limited in 18th century France, it was not uncommon for people - even royals - to go days, weeks or months without bathing. To keep ‘fresh’ 18th century individuals would wear linen underneath all of their lavish clothes. This was an attempt to “protect” their expensive clothing from their foul odours, sweat and grime. Instead of washing the entire outfit such as the heavy ensemble in the figure above, they would simply have their servants wash their linen for them. You may be wondering, did that work? The short answer is no. The long answer is: absolutely not. Since the people around her - especially in the Palace of Versailles - smelt so rank, Marie began bathing ‘regularly’ in herbal mixtures and perfumed sachets. Marie also wore muslin - a lightweight fabric - to avoid excess sweating in the summer. Muslin is a very airy fabric which allows the wearer to feel a lot more comfortable. However, since Marie was wearing so many layers of it, it was

FASHION

most likely having the opposite effect. Additionally, she famously 'drowned' herself in floral perfumes throughout the day. Though she was praised by the public for smelling pleasant, when she began to receive backlash from the public due to her economic controversies, she was then heavily questioned and criticised for her "ridiculous" routines. Though the fragrance Marie was using was known to be kind on the nose, the sheer amount that she used most likely made her smell otherwise.

How has the final Queen influenced the fashion industry?

Though her style was largely critiqued by the public during her nineteen years on the throne, it would be a disservice to Marie if her impact on the fashion industry was not recognised. Her pastels, ribbons, bows, muslin fabric, extravagance and gold have been seen echoed in some of the largest fashion houses even today. Though her reign came to an end over two hundred years ago, many wear designs inspired by her. For the Fall/Winter 2020 fashion show, Moschino debuted their 18th century inspired collection which made numerous direct references to the iconic royal.

Jeremy Scott debuted the season with a modern take on the Rococo style. During the 18th century, the concept of a woman showing their ankles, let alone their thighs, was unheard of. Therefore, Gigi Hadid wearing a dress directly inspired by the Rococo style, with skirting that is thigh high, is - arguably - a representation of Antoinette's relationship with the public. Scott's use of leather is also a reference to Marie Antoinette. This is due to the fact that Antoinette often wore silk and leather heels on a day-to-day basis. Though they were not as chic as the knee-high ensemble seen in the image, Antoinette's silk and leather heels were certainly unique. In fact, they even sold at auction for €10,000 - the equivalent of £8,800. These were certainly influential as many women of her time opted to wear similar pieces. (However, they are not really my style!)



Gigi Hadid modelling Jeremy Scott's modern take on the Rococo style



Marie Antoinette's shoes

BRAIN TEASER

The Infinite Hotel

I like brain teasers, but none are as confusing as an infinite riddle. Try your luck on this riddle and see if you can solve it without looking at the answers

1. You are tired and come across an infinite hotel. The hotel is currently full (it has reached an infinite number of guests) but you still decide to go in and hope the hotel manager can come up with something. What can the hotel manager do in order to enable you to stay in his hotel?
2. Now, an infinite number of people come into the hotel (that is still full). What can the hotel manager do to fit all these people in his hotel?
3. Now this is where it gets complicated (very complicated), an infinite number of infinite buses come into the hotel. What can the hotel manager do to fit all these people in his hotel?

Answers

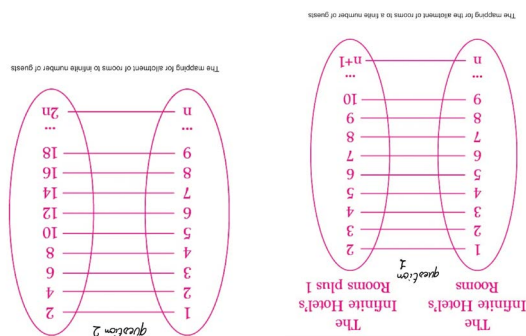
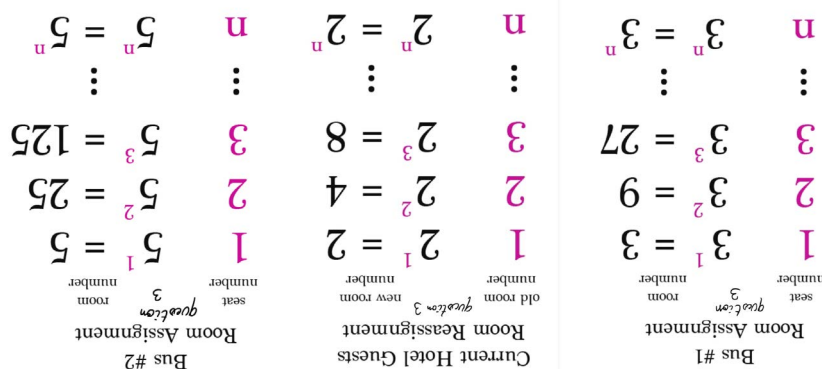
1. The manager can shift the guest in room #1 to room #2 and those in room #2 to room #3 etc...

2. The manager shifts the guest in room #1 to room #2 then room #2 to room #3 and room #3 to room #4 and those in room #4 to room #5 etc... so $2n$, n being the old number and the result the new room number.

3. The manager will move the guests to the result of 2 to the power of their room number. 2^n . The manager will then put guests in the bus number 1 to the first prime number to the power of their seat number. 2^n . 2 being the first prime number and n being the seat number of the people in the bus. Those in bus number 2 will be put in the room to the second prime number to the power of their seat number. 5^n . 5 being the second prime number and n the seat number. Etc...

After working all of this out, the manager probably needs a raise and a well-earned rest.

Here are pictures to help you understand:



FEMINISM

Opinion Piece

Feminism (noun) is the radical notion that women are people. I can't pinpoint the exact day I became a feminist; perhaps it was after I was told I couldn't wear the top I desperately wanted to wear because it was deemed 'inappropriate' by others, or maybe it was at the age of 12 being called obscene insults by boys. If not either of those times, it could have been the harassment I face on the streets. Regardless of the exact occasion that inspired me to become a feminist, since I made the conscious decision that I did not deserve the things I have experienced purely for being a woman, feminism has changed my life.

The first book I read about feminism was Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 'We Should All Be Feminists'. I was instantly compelled by her story and reasoning; even more interestingly, her narrative as a black woman added multiple layers to her tale. Since then, I've read a myriad of books on feminism. I've learnt that women are 17% more likely to die in car crashes because seatbelts and cars are designed with the male figure in mind: crash test dummies are built to replicate the body shape and mass distribution of a male¹. I've learnt that 618,000 women are raped or sexually assaulted every year in England and Wales². I've learnt that 21% of Britons think feminism does more harm than good³. And this is just in the UK.

I'm frequently asked why I'm a feminist, and the answer is not simple. I am a feminist because Sarah Everard was raped and murdered by a MET police officer in 2021, I am a feminist because there is the potential that I will be paid less than my male counterpart for performing equally, I am a feminist because of the way the public treat Amber Heard and Meghan Markle. I am a feminist because I feel powerful knowing that I am connected to millions of women around the world who are equally fed up with the patriarchy and who demand change.

Although I was never pushed into feminism by my family, I have had strong female figures surrounding me since birth, for example, my abuela, who immigrated to Spain in the 1980s and opened a branch of successful shops, despite coming from

a poor family of eleven siblings in Argentina. Her strength and determination have always encouraged me to be a feminist. My stepmum, the kindest person I've ever met, taught me to extend goodwill to everyone. She inspires me to be a feminist. My friends, whose intelligence and humour shines through everything. They inspire me to be a feminist. And finally, my mother, who sacrifices daily for my sister and I, she has inspired me the most. Her love and affection have made me the strong woman I am today.

I hope feminism inspires women in the future, I hope men feel encouraged to become feminists, to realise that the world treats their mothers, sisters and wives differently to how it treats them. I hope feminism opens people's eyes to the ability of women, how they are strong and sensitive. To me, feminism is beautiful; it's the matrimony of women. It's reconsidering the way you as a woman are treated, and recognising the misogyny prevalent in your everyday life. It's refusing to smile when some old guy tells me I should, questioning the dress codes which favour boys, challenging the language that is used to describe women. It's crying over the news that Roe v Wade was overturned and questioning why I've felt unsafe walking by myself since I can remember. Feminism is about questioning the society that tries to silence us.

Feminism. Is. The. Future.

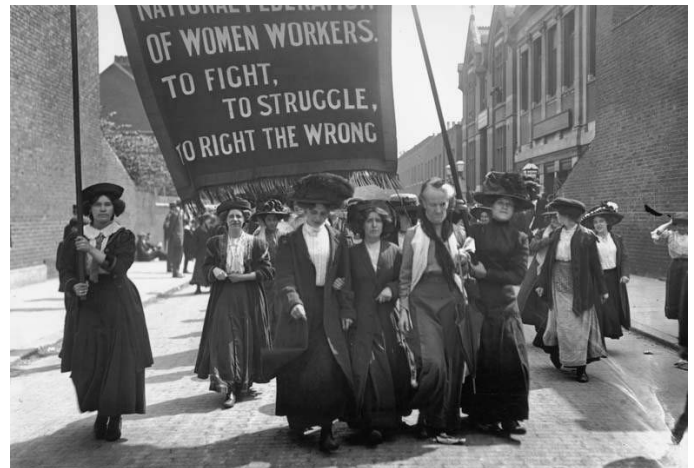
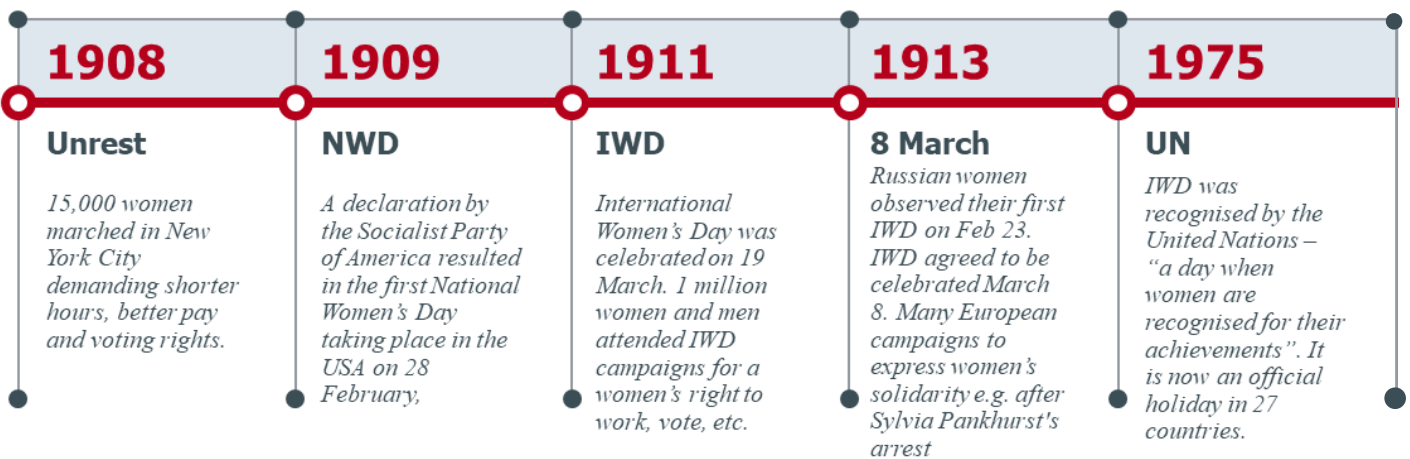
And so I will leave you with a quote from the feminist idol herself, Emma Watson: "If you believe in equality, you're a feminist. Sorry to tell you."



FEMINISM

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (8th March) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Below is a time line of significant dates in the history of International Women's Day (IWD), and National Women's Day (NWD)



LITERATURE

Othello – in discussion

On Thursday 23rd February, A level English Literature students went to watch a live-stream of the National Theatre's 'Othello', directed by Clint Dyer, and there was a lot to discuss. Mrs Lyons-White (PLY) and Mr Balmer (MBR): over to you...

MBR: Well, that was unexpected: I was worried at the start that this interpretation wouldn't work.

PLY: I agree. I didn't think it would live up to the Nicholas Hyntner adaptation from a few years ago, but there were aspects of this I really liked: it grew on me.

MBR: Exactly! Yes, it did work, didn't it? What did you think of Iago?

PLY: greasy, lank hair, tall, ramrod figure... I got Childcatcher vibes – from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

MBR: Yes! That's so true – or some nasty dictator.

PLY: Yeah. Interesting because I've always thought Iago is a character we should like and be manipulated into liking, but I just-

MBR: -just didn't like him.

PLY: Not one bit

MBR: Me neither. He was so slimy! The staging was clever for his soliloquies though: the Greek style amphitheatre and the sinister figures echoing his internal thoughts.

PLY: Really clever. I liked the way it made the audience watch him in his own private play, with his own cheerleaders in his head. And the lighting and echoing helped.

MBR: And then structurally, as Othello falls into Iago's manipulative hold, Othello's speeches began to feature that staging too.

PLY: yes –it keeps us grounded in the tragic aspects of the play. I thought it was telling how Desdemona never seemed to warm to Iago. I've not considered that angle of interpretation before.

MBR: I really enjoyed that interpretation of Desdemona. Tall, short hair, trouser suit throughout: Shakespeare saying that women have to be masculine

if they are to have any voice.

PLY: Yes - I left the venue thinking 'so Shakespeare is a feminist after all!' The actress was brilliant – she never caved, squared up to Othello and the only one not to be lured into Iago's manipulation. I found Emilia unsettling, though. In a good way for the play, I mean.

MBR: I know what you mean. You read the play and wonder why she is so willing to do Iago's bidding, but also be so worldly-wise. Her bruise and the obvious suggestions of domestic abuse and coercive behaviour worked – it made sense of her warped relationship with Iago and struck a chord with a 21st century audience I think.

PLY: Absolutely. Where I found Hyntner's murder scene tough to watch, with this production, Emilia is the character haunting my thoughts now. She seemed so under Iago's spell.

MBR: They handled the racial aspect of the play effectively too – another very relevant interpretation for current times. The commentaries from the crew helped shed light on their decisions. The idea that it is the whole of society which judges Othello came through in their staging and highlighted the inequalities and slurs the character suffers from – it really brought out the pathos: that would be totally shocking for modern standards.

PLY: Yes. It lands with real impact for a 2023 audience. Our students really liked the way these actors delivered the lines. It's so important to SEE a play, not just to read it, right? I mean just off a page. A play is alive, for voices and bodies...

MBR: I spoke to at least 3 students who said it made so much more sense now they had actually seen it. Shakespeare's language can be daunting and hard-

PLY: – exactly, but lines delivered in this production made the flow of the plot smooth, like adapting your ear to a new accent or something. Worth the trip and the late night?

MBR: definitely! You?

PLY: A hundred per cent!

FICTION

Murder on the Astro

a CLIFTON HIGH PRIVATE EYE mystery

It was 7:25am on a Tuesday morning when Mr. Luca Guttmann and the tungsten bullet within him were first noticed on the AstroTurf. It took an hour more still for the police to arrive, line the body with chalk, then take it away. At which point it was early enough in the morning for the pupils to notice the peculiar shade of red the artificial grass had turned and subsequently start circulating the news around the School.

A whole-school assembly was declared shortly afterwards where it was announced that there had indeed been a murder on the Astro and the police had drawn up a suspect roster consisting of five people- Mr. Barrett, Ms. Atkinson, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Leonswright, and Ms. Webber. All five had stayed behind at School after school hours on the previous day, the time frame in which Mr. Guttmann had been killed. No pupils were placed under suspicion because the term had just started and there were no after-school activities. Nonetheless, these five teachers had stayed behind on official business: marking papers, printing worksheets and whatnot. That is, of course, all but one had.

To assist with the police investigation, the five teachers were all questioned, rather fittingly, in the Room to Question. Other than their presence at School at the time of the murder, each had an additional reason to be suspected: Mr. Barrett was Head of School and hence had the most connections with Mr. Guttmann; Ms. Atkinson, the physics teacher, had the scientific expertise to sharpshoot Mr. Guttmann from a distance; Mr. Morris, a PE teacher, the exceptional physique to commit such a murder; Head of English, Mrs. Leonswright, the classroom located in the main building with the open balcony and therefore suitable for marksmanship; and Ms. Webber, who was a Product Design teacher,

the means of producing the illegal murder weapon in the first place. This put her in the unfortunate position of suspect number one.

Mr. Barrett's fingers danced an anxious waltz across his face, stroking his chin then digging into his hair before they settled finally on his furrowed brow. He knew he wasn't the murderer, that was for sure, but clearly the officer sitting in front of him did not share this certainty.

"I've already told you, I was following up on paperwork last evening, at School, that's why I was at School last evening."

"Mmm," the officer scrawled some illegible text across a notepad. 'And you did this not in your personal office, but in the School Office?'

Mr. Barrett leaned backwards on his chair. "I needed a printer, and there was no one left in the School Office."

More illegible scrawling. Mr. Barrett gazed hard at the paper, trying to read the words inscribed on it but to no avail. He had left his glasses on the desk in his office, but was not allowed to retrieve them. In fact, he was not allowed to go in any other room in the School until the investigation slowed down.

Looking to his left, Mr. Barrett set his eyes on the Clifton High School wall art on the Room to Question wall. Around the art were the words 'Curiosity', 'Empathy', 'Love' and 'Direction'. As the Deputy Head Pastoral of the School, Mr. Guttmann had been the spearhead for the implementation of these school values, and now he was dead. An idea started to form in Mr. Barrett's mind and he spun his head back towards the police officer.

"Mr. Guttmann was this School's Deputy Head Pastoral. Is it possible that could somehow be

linked to the murder?"

The police officer looked up. "What do you mean?"

Mr. Barrett cleared his throat. 'Mr. Guttman was always so concerned for the wellbeing of pupils. Could he have, say, told off a teacher that was too harsh on a pupil? Which provoked the teacher to murder him?'

The officer's face lit up, then his hand started to fly across the notepad page. "Interesting theory," he muttered. But then, seemingly remembering something, he frowned again. "I do have one final question to ask though- I have received information from a colleague of yours who told me that there was bad blood between you and Mr. Guttman," he leaned forwards. "Is this true?"

Mr. Barrett shuffled in his seat. "If you are referring to the brief dispute we had last week outside my office, then yes, it is true," he said cautiously. "We were discussing GCSE subjects, and whether studying a humanities subject should be made compulsory and if the number of mandatory science subjects should be reduced from 2 to 1. Mr. Guttman, being a Geography major, advocated for this; whereas I, a Biology

major, did not. It was a friendly negotiation, and we have since then reached a compromise. Hardly anything to harbour hard feelings over, and certainly not something to murder for."

Heaving a sigh, the officer said, "Nonetheless, that is reason enough to place you under suspicion. From this point on, you will not be acting as the Head of School until further notice." His hand drifted towards the microphone. "Interview terminated."

Mr. Barrett stepped outside the Room to Question where he saw Mrs. Leonswright and Mr. Morris, waiting for questioning and accompanied by a police officer.

"Mrs. Leonswright, Mr. Morris," Mr. Barrett said. "I do apologise for allowing this madness to happen in this school."

"It's all so ludicrous isn't it?" Mrs. Leonswright responded. "I haven't even been formally interrogated yet and I've already been asked twice if I saw Mr. Guttman on the School pitch when I was walking out the School last evening."

"Did you?"

"No! I left at maybe 6 last night, it was dark



and I probably mistook him for a sack of sports stuff or something.” Mrs. Leonswright explained. “I don’t blame them for suspecting me though, since as you know, my classroom is located on the far end of the school, so exiting from it and walking to the school gate would mean walking past Mr. Guttman’s body.”

Mr. Morris cleared his throat. “You know what I do think is suspicious though? Not to point fingers, but I’ve heard Ms. Atkinson has received a few complaints from pupils lately.”

“Really?” Mr. Barrett recoiled.

“At least that’s what I’ve overheard some of my pupils say.” Mr. Morris said. “She’s apparently been shooting her pupils with Nerf guns, and asking them to perform experiment demonstrations in front of the class.”

“That’s one possible reason Mr. Guttman could have told her off.” Mr. Barrett said. “But then again though, there also has been a few times that Ms. Webber has been told off, usually for talking too loudly or something.”

Abruptly, the interrogating officer walked out of the Room to Question, albeit after some fumbling of the lock, and started whispering to the officer that had been waiting outside. He then turned to the three teachers. “Currently, all of you are still suspects in our investigation, but the good news is, the suspicions we’ve had for you three have just lifted dramatically.” he told them. “We believe we have found our murderer.”

“Who is it?” Mr. Barrett asked.

The officer held up his hand as if gesturing for a car to stop. “First of all, the coroner’s just discovered that Mr. Guttman actually died of blunt force trauma. The bullet didn’t pierce his skull, but it did his flesh. It still killed him because tungsten’s the heaviest naturally occurring metal and it had enough energy to make him black out. Secondly, the bullet, we’ve discovered, is 3D printed.”

Mrs. Leonswright took a step back. “Ms. Webber is the murderer?”

The officer nodded. “Most likely,” he responded. “3D printers can print metal, and tungsten at that, and they require licences to own. And Ms. Webber is certainly qualified to have a licence.”

Mr. Barrett put his hand up to his chin, not in shock but in thought. “But why would she just

leave the body on the Astro if it would incriminate her?”

Mrs. Leonswright and Mr. Morris nodded in agreement, then they all entered into a state of quiet rumination. The silence was broken when Mr. Barrett suggested, “What if we go and search Ms. Webber’s workshop?”

Sure enough, a bullet, one made of tungsten, was discovered among a pile of wood.

“I’m not the killer!” Ms. Webber was saying as they slapped a pair of handcuffs on her wrists. “Someone planted that bullet here!”

It was painful to watch. Mr. Morris’ hand was on his mouth the entire time, Mrs. Leonswright’s in her hair, and Ms. Atkinson didn’t even bother to look. But Mr. Barrett was still in deep thought, his mind tossing and turning and thinking how little sense this was making. The revelation came when he remembered something, something he had known when he hired the member of staff among them that had turned out to be a murderer.

“I’m not the murderer!” repeated Ms. Webber. The police had walked her to the exit of the workshop now.

“She may be right,” Mr. Barrett finally spoke up. “And I may know who the actual murderer is.”

Scan the QR code below to first vote on who you think the murderer is thus far, then continue reading on!



Murder on the Astro is a work of fiction. All names and incidents are used fictitiously and are in no way a reflection of actual events or persons.

HISTORY

The Pirate Queens of the High Seas

The three women in this article were Queens in their own right. Unfortunately, it is hard to get a clear record of all three of these women's lives. There are many records of Cheng I Sao, however, only after she joined the Red Flag Fleet, there are very few records that tell us about her younger years as a prostitute. In regard to Grace O'Malley, she has been immortalised as a myth-like figure. Therefore, it is hard to distinguish between fact and folklore regarding her life at sea. Finally, very limited records exist of Sayyida al Hurra, for reasons unknown.

The Pirate Queen of China

Cheng I Sao began her pirating career after working as a prostitute. Her beauty and intelligence allowed her to hold considerable influence over her clients, ensuring they paid and treated her well. Therefore, she was able to obtain a large number of pirate ships and organise them into a lethal force, drawing the attention of Cheng I, the captain of the Red Flag Fleet. He proposed a marriage alliance between them to unite their ships which Sao only agreed to after he promised to give her 50% of his earnings and partial control over the fleet.



After Sao's husband died, she fought to remain in power by ensuring she had backing from powerful chieftains, crushing potential opposition and proving her worth and talent as a wise and ruthless leader. Thus, Cheng I Sao remained the indisputable "Pirate Queen of China". Once her rule was established, Sao implemented a strict set of laws in order to guarantee obedience and discipline on her fleets. For example, anyone who was accused of rape was immediately put to death and desertion or disobedience was punishable by decapitation. Even going ashore without permission from the quartermaster would result in the offender's ear being cut off; if this happened again they would be executed. These

strict codes helped to keep order and obedience in an incredibly large fleet, numbering at approximately 70,000 pirates. More importantly, it instilled fear and respect in the crew members for their leader.

Whilst most crew members were loyal to Sao, there were still those that opposed and resented her leadership. This was partly due to her relationship with Chang Pao (a captain of one of the Red Flag ships). Pao was originally the lover of Sao's husband, but after Cheng I's death, Sao and Pao began their relationship and Pao was promoted to the second-in-command of the Red Flag Fleet. This angered many, especially Kuo P'o Tai (the leader of the Black Flag Fleet), who was not only jealous of Pao's promotion but also of his relationship with Sao. As a result, in November 1809, the Red Flag Fleet needed help in a battle at Lantao against the combined forces of the Chinese and Portuguese Navies, but the Black Flag Fleet refused to give aid. Despite this, the Red Flag Fleet fought off the Imperial Navies and Kuo surrendered and was subsequently given a pardon.

After fifteen years and a successful career in piracy, Sao decided it was time to return to shore. However, Sao would not go into retirement quietly. Instead, on 10th April 1810, she sailed her entire 260-strong junk fleet into Canton harbour and demanded a pardon. After some negotiating, Sao was allowed to keep 80 junks for personal use as well as all her plunder and many of her former crewmates were recruited into the Chinese Imperial Navy. With her abundance of wealth, Sao set up a smuggling racket fronted by a brothel and gambling house.

The Pirate Queen of Ireland

Grace O'Malley's pirating career is surrounded by myths and legends. It is not even fully clear how she began her life of piracy. However, the most widely accepted theory is that when she was just 11-years-old she asked to accompany her father on his expedition. O'Malley was told she couldn't go because her hair was too long and would get tangled up in the ropes. In retaliation, O'Malley cut her hair short and forced her way onto the ship. Thus, O'Malley's infamous

career began. At this time, England was trying to absorb Ireland. O'Malley strongly disliked this and so she became a fierce defender of Irish independence and pillaged as many English Navy ships as possible. Leading her to be entitled the "Pirate Queen of Ireland".

O'Malley was not just a formidable pirate; she was a loyal wife and proud mother. However, she didn't let marriage and childbirth get in the way of her priorities. At one point, an Algerian pirate crew ransacked her ship. Even though O'Malley had just given birth an hour ago, she simply swaddled her son in a blanket and held him in one arm, and in the other she held her pistol. She marched onto the deck, rallied her crew and took the enemy ship. Furthermore, after her husband, Donal O'Flaherty, was murdered by a rival clan, O'Malley hunted down the clan, killed them all and took their castle as her new base. Despite the fact that women could not become chieftains, they did have the right to hold land and divorce their husbands. The latter was demonstrated by O'Malley after her disappointing second trial marriage to Bourke. It is recorded that O'Malley told Bourke "I dismiss you" in order to signify the termination of their marriage. However, England was becoming increasingly concerned about the power and influence O'Malley was wielding, so Sir Richard Bingham was appointed to hunt her down and bring her to England.

At the age of 56, O'Malley was ultimately captured and imprisoned by Bingham, only narrowly escaping a death sentence. Instead, she was brought to Queen Elizabeth I in September of 1593 at Greenwich Castle. However, O'Malley refused to display courtly manners not only by blowing her nose into a handkerchief and throwing it into a fireplace but also by walking into the throne room carrying a dagger. More significantly, O'Malley refused to bow to the Queen of England as she regarded them as equals in their own right. O'Malley was a Queen, and thus not a subject of Queen Elizabeth. Despite O'Malley's far from appropriate behaviour, Elizabeth I recognised her valour and queenship. Therefore, the Queen of

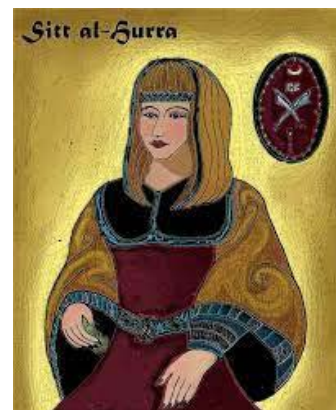


England was lenient and negotiated fair and beneficial terms for both parties: O'Malley was granted all

her demands including the return of the land that Bingham stole. In return, O'Malley had to end her rebellion against the Crown. Unfortunately, as a consequence of O'Malley's lengthy imprisonment in England, much of her influence and wealth in Ireland was lost. And with it, her reign as the Pirate Queen of Ireland.

The Pirate Queen of the Islamic West

Sayyida al Hurra's name means "noble lady who is free and independent; the woman sovereign who bows to no superior authority". This is evident throughout her life, especially after she was kicked out of her home



in Granada by the Catholic Monarch's Reconquest of Spain. As a result, al Hurra settled with her family in Cahouen, but she never forgot the injustice of being forced out of her homeland. Thus, she vowed to have revenge against those who took her home. To do so, she joined forces with Captain Barbarossa of Algiers who taught her the ways of piracy in the Mediterranean. With her newfound skills, al Hurra wreaked havoc on Portuguese and Spanish trading ships and disrupted trade routes. At the same time, in 1515 she became the ruler of Tétouan after her husband's death.

Al Hurra was so influential that the King of Morocco sought her hand in marriage. An offer she would only accept if he came to her in Tétouan in order to demonstrate that she would not give up her power and position. This was the only time in Moroccan history where the King left the capital in order to get married. This marriage did not slow down al Hurra's pirating campaign. In 1540, she organised and fought in a large-scale pirate raid of Gibraltar. However, al Hurra's reign came to an abrupt end in 1542 when her son-in-law overthrew her. Her ultimate fate in unknown.

Conclusion

To conclude, all three Queens led extraordinary lives and fought for what they believed in. Sao, O'Malley and al Hurra all proved that being a woman didn't make them any less competent and capable than their male counterparts. Hence, their legacies have been passed down through generations, immortalised in myths and film adaptations.

HISTORY

The History of Yugoslavia

A New Country

Yugoslavia was founded in 1918. It was originally a series of counties under the Ottoman Empire and Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was formed by the Kingdom of Serbia and the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs. It was originally called Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, until its name was changed to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929.

World War II

Yugoslavia was invaded by Nazi Germany in April 1941, but shortly after this, Germany turned its head towards the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), helping the most effective anti-axis force Europe ever produced, the Yugoslav Partisans. The Yugoslav Partisans were a communist led, anti-fascist force trying to free Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Partisans took to using guerilla tactics for the majority of their existence; however they began using conventional warfare in the last years of the War. They did this whilst fighting in a civil war with the Cetnicks, Ustaše, Home guard, Serbian Volunteer Corps, State guard, Slovene Home Guard and Russian Protective Corps, and yet still prevailing in their mission. The old king of Yugoslavia, Peter II, recognised the new Yugoslavian government in 1944, whilst still living in exile and Yugoslavia finally controlled itself in 1945 adopting a Marxist-Leninist ideology, under its first president Josip Broz Tito, who was the leader of the Yugoslav Partisans.

Yugoslavia and the USSR

The new Yugoslavia was based on 3 main principles:

1. All of its citizens were equal, as they all helped remove Axis powers from their nation
2. The country would be managed under six, equal federations, and power would be spread evenly (a stark difference to the USSR's Moscow central leadership)
3. The economy would be socialist

The fact that Yugoslavia was communist would

normally mean it would be close allies with the Soviet Union. However, the Red Army was temporarily stationed in the North, when trying to free Yugoslavia and remained six months after the country was free. In this time, civil authorities in the north reported 1219 rape cases, 359 rape attempts, 111 murders, 248 attempted murders and 1204 robberies with injured individuals committed by members of the Red Army. Tito expressed his anger with these cases, and the Red Army's attempts to convert Yugoslav soldiers to Soviet Secret Service men, but Stalin merely stated that these cases were isolated. This obviously caused tension between the two countries. Eventually Tito lost support of Stalin in 1948, due to support of the communist rebels in Greece, which went against the USSR's wishes, and Yugoslavia's intentions to integrate Albania into the Yugoslav federation, which the USSR directly attempted to impede. This left Yugoslavia in an awkward position as it was excluded from the Eastern Bloc, which it had been dependent on for years, and may have been facing invasion from the USSR. This left Yugoslavia to beg for help from the West, angering Stalin and making him attempt multiple assassinations on Tito, but these were unsuccessful. This cemented hostile relations between Yugoslavia and the USSR. America, while being divided on the proposition on Yugoslavia's aid, resolved to send a small amount of money to Yugoslavia in 1949 and more later in the years 1950-1953.

The New-New Yugoslavia

In 1963, Yugoslavia undertook another name change, now becoming The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which gave further autonomy to the six federations of Yugoslavia. Josip Broz Tito remained president of the whole country but now the federations of Yugoslavia had Prime Ministers. However, Tito still held the majority of power. The first cracks in stability began to emerge in 1968 as students all across the world protested against their governments, and in Yugoslavia this manifested as protests against economic reforms and for greater

social justice, which Tito handled by giving in to parts of the students' demands and stating that "students are right" on national television. However Tito began to sack the leaders of these movements from the Universities in order to combat future issues. But Tito's problems did not end there as in 1970 and 1971, students organised demonstrations for greater civil liberties and Croatian autonomy. This was dubbed the Croatian Spring. Due to manifestations all over Croatia, a new constitution was ratified, giving more autonomy to the Yugoslav states in 1974.

Post Tito

Josip Broz Tito died in 1980 (the same year the McChicken was released, coincidence, I think not!). This left the country in disarray as Tito controlled nearly every part of Yugoslavia's government and economy, and now that he was gone, the six federations (Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia) had to fill his position as one autonomous unit. However, this was not effective as each state wanted different things of Yugoslavia; Serbia wanted a powerful federal government, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo wanted more autonomy, and Slovenia and Croatia wanted more control over their own economy as they were the wealthiest states and did not wish to give money to poorer ones. These varying wishes made Yugoslavia very unstable.

Yugoslav Economy

Tensions were further increased by the economy, and its businesses which were run by the workers (publicly owned); however they didn't have a proper say in the way that companies were run unless they got into the management board which required other workers to vote them in. This often meant that higher salaries were promised to their workers meaning businesses were running out of money. Many businesses opted to increase the sale price of their products, rather than decrease workers' wages, leading to rampant inflation. This meant many companies could no longer keep up with inflation, leading to unemployment. The government stepped in providing more financial aid to the unemployed. Due to the Cold War coming to an end, Western

and Eastern nations were no longer incentivised to bribe countries like Yugoslavia to stay on their side, meaning Yugoslavia was soon in massive debt due to having to take out many loans. As a result of this debt, the likelihood of Yugoslavia paying back any loans decreased, so Yugoslavia took out a loan with the last organisation that would let them: the International Money Fund. The loan was agreed, but Yugoslavia would need to restructure its economy to pay it back, including destroying the Socialist society (which Tito sought to maintain by allowing private businesses to exist in Yugoslavia) and by decreasing government spending. This led to massive issues and an unstable economy.

The Fall of Yugoslavia

In the late 1980s, Serbia began to try and control Yugoslavia by taking control of the two autonomous regions, and gave Montenegro a pro-Serbian government, thus controlling four of the now



Josip Broz Tito, 1961

eight prime ministers of Yugoslavia, meaning the only laws which were passed were pro-Serbian as they held the majority. This meant a mismanaged government controlled by Serbs, and a looming recession, so Slovenia and Croatia used the article in their constitution, which allowed them to hold a referendum to leave Yugoslavia if the region voted a majority yes, which both Croatia and Slovenia did, leaving in 1991.

However, wanting to have all the Serbs in the Balkans in Yugoslavia so that they could control them, Serbia utilised Croatia's 12% Serbian population by persuading them that they would persecute Serbians. This caused the ethnic Serbs in Croatia to stop transport and begin attacking the Croats with air support from Yugoslavia. Although Yugoslavia attempted to do the same in Slovenia, they signed a peace treaty after 10 days of fighting, with aid to peace terms coming from the European Community (a precursor to the European Union). More issues were caused in Yugoslavia when North Macedonia had its referendum and left Yugoslavia. It managed to stay at peace with Yugoslavia, and soon after

Bosnia & Herzegovina's referendum saw an exit from Yugoslavia, Yugoslavian troops quickly began to invade, so Croatia came to its aid. Now with significantly less land, Yugoslavia changed its name, becoming the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. These wars soon attracted attention from the European community and NATO, who established safe havens for refugees from these countries (which no member of the European community wanted to take on) and eventually aided Croatia and Slovenia in expelling the Serbian troops from their land. Serbia finally pleaded for peace after NATO began bombing key Serbian locations. Peace finally came in 1995 with Serbia being allowed to keep Montenegro and Kosovo. Kosovo declared independence thirteen years later. Montenegro also held a referendum with 55% of Montenegrins voting to leave Serbia, so Montenegro gained independence from Serbia in 2006. Between 130,000 and 140,000 people lost their lives in the Yugoslav wars, and numerous war crimes and hate crimes were committed on both sides. Yugoslavia was a relatively stable country under Tito, however, due to no measures for future presidency being placed, the country fell into ruin.

SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA AS OF JANUARI 1991



HISTORY

The Cuban Missile Crisis - Day By Day

Background

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a 13-day political crisis between the USA and the USSR. During the midst of the Cold War the two superpowers reached a dangerous point in political tensions, and as such, the Crisis is the closest the world has been to nuclear war.

From the 16th - 28th of October, 1962, America and the Soviet Union, led by President John F. Kennedy and Premier Nikita Khrushchev respectively, reached a confrontation. There were Soviet missiles in Cuba and American missiles in Italy and Turkey.

Before the Crisis: 1961

A year before the Cuban Missile Crisis political tensions had already been ramping up. In 1961 the United States put nuclear missiles on military bases in Italy and Turkey, posing a significant threat to the USSR. In the same year, America had also launched the Bay of Pigs invasion - an attempted invasion of communist Cuba that resulted in a devastating failure for the USA. This was followed by Operation Mongoose, a CIA-backed terrorist campaign against Cuban civilians. Understandably, this raised extreme tensions between Cuba and America.

January to October 1962

Seeking to increase pressure on the US, the Soviet Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, met with the prime minister of Cuba, Fidel Castro. During the meeting, the two reached an agreement that the Soviet Union would place nuclear missiles in Cuba, along with aiding construction of multiple nuclear launch sites. When these missiles arrived in Cuba many residents witnessed them and America received many reports of potential ballistic weapons in Cuba.

The Cuban Missile Crisis: 16th October, 1962

On 15th October, after many unsuccessful reconnaissance missions, it was finally confirmed

that there were indeed Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba, some a mere 140 kilometres from America. President John F. Kennedy was immediately notified of this and contacted his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, about the threat. Robert Kennedy reached out to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin who claimed that there were no offensive missiles in Cuba.

17th October, 1962

President Kennedy met with his generals to discuss his options. He was presented with the following:

- Remain Idle - Nuclear Missiles in Turkey Restrict Soviet Options
- Attempt Diplomacy with the USSR
- Attempt Diplomacy with Cuba
- Order a Naval Blockade on Cuba to block Soviet Ships
- Order an Airstrike on Cuba to destroy Missile Launch Sites
- Order a full invasion of Cuba to overthrow Castro

While the Department of Defence had unanimously agreed that an invasion would be the best course of action, Kennedy did not want this. Not only was the risk of Soviet retaliation high, failing the invasion (which was entirely possible) could result in nuclear war.

On the same day Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin came back to Robert Kennedy with a personal message from Khrushchev, who claimed that any weapons on Cuba were purely defensive.

18th October, 1962

As the Soviet missiles began to build up on Cuba, President Kennedy's options dwindled. He was now left with an invasion, encouraged by his generals, or naval blockade, which he wanted.

On the 18th October, the Soviet Union's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrei Gromyko, visited the United States. President Kennedy, without disclosing his

knowledge of the nuclear weapons, warns Gromyko that the introduction of offensive Soviet weapons to Cuba would result in the 'gravest consequences'.

19th October, 1962

Kennedy was absent from Washington D.C. on this day, as he had scheduled campaign visits to two states. While he was gone the US military made several advancements. First, aircraft fly-bys determined that there were at least four separate missile sites. The high number of launch sites made invasion highly risky, as an attack on one site would mean a possible retaliatory launch from another. This convinced Kennedy's generals that a blockade was the most sensible option.

20th October, 1962

President Kennedy cut his campaign visit short and returned to Washington D.C., under the guise of having a cold. After five hours of discussion with his generals, the plans for a naval blockade were finalised.

21st October, 1962

However, the plans for the blockade were questioned by other top officials. The reason being, a naval blockade was considered an 'act of war', under international law. If Kennedy were to deny Soviet ships access to the island of Cuba, Khrushchev could use this as a sign of American aggression. As a result, Kennedy would dub the blockade a 'quarantine', as well as giving the order to allow non-military ships through the blockade.

22nd October, 1962

President Kennedy established EXCOMM, a national defence committee made up of generals and members of the US cabinet and Congress. British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, as well as former US presidents, were briefed on the situation via telephone. Kennedy also wrote a letter to Nikita Khrushchev, telling him that nuclear war would not benefit either superpowers. Shortly after this, he went live on American television and informed the nation of the existence of nuclear missiles in Cuba.

23rd October, 1962

The naval quarantine was put in motion on the 23rd October. Ships and submarines were sent to block off Cuba from the outside world. Although imports such as food were allowed into the country as promised,

Soviet ships containing military equipment were completely denied access. The quarantine was counter-acted by Soviet submarines, which entered Cuban waters with little resistance. However, this was still a large blow to the USSR as submarines could hold far less cargo than a ship could.

24th October, 1962

Khrushchev responded to Kennedy's quarantine with outrage, claiming that he was no longer 'appealing to reason', as well as giving absolute refusal to stand down.

The US Ambassador to Turkey notified NATO and the Turkish government that he was considering advising the US to take American nuclear weapons out of Turkey, in response to the Soviets potentially removing theirs from Cuba. He was met with backlash, with Turkish officials replying that the US would not be allowed to remove their defensive arsenal.

25th October, 1962

On the 25th of October, the US called an emergency meeting with the United Nations Security Council. America's UN ambassador confronted the Soviets' ambassador, attempting to pressure him into admitting the existence of offensive missiles in Cuba. He was met with no comment.

The Bucharest, a Soviet tanker, broke through the US quarantine, and docked at Cuba. American authorities, fairly certain that the ship did not contain military equipment, ordered the navy not to sink the ship.

Journalists in America also embarked on the idea of removing Turkish missiles in exchange for Soviet withdrawal. This would catch the ears of several high ranking American officials, including Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

26th October, 1962

As the two superpowers edged closer to nuclear war, the US government raised the Defence Readiness Condition, or DEFCON, to its highest ever level, DEFCON 2. This meant the United States Military had to be ready to deploy all forces within six hours.

Kennedy informed EXCOMM of his new beliefs: that there was no way to remove the threat other than a full invasion of Cuba. But he was persuaded that the problem could be solved through diplomacy.

Fidel Castro rightfully assumed that an American invasion was possible, or even imminent. He sent a telegram to Khrushchev, telling him to use nuclear missiles on America if there was any sign of an incoming attack.

However, that evening, the White House received a letter from Khrushchev, which Robert Kennedy described as "long and emotional". The letter was eight pages long and consisted of Khrushchev urging President Kennedy to seek a diplomatic solution and not "doom the world to the catastrophe of thermonuclear war". He concluded by suggesting a solution where the US would agree never to attack Cuba, in exchange for the removal of Soviet weapons.

27th October, 1962

Khrushchev broadcasted a message which offered the previously suggested trade of Turkish missiles in exchange for Soviet ones. Contrary to the letter received the previous night, there was no mention of an agreement to not invade Cuba, leading the Kennedy brothers to believe the letter was fake.

The same morning, an American reconnaissance jet flying over Cuba was shot down by a surface-to-air missile, resulting in the death of the pilot. This was the only death during the entirety of the crisis.

Later in the day, a Soviet submarine was hit by an American signalling depth charge, a small device used to command submarines to ascend to the surface. The captain of the submarine, too deep underwater to communicate using radios, decided that this was

a sign that a nuclear war had begun, and wanted to fire the submarine's nuclear torpedo. Three of the main crew had to unanimously agree to the launch, and luckily, the submarine's commander refused to launch the torpedo.

Robert Kennedy secretly met with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and, after a long period of negotiation, Kennedy came to the conclusion that the removal of missiles in Turkey was a fair trade for Soviet withdrawal. The president also agreed on the trade.

28th October, 1962

The crisis officially ends. America removed its missiles from Turkey - with much disapproval from Turkish officials - and the Soviet Union removed theirs from Cuba. The quarantine is loosened, although US naval presence in the region is still abnormally high until the end of November.

Conclusion

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a warning to citizens around the globe. Two global superpowers had the capacity to wipe them out simply as a show of strength. Although Robert Kennedy and Anatoly Dobrynin's secret negotiations were met with controversy and public outcry, in retrospect, the two conflicting sides coming together to find a diplomatic solution most likely saved billions of lives as well as preventing a nuclear holocaust that would be far from ideal for either side.



Above: how missiles in Cuba and Turkey threatened the US and USSR respectively.

TRAVEL

Clifton High School Germany Trip

First Day

The trip started with a bus ride at 6 o'clock in the morning, towards Dover, arriving at about midday for our ferry ride to France. We then drove through Belgium, stopping at a service station briefly and then up into the Netherlands before finally arriving in Köln (Cologne) at around 8.00pm and heading into the hostel. We got ourselves into our rooms and had dinner, before going to sleep ready for the next day.

Second Day

We started our day with some breakfast and then got ready for our first day in Köln, starting with a trip to the Lego store there, which was filled with massive Lego structures and stations to build our own figurines.

Then we headed to the Cathedral which was a massive, dark structure, three times the height of any other buildings in the city! We climbed all 533 steps to the top, through tight spiral corridors and later, newer metal stairs, all the way to the top, where we felt terrified of either the heights or of how it was simply too high up to feel real! Then we headed all the way back down the stairs, had the option to buy a €0 note for €2, and explored within the actual cathedral which was insanely large with massive stained glass paintings all over the walls.

Next, we went into groups and bought ourselves lunch in the massive German markets, heading out to find fried potatoes of all kinds, and cured meats from donkey to pig: it was all delicious! The markets didn't just contain food, but also jewellery, pieces of carpentry and more. An hour later, we left that Christmas market to go to the Christmas market next door, which was smaller but had a central area where you could buy many different kinds of drink, including Kinderpunsch (alcohol free mulled wine), which was brilliant as it became so cold it started snowing. We didn't stay there long either as there was another Christmas market that we hadn't explored yet, which was smaller than the first one but about three times the size of the second, and it



contained a Ferris wheel. We stayed there for about half an hour before starting to head back which took about an hour and a half as Frau Harris insisted we went to every other shop along the high street in order to properly experience Köln! When we finally got back, we were all very tired and rested for a while, before having dinner at the Hostel and going out for another trip to a Christmas market, this one was the Angel market and was beautifully lit up in the dark, also it didn't disappoint in food quality.

Third Day

We started our day similarly to the last, but we walked farther away from the centre of town and toward the river, and the Lindt Chocolate Museum. Here, we bought some chocolates and went out into the market, whilst the other half of the trip stayed in the chocolate museum and made chocolates. We were put back into pairs and given €20 to spend in the markets.

Afterward, we walked around city, visiting the Rhine and other iconic spots. Mr De Cothi pulled our legs by telling us about how the Rhine intercepts major western countries like Portugal and Luxembourg. I'm not sure how he kept a straight face throughout these jokes. He even told us of the amazing back story of how some boats had been waiting hundreds of years by the side of the river, after being given as gifts from the Ming dynasty, but were only able to go back on the water when the Emperor returned, which could never happen as that Emperor had been abducted by aliens shortly after. He promised us this was all true, but I'm not sure!

Then we headed back to the Lindt Museum and were escorted to a private room with taps that produced white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate. We first went to these taps and added a combination of chocolates into a chocolate mould where we used a tool resembling pliers, to make swirls in the chocolate and covered them in decorations of our choice, like Haribo or freeze-dried raspberries. Next, we put these chocolate moulds into a fridge

to set and dipped some chocolate lollipops into the liquid chocolate and decorated them, and finally we added the liquid chocolate to piping bags to make chocolate coins, and decorated them.

Finally, we packaged these and headed back to the hostel to begin to pack up our things and prepare for our talent show. After dinner we held the talent show, with the categories being tackiest souvenir and some questionable talents. Some songs and slightly odd comedy routines later, we got our prizes and headed to sleep.

Final Day

We had our last breakfast in the hostel, took our things and left Köln for Aachen, stopping by the Christmas market. Finally, we left Germany and headed to France, got on a Ferry and arrived back in Clifton at about midnight. It was a really fun trip, it was great for anyone who likes nice things and doesn't mind the cold. I would definitely go again.



GAMING

Pupil Reviews and Recommendations



Sonic Frontiers

Platforms: Nintendo Switch, Microsoft Windows, Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5

Singleplayer

Sonic Frontiers, the newest game in the 'Sonic The Hedgehog' franchise, takes a different approach to the other games in the series. It is an open-zone game, similar to 'The Legend of Zelda.'

The game starts with Sonic and his friends, Tails and Amy, travelling on a plane called 'The Tornado.' Suddenly, they all get taken to another location. Playing as Sonic, you must travel the world and save your friends. You do this by travelling to another dimension called 'Cyberspace.' This game feels nothing like a usual 'Sonic The Hedgehog' game. You can unlock new abilities, upgrade in strength and upgrade your health. This mechanic has never been used in a Sonic game before but it makes it very exciting.

Overall, I really enjoyed this game because of the way it uses open-zone game mechanics very effectively. Also, the story for the game is very long (with at least twelve hours of gameplay). As a result, I highly recommend you try it out.

Rating: 4/5



Roblox: DOORS

Platforms: Xbox, PlayStation, PC, tablet, laptop, mobile

Online multiplayer

Roblox creators have been making really good horror games for quite a while now. You may jump to the conclusion that it's Roblox, so it can't be good. That tends to be the case with most games on Roblox but horror games are different for some reason. For example: The Mimic, Apeirophobia, FNAF: Forgotten Memories, Rainbow Friends and so on. The most popular one though has been DOORS. Doors is a Roblox horror where you walk through doors. Doesn't sound scary? Thought so. That by itself doesn't sound too scary, but when you add spooky entities chasing after you with some 3D knocking sounds and other creepy noises, now the game seems different. Here is what an unnamed experienced player has to say about the game. 'DOORS is a trial and error game where the more you die the more you learn how to beat the game. It takes some determination and skill and isn't so scary that you get put off but is still scary enough to keep you from quitting the game.' Did I mention that Roblox is free? If you like horror, I would recommend this and even if you don't like horror, you should still play it.

Game rating: 5/5



Kartrider Drift

Platforms: Playstation 4, Xbox 1, Android, iOS, PC

Single player

Kart Rider drift is a fun and wacky arcade racer. It is similar to Mario Kart but can be played on a range of platforms and it's free! It has aesthetically pleasing, cartoonish graphics with really simple and easy mechanics. The game has cheerful and inviting music that perfectly complements the gameplay and the soundtrack creates a soothing and comforting ambiance. You can also play with friends and make it a lot more exciting! The game only came out a few weeks ago, however it has gained significant popularity in South Korea.

Rating: 4/5



Zero Sievert

Platforms: PC

Single player

Zero sievert is an interesting extraction shooter in a Metroidvania style. It is based in post-apocalyptic Eastern Europe and you are expected to take on all the challenges thrown at you by this unrelenting game. You start with very little money and as you progress you traverse the land to extract valuables and fight your way through hordes of enemies. The player is also expected to be organised and aware of everything that goes on in-game otherwise they may frequently hit roadblocks. Put simply, Zero Sievert is a mix between a minimalistic indie game and a hardcore extraction shooter, and the core concept of the game is simple but fun. You should consider buying it if you want to play a game of a similar genre.

Rating: 4.5/5



Bone Lab

Platforms: SteamVR, Oculus Desktop VR, Meta Quest 2

Single player

Bonelab is a first-person, virtual reality, puzzle, experimental physics game which includes many different types of gameplay.

The game starts with you, the player, being sentenced to death by your own kind. Out for revenge, you travel on a great journey through 'The Bonelab.' In order to continue progressing, you must use everything available to you: swords, guns, axes and many other weapons. Later into the game, you also unlock a device you can use to change your avatar and reach different areas. As it is a successor to the famous Boneworks, it uses the same physics and adds to it; for example, the game uses motion tracking to make your character mimic your movements almost exactly. This game, unlike most, can be modded without a PC. It even has a built-in system for the game, where you can store all your mods that have been downloaded.

In conclusion, Bonelab is a great game. Although I do not think it is the best game for virtual reality, it definitely has a sensational story and so I highly recommend this game.

Rating: 4.5/5

