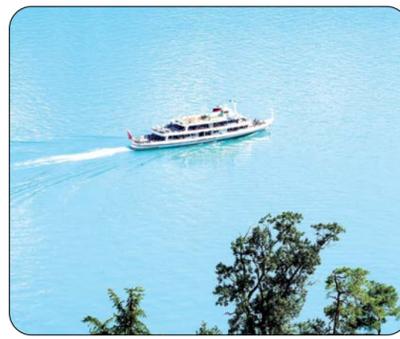


# Herald Cafe



A JOURNEY THROUGH ALPINE BEAUTY



SHYAM BENEGAL FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT MARGAO

## A new era of magic: Meet the trio set to enter Hogwarts

HBO has unveiled the new trio set to lead its ambitious Harry Potter television adaptation. After a global casting search, Dominic McLaughlin, Arabella Stanton, and Alastair Stout are stepping into the iconic roles of Harry, Hermione, and Ron

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HBO has officially announced the new faces of the wizarding world: Dominic McLaughlin will take on the iconic role of Harry Potter, with Arabella Stanton as Hermione Granger, and Alastair Stout stepping into the shoes of Ron Weasley. The highly anticipated television adaptation of Harry Potter is set to begin filming in summer 2025. The casting follows a global talent search, with over 30,000 actors auditioning for the roles since HBO launched its open casting call in the fall of 2024. Like their predecessors, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint, whose performances catapulted them to global stardom in the early 2000s, this new trio is made up of fresh talent.

The series is being written and executive produced by Francesca Gardiner, who will also serve as showrunner. Mark Mylod, known for his work on 'Succession', is set to direct multiple episodes and will executive produce. The show is a collaboration between HBO, Warner Bros. Television, and Brontë Film and TV, with additional executive producers including JK Rowling, Neil Blair, Ruth Kenley-Letts, and David Heyman, the original producer behind the 'Harry Potter' film series. With production soon underway and a new generation of actors stepping into some of literature's most beloved roles, fans eagerly await the next chapter of the Harry Potter saga—reimagined for television.

### WHO IS THE NEW HARRY POTTER, DOMINIC MCLAUGHLIN?

Before landing the coveted role of Harry Potter in HBO's upcoming television adaptation, 11-year-old Scottish actor Dominic McLaughlin was already building an impressive resume across film, television, and stage. Production company, SC Films recently confirmed that Dominic wrapped filming on the Sky family comedy 'Grow', where he stars alongside 'Hot Fuzz' actor Nick Frost, who

plays the friendly groundskeeper Rubeus Hagrid in the 'Harry Potter' series. In December 2024, Dominic was also announced as part of the young Scottish cast in the upcoming BBC adventure series 'Gifted', which is set in Edinburgh. He will portray the character Martin, appearing alongside Jessica Hardwick, who takes on the role of Madame. Adding to his growing list of credits, Dominic recently took to the stage in a production of William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh. He performed opposite acclaimed actors Ralph Fiennes, a three-time Oscar nominee, and Indira Varma, best known for her role in 'Luther'. With a combination of screen and stage experience already under his belt, Dominic is poised for a breakout moment as he steps into the world of wizardry—and a global spotlight—as the Boy Who Lived.



### FROM MATILDA TO MAGIC, ARABELLA STANTON'S JOURNEY AS THE NEW HERMIONE GRANGER

Rising theatre talent 11-year-old Arabella Stanton has officially been cast as Hermione Granger. While the role marks her major screen debut, Arabella is no stranger to the spotlight, having already made a name for herself on stage. Between 2023 and 2024, she wowed West End audiences in the lead role of Matilda in 'Matilda: The Musical', earning praise for her charisma and commanding presence. Much like Emma Watson, who rose to fame as the original Hermione, Arabella is quickly gaining attention as one to watch. Her casting has sparked a mix of excitement and skepticism among fans eager to see if the new trio can recapture the magic of the original films. Still, with a standout theatre background and a role as beloved as Hermione ahead of her, Arabella's star is undeniably on the rise.



### WHO WILL PLAY RON WEASLEY?

British actor Alastair Stout has been officially cast as Ron Weasley. Unlike his co-stars, Alastair is a relative newcomer to the screen. Prior to landing the iconic role, his only credited

appearance was in an advertising campaign for Albert Bartlett's Jersey Royal potatoes, where he played the son at dinner. The advert, titled 'Roll on Jersey Royal Season', marked his only brush with fame before being cast as one of the most beloved characters in modern fantasy literature. Ron Weasley, as described in JK

Rowling's novels and the original Warner Bros. film series, is one of Harry Potter's closest friends. Known for his red hair, humble upbringing, and unwavering loyalty, Ron plays a pivotal role in the wizarding saga. In the original films, the character was portrayed by Rupert Grint, who brought Ron's humour and heart to life for over a decade.



### SWIPE RIGHT

#### Karan Johar shares rare throwback with Zeenat Aman

Filmmaker Karan Johar just sent fans on a nostalgic trip with a rare, heart-warming throwback photo and it's got the internet buzzing. The black-and-white snap, now making waves across social media, features none other than veteran screen siren Zeenat Aman alongside Karan's mother Hiroo Johar in a candid moment from the early '80s. Taking to Instagram, Karan accompanied the vintage gem with a touching story from his childhood. In a long, heartfelt caption, the director reminisced about a fashion exhibition dreamt up by his mother and aunts in 1981 with Abu Jani, now one half of the iconic designer duo Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla. "This image is of the day of the exhibition and my mother requested @thezeenataman to inaugurate it and she very graciously did so. If you stare carefully a star struck and very much in awe of Zeenat Aman fan has photo bombed the picture! (me!)," posted Karan.



Alia Bhatt dropped an Instagram carousel, offering a behind-the-scenes glimpse into her unforgettable 'Cannes-dids'. The photos from her Cannes 2025 debut includes glam squads to couture close-ups, serving fans a perfect blend of red carpet and real moments.

## Chasing altitude: The quest to conquer Mount Everest

International Everest Day is celebrated every May 29 in commemoration of the first ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal in 1953. Café talks to two resilient men from Goa, Pankaj Narvekar and Tinkesh Kaushik, who had a tryst with Mount Everest

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### Tinkesh Kaushik's inspiring trek to Everest Base Camp

For Tinkesh Kaushik, the Everest Base Camp wasn't just a destination, it was a symbol which he conquered on May 11 and became the world's first triple amputee to reach the Mount Everest Base Camp. "I've always believed that limitations exist more in the mind than in the body," he says. "I wanted to challenge not just public perception but also myself." By embarking on this journey, he aimed to inspire people with disabilities to dream big and redefine what's possible.

### The Hardest Step

Breathing at high altitudes was a major challenge, especially with limited mobility for Tinkesh. "Each step felt heavier than the last. But more than the physical hardship, it was the mental battle of staying focused when the body was crying out for rest. The cold and thin air tested my limits every single day," Tinkesh explains the ordeal.

### Training on the Goan Coastline

Without mountains to train on in Goa, Tinkesh improvised. "I made the most of what was available. I focused on endurance, strength, and cardiovascular training. Beach runs on the sand helped build stamina and balance, and I trained with my prosthetics to adapt to uneven terrain. I also did long-distance walks with a backpack to simulate the trek's load."

### Balancing Body, Mind, and Planning

"Physically, I had to train my body to cope with altitude and rugged terrain. Mentally, it was about preparing for discomfort, fatigue, and isolation. Logistically, everything—from guides to gear to emergency planning—had to be seamless. One weak link could jeopardise the entire expedition," he informs.

### The Summit of the Soul

Reaching Everest Base Camp was deeply emotional. Describing the feeling, Tinkesh says, "Standing there, surrounded by those majestic peaks, I felt almost top of the world. There was a quiet sense of accomplishment among trekkers, but also a realisation of how small we are in front of nature's grandeur. The energy was electric, but I also took time to reflect silently, absorbing the moment fully."

### One Team, One Dream

Tinkesh credits much of his success to his team. "My trek leader Lalit Yadav and guide Gopal weren't just helping me, they were walking with me as one team, one dream. Their encouragement, and support made a world of difference. Without them, this journey wouldn't have been possible," he emphasises.

### A ripple effect of change

The impact of the trek extended far beyond the mountains. Through his organisation, Tinkesh Ability Foundation, he helped two PwDs experience Everest Base Camp themselves. More recently, he led India's largest inclusive trek to Annapurna Base Camp, with six disabled and nine non-disabled trekkers. He informs, "It was more than a trek; it was a celebration of inclusion, strength, and breaking barriers—step by step, together."

### Pankaj Narvekar's journey to the summit of Mount Everest

For Pankaj Narvekar, climbing Mount Everest wasn't just a personal ambition, it was a heartfelt mission inspired by his daughter, Gunjan. Ever since she began her mountaineering journey, the dream of summiting Everest together had been on his bucket list.

However, Nepal's age restrictions mean she cannot attempt Everest until 2026, when she turns 16. Determined to lead by example and gather valuable experience to support her future attempt, Pankaj set his sights on the 2024 Everest expedition.



### A father-daughter dream

With his daughter currently preparing for her Class 10 board exams, the duo has set their sights on more achievable heights for now. "Our goal this year is to summit a 7,000m+ peak together," he says.

### A life-altering descent

The descent nearly proved fatal. At 8,200 metres, a fragile ice cornice, the only route back collapsed in front of him, taking four climbers with it. Two were presumed dead, while others struggled to climb back, momentarily trapping Pankaj on his knees. "At that moment, my only thought was whether I would be able to reach home safely as the only way back had collapsed. With oxygen supply depleting rapidly, the only option was to stop panicking and take some smart calculated risks to reach back own safely."

### Summit day after the toughest climb

The Everest climb is notoriously dangerous, but two sections stood out for Pankaj, the treacherous Khumbu Icefall and the ascent beyond Camp 4 in the Death Zone. With high winds and temperatures plummeting to -40°C and below, these segments pushed him to his physical and mental limits. Pankaj reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 21, 2024, but the journey wasn't smooth. "Due to bad weather and a technical snag with my gear, I had to spend one additional day at Camp 4 at the 8000m/Death Zone but beating the odds and reaching the summit of Everest to experience the sunrise was phenomenal and the feeling cannot be described," reminisces Pankaj.

