

DID YOU KNOW?

Reita Faria Powell who was born in 1945 was the first Indian and Asian to win Miss World title in the year of 1966.



Arts

USE OF 'CALLIGRAM' IN POEMS

Calligram is a combination of poetry and visual art. It is a poem, a phrase or a word that is arranged in a design that creates an image or a visual representation of the subject of the text. Throughout history, calligrams have been a part of many cultures and civilizations as a way for artists to express themselves. Micrography is the Jewish form of word art, and it was developed around the ninth century. It has the same functionality as a modern calligram.

MUSIC

Relevance of classical music in today's time

Indian classical music has gone through several changes not only in its form and content but also the context and patronage. Now this saga of music has reached the homes of people and auditoriums from temples to Mughal courts and homes of rich landed gentry.

Importance

Recent studies have shown that listening to classical music can have lasting effects on one's brain; it can stimulate brain function in developing infants and improve comprehension of math and other computing skills in adults. It trains the brain to acknowledge all the parts that work together to make the whole.

Requirement

The basic requirements for classical music are an open mind, an attention span and some commitment. But they are not in much supply these days. More emphasis for classical music is on homo-phonic melodies, meaning that there was a single melody that all the instruments played which is found to be absent today.

Perseverance

With new generations coming up, new tastes have been developed due to media and pop culture, but classical music has been preserved prominently from the Baroque period (1600s) well into the Contemporary and Late Romantic era. Classical music has never been popular. Just because a piece has strings and woodwinds and is 100 years old does not make it classical. There appears to be a deep conflict between the interests of people of reason and those who would overthrow reason in favour of greed, war and ignorance. In the past, only accepting and adapting to the changes in every aspect has helped classical music to survive.

There is as much room for the genre now as there was back then and as long as entertainment is a need for humans, there will be room for the genre a hundred more years from now.



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MOVIE REVIEW

- ◆ Rating : ★★
- ◆ Directors: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
- ◆ Cast: Pierre Coffin, Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm, Michael Keaton, Allison Janney, Steve Coogan
- ◆ Language : English (U/A)

Minions are a great business. Supporting characters in the first 'Despicable Me movie', the yellow sidekicks somewhat stole the show, their role expanding in its hugely successful sequel. And with Minion popularity continuing to grow, they've now been given their own standalone movie; a spin-off that acts as both prequel and origin story. Minions star adorable frantic yellow sidekicks from Despicable Me, all intent on serving the most villainous masters in history. But when the Minions keep inadvertently getting rid of them, it's up to 3 Minions to search for a new one, leading them to 1960s New York

Minions

City. Along the way, the minions meet super villain Scarlet Overkill, who enlists them to work on a mission – helping Scarlet become the Queen of England.

Taking the plot away from humans was a bold move on the part of its writers but the skill with which the story holds its ground is laudable. Though the minion antics become repetitive 30 minutes into the film, they are so endearing that it never gets boring. Of course, the goodness of the earlier parts is missing from this tale that relies solely on its non-humans to pull off the mischievous act. But, it still comes off as a breezy, fuzzy watch.

The writing is nuanced in places as the gags are thoughtfully orchestrated. There is a fleeting President Nixon joke, a Beatles reference (imagery referencing the 60s), props like the inclusion of a 'villain-con' are all

put together with verve. The sequence where the minions break into the Beatles' song Revolution is incredible.

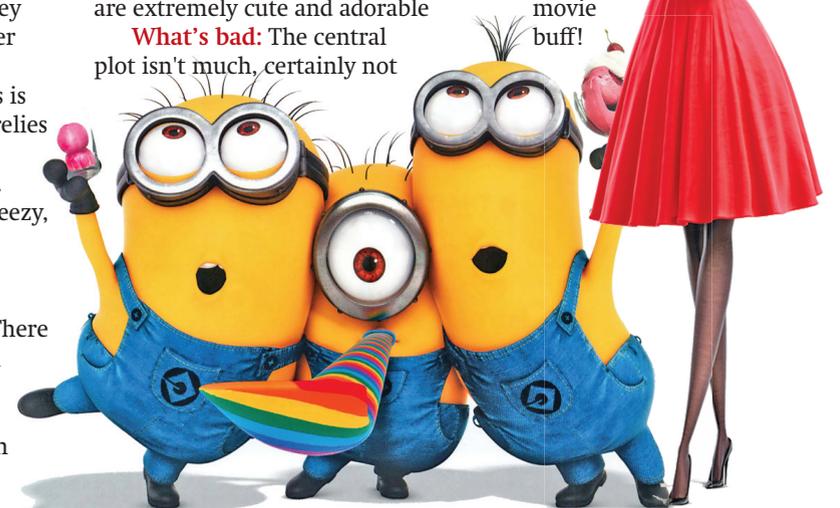
At 91 minutes, these tiny yellow blobs steal the show from their human counterparts. With charming elements galore, adorable gibberish talk and winsome screen presence, the film is cuteness overload.

What's good: The Minions are extremely cute and adorable

What's bad: The central plot isn't much, certainly not

enough on which to hang an entire movie. Making matters worse is the fact that neither Sandra Bullock nor Jon Hamm is gifted as a voice actor and their characters come off as flat.

Watch it or not: Yes, if you are a die-hard animation movie buff!



Hold landscapes painting in your palm

CREATIVITY

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could hold an entire landscape painting in the palm of your hand? That's what artist Dina Brodsky does.

She paints on circular pieces of Plexiglas with a two inch circumference, creating oil paintings that are spectacularly realistic. Despite the fact that these canvases can fit into the

palm of your hand, Brodsky's work is both detailed and lifelike. The highlight of this painting is that, each intricate leaf, distinct building and vivid light source stands out amidst the landscapes that she expertly reproduces.

Typically, it takes the painter 15-20 hours to meticulously design her small-scale worlds. During this time, she sources inspiration from Italian Renaissance fresco paintings, 15th-century Flemish portraits, and Islamic miniature

art. When combined, all three of these techniques culminate in paintings that appear to be from another time period.

