



BEHIND THE SCENES: Maryam, fourth from left, with the film's crew



DANCE FEVER
Bhangra boy in Bahrain
SEE PAGE 2



ARTISTS' UNIVERSE
Al Bareh exhibition
SEE PAGE 3

Virtual vortex

FILM REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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BAHRAINI filmmaker and director Maryam Abdulghaffar's latest film, inspired by the hidden complexities of the digital realm, is making waves at film festivals around the world.

Noor Al Ezla (Arabic for 'the light of isolation') has also earned an honourable mention at the prestigious Egyptian Aswan International Women's Film Festival (AIWFF).

Maryam was the only Bahraini to be shortlisted by AIWFF and to receive a grant to produce her film.

The seven-minute Arabic movie, with English subtitles, revolves around Muhammad, a reclusive young man struggling to connect with people. He spends his days alone. One day, he comes across a beautiful girl named Nour on *Instagram* and they soon fall in love. However, after some time, Muhammad discovers that Nour is not a real person.

"I had a dream about artificial intelligence (AI) taking over people and controlling them, which got me thinking. I decided to build on the notion and make it a script for a film,"

Maryam told *GulfWeekly*. The AIWFF empowers aspiring filmmakers and offers financial support and resources to produce films and the 34-year-old submitted her idea.

"I didn't think anything of it but they selected my script and so I travelled to Aswan in Egypt in February and directed the film," she said. "We were provided with the crew and actors and I loved the experience," she added.

During the screening at AIWFF last month, *Noor Al Ezla* got an honourable mention from the judges because of its 'cinematic feel'.

"It was a great moment and all the hard work had paid off. I remember that there were limited resources to work with, but this was good because it challenged our creativity," Maryam said.

"We shot the film in one and a half days with a completely new cast who didn't have much experience in front of a camera. We faced some challenges training them and choosing the right location, especially since we had limited time, but thank God it all went well. I had to remove some parts of the film during editing since I felt it would work well without them," the Hamad Town resident revealed.

Maryam has been the recipient of numerous awards for her films, documentaries and photographs. She also won in the Media Industry category at the Middle East Women Leaders Award last year. In addition to exhibiting a creative streak, she harbours an entrepreneurial spirit and is the founder and chief executive of Imprint Production, which offers marketing consultancy and visual content production services.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Maryam is currently working on two new feature documentaries – her most preferred style of storytelling.

"I can't reveal what they are about at the moment, but I would like to say I will always love documentaries more than narrative films. Documentaries inspire me to tell true and untold stories. That's why I started Imprint Production. It's the first Bahraini production house that focuses only on documentaries," she added.

For details on the film's release, follow @maryam.abdulghaffar on Instagram.



ACTION: Maryam giving directions to her team



LEISURE SCENE
Dining and night life
SEE PAGES 4-5



MOVIE TIME
Spotlight on autism
SEE PAGE 5

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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PEOPLE across ages hit the dance floor at a Bhangra workshop led by international dancing sensation Hardy Singh, who visited Bahrain this month as part of his Middle East tour.

Bhangra is a high-energy Indian folk dance style native to the north Indian state of Punjab. The workshop was organised by Aura Arts Centre in Adliya, and Punjabi Virsa, a new expat community, decided to grab the opportunity and offer its members a chance to meet the artist and get to know him.

Punjabi Virsa was founded in 2023 with the idea of bringing the Punjabi community together by exploring and promoting their culture and traditions – ‘virsa’ means heritage. The platform also conducts various activities, including Punjabi language classes for children, public speaking sessions and more.

“I am thrilled to be here for the first time, but it’s definitely not going to be my last,” Hardy told *GulfWeekly*. “It’s endearing to see such a thriving Punjabi community here and also to witness the importance given to art particularly dance. The energy of the workshop is a testament to the vibe of this island,” the dancer and professional trainer for more than 15 years added.

Hardy is no stranger to the Gulf and grew up in Dubai where he currently lives with his wife Sarbjeet Kaur. While he has been dancing since the tender age of 10, he formally established Pure Bhangra, arguably the only ‘happening’ Bhangra crew in the Middle East, in November 2011. He has led dance workshops in the UAE and around the world, and also travelled to judge various competitions, including Bhangra Dance



HAPPY: And Hardy!



Scan the QR code to see Hardy in action

Bhangra beats

Off in Malaysia, Bhangra Auckland Da in New Zealand, the Youth Fest for Middlesex University in London, and many more.

“Dance and music is such an integral part of Punjabi culture. Bhangra is in my blood and so, I decided to take my love for this art form to the next level and started Pure Bhangra with just seven crew members. Today, we are more than 30 of us and together, we have hosted numerous workshops in the UAE, Muscat, and Delhi,” he said.

“Seeing the enthusiasm

in Bahrain, I would love to have similar workshops here and I live right next door (in Dubai), which makes it all the more tempting,” he added.

The social media sensation, who holds degrees in mechanical engineering, interior design, and finance and marketing, has close to 75,000 fans on *Instagram* alone where he posts videos of his workshops that he conducts with Sarbjeet, and collaborations, including with viral dance group Quick Style earlier this month.

Sarbjeet, also well-

known on the dance scene, is a Bhangra and Giddha instructor – both widely known Punjabi dance forms.

“In Punjabi culture, Bhangra is performed by men and women but Giddha is a women-only dance style,” Preeti Praveen, a founding member of Punjabi Virsa told *GulfWeekly*.

The dance workshop at Aura Arts Centre, an institution conducting stage performances and cultural events, and teaching musical instruments, singing and dancing and other art forms, saw participation from 30 people between the ages of six and 50.

For more details, follow Hardy on *@itshardysingh* and Sarbjeet on *@sara_khippal* on *Instagram*.



COMMUNITY: Hardy at the meet and greet session with members of Punjabi Virsa at Aura Arts Centre

BRAIN-BUSTERS

Quizmaster and *Radio Bahrain* host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers’ general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon’s seven brain-busters.

1. What did Apple ditch on their iPhone 7?
2. The ‘prairie wolf’ is an alternative English name for which animal?
3. What does Hakuna Matata mean?
4. Who does the King of Clubs represent in a deck of cards?
5. What are measured with the Fujita Scale?
6. The Chicago Blackhawks play which sport?
7. In which year were the hit songs *Uptown Funk*, *Bad Blood*, *Chandelier*, *Fancy*



Catch Shannon's weekly BRAIN-BUSTERS every Thursday in Gulf Weekly



and *Anaconda* released?

- ANSWERS**
1. Headphone Jack
 2. Coyote
 3. No Worries
 4. Alexander the Great
 5. Tornadoes
 6. Ice Hockey
 7. 2014



FAMILY: An expression of the labour of love

LEAVING THE LAND

BAHRAIN CINEMA CLUB – Wednesday, May 29 at 7pm, Juffair

Film: *Alcarràs*

Director: Carla Simón

Duration: Two hours

Cast: Jordi Pujol Dolcet, Anna Otin, Xènia Roset, Albert Bosch, Ainet Jounou, Josep Abad, Montse Oró, Carles Cabós, Berta Pipó

Plot: For as long as they can remember, the Solé family has spent every summer picking the peaches in their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Spain’s Catalonia region.

But this year’s crop may well be their last, as they

face eviction. The new plans for the land, which include cutting down the peach trees and installing solar panels, cause a rift in this large, tight-knit family.

For the first time, they face an uncertain future and risk losing more than their orchard. In 2022, the film won the Golden Bear Award for Best Film at Berlin International Film Festival.

The following year, it was nominated for 11 Goya Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best New Actor and Best New Actress.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.



WORRIED: Still from the movie

Nine dimensions

ART REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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A UNIQUE exhibition immersing art lovers into the creative minds of nine talented contemporary Bahraini and Arab artists is taking centre-stage on the walls of Al Bareh Art Gallery.

The *Nine by Nine* exhibition, which opened last week and runs until June 5, highlights the work of Bahraini artists Abbas Yousif, Adnan Alahmed, Ali Mubarak, Hassan Alsari, Jamal Al Yousif, Khalid Farhan and Mohammed Almahdi, alongside Emirati Najat Makki and Iraqi Salem Mathkour.

“This innovative show offers a unique experience, granting each featured artist their own dedicated wall space that transforms into a personal, self-contained gallery,” curator Hayfa Aljishi told *GulfWeekly*.

“As you wander through the exhibition halls, you’ll encounter nine distinct spaces, each one a window into an individual artist’s singular creative universe. Here, viewers can fully immerse themselves in the unique artistic vision and process of each participant. The walls contain a variety of painted murals and sculptural installations.

“Despite the diverse backgrounds, media, and aesthetic approaches of the nine artists, the dedicated wall format celebrates their individuality, allowing each creative voice to resonate independently.”

Hassan, who serves as the Bahrain Arts Society’s exhibition and activities committee head, drew his inspiration for his piece *Frida Kahlo* from the turbulent artistic and personal life of the illustrious Mexican artist.

His large-scale mixed media on canvas piece pays homage to the artist through details like pictures and canvases as well as colourful abstractions, set against a sunset yellow background.

“I have drawn from her life story since childhood, including the traffic accident that left her bedridden for long periods, and her experience living through recurring tragedies, as she painted the path of life and the features of hope and optimism in her works despite her suffering,” he added.

Meanwhile, sculptor



FRIDA KAHLO: A mixed media on canvas piece by Hassan



THE SHOCK: An acrylic on canvas piece by Mohammed



Khalid



Mohammed



Jamal



Najat

and printmaker Jamal has embodied the paradox of the intrinsic interconnectedness of human beings and

their detachment from the sufferings of others in a tactile cast glass and stainless piece called

Fragmented Humanity. Within a 1.5m diameter steel ring, three shattered yet intact glass face forms reflect



PAUSED DREAM: An acrylic on canvas piece by Salem



Abbas



Adnan



Ali



Hassan



UNTITLED: An acrylic on canvas piece by Najat

what happens when trauma shatters the self without completely disintegrating it.

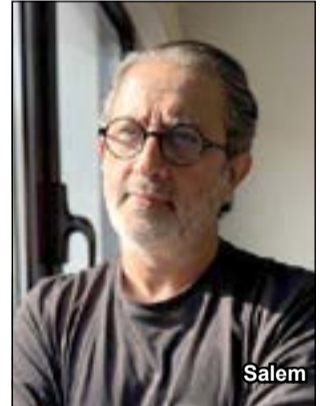
The six intact faces, facing different directions, symbolise humanity’s indifference to the tragedies of others, while the circular ring represents the perpetual state of fragmentation and reintegration that defines the evolving shifts of identities through life’s journey - from birth to death.

Acclaimed artist Mohammed Almahdi whose works have been featured at the Edge of Arabia Gallery in London, Sotheby’s, Qatar Maritime Symposium and more, took inspiration from a real-life fire in Iraq.

“A fire broke out on September 26, 2023 in a wedding hall in Al Hamdaniya district of Nineveh Governorate in Iraq, resulting in the death of around 122 people and injuring 82 others. I watched the video of this incident... Flames of fire raining down on the heads of the attendees... What caught my attention was the awareness and unawareness, the shock and astonishment and fear!” he explained.

“To commemorate this incident, I present the symbolic work, *The Shock*, that focuses on the shock amidst the joy.”

For Emirati Najat, the idea



Salem

of human dignity and honour fascinated her, and although she left hints within her *Untitled* piece, she wanted each viewer to have their own personal interpretation based on their proximity, inner feeling, and what the work evokes in them.

In *Paused Dream*, Iraqi Salem paints an image of recurring nostalgia, symbolising it through a boat ride down memory canal.

“This moment is conveyed through a contemporary cinematic montage technique... One memory is summoned that summarises different years of my life, shrinking, swelling, or perhaps fading away... Although it happened only once, it kept on repeating... It is a Sumerian dream,” he explained.

For more details, follow @albarehartgallery on Instagram.

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



EXQUISITE DINING AT FOUR SEASONS

FOR a weekend filled with fun, food and unlimited entertainment, look no further than the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Guests can book the hotel's Latin American Brunch, where dishes including succulent beef salpicon, ceviche, enchiladas, nachos, tacos and crispy churros will leave you wanting more.

While parents dig into the delicious creations, younger guests can explore the newly-decorated children's corner, which features a buffet, fun activities and a magician and balloon artist, tomorrow (Friday) from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 including soft drinks, BD48 inclusive of selected beverages, and BD65 with a premium beverage package and bubbly drinks.

Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount. Meanwhile, guests can enjoy the summer vibes at CUT by Wolfgang Puck.

Executive chef Brian Becher has specially crafted new and improved

HAPPY HOUR:
Extensive menu
for guests



dishes including buffalo mozzarella salad, spicy blue fin tuna tartar and Japanese Wagyu steak.

The lunch is offered from Monday to Saturday, from 12.30pm to 3pm, and dinner on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, from 7pm to 11pm. It's priced as a la carte.

On Fridays, the restaurant also invites guests to savour the finest selection of beverages and dishes made by Chef Brian and his team at its Bubbly Brunch, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

It costs BD70 inclusive of free flow bubbly beverages.



RELAXING: Spa treatments at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Everyday except Sundays, guests can relish a world of taste and class at CUT Bar and Lounge's happy hour, from 5pm to 7pm.

Blue Moon Lounge also offers elevated bites with special discounts during Blue Hour (5pm to 7pm) from Tuesday to Sunday.

For a one-of-a-kind relaxation experience, choose the hotel's spa, which offers guests a number of top-of-the-line face and body treatments, from 10am to 10pm. Prices range from BD70 to BD95.

For more information or reservations, contact 17115044 or 17115500.

FUN workshops covering a range of activities will take place this weekend at Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre.

Among the events organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities is a palm weaving workshop, which will highlight the history of wicker palm.

Wicker palm is widely used to make food mats, storage baskets, small plates and hand fans. This traditional craft is still practiced in villages such as Karbabad, Al Jasra and Budaiya.

The educational session will take place on Saturday (May 18), from 10am to 12.30pm in Arabic and English.

Another workshop will teach youngsters, aged seven to 12, about Arabic calligraphy, its history and the types of tools used in the process.

This will be followed by a tutorial on how letters are written.

The event takes place on Saturday from 10am to



REVIVING

noon in Arabic.

Meanwhile, a basket-making workshop will highlight the art of basket weaving. Participants will get to twist, twine and coil baskets, a profession that has been practiced in

FOR a one-of-a-kind summer experience, opt for the Royal Golf Club's Summer Camp.

Children can jump into a season of fun with the camp's sports, dance and kindergarten activities.

They will also have the opportunity to learn golf techniques from PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) professionals. Set to begin from June 30, the camp will be held on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9.30am to 1pm. It costs BD25 per day or BD60 per week.

Add-ons are also offered, including a one-hour golf season with PGA-certified coach for BD8 (one hour a week) or BD32 per month. To register, call 33001261 or 17750777.

Meanwhile, guests can

SPORT: Activities lined up at Royal Golf Club



EXCITING SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN

enjoy the club's new and improved culinary delights which will make for an experience unlike any other. Get ready for the ultimate steak experience at Links. The evening, which offers

guests a range of steaks - all cooked to perfection - will leave your tastebuds dancing with joy. The feast starts from 6pm on Wednesday, and is priced a la carte.

Don't miss out on the club's scrumptious cakes and desserts!

Combining traditional baking with modern creativity, talented chefs have whipped up mesmerising cakes, pastries and more ... making sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.

For orders, call 32184647; all orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

MESMERISING:
Cakes and pastries



MEXICAN MAGIC AT HILTON

GET ready to party at Hilton Bahrain's Cinco De Mayo Brunch this weekend.

Electrifying tunes, specially crafted authentic dishes and a fun atmosphere are sure to spice up your day and get you in the groove tomorrow (Friday), from 12.30pm to 4pm at Origin Kitchen and Culture.

The brunch costs BD28net with unlimited soft beverages and BD39net with unlimited selected beverages. Plus, all military personnel can enjoy an exclusive rate at BD25 this month.

For the ultimate seafood adventure unlike any other, opt for the Origin Kitchen and Culture's one-of-a-kind Seafood Night, where fresh catches and mouth-watering flavours will satisfy all of your cravings tonight (Thursday) from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages, and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can start their day with a scrumptious breakfast buffet at Origin Kitchen and Culture,



STUNNING:
Festive dress at Hilton Bahrain's weekly Cinco De Mayo Brunch this month

available daily from 6.30am to 10.30am. The feast featuring breakfast classics is priced at BD13net per person.

Guests can also kickstart their weekend with endless fun and tunes tonight (Thursday) at Block 44's Afro Series, from 9pm to 2am.

And from 9pm to 11pm visitors can enjoy an exclusive offer of 50 per cent off on beverages. Ladies also get two free drinks.

Tomorrow (Friday) at Block 44, ladies can hit the dance floor at the hotel's Salsa Night, and enjoy two complimentary beverages from 9pm to 2am.

On Wednesday, ladies can head down to Ladies Night at Cocoluna Lounge for three complimentary beverages, from 7pm to midnight.

For more information, call 33690081 or 33692013.

Weekly Entertainment

Culture Weekly



TRADITION: Basket weaving

ING HERITAGE

Bahraini villages across the kingdom. It will be held on Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm in both Arabic and English.

An event will also teach participants how to make pollen water in

the traditional way. The workshop entitled 'Making of Palm Water in the Traditional Way of Aljaser Factory' will be held on Monday (May 20), from 10am to noon in Arabic and English.

Kung Fu adventure for autistic children

A SPECIAL movie screening for autistic children is being organised by a behaviour and development centre this month, writes Melissa Nazareth.

The young audience will be able to enjoy *Kung Fu Panda 4* with their families in an autism-friendly environment, with adjusted lighting and sound levels.

The event will offer a comfortable and non-judgemental space for children to express themselves. It will also provide an opportunity for families to connect with each other.

The screening, organised by REACH Behavioural and Development Centre, in collaboration with Cineco, will be held on May 23, 9am, at Seef Mall in Seef District.

"We're thrilled to host our first autism-friendly cinema experience, designed specifically for families and children with autism," the centre's founder and chief executive Mona Tadayyon, who is the mind behind the initiative, told *GulfWeekly*.

"The idea for this event stemmed from a deep commitment to inclusivity and a recognition of the unique challenges faced by individuals with sensory sensitivities.

"We wanted to create a welcoming environment where everyone could enjoy the magic of cinema without the usual stressors.

"Our expectation is to provide a space where children with autism and their families can relax and have fun together, knowing that their needs are understood and accommodated. This means adjusting lighting, lowering sound levels, and allowing for movement and expression without judgment."

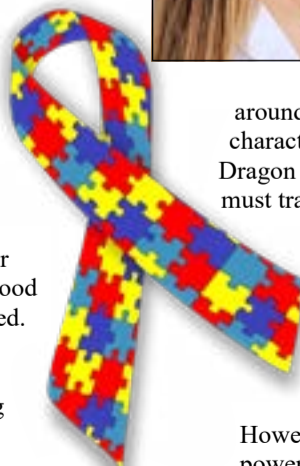
Kung Fu Panda 4 revolves



Mona

around the beloved character Po, the Dragon Warrior, who must train a new warrior when he's chosen to become the spiritual leader of the Valley of Peace.

However, when a powerful shape-shifting sorceress sets her eyes on his Staff of Wisdom, he suddenly realises he's going to need



some help. Teaming up with a quick-witted corsac fox, Po soon discovers that heroes can be found in the most unexpected places. The free-for-all event is exclusive for families with

children who have autism. Those interested must book their spots in advance. Seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis. For more details or to book, call 39006065.



ACTION: A scene from one of the plays

THEATRICAL DELIGHT

GET ready for an evening of fun and theatrical delight this weekend as a renowned theatre group in the kingdom gears up for its show.

The Manama Theatre Club will bring comedy and other themes to life with a series of

10 short plays at the Dilmun Club tomorrow (May 17) at 7.45pm.

Café-style seating and food service will be offered from 6.15pm. Tickets cost BD8 and can be purchased on manama.platinumlist.net.

For more details, follow @mtcbahrain on Instagram.

EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

A MAY Ball will be held at the Olive Hotel, Juffair, this month.

The event is being organised by the Young Goans Club (YGC) on May 30 at 8pm.

An evening of entertainment has been lined up and attendees can anticipate the crowning of a king and queen. The master of ceremonies will ask a series of questions throughout the evening to

volunteers who wish to be in the running and then the audience members will determine who will wear the crowns.

Live performances by The *NightShades*, with DJs SNS and Mac providing music until the early hours of the morning and a buffet dinner are also included.

For more information, contact 39763576, 33310712, 39876070, or 39881984.

Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY NAMAN ARORA

INDIAN cinema legend Tabu has taken the science fiction world by storm with her casting in the highly anticipated HBO Max series *Dune: Prophecy*.

This prequel to Denis Villeneuve's blockbuster film franchise *Dune* promises to delve into the origins of the complex universe Frank Herbert crafted.

Tabu's role as Sister Francesca marks a significant moment for Indian representation in Hollywood and adds another layer of intrigue to the upcoming series.

News of Tabu's involvement broke this week, sending ripples of excitement through fans worldwide. The character of Sister Francesca is described as 'strong, intelligent, and alluring,' hinting at a multifaceted personality that Tabu is known for portraying with brilliance.

While details surrounding her specific arc remain under wraps, Sister Francesca's return to the Padishah Emperor's palace is said to 'strain the balance of power in the capital,' suggesting a character poised to stir the pot within the political landscape of the Imperium.

This is not Tabu's first foray into challenging roles. Throughout her illustrious career spanning more than three decades, she has captivated audiences with her versatility and the nuance she brings to every character. From portraying the enigmatic Namrata in *Life of Pi* to the fierce Ghazala in *Haider*, Tabu has seamlessly transitioned between genres, captivating critics and fans alike.

Her nuanced performances and captivating screen presence have garnered her numerous accolades, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Actress four times.

Tabu's casting in *Dune: Prophecy* is a testament to her global appeal and a sign of Hollywood's increasing focus on international talent.

Her presence alongside the already star-studded cast, which includes Emily Watson and Sylvia Hoeks, promises a captivating exploration of the Bene Gesserit, the powerful order that plays a pivotal role in the *Dune* universe.

The series, based on the novel *Sisterhood of Dune* by Brian Herbert and Kevin J Anderson, takes viewers millennia before the events of Paul Atreides' rise to power

GLOBAL APPEAL

DUNE: A scene between Paul Atreides and the Bene Gesserit Reverend Mother from the first film



depicted in the films.

This prequel format allows for a deeper dive into the Bene Gesserit's history and their intricate machinations that shape the political landscape of the Padishah Empire.

Dune: Prophecy follows

two Harkonnen sisters as they take on forces threatening humankind and its future, and establish the fabled sect that will become known as the Bene Gesserit.

With filming underway, *Dune: Prophecy* is poised to be a landmark television

event. Alison Schapker serves as showrunner and executive producer. Diane Ademu-John co-developed the series and serves as executive producer.

In the new *Dune* universe, two films have been released to date, with *Dune: Part Two* debuting in theatres in March. Collectively, the two films have grossed more than \$1.1 billion to date and a third film is in the works.

As the sands of Arrakis shift, one thing is certain: Tabu's arrival in the *Dune* universe is sure to leave a lasting impression.

ICON:
Tabu

SEASON OF HEARTBREAK

THE wait is finally over for fans of lavish regency romance as the first part of *Bridgerton's* third season arrives on Netflix today, May 16.

The highly anticipated season marks a departure from the previous format, with the eight episodes split into two releases. The second volume of episodes will drop on June 13.

This season shifts the spotlight to Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan) and Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton), a fan-favourite pairing affectionately known as 'Polin.'

Viewers have long adored the witty banter and undeniable chemistry between the two characters.

Season 3 promises to explore their blossoming romance, a departure from the previous seasons' focus on Daphne and Anthony Bridgerton.

The synopsis hints at a season filled with emotional complexities. Penelope, still reeling from Colin's careless words about her, vows to find a husband who values her.

Meanwhile, Colin,



having returned from his travels with a newfound confidence, sets his sights on courting Penelope – unaware of her secret identity as the infamous gossip columnist, Lady Whistledown.

Adding to the intrigue is the fallout between Penelope and her best friend, Eloise (Claudia Jessie).

The revelation of Penelope's double life strains their bond, leaving viewers eager to see if their friendship can be repaired. Showrunner Jess Brownell has promised a season full of 'heartbreak, humour, and scandal' – the elements that have made *Bridgerton* a global phenomenon.

TALE OF COURAGE

A NEW book by bestselling author June Hur tells the story of a young woman who dares to defy a cruel and tyrannical king to save her sister.

A Crane Among Wolves, released on Tuesday, May 14, tells a devastating and pulse-pounding tale that feels all-too-relevant in today's world, based on a true story from Korean history.

The story unfolds in a time when King Yeonsan rules with an iron fist, his reign characterised by violence and fear. Iseul's sister finds herself at the mercy of this ruthless king, and Iseul, driven by unwavering love and a fierce determination to protect her family, decides to take matters into her own hands.

In a desperate bid to save her sister, Iseul joins forces with Prince Daehyun, a man who also burns with a



desire for revenge against the king. Daehyun has suffered his own losses at the hands of Yeonsan, and together, they embark on a perilous mission that could alter the course of their kingdom.

A Crane Among Wolves is a captivating tale of courage, sacrifice, and the unbreakable bonds of family that will transport readers to a world of danger and intrigue, where one woman's bravery could spark a revolution.

HIP HOP fans were in for a surprise this week, with the release of a new album by US musician Donald Glover, under his musical alias Childish Gambino.

The American rapper dropped *Atavista*, featuring verses from Ariana Grande, 21 Savage, Summer Walker, and more, sprinkled across 11 tracks.

"This album is the finished version of 3.15.20, the album I put out four years ago," the artist explained, in a statement posted on his social media accounts.

Atavista features polished versions of existing tracks alongside the new song, *Little Foot Big Foot*, featuring rapper Young Nudy. The song boasts a spacey, funk-infused sound reminiscent of Prince, a clear influence on Childish Gambino's musical style. This influence is further explored throughout the album, with



ATAVISTA:
Childish Gambino
in one of the
music videos
for the renewed
album

GROWING UP?

some critics finding it derivative. However, others see it as a 'palette cleanser' in the crowded rap scene.

The album has sparked discussions, with some praising the refined sound and others questioning the need for a near-remake.

Atavista arrives alongside the announcement of Danny's impending retirement of the Childish Gambino moniker, under which he plans to release one more album *Bando Stone & The New World* this summer, as the soundtrack for his upcoming film of the same name.

This two-album send-off adds context to *Atavista* potentially framing it as a final revisiting of an earlier artistic chapter.

Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

FRESH off the electric Miami Grand Prix, Formula 1 is headed this weekend to a legendary venue – Imola, Italy.

This historic track boasts a rich past, having debuted on the calendar in 1980 as the San Marino Grand Prix, holding a permanent spot until 2006, witnessing legendary battles and unforgettable moments.

After a hiatus exploring new territories, Imola made a triumphant return in 2020, initially as a substitute during the Covid-19 pandemic. Its popularity cemented its long-term future under the banner of the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix. This name reflects the region's vibrant history, mouthwatering cuisine, and deep connection to motorsport, being home to giants like Ferrari, Haas F1 team partners Dallara and Scuderia Ferrari itself – all nestled within the famed 'Motor Valley.'

Unfortunately, last year's race was cancelled due to devastating floods that ravaged Imola and its surroundings. The focus shifted to disaster relief, with F1 and its partners joining the effort to support the affected communities. Now, after a one-year absence, the paddock is eager to reacquire itself with the demanding 4.9km track.

This race weekend signifies a return to tradition after consecutive F1 Sprint events in Shanghai and Miami.

This European season opener is packed with storylines, from a resurgent McLaren to a poignant return to a hallowed ground.

MCLAREN'S MOMENTUM

McLaren's Miami performance was a revelation. Downplaying their pre-race upgrades, they silenced doubters as Lando Norris secured a stunning victory. Norris, on older tyres, chased down the front runners, showcasing the car's true potential. Oscar Piastri, sporting a partial upgrade, held his own against Max Verstappen until race incidents intervened. With the full upgrade arriving in Imola, the question remains: Can McLaren consistently challenge Red Bull? Miami offered a glimpse, but Imola will be the true test.

THE FAST AND THE FERRARI

McLaren's win wasn't the only eye-catching performance. Ferrari, too, are hungry for victory at their home race. While

MEMORIES: Red Bull's Max Verstappen in action during the Imola Grand Prix in 2022



A poignant return to Imola

Charles Leclerc secured a podium finish in Miami, the performance gap with Red Bull remains narrow. Notably, Ferrari dominated in Australia, demonstrating their potential. Red Bull's vulnerability this season, with more early-season losses than all of last year, adds fuel to the fire. With a significant upgrade rumoured for Imola, the stage is set for a potential Ferrari fightback, especially considering the upcoming Monaco race.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

This year's Imola Grand Prix carries a special weight. Devastating floods last year forced the race's cancellation. The sport's €1 million donation to the relief fund showcases a commitment to the region's recovery. However, the return also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the tragic deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger. A special event on May 1 saw thousands of fans commemorate the legendary drivers. Tributes are

expected throughout the race weekend, with four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel set to take the wheel of Senna's 1993 McLaren MP4/8 for a display.

PRODIGY RISING

Beyond the main event, Formula 2's return to Imola brings its own spotlight.

Mercedes youngster Andrea Kimi Antonelli is turning heads. Despite being underage for F1, Williams

has requested a special Super Licence dispensation to allow him to race this year. Antonelli's recent testing with Mercedes F1 machinery and his solid performance in Formula 2 fuel the excitement.

This rookie, looking for his first podium, will be under close scrutiny at Imola. His teammate, Oliver Bearman, a Ferrari reserve driver, seeks a strong result after a challenging start to his season.

MAGNUSSEN ON EDGE

The spotlight isn't solely on championship contenders. Kevin Magnussen finds himself under scrutiny after a Miami weekend filled with penalty points. While battling Lewis Hamilton for a vital point in the sprint, Magnussen received a penalty for exceeding track limits. His subsequent aggressive tactics defending his team position against Hamilton resulted in further penalties.

McLaren principal Andrea Stella's comments about potential race suspensions for deliberate, damaging manoeuvres add a layer of pressure. With 10 penalty points already acquired, just two more before March 2025 would trigger an automatic one-race ban. Magnussen will need to tread carefully in Imola.

The weekend promises to be brimming with excitement – on and off the track. From championship battles to poignant remembrances, the tifosi roar will welcome F1 back to this historic venue, ready for drama, speed, and emotion.



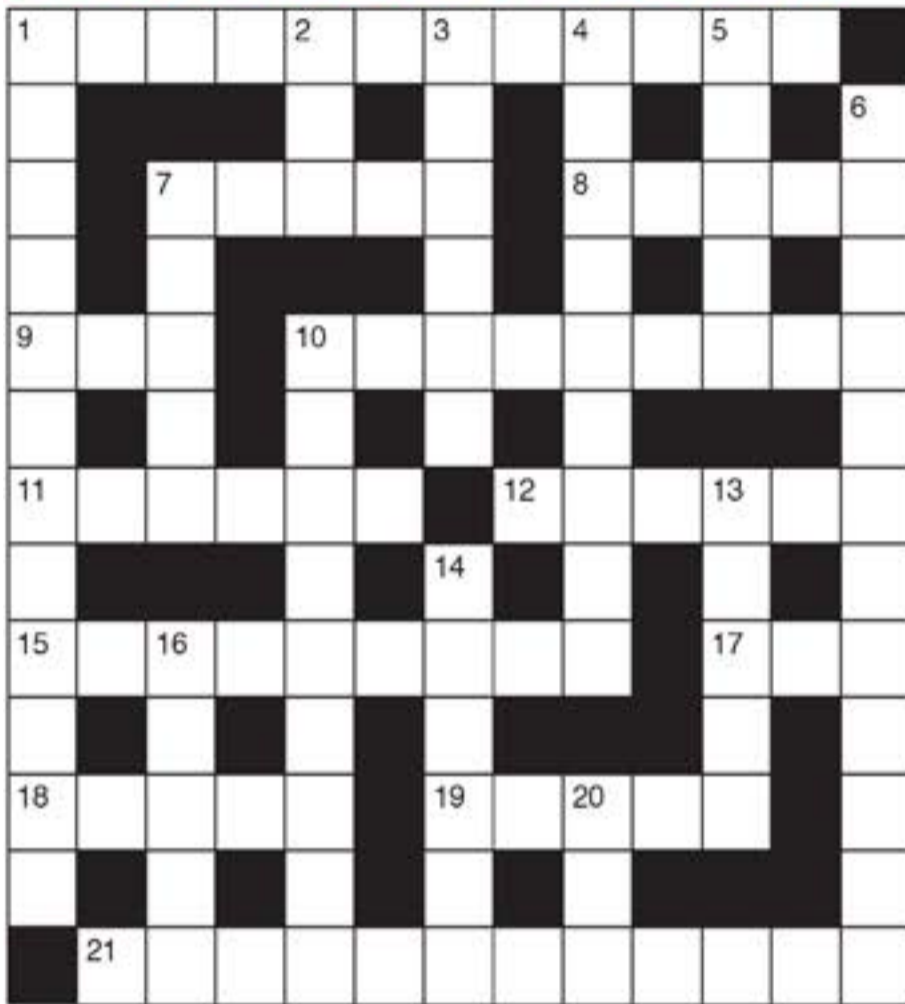
RELIEF: Rescuers take people to safety after floods hit the northern Emilia-Romagna region in May last year

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 1. More lengthily (12)
- 7. Lock (5)
- 8. Unadorned (5)
- 9. Pastry dish (3)
- 10. Articulate (9)
- 11. Character (6)
- 12. Vex (6)
- 15. Ill luck (9)
- 17. Tavern (3)
- 18. Out (3,2)
- 19. Exceeding (5)
- 21. Unique (12)

DOWN

- 1. Putting off (12)
- 2. Regret (3)
- 3. Convention (6)
- 4. Spying (9)
- 5. Hear of (5)
- 6. Irrational (12)
- 7. Handle (5)
- 10. Maybe (9)
- 13. Result (5)
- 14. Of sound mind (6)
- 16. Attack (3,2)
- 20. Choose (3)

who, what, where, when

WHO... did Alfred Burke play in the UK television series *Public Eye*?
WHAT... was the subtitle of the first film to star Mike Myers as *Austin Powers*?
WHERE... in Europe are the cities of Kosice and Presov?
WHEN... did the rock group Slade receive an Honorary Fellowship from the University of Wolverhampton?
WHO... played John Lennon in the 1985 US TV film *John & Yoko: A Love Story*?
WHAT... 1956 film features the character Anna Leonowens?
WHERE... was variously described by the US press as Johnson's Polar Bear Garden, Walrussia and Russian Fairy Land?
WHEN... was the Prime Minister of Iran, Dr. Muhammad Mossadeq, deposed?

just so

nx grind grind

DETTED

HOPE

HOUSE

darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

5	4	8	1	9	2	6	3	7
9	3	2	5	7	6	4	1	8
1	6	7	8	4	3	2	5	9
8	1	9	7	2	5	3	4	6
3	2	4	6	1	9	7	8	5
6	7	5	4	3	8	1	9	2
2	5	1	9	6	4	8	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	9	6	4
4	9	6	3	8	7	5	2	1

1	2	3	8	7	4	9	5	6
6	9	5	2	3	1	4	7	8
7	8	4	9	6	5	3	2	1
4	3	7	6	2	9	1	8	5
5	6	9	1	4	8	7	3	2
8	1	2	3	5	7	6	9	4
9	5	8	7	1	6	2	4	3
3	4	6	5	9	2	8	1	7
2	7	1	4	8	3	5	6	9

darn tough sudoku

6	8	1	7	4	9	5	3	2
4	5	9	3	1	2	8	6	7
7	2	3	5	8	6	4	9	1
2	6	7	8	5	3	1	4	9
9	1	4	2	6	7	3	8	5
8	3	5	4	9	1	7	2	6
5	7	8	9	2	4	6	1	3
1	4	2	6	3	5	9	7	8
3	9	6	1	7	8	2	5	4

Sudoku

		7	5	1				3
	2				4	8	9	
3		4				5		
		3		9	8		4	5
9			7			1		6
5	1		3		6			
		6			3	7		9
	5	1	2				8	
4				7	1	6		

Sudoku

								7
7	8	2	3	9			6	
		4		5	7			
2			4					
3	1	6				8	4	9
		5		1				6
			9	8		7		
		7		6	3	9	5	8
	2							3

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 4 Abridge; 8 Crafty; 9 Allowed; 10 Unseen; 11 Enigma; 12 Brickbat; 18 Handicap; 20 Fiasco; 21 Remote; 22 Confide; 23 Clears; 24 Inking.

Down: 1 Scrubby; 2 Caustic; 3 Streak; 5 Bulletin; 6 Ironic; 7 Gleams; 13 Beholden; 14 Acrobat; 15 Appease; 16 Disown; 17 Useful; 19 Deeply.

JUST SO: Heart of darkness, Around the world in 80 days, Nineteen to the dozen, Women and children first.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Nick Nolte; Wyoming; New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada; 1992; Patrick Marber; Billings; Madagascar; 1997.

Darn Tough Sudoku

1	7				2			
			8		4		6	
		8						2
	2				7	3		1
	8						9	
5		4	9				7	
4						5		
	1		7		5			
			2				8	9