

Lights, camera, fashion!



SHOWSTOPPER: A scene from the video

MUSIC REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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A MUSIC video created by Bahraini and international talents has received an overwhelming response from fans, having recorded more than 1.4 million views since its release this month.

Ahla, which means 'prettier' in Arabic, by popular Bahraini artist Hala Al Turk weaves the story of a young, up-and-coming fashion designer.

Hala plays the protagonist who is trying to enter the world of fashion with her unique brand and line. It goes on to narrate how she overcomes rejection and realises her dream.

Shot across three days at various locations in the kingdom, *Ahla* incorporates the artist's name 'Hala' when written in Arabic, a creative twist to the project, and has been produced by Platinum Records, *MBC Arabic TV* channel's music arm. It's available for listening on their official website and *YouTube* channel.

The video has been directed by noted Bahraini talent Ali Esbai, winner of this year's Made with Passion short film festival and Isa Culture Centre grant.

"It's my first time working with Hala as a director," Ali told *GulfWeekly*.

"I had worked with her on another project a few years ago where I was an assistant director but I didn't really get to interact with her much," Ali added.



TEAM: The creative crew



STYLISH: Hala

"This time, the highlight, for me, was getting to know her. She is a lovely human being and thorough professional. She's also very articulate and we worked very well together."

Ali's original concept for

the song perfectly matched the emotional tone of the lyrics, but the producers felt the story board needn't necessarily be a visual representation of what the song was about. They wanted to experiment – a challenge

Ali happily accepted.

Even though the words have undertones of love, during his research, he discovered that Hala is currently pursuing a degree in fashion and decided to blend the artist's music with her flair for fashion.

"I thought let's do something that she'll have fun with. I felt it's a good chance to combine both of her arts – music and fashion," he added.

But Ali had no background in fashion, which is why he brought art director Rouya Mohammed on board who designed the sets and decided the colour palettes, making sure it's all authentic to fashion.

Ali gives full credit for the success of his video to the dynamic crew and believes that "if you trust your people, they will carry you".

Mayur Patankar, who is based in Los Angeles and studied with Ali at New York Film Academy, was flown in

as cinematographer.

"We brought in these cool camera filters. If you watch the video, whenever Hala is in the studio just alone in front of a white background, there's an effect riding in – that's an in-camera effect, not editing. It's a piece of glass that we put in front of the lens," Mayur, who has previously collaborated with Ali on four projects, explained.

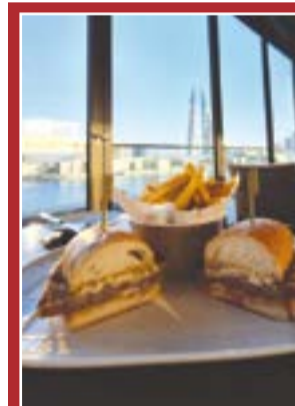
Ahla has received millions of views and more than 10,000 likes on producer Platinum Records' *YouTube* channel alone.

Furthermore, it has been featured on *Bill Boards Arabia*, and gotten fans talking, some comments highlighting that 'it feels like a Turkish drama or Bollywood film'.

"Viewers even asked if there will be a follow up film or TV series based on the character that Hala has played in the video," Ali added.



INTROSPECTIVE ART
Self portrait exhibition
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RAISING THE STEAKS
Four Seasons feast
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LEISURE SCENE
Dining and night life
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WIN TICKETS!
Manama Singers show
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Feminine figures



ART REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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RUSSIAN creative Anastasia Sfeir is showcasing a collection of 19 vibrant artworks that pay tribute to women and portray their emotional depth and shared experiences.

The exhibition, entitled *Self Portrait*, takes viewers on an introspective journey and features evocative paintings that the artist has been working on since 2019.

"This journey began when I felt the need to express my inner feelings through my art," the 43-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"The process of creating these self-portraits and figures that represent my emotions took time to develop, ultimately forming this collection recently as I discovered a common thread in my work.

"Each piece, in a way, captures the complexity of human emotions, serving as an homage to womanhood. While not all are literal portraits, they act as mirrors of our inner feelings. Women can see themselves in these artworks, symbolising



SAVOUR: **Sunshine in the Cup**

happiness, loneliness, and beauty. This collection celebrates the strength and beauty of women," she revealed.

Anastasia took a spontaneous approach throughout the creation of this series. While she used reference images, the

painting process itself was 'messy and experimental'. She believes it's this 'unpredictability' that made the journey exciting.

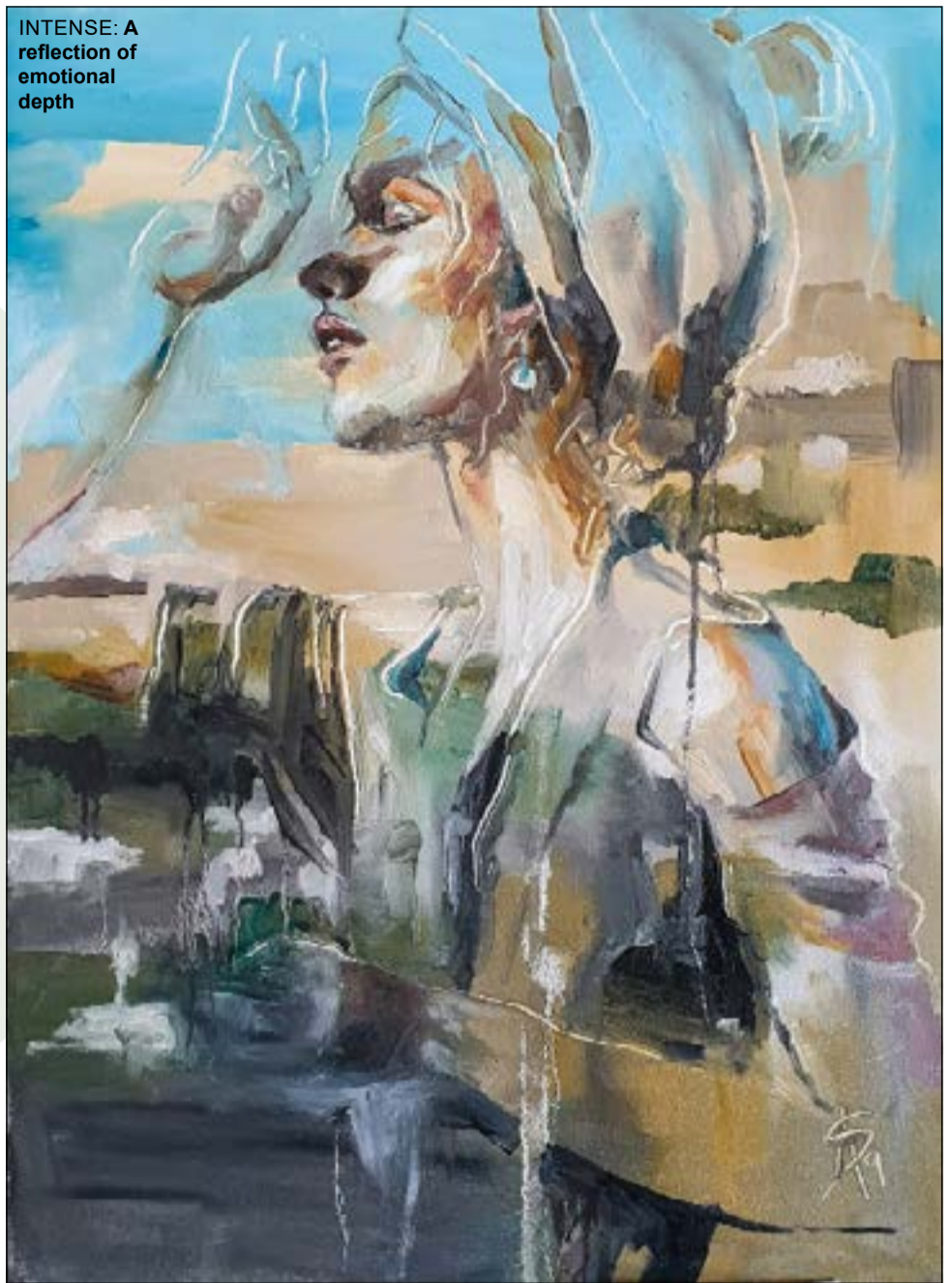
"I allowed the painting to organically evolve without knowing the final outcome or emphasised aspects. Each piece took on a life of its own and led me to unexpected places, adding authenticity to the collection," she explained.

Anastasia has used oil paints and oil pastels, which adds an interesting texture and depth, to bring the showcase alive. Some creations feature scarves, which are symbols of 'protection and concealment, thus revealing the desire to shelve oneself from the world's gaze'. Others have floral influences in 'radiant and joyful' hues, symbolising 'happiness and the light that shines from within'.

Sunshine in the Cup, which shows a pair of hands holding a cup of tea, stands out to Anastasia.

"It serves as a visual conclusion to my journey, representing the idea of slowing down and truly savouring the moment. It captures the essence of finding joy in simplicity, which I believe is something we all need," the Segaya resident added.

Anastasia has been



INTENSE: A reflection of emotional depth



ARTIST: **Anastasia**

painting since childhood and her love for art further intensified when she won an international art contest at the age of 13.

"My mother encouraged me and I went on to obtain a degree in fine arts from Vitebsk State Technological University in Belarus. I also recently completed a masters in art history from Smolensk State Institute of Arts," noted the owner and founder of Workart Studio in Bahrain.

Anastasia has been living in the kingdom for the last 22 years. Five years ago, she started conducting art workshops at her studio, where she teaches adults how to paint. Before that, she taught art at a private school for more than a decade.

Anastasia has already started work on her next collection and will unveil it when she feels it's the right time.

"I aspire to complete my new series of paintings, featuring Bahrain's landmarks," she added. *Self Portrait* is open

for public viewing at the Downtown Rotana hotel's main lobby until June 14.

For more details, follow @ana_sfeir on Instagram.

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. Which bird is unable to move their eyes?
2. Which city in Scotland shares its name with an Australian city?
3. A synonym for a reckless person, what two-word term was inspired by unsecured artillery on the deck of a ship?
4. In Judo what colour belt follows yellow?
5. When one lifts 75kg upwards one metre in one second, it is equivalent of one what?
6. Which method of radio broadcasting uses frequencies between 87.5 and 108 MHz?
7. What is commonly known as Bahrain's oldest restaurant?

GulfWeekly

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



- ANSWERS**
1. Owls
 2. Perth
 3. Loose Cannon
 4. Orange
 5. One Horsepower
 6. FM
 7. Hajj's Cafe



LIGHTHEARTED: Moments and shared experiences on display



Scan the QR code to learn more about the chefs!



PERFECT MEAL: Chef Marshall's variant of the cheesesteak sandwich with fries



FRIENDSHIP: Chef Brian and Chef Marshall



SUMPTUOUS: The roasted eggplant with tahini, Japanese bacon, mint yoghurt and arugula

GOURMET REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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THE Philly Cheesesteak - a nearly century-old American culinary creation - got a makeover last weekend, with two of the top American chefs in the GCC coming together to share a sumptuous story of friendship and of course, fried goodness.

At the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay's CUT by Wolfgang Puck restaurant, executive chef Brian Becher invited his friend and head chef of Four Seasons Abu Dhabi's Butcher & Still steakhouse Marshall Allen Röth last weekend.

The goal Chef Brian set was simple - reinterpret the Philly Cheesesteak however he'd like, as part of a series in which the Philadelphia-born kitchen master is inviting chefs from Bahrain and the GCC to bring their own spin to the all-time favourite.

The original cheesesteak has been credited to Pat and Harry Olivieri, two brothers who sold hot dogs near South Philadelphia's Italian Market.

Legend has it that in the 1930s, the brothers added a new sandwich to their menu - grilled beef and onions in a toasted roll. After it gained popularity, another Philadelphia restaurant added provolone in the 1940s. Thus, the cheesesteak was born, and the rest is history.

For his creation, Chef Marshall decided to double-batter the steak and fry it, simultaneously adding a wonderful crunch to the hoagie sandwich, while also politely putting on hold any healthy diet that dares rear its head in his kitchen.

Served with fries, I found this to be the perfect

Every bite a delight!



SURF'S UP: The line-caught black bass

weekend lunch meal, to be enjoyed in the shade at the five-star property's Bahrain Bay-facing restaurant.

But of course, Chef Marshall's delicious dietary debauchery did not stop there.

During his trip, he also served up the Fat Kid - a

large peanut butter cookie, with peanuts, topped with vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce.

The warm goodness of the cookie 'baked medium-rare' - Chef Marshall's words - infused with the quickly melting ice cream, make for a decadent and heavenly treat.



SUBLIME: The Blue Fin tuna tartar appetiser

American food may be considered too ubiquitous by some, since it's found in almost every corner of the world, but the flip side is that it's very easy to differentiate between the best and the rest.

And Chef Marshall's 20-year history of culinary proficiency definitely sparkled here, as the kitchen master dazzled, not just with his food, but the moments he created with his infectious smile and friendly personality.

Though we were satisfied with our late afternoon treat, Four Seasons Bahrain's marketing and communications director Tugce Goksel invited us to enjoy dinner at the

restaurant, and, really, how could we say no?

For the appetiser, we were recommended the butter lettuce served with avocado, Roquefort blue cheese, cherry tomatoes and an herb vinaigrette.

We also relished the

roasted eggplant with tahini, Japanese bacon, mint yoghurt and arugula, with a side of fresh pita bread, as well as the spicy Blue Fin tuna tartar, infused with mango, cucumber, passion fruit and sesame crisp.

For our main dishes, I enjoyed the line-caught black bass, served with taro, radish, edamame, zucchini and coriander, while my dining companions went for the grilled whole sea bream and the USDA Prime 28-day aged filet mignon with bearnaise sauce.

During dessert, joining the Fat Kid (and the rest of us equally opulent adults) at the table were three kinds of sorbet, a pear crumble and decadent dark chocolate ice cream.

I must confess, however, that although dinner was delicious as always,

watching the chefs in the kitchen perform the performance art they call cooking really stole the show.

And it left me excited to see what other twists on the American classic are yet to come!

For more details, follow @fsbahrain, @chefbrianbecher and @the_savage_chef on Instagram.



TREAT: The Fat Kid peanut butter cookie, topped with vanilla icecream and caramel sauce

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



RICH ARABIAN FLAVOURS AT RITZ

H EAD to the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain for a range of exquisite dining experiences.

Opt for La Med's Amber Night, which features delicious dishes inspired by the rich flavours of the Arabian Peninsula tonight, from 7pm to 10.30pm. It costs BD29 inclusive of tea and Arabic coffee, BD35 inclusive of soft beverages, BD45 with selected beverages, and BD55 for a private legendary experience.

Blending elegance and comfort, the hotel's new Café Gourmandise offers guests a one-of-a-kind breakfast experience. Whether you're in for a quick bite or a leisurely morning meal, the cafe's specially crafted menu caters to all tastes. Open everyday, from 8am to 11pm, it's priced a la carte.

LUXURY:
Thai Lounge



Meanwhile, guests can indulge in Thai Lounge's Peking Duck Pancake offer. The special evening features succulent duck paired perfectly with crisp cucumber, marinated ginger and leek, all

drizzled with hoisin sauce. It's available until June 18, from 1pm to 11pm.

For more information or bookings, call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



A N array of one-of-a-kind dining experiences awaits families and friends at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay this week.

Join the hotel for its special Latin American Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen.

The brunch, from 1pm to 4pm, offers guests Latin American-themed dishes that will transport you to a world of vibrant flavours and pulsating rhythms.

It is available tomorrow and costs BD35 including soft beverages, BD48 including a selected beverage package and BD65 inclusive of a premium beverage package.

Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount.

Start your weekend off right with Bahrain's best Lebanese cuisine at Byblos. An irresistible six-course menu, which features lobster, prawns, seabass and more will make for an unforgettable dining experience.

Available from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight, it costs BD45 for two persons.

Meanwhile, guests can treat themselves to the hotel's daily Around the World Afternoon Tea.

Executive pastry chef Imad Boukli and his talented team have whipped up delicious sandwiches and mini tacos, alongside sweet picks at Bay View



MARINE: Byblos Seafood set menu

LATIN AMERICAN DELICACIES AT FOUR SEASONS

Lounge, from 11am to 11pm. It costs BD18 per person inclusive with a Brazilian coffee or Asian tea, or BD22 inclusive of sparkling jasmine tea.

Elevate your week with re/Asian Cuisine's one-of-a-kind Japanese dining concept. It showcases the true art of Japanese dining while overlooking the dazzling night views of the Manama skyline.

The feast costs BD69 per person for a 10-course set menu and BD60 per person for beverage pairing, from 7pm onwards, Wednesday to

Sunday.

Join the hotel on Global Wellness Day for a time of self-care and relaxation. Different classes will be offered from sunrise kayaking to chat and yoga sessions and healthy muffin making on Saturday, June 8.

Avail the lessons from 6.30am to 9.30am or 3pm to 5.30pm. Attendance to the programme is complimentary and advance booking is required due to limited capacity. Contact the spa's reception at 17115045.

For more information, call 17115500 or 171145044.

A SEAFOOD PLATTER UNLIKE ANY OTHER!

F OR a weekend filled with laughter, fun and exciting entertainment, look no further than Hilton Bahrain.

Guests can book Origin Kitchen and Culture's Cinco de Mayo Brunch, which features mouth-watering dishes, unlimited beverages and live entertainment. It costs BD28 with unlimited soft beverages and BD39net with unlimited beverages, tomorrow, from 12.30pm to 4pm.

Guests can also embark on Seafood Night tonight from 7pm to 10pm where a delicious selection of fresh catches will make your night one to remember.

It is available at Origin Kitchen and Culture. It costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

Guests can also head down to Origin Kitchen and Culture's daily breakfast buffet, from 6.30am to 10.30am. It's priced at BD13net per person.

Meanwhile, ladies can enjoy three complimentary beverages at Cocoluna Lounge's Ladies' Night from 7pm to midnight on Wednesday. The hotel's Old Skool Party is also available on Wednesday, from 10pm to 2am at Block 44.

Elevate your weekend at Block 44's Afro Series,



where ladies can avail two complimentary beverages from 9pm to 2am tonight.

Guests can also enjoy a 50 per cent discount on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm tonight and tomorrow at Block 44. Ladies also get two



STUNNING: Cakes at the Royal Golf Club

Weekly Entertainment

Culture Weekly



OPULENT: Outdoor area at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

ICONIC THAI STREET MARKET BECKONS

THE iconic Thai Street Market (Sawasdee Bahrain) is back, offering citizens and residents an opportunity to explore the cuisine and culture that the popular Asian country has to offer.

Around 20 vendors are participating in the three-day event, which starts today under this year's theme, Thailand's Iconic Floating Market, to celebrate the country's festivals, films, martial arts (Muay Thai), food and fashion.

Some of the products that will be sold at the market include, traditional Thai food and tea (Pad Thai and coconut ice-cream), Thai Oud, cosmetics and more.

All three days will also be packed with traditional performances and activities and the last day of the festival (Saturday) will



TRADITIONAL: A performance at a previous Thai Street Market

feature the screening of a renowned Thai film, *Ong Bak* at Cineco Juffair, at 3pm.

Guests can also enjoy arts and crafts workshops and a fruit carving workshop.

Timings for each day:

- May 30 (Thursday) – 4pm to 11pm, with an opening ceremony at 5pm.
 - May 31 (Friday) – 10am to 11pm
 - June 1 (Saturday) – 10am to 10pm
- The event runs until June 1.



ENTERTAINMENT: Glimpses from the previous market



HAPPY: Celebrating Mexico

complimentary beverages. End the weekend at Hilton Bahrain's Society Club Lounge from Monday to Saturday, 8pm to 2am. For more information or bookings, contact 33690081 or 33692013.



NIGHTINGALES: Manama Singers serenades the audience at the Choir Fest hosted earlier this year.



Scan the QR code to enter the contest for tickets

A musical treat

MANAMA Singers, one of the oldest multicultural community choirs in the kingdom, is set to stage a night of fun and entertainment – A Musical Extravaganza – on June 4.

Whether you're into Broadway shows or a fan of the London Theatre, this spectacular event features a diverse lineup that has something for everyone. Get ready to immerse yourself in all-time favourites through the ages, from the 60s until today; the 70's hit *Mamma Mia* by ABBA, the 90's anthem *The Circle of Life* from *The Lion King*, and much more. The show will offer a rich blend of genres and feature soulful solo acts and enchanting chorale ensembles.

"Manama Singers is an amazing musical family, and I have had the pleasure of intermittently being part of this choir soon after I arrived in Bahrain in 1991," chairperson Susan Scott told *GulfWeekly*. "After a long break, I am delighted to be part of the group again. Singing is food for your heart and soul."

A talented lot of around 40 singers across a wide range of nationalities, including English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, French, Italian, German, Swiss, Swedish, American, Indian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Kiwi (New Zealand), Jordanian, Lebanese and Zambian, Manama Singers celebrated their golden jubilee in 2022.

"Thanks to the Manama Singers I got this beautiful image of Bahrain... a multicultural society united in love for music and the



Jean-Jacques



Morgan



Susan

pleasure of sharing this love," bass singer Jean-Jacques Bolo added, highlighting his experience with the group.

Soprano Morgan Hentrup arrived in Bahrain a year ago and joined Manama Singers in October last year, where she found a social circle of likeminded people. "It's a great way to meet lots of friendly people and build community," she noted. "The show has been super fun to prepare for and reignited my love for musicals," she said.

A Musical Extravaganza will be hosted at The Dilmun Club – doors open at 7pm. In addition to the melodies, you can savour a variety of delicious food and beverages brought to you by the club's restaurant.

Scan the QR code to enter our competition. Winner gets a pair of tickets to the show!

SWEET TEMPTATIONS!

ELEVATE your weekend at the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Head down to Links Steak Night where every steak is cooked to perfection. It is available every Wednesday, from 6pm and is priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth with the club's decadent cakes and desserts. Order your cake today at 32184647. All orders must be placed 24

hours in advance.

For the ultimate summer experience, choose RGC's epic Summer Camp.

Everything from sports, dance and kindergarten activities will be offered. Even more, PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) athletes will give youngsters the opportunity to learn some new skills.

Set to begin from June 30, the camp will be held on Sunday, Tuesday and

Thursday, 9.30am to 1pm, and costs BD25 per day or BD60 per week.

It also offers add-ons, including a one-hour golf session with PGA-certified coach for BD8 (one hour a week) or BD32 per month.

To register, call 33001261 or 17750777. Special discounts are available for RGC members as well as Riffa Views residents.

For more information or bookings, contact 39007546.

Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD

BATTLE FOR THE THRONE

HOLD your dragons as Season 2 of HBO's *Game of Thrones* prequel is set to be aired from June 16 through August 4.

New episodes of the fantasy series, *House of the Dragon*, are expected to drop every Sunday and will be streamed on Max and OSN+.

Starring Emma D'Arcy and Tom Glynn-Carney, the George R R Martin and Ryan Condal series takes place 200 years before *Game of Thrones*' events, specifically tackling the story of House Targaryen.

Picking up where Season 1 left off, fans are expecting the new addition to showcase Rhaenyra and Aegon Targaryen's Dance of the Dragons as they

battle for the throne following the passing of their father, King Viserys I Targaryen.

On March 21, HBO released two trailers, one for Rhaenyra's Team Black and the other for Aegon's Team Green, encouraging fans to choose the heir they root for.

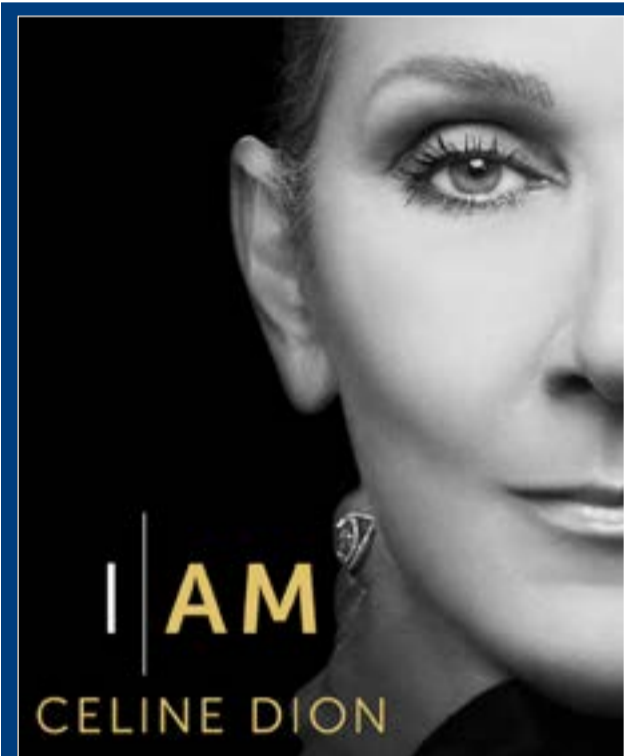
"Some people think it's Rhaenyra, some people think it's Aegon, and then there are others within who think, 'Why should it be one of the two of them? Maybe it should be somebody else. Maybe it should be me'," *House of the Dragon* showrunner and co-creator Ryan Condal said in an interview.

"The fun of this Greek tragedy is seeing, when you introduce a power vacuum to a world like this, how all of these individuals react," he added.

According to author and creator George, as revealed in a 2023 blog post, the third and fourth seasons 'are already being discussed'. "It is going to take four full seasons of 10 episodes each to do justice to the Dance of the Dragons, from start to finish," George had said.

The book-adapted series is the second from the *A Song of Ice and Fire* franchise, and is based on the 2018 book *Fire and Blood*. It is also scored by Ramin Djawadi, who previously worked on *Game of Thrones*.

Since the Season 1 release in 2022, the fantasy prequel has earned eight awards, including a Golden Globe for Best Television Series for drama and three BAFTAs (British Academy Television Craft Awards), both in 2023.



DARING DION

ICONIC singer Celine Dion's documentary *I Am: Celine Dion* will drop on Amazon Prime on June 25.

Directed by Irene Taylor, the film will be fans' first look into the singer's battle with stiff-person syndrome, which she was diagnosed with in December 2022.

The rare neurological disorder causes episodes of muscle stiffness and painful spasms, affecting the person's ability to move or walk.

Due to her health, the *It's All Coming Back To Me Now* singer was forced to cancel her 2023 world tour.

"It's not hard to do a show, it's hard to cancel a show," Celine said in the

film's trailer, released last week. Another clip shows her breaking down in tears, persisting to return to stage.

"I miss it so much. The people. I miss them. If I can't run, I'll walk. If I can't walk, I'll crawl. And I won't stop," she said.

Throughout her career of 43 years, Celine Marie Claudette Dion has experimented with a variety of music genres, however, she is best known for her powerful ballads, especially the massive 1997 *Titanic* film theme *My Heart Will Go On*.

The singer's massive discography includes 27 studio albums, with the recent one being her 2019 release titled *Courage*.

CONVERSATIONAL MELODIES



Charli XCX

GET ready to party with Charli XCX who is set to release her sixth studio album *Brat* on June 7.

Credited producers on the 15-track album include A G Cook, Hudson Mohawke, and Gaffelstein who is known for his work with *The Weeknd*.

The album's lead single *Von Dutch*, released on February 29, was met positively by critics and fans, as they found the club-ready sound to be fresh yet authentic to Charli's brand and character.

On the album's writing process, the *Beg for You* singer said in an interview: "I've written the songs almost in the way I would write texts to my friends or based on things I would say to them on FaceTime. We talk a lot about

pop culture and music and it's been really fun to gossip about the songs as we go.

"They'll ask 'Oh, who is this one about? Is this about a friend? Is it about an ex?'. It has fuelled this fun, gossipy narrative which permeates the album."

British pop singer and songwriter Charlotte Emma Aitchison, professionally known as Charli XCX, rose to fame in 2012 with her feature on Ikonas Pop's *I love it*.

Her 2022 album *Crash* generally gained a positive critical reception and commercial success.

The singer is also known for her contributions to several movie soundtracks, including her hit *Speed Drive* for the 2023 blockbuster *Barbie*.

THE BOYS ARE BACK

AMERICAN superhero drama *The Boys* returns on June 13.

Season 4 of the Prime Video series is scheduled to have a new episode every Thursday, with the season finale set for July 18.

The Boys is based on a comic book series of the same name, written by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson. The series adaptation creator Eric Kripke is also known for his 2005 fantasy series *Supernatural*.

The cast includes Anthony Starr who plays Homelander, while his archenemy, Billy Butcher, is portrayed by Karl Urban.

Fans expect this season to introduce new members to Vought,

Homelander's superhero team. The additions consist of Sister Sage (Susan Heyward) and Firecracker (Valorie Curry). *The Walking Dead*

and *Supernatural* star Jeffery Dean Morgan is also joining the cast as he is set to play Joe Kessler. Since its 2019 premiere, the TV series has been highly praised by critics for its humour and storyline, which earned it a multitude of nominations, including outstanding drama series and

outstanding writing for a drama series for the 2021 Emmy Awards. The black comedy's plot parodies and draws inspiration from popular superhero franchises, as fans and critics believe the characters serve as satirical nods to different heroes from the DC and Marvel universes.



Eric



Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news



Stepping up

CONFIDENT: Leclerc

FERRARI expect Charles Leclerc to take a step up after finally celebrating a dream home win in Monaco, according to team boss Fred Vasseur.

The Italian team have won two of the eight Formula One races so far this season, with Leclerc and Carlos Sainz taking one each, Red Bull's Max Verstappen taking five and McLaren's Lando Norris the other.

"I think it was an important one," Vasseur told reporters after last Sunday's victory.

"He had a kind of weight on the shoulders for years now about the win in Monaco, sometimes he did small mistakes like in F2, sometimes he was unlucky like in F1.

"I think probably for his own self-confidence and for the approach that he has on all the other events, Charles will do a step forward."

Vasseur saw at least three teams fighting it out for the rest of the season.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri of Australia was second on Sunday in Monaco with Spaniard Sainz, winner in Australia in March, finishing third. Norris was fourth, and Mercedes' George Russell fifth.

"I think now we have at least three teams, but I think Mercedes is not that far away, and these three teams are able to fight for the pole position, able to fight for the win," said Vasseur.

"It's exciting and it will be I

hope like this to the end of the season."

Leclerc took pole position in Monaco, ending Verstappen's record-equalling run of eight poles in a row, with Red Bull's triple champion struggling with his car around the tight and bumpy track.

Vasseur said Red Bull, Ferrari and McLaren could all have tracks that suited them better over the remaining 16 races and his drivers would have to seize their opportunities.

"Last year we lost far too many points into the season and this year we made a huge step forward on this one also. We are much more opportunistic and it will be like this to the end of the season, but the fight is tight," he said.

FIA TO RAMP UP USE OF AI AGAINST ONLINE ABUSE

MOTORSPORT'S world governing body FIA is ramping up its use of artificial intelligence (AI) as it works with a global coalition of sports and governments to combat online abuse.

The first United Against Online Abuse (UAOA) conference was held in Paris, where it was announced that the FIA has partnered with Arwen AI, who have worked with the Mercedes, Red Bull and Alpine Formula One teams.

FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem said more than 4,000 sites had been blocked in the space of seven weeks last year before the FIA's annual congress.

The FIA spokesman said there had been discussions with TikTok, Google and Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp parent company Meta.

Ben Sulayem said a recent barometer survey revealed 75 per cent of athletes reported threats against their physical safety. More than 90pc agreed athletes would leave their

sport if online abuse was not addressed.

The problem also affects those who give their time for free. "The volunteers. You remove them and there is no Formula One. No WRC (world rally championship). Nothing," he explained.

"I got threats, our volunteers

got threats, our drivers got threats, our stewards. If we allow this to happen for long our sport will be beyond repair.

"To be united together at a government level or a media level or on federation level, I believe we can make a change," he added.

'BUY AN EXISTING TEAM'

AFTER an 11th team entry bid that was rejected by Formula One's owners, Andretti Cadillac should buy an existing team instead, according to the head of the motorsport's governing body.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, who last year called for more teams and fewer races, said that he remained supportive of increasing the number but that quality was more important than quantity.

"I have no doubt FOM (Formula One Management) and (commercial rights holders) Liberty (Media) would love to see other teams

as long as they are OEMs (car manufacturers)," he said.

"I would advise them (Andretti Cadillac) to go and buy another team, not to come as the 11th team.

"I feel that some teams need to be refreshed. What is better? To have 11 teams as a number or 10 and they are strong? I still believe we should have more teams but not any teams. The right teams.

"It's not about the number, it's about the quality."

US-based Andretti Global is led by 1991 CART champion Michael Andretti, son of 1978 F1 world champion and 1969 Indianapolis 500 winner Mario.

★★★★★ WOMAN THIS MONTH ★★★★★

★★★★★ GULF WEEKLY ★★★★★

Manama Singers

PRESENTS

A MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

AN EVENING OF SONGS FROM BROADWAY TO THE SILVER SCREEN, AND PLACES IN BETWEEN

JUNE 04TH | 19:30 | BD
21:00 | 5.00

DILMUN MARQUEE

WELCOME DRINK WITH ALL TICKETS

PART OF THE DILMUN CLUBS 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
LIVE MUSIC & KARAOKE AFTER PARTY UNTIL 11:30PM

Platinumlist tickets

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON PLATINUM LIST & AT DILMUN CLUB RECEPTION ON 17690926

Time Out



Hilal Computers
 Maximizing performance and efficiency
 Dell service provider
 Tel: 1729 3749 ext 2220

crossword break

1	2	3		4		5	6	7
						8		
9				10				
11				12				
13	14	15				16	17	
18							19	
20						21		
22				23				

Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 1. Mythical (8)
- 5. Unaccompanied (4)
- 9. Difficult (4)
- 10. Periodical (8)
- 11. Worship (5)
- 12. Carriage (7)
- 13. Unluckily (13)
- 18. Waver (8)
- 19. Not one (4)
- 20. Saw (7)
- 21. Sham (5)
- 22. Tug (4)
- 23. Mocking (8)

DOWN

- 2. Desert (7)
- 3. Suffer (7)
- 4. Inexplicable (13)
- 6. Opening (7)
- 7. Openly (7)
- 8. Hat (6)
- 13. Sad (7)
- 14. Adorn (7)
- 15. Decayed (6)
- 16. Slender (7)
- 17. Lassitude (7)

who, what, where, when

- WHO** ... wrote the children's book *The Fantastical Adventures of the Invisible Boy*?
- WHAT** ... Test cricket side did P.A. Jaques play for?
- WHERE** ... in the British Isles is Mingary Castle?
- WHEN** ... was the former Liverpool footballer Robbie Fowler born?
- WHO** ... directed the 1968 film *Work Is a 4-Letter Word*?
- WHAT** ... do the five points on the white serrated band on the flag of Bahrain represent?
- WHERE** ... in Asia are the cities of Panaji and Ranchi?
- WHEN** ... did the horse Nicolaus Silver win the Grand National?

just so

1812
ture

a pound & a chilling

LECH WALESA

ROWHENME

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Strewn; 4 Spiced; 9 Unconditional; 10 Eminent; 11 Tired; 12 Rinse; 14 Prate; 18 Amass; 19 Invalid; 21 Prime minister; 22 Denote; 23 Heeded.

Down: 1 Saucer; 2 Recrimination; 3 Wince; 5 Painter; 6 Congratulated; 7 Delude; 8 Piety; 13 Suspect; 15 Sapped; 16 Rigid; 17 Adored; 20 Voice.

JUST SO: Bring back to life, Much ado about nothing, Land on both feet, Man overboard.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Douglas MacArthur; Brunton Park; Saint-Denis, France; 1950; Carole King and Gerry Goffin; CN Tower, Toronto, Canada; Sudan; 2000.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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