

Birthdays make me feel special

Actor Bhuvann Ponnannaa talks about how his birthday celebrations have changed over the years

The only day when an ordinary mortal feels like a celebrity is on his or her birthday. Irrespective of your job or social status, you are made to feel like a star by those around you.

My birthday falls on December 30 and I have always enjoyed celebrating it, irrespective of my age.

During my early years in school, it felt special because that was the only day my father returned early from office.

He brought with him my favourite coloured candies, Torino juice, chicken and new clothes. I would also get 100 chocolates worth 50 paise each and

my all-time favourite radium watch. It cost Rs 20 back then and would stop working exactly two days later.

After the celebrations, I would go to sleep blissfully; dreaming about wearing new clothes to school the next day and distributing chocolates to the entire class.

A particularly favourite segment of such dreams was watching the smile my crush Apeksha would give me when I reach her bench. I dreamt how I would slip an extra chocolate into her tiffin carrier bag and watch

her confused yet delighted reaction. Luckily for me, that is exactly how things would pan out the next day.

I later joined the prestigious Coorg Public School where birthdays were all about wearing new clothes while others stood in mundane uniforms, being called on to the stage during the morning assembly, having everyone sing the birthday

song for you (even though they hated it) and then getting blessed by the principal.

I was a notorious student there. My principal, while blessing me, would always accompany that with a 'At least this year let God put some sanity into your head'.

I would smile, nod my head and walk away, wishing the same for my principal himself.

The years wore on and I came to Bengaluru for my undergraduate studies. Birthdays transformed into chances to meet girlfriends and giving them a party in one of the happening pubs. My favourites were MoJos and Sparks.

However, I would not have much money to spend. That's when my friends would come to my rescue and lend cash to help me show off in front of the girls.

After I entered the film industry, my birthdays took on a different turn. For eight years now, I have made it a point to celebrate my birthday in a new country every year. I wrap up my commitments by December 22 and fly out to a new country to celebrate my birthday in a new way with new people. I return only by the first week of January after that.

Once I am back, I visit children's homes and old

age homes. It is my endeavour to give back to the world around me in my own modest way.

My birthday this year is going to be very special as I will be celebrating it in Bengaluru after almost a decade.

My family, friends, fans, and well-wishers want me to be with them. My film 'Randhawa' is ready and the team wants to celebrate my birthday by launching a new trailer of the movie dedicated to me.

In the evening, I have decided to spend time with my family.

However, one of my friends recently asked me how the preparations were going on for my birthday party at a certain club. I know now that my friends are planning to host a surprise party for me. I have not told them I know what they are up to.

Bhuvann Ponnannaa
(As told to Nina C George)



DJ Alan Walker set to play at Pune Sunburn Festival

Norwegian DJ Alan Walker is all set to play in Sunburn Festival 2018, which will take place in Pune.

The YouTube-taught artist is known for his 2015 single 'Fade', which has received platinum certifications in over 10 countries.

Walker was originally known as 'DJ Walkzz'. This later became 'Walkzz' before he went back to using his original name. A distinct logo, consisting of intertwined letters 'A' and 'W', along with the trademark hoodie and face mask, create an undeniable charisma around him.

Rajitha Menon speaks to the enigmatic music producer to know more about his music and more.

What was the turning point of your career?

When I released the song 'Faded' in 2015 — that was my first commercial release and it opened so many opportunities for me.

Why this fascination for masks and hiding one's identity?

It not so much about hiding one's identity as it is about creating a community where everyone is the same. It doesn't matter what you are; it is who you are that matters.

How do you handle the fame at such a young age?

It is important to take breaks from my hectic life and everything else that comes



MAN BEHIND THE MASK Alan Walker

with it. I try to make time for friends and family and just stay at home being a normal 21-year-old. People who know me well help me keep my feet on the ground.

What would be the hallmark of a typical Alan Walker song?

You have to have a strong melody. And a build up — I want people to be engaged in my music, so the energy is important. People often say there a certain bouncy synth rhythm in my songs, but I don't know about that.

Thoughts about the global music industry...

I think there is a lot of great stuff happening. People are collaborating with each other and with mobile phones and 4G, anyone can listen to music anywhere anytime — all of this is quite exciting.

Your future plans?

I just released my first ever album, so I am very excited to see how that will go down with my fans. In the new year, I will be going on a US tour; I am very much looking forward to that.

About Sunburn Festival 2018

- Will be held from December 29-31 in Pune.
- Other international artists who will perform include DJ Snake, Armin Van Burren, DJs Axwell & Ingrosso and more.
- Performers from India include Nucleya, Divine and his Gully Gang.
- The festival will host India's biggest campsites complete with after parties, adventure activities, bonfire, workshops and more.
- Campout packages start at Rs 2,500 per person per day and include complimentary breakfast.
- There will also be a fan village, 30+ experience zones, flea markets, chopper rides etc.
- Tickets start at Rs 1,799 and are available on www.bookmyshow.com. For exclusive VVIP experience packages, contact 7706998549.

Style tips to help you rock holiday parties

It's the holiday season! No doubt these last couple of weeks of the year are jam-packed with dinners, parties, visiting friends and calling on relatives.

Don't worry if you have no time to think about what to wear though! Here are ten suggestions that are always in style.

Jumpsuits

Jumpsuits are great; it's one piece, and that alone makes them fantastic. There are endless styles and silhouettes of jumpsuits that will flatter anyone. Put your hair up and pair with loop earrings for a great festive outfit.

Sequined dresses

Be prepared for all eyes on you with a little bright and sparkle. If you want to make a statement, it's hard to beat the eye-catching sequined dress. With endless styles, it helps you stand out at any party.

Gold dress

Gold has always been associated with wealth. It's a great colour that compliments any skin tone. The right gold dress will rival the sequined dress for those wanting to make a statement. Style carefully with the right understated jewellery for that sophisticated look.

High-high boots

These boots can really make an outfit stand out. Pair them with a skirt that ends just below the top or wear them over skinny jeans with a kimono-style top and a long necklace for a stylish yet playful look.

Sequined blouse and trousers

Style your favourite solid colour trousers with a bright and glamorous sequined top. Black often works best but any neutral solid colour will do that creates a contrast between top and bottom. Since the top is the star of the show this outfit pairs well with subtle jewellery.

Silky dress and faux fur coat

Baby, it's cold outside! As the temperature dips, pull out that faux fur coat and style with a silky dress. The contrast of a slinky dress with



Gloss 'n' Glamour

coat makes a great styling combination and keeps you warm. Pair with high heels and your most flattering jewellery.

Sparkly top and leather pants

Another great combination that effortlessly pulls off the casually sophisticated look. The contrast between solid pants and bright, sparkly, eye-catching top is

perfect. Boots - including thigh-high complete the ensemble.

Plunging necklines

If you are going for a sexy look, no doubt the plunging neckline is high on the list. Arguably the bra is most important for this outfit, be sure to choose one that will work with this neckline while giving you the correct support required. Pair with your best necklace and earrings for that stunning look.

Ruched dresses

Ruching is essentially the gathering of fabric - gathered into frills and pleats for instance. Often rushed at the bust or hips, this construction technique is great at making a dress more shapely in just the right places.

See through tops and suits

Style a suit with a see-through top and pair with short heels and minimal jewellery for that provocative power look. People will stop to see who is coming!
Designer Runa Ray



Travel pic of the week



We recently went on a eight-day trip to Bhutan. We visited all the tourist attractions there and were also lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Thimphu festival celebrations.

However, the highlight of our trip was our trek to the famed Tiger's Nest. It was a challenging climb but worth the effort at the end of it all.

PICTURE TAKEN BY
MALA THIMMIYA



Navia Natarajan

Classical dance show at Seva Sadan

Aanya Nrutya Neerajana presents a performance by Navia Natarajan on December 28, 7 pm onwards at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram.

Navia will be presenting 'Shiva Spanda', a specially researched piece on Shiva, looking at the Hindu Lord's multi-faceted personality, from the mythological to the philosophical. She will also perform a traditional piece, the Varnam - 'Swami Ninae Kori Nanura'.