

MINI-FUN, MEGA ENTERTAINMENT

We have heard and watched 'Pride and Prejudice', BBC's 1995 hit mini-series. Here are other classic period dramas adapted in a mini-series format that are equally enthralling but not that talked about



TRIVIA

Did you know that it was this particular TV series that inspired author Helen Fielding to write the *Bridget Jones* novels? To top it, the screen adaptations of all *Bridget Jones* novels featured Firth as *Bridget's* love interest. His character was called Mark Darcy!

Pride and Prejudice (1995)

This six-episode 1995 British TV drama was adapted by Andrew Davies from Jane Austen's classic 1813 novel. Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth starred as Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy, respectively. Produced by Sue Birtwistle and directed by Simon Langton, this BBC production is still the most-watched period TV drama. Critically acclaimed and massively successful, 'Pride and Prejudice' amassed several awards, including a BAFTA for Jennifer Ehle for 'Best Actress' and an Emmy for 'Outstanding Individual Achievement in Costume Design for a Miniseries or a Special'. The role of Mr Darcy elevated Colin Firth to stardom. A scene showing Firth in a wet shirt was recognised as "one of the most unforgettable moments in British TV history", with 'The New York Times' calling the adaptation "a witty mix of love stories and social conniving, cleverly wrapped in the ambitions and illusions of a provincial gentry".

Little Dorrit (2008)

This 2008 British mini-series based on Charles Dickens's serial novel of the same title, originally published between 1855 and 1857. The screenplay is by Andrew Davies and the episodes were directed by Adam Smith, Dearbhla Walsh, and Diarmuid Lawrence. It stars Claire Foy in the lead role. Jonathan Storm of 'The Philadelphia Inquirer' wrote about the show: "Andrew Davies crafts another superb script, with characters and incidents squeezing out the sides, just the thing to satisfy close observers, which anyone joining this maxi mini-series should be. Costumes, sets, and actors, a broad lot of those super-skilled, terrifically trained Brits, make for sumptuous viewing... 'Little Dorrit' stands at the high end of a very lofty list of period-piece achievement. It's big entertainment."

The serial won seven of its 11 nominations at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Miniseries, Outstanding Directing for Dearbhla Walsh, and Outstanding Writing for Andrew Davies.

TRIVIA

'Little Dorrit' was Dickens's satire that criticises the hypocrisy of society and the way poor people were treated. Claire Foy, who we know today as the actor portraying the role of Queen Elizabeth in the first two seasons of 'The Crown' is a delight to watch as the lead in this series



Emma (2009)

This four-part BBC television drama serial is an adaptation of Austen's 1815 novel 'Emma'. The episodes were written by Sandy Welch, writer of previous BBC costume dramas 'Jane Eyre' and 'North & South', and directed by Jim O'Hanlon. The series stars Romola Garai as the titular heroine Emma Woodhouse, Jonny Lee Miller as her loyal lifelong friend Mr Knightley, and Michael Gambon as Emma's father, Mr Woodhouse. John Preston of 'The Telegraph' described Garai as "particularly good" in the lead role.

TRIVIA

In 1995, BBC had already commissioned Sandy Welch to write the script for an 'Emma' mini-series. However, since Miramax and also Meridian were producing their own movies for cinema and television, respectively, the BBC cancelled its own project. But this series did get made 10 years later

Sense and Sensibility (2008)

We may have all watched the film in 1995, but for a slow burn, watch this adaptation of Austen's 1811 novel, in a three-part mini-series. The screenplay was written by Andrew Davies, and the series was directed by John Alexander. Davies commented: "When they are great stories, you keep on coming back to them and doing them in different ways with different people at different lengths." Nancy Banks-Smith from 'The Guardian' called the series "a charmingly domestic and spontaneous treatment of the story", adding that it had become "a younger sister" of Ang Lee's 1995 film.

TRIVIA

The first episode of 'Sense and Sensibility' became one of the top ten streamed programmes on the BBC iPlayer following its broadcast.



North & South (2004)

The four-part TV series is based on the 1855 Victorian novel 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell, and takes place in the years surrounding the Great Exhibition of 1851 (an international exhibition that took place in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 15 October 1851). The book was adapted for television by Sandy Welch and directed by Brian Percival. The story explores the issues of class and gender. Though the creators didn't expect much from the series, the audience lapped it up and it was also critically acclaimed. Richard Armitage, then a relatively unknown actor, was thrust into limelight for playing the lead role in this series. 'North & South' was voted 'Best Drama' in the BBC drama website's annual poll in 2004, and Armitage was voted 'Most Desirable Drama Star' and 'Best Actor'. Daniela Denby-Ashe, the female lead, was voted 'Best Actress' and three different scenes were voted as the year's 'Favourite Moments', with the final scene winning the number one spot.

TRIVIA

While writing the novel, Gaskell had complained of being under pressure to complete it by her editor Charles Dickens



TRIVIA

Ruth Wilson, who we know today through 'Luther' and 'His Dark Materials' stated this mini-series as being her first big break out role since graduating drama school

Jane Eyre (2006)

This 2006 television adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel is a four-part mini-series. This version is considered one of the most successful adaptations, garnering critical acclaim and a number of nominations from various award bodies. Lucasta Miller wrote in 'The Guardian': "The new version shows that it is possible to make successful drama by telling the story straight. It features an excellent performance from Toby Stephens, who manages to make Rochester simultaneously macho and vulnerable, and also from Ruth Wilson as a quizzical, strong and un-neurotic Jane." Barry Garron wrote in 'The Hollywood Reporter': "The new adaptation... doesn't add new colours to Brontë's romantic novel. Rather, it brings out all the shades and hues of the original portrait, restoring it to its full glory."

The most intriguing first lines from children's classic literature

Little Women
"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug. "It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.
- 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott

"Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversation?"
- 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll

The Wizard of Oz
"Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Harry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife. Their house was small, for the lumber to build it had to be carried away by wagon many miles."
- 'The Wizard of Oz' by L. Frank Baum

"The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms."
- 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame

"You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventure of Tom Sawyer, but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly."
- 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' by Mark Twain



Published 110 years ago, children's literature classic 'The Secret Garden', offered a unique twist to the traditional fairy tale paradigm; one where the heroine figured out her path on her own (instead of waiting for a heroic prince to rescue her)

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When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It was true too. She had a little thin face and a little thin body, thin light hair and a sour expression. And that's how the world met Mary Lennox, the headstrong, emotionally neglected heroine, as conceived by author Frances Hodgson Burnett, who wanted to tell the world - in 1911 - that it was possible to 'save oneself'. The journey isn't easy for the protagonist. 'The Secret Garden' began with Mary as a 10-year-old spoiled brat growing up in India, where she was waited on by an army of servants. When a sudden outbreak of cholera killed her parents and servants, she was shipped off to live with her uncle Archibald Craven at a Yorkshire mansion near a vast, lonely moor. A hypochondriac haunted by the death of his wife, Craven had no time for Mary (or his son Colin, a differently abled boy who we meet later). Frightened in this gloomy place, Mary struggled to adjust. At first, she expected Martha (an estate worker

Since its publication in 1911, Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'The Secret Garden' has been reprinted, translated into a number of different languages and adapted into movies, TV plays, animated films, and stage plays

MEMORABLE QUOTES FROM THE BOOK

"When a man looks at the stars, he grows calm and forgets small things. They answer his questions and show him that his earth is only one of the million worlds. Hold your soul still and look upward often, and you will understand their speech. Never forget the stars."
"Hang in there. It is astonishing how short a time it can take for very wonderful things to happen."
"I am sure there is Magic in everything, only we have not sense enough to get hold of it and make it do things for us."



heroic prince. She saves herself through her own trials and tribulations.

and her help), to offer 'salaams' and tie her shoes among other things. With no such thing happening, and tired of the mysterious cries echoing in the halls of the vast mansion, Lennox escapes to the grounds of the estate. Soon these explorations transforms the mousy, mean girl into a robust, playful child who found locks a door that opens to a hidden garden, one her uncle had locked when her aunt died. Mary sets about finding a way into this garden, and then becomes determined to restore it. Along the way, she befriends her sickly cousin. It's a story so full of vulnerable moments that even the most hardened cynics would shed a tear, or a heavy sigh at the very least. Let's look at few reasons why 'A Secret Garden' ended up becoming one of the most popular children's classics.

A BOLD HEROINE

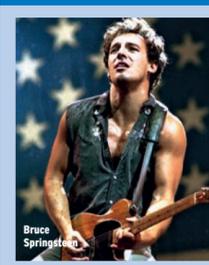
Both Mary and Colin come across as bad-tempered but as unpleasant as Mary may seem, she is also bold, determined, and adventurous. She decides to escape the mansion, finds the secret garden and works hard to restore it.

THE PLOT TWISTS

By focusing on the journey of a selfish, mean-spirited heroine towards self-knowledge, Burnett created a different heroine. In her ingenious plot, she

upturned the traditional fairy tale plot which traditionally featured a soft, kind heroine. Faced by a daunting task, this traditional heroine would persevere and wouldn't invariably be 'helped' or 'rescued' or 'saved' by a

Music trivia



Which popular musician is affectionately referred to as 'The Boss'? - Bruce Springsteen

Michael Jackson's 1982 album 'Thriller' featured a duet with which other legendary artist? - Paul McCartney in the song 'The Girl Is Mine'

Who is the most successful UK solo artist in the US? - Elton John
What was Jimi Hendrix's real name? - James Marshall Hendrix

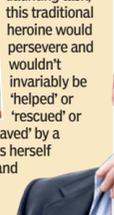
Which band saw its original members reunited for the first time in 24 years during the 2005 Live 8 concert in London? - Pink Floyd

Which prominent British singer was declared a baron of an independent state in 2012? - Ed Sheeran

Which well-known Hollywood actor claims he turned down an opportunity to be a member of the Backstreet Boys? - Ryan Gosling

"Rivers of Babylon" is a hit song sung by which outstanding musical group? - Boney M

The Band-Aid supergroup was formed in 1984 to raise money for famine relief in what troubled African nation? - Ethiopia
Ryan Gosling



ALL ABOUT IPL AUCTIONS

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) conducted the mini-player auction for the 2021 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Chennai recently. A total of 292 players, including 164 Indians, were shortlisted for the auctions, out of which 57 were picked up by the eight franchises. But how does the auction work? How much money do these players actually make? We will answer these and many other questions that you may have regarding the IPL auctions



CSK captain
MS Dhoni

WHAT IS THE BASE PRICE FOR A PLAYER AND HOW IS IT DECIDED?

Base price is the price at which the bidding starts for a particular player. It ranges from ₹ 20 lakh to ₹ 2 crore. Players can decide and increase or decrease their base price.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MINI AND A MEGA AUCTION?

The auction held on February 18 was a mini auction, in which the teams can retain any number of players from previous year's squad and can pick players to fill the gaps in their squads. However, after every three years, a club can retain only five players

by using retention and right to match (RTM). Rest of the players go for auction. As the franchises are allowed to pick up to 25 players — including eight overseas players — mega auctions result in major changes in the squads. A player can also ask to be released for the mega auction.

DO THE PLAYERS GET THE FULL AMOUNT FOR WHICH THEY ARE PICKED UP?

If a player is available for the entire season, irrespective of total number of matches he has played, he is entitled to get the full amount (after taxes). In case, a player gets injured before the start of the league, the franchise doesn't have to pay anything.

However, if the player is not available for a few matches after the league has started, he is entitled to be paid on a pro-rata basis.

DO THE PLAYERS GET THE ENTIRE MONEY IN ONE GO OR IN INSTALLMENTS?

How staggered the salary payment for players depends on how cash rich the franchise is and how the sponsorship money etc. is coming in. Some franchises pay their players the full amount together. Cash-rich franchises have been known to hand out cheques to the players at the first team camp before the start of the tournament. Some might decide to pay 50% before the tournament and 50% during the tournament. Some might follow

the 15-65-20 formula, whereby they pay players 15% of their salary a week before the tournament starts, 65% of the sum during the tournament and the remaining 20% within a stipulated time after the tournament ends. In 2008, when the IPL began, the bid amounts and salaries were in US dollars. At that time, the exchange rate was fixed at ₹ 40 per US dollar. In 2012, the system was shifted to Indian rupees (INR).

WHAT IS A PLAYER PURSE?

In order to ensure a fair auction, the BCCI sets a cap on the budget for all the teams before the auctions, which is termed as the player purse. The teams have to spend at least 75% of their player purse every season. The board

keeps revising the player purse. It was ₹ 85 crore this season.

CAN A FRANCHISE TRANSFER THE PLAYERS TO ANOTHER CLUB?

Like professional football clubs, IPL has also started allowing transfer of players during the trading window. Any franchise, which wants a particular player from another franchise, will have to send an expression of interest in that regard to the BCCI, which in turn, will forward it to the concerned franchise. If both the franchises and the player agree, a transfer is initiated. In case the player asks for a higher amount than what he was initially picked up for, the franchise may decide to pay that amount, but it will be

deducted from the franchise's player purse.

CAN A FRANCHISE CHARGE A TRANSFER FEE?

If franchise X is transferring its player to franchise Y, the BCCI rules allow franchise X to ask for a transfer fee. This amount will not be deducted from the player purse.

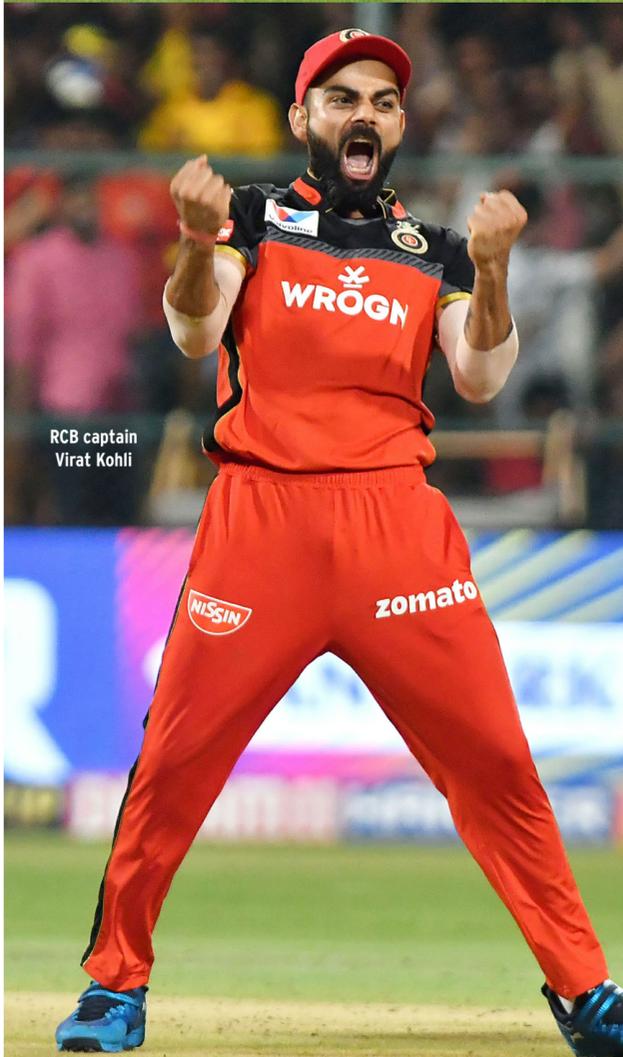
CAN FRANCHISES BUY UNSOLD PLAYERS LATER?

Only under the replacement of existing players, due to unavailability or injury, a franchise can pick players from the unsold players. However, such replace-

ments can happen only during the ongoing tournament.

WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL CRICKET BOARDS GET BY RELEASING THEIR PLAYERS FOR THE IPL?

Every franchise can have a maximum of eight international or overseas players in their squad. The franchises who bid for these players have to pay 10% of the players' fee to their respective boards, in addition to the players' cost. The payout to the boards is not counted in the player purse. For instance, Australia star bowler Jhye Richardson was bought by Punjab Kings for ₹ 14 crore. Cricket Australia will get ₹ 2.8 crore for the player from the BCCI.



RCB captain
Virat Kohli

WHO EARNED WHAT?

As per a report in Insidesport, by spending ₹ 145.30 crore in the auction for IPL 14, the franchises in the T20 league have spent a total of **₹ 6144** crore overall over 14 seasons. A look at the distribution of salary

INDIA: Indian players have earned a total of ₹ 3433 crore from IPL over 14 seasons which is 56.7 per cent of the total chunk.

AUSTRALIA: A total of 94 Australian cricketers have participated in the IPL over 14 seasons, earning ₹ 905.9.

SOUTH AFRICA: The Proteas are third on the list, with 56 players from the Rainbow Nation being a part of the IPL over the years. They have earned ₹ 539 cr cumulatively from the league.

WEST INDIES: The men from the Caribbean made the T20 format famous all across the globe. In IPL, as many as 33 Windies players have participated in total, earning ₹ 458.54 cr.

ENGLAND: Even from England, a total of 33 players have participated in the IPL, earning contracts worth ₹ 285.96 cr.

NEW ZEALAND: In total, 31 Kiwi cricketers have been a part of the Indian Premier League till now, earning ₹ 211.6 crore.

SRI LANKA: The Islanders haven't had much participation in IPL of late but have still earned ₹ 195.93 crore through 27 players.

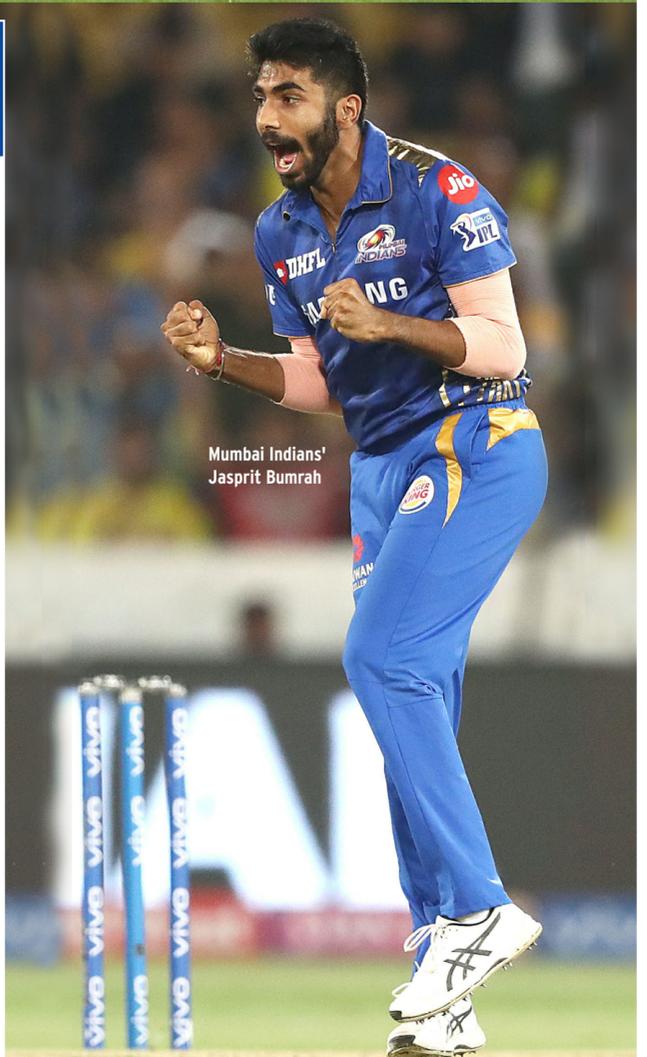
AFGHANISTAN: Only four Afghanistan players have been a part of IPL so far, with Rashid Khan being the most prominent. They have earned a total of ₹ 58.4 crore over the years.

BANGLADESH: Only six Bangladesh players have played in the IPL in 14 seasons, earning ₹ 34.78 crore.

PAKISTAN: Pakistani players were allowed in the IPL only during the initial phase. A total of 11 made the cut, earning ₹ 12.84 crore.

NETHERLANDS: Just two players were lucky to make the cut into the IPL from the Netherlands. They earned a total of ₹ 5.27 crore cumulatively.

ZIMBABWE: The men from Zimbabwe haven't had much luck in the IPL of late. Only three participated in the league, that too during the early days, earning ₹ 1 crore.



Mumbai Indians'
Jasprit Bumrah