

Gulf Weekly

The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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BACK ON SHELVES: The 100 Bahrain Stories book



AUTHOR:
Tanzeel

Tales of an island

A POPULAR book which shares the stories of 100 Bahrain lovers, both citizens and expatriates from across the island, will once again be available for eager fans next Wednesday.

Spellbinding storyteller Tanzeel Jabbar-Khadir, 45, is set to release a reprint of her popular book *100 Bahrain Stories*, which was first released in 2018.

"Six years have passed since this book's initial publication and nearly a decade since its inception. In that time Bahrain has witnessed shifts, yet its essence endures," the Australian expatriate with Indian-Pakistani heritage, who has lived in Bahrain for 16 years, told *Gulf Weekly*.

"This re-release upholds the tradition of celebrating humanity.

"The stories are so special, I want them to be loved and

BOOK REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
naman@gdnmedia.bh

appreciated all over again.

"Over the years, people have contacted me asking if I still have copies of the book. Now I can finally say there are more copies available!"

Featuring stunning portraits, alongside quoted vignettes of each featured individual's life, Tanzeel's self-funded project is, from start to finish, a product of Bahrain, highlighting local stories, and being printed locally.

The first print of 1,000 copies quickly sold out, after online followers of the *Facebook* project spread the word and made it a success.

"*Facebook* was still in vogue in 2015 and when I initially began posting each story online, my project gained a steady following," Tanzeel reminisced.

"Once it went to print, I think it was my followers that

spread the word of the book's release and made it a small success. It was also exciting that part of the profits from the sale of the book were donated to local charities like Rotaract Bahrain and The Saturday Biryani Party With Workers. It was good to give back to the local community in some small way."

In her introduction to the book, Tanzeel, a lawyer by profession who lives in Janabiya with her husband and two children, emphasises that the 'construct of identity is a central theme in most, if not all of the stories'.

In the reprint, she has also included a small tribute to those who have passed away since the book was first released.

Among these is the late journalist and entrepreneur Abdullah Jonathan Wallace, who died last year, aged 79, in Bahrain where he made his home for the previous

18 years. In his foreword to the original book, Abdullah had spoken of how it reflected 'not only the broad spectrum of the multinational community of expatriates living in Bahrain today, but the diversity of Bahrainis themselves, whose ancestry has been shaped over five millennia of recorded history'.

With stories from nationals hailing from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, UK and the US, the book is a true mosaic of the kingdom's cultural canvas.

Tanzeel, who did most of the interviewing, writing and photography for the book, getting help with a handful of stories and photographs from some of her talented friends,

has already started collecting stories for a sequel.

"I am working on another *Bahrain Stories* – I'm not sure it will be a 100 this time," she added.

"I am in the process of interviewing once again and it's exciting to get back to it. I am looking for more stories, so if readers want to recommend someone, please feel free to message me on *Instagram*.

"I am excited to be guided by the people my audience wants to hear about. I'm also trying to post primarily on *Instagram* and am also considering *Substack*. Facebook seems a little archaic now!"

The reprint of *100 Bahrain Stories* will be available for BD13 at Jashanmal with more bookstores to be announced soon.

For more details, follow @bahrain_stories on *Instagram*.



HUMAN ART
Cosplay in Bahrain
SEE PAGES 2-3



LEISURE SCENE
Dining and night life
SEE PAGES 4-5



SPEAK YOUR MIND
And win a gift
SEE PAGE 5



DOGGIE ON DECK
Camp Snoopy release
SEE PAGE 6



PLAYING THE PART: Vitsuna dressed as video game character Bayonetta

Dressed for

AS Bahrain's burgeoning cosplay community grows, its rising stars are eager for more local and regional opportunities and support to showcase their art form, writes Rima AlHaddad.

For these magnificent masqueraders, cosplay – a portmanteau of costume and play – is more than just dressing up as a fictional character from a TV show, movie, comic book or cartoon. It's all about embodying their energy as they come to life.

"When I started, I wasn't a social person, but I was able to find communities that loved the same shows as me during pop culture conventions, which is also where I discovered cosplaying," Isah Jani (*Instagram: @brokenswordcosplay*) told *GulfWeekly*.

"Cosplayers welcomed me



Marwa

with open arms. Cosplay boosted not just my self-esteem, but also gave me the courage to be able to interact with other people.

"When I cosplay, I enjoy talking to others and hearing

their opinions as well as how they perceived my costume of the character that they didn't believe they would be able to find.

"That's what really interested me, I found the



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SCAN FOR DOCTORS



Success!



THEATRICAL:
Isah as Adam from
Hasbin Hotel

community I was looking for while cosplaying certain characters and seeing different sub-cultures around our small country.”

The 28-year-old has seen the community grow since he got into the hobby seven years ago, crediting the rising number of pop culture conventions in Bahrain and across the Middle East for the growth in popularity.

He also sees many more

avenues opening up for newcomers and experienced players to level up their skills and cited the example of a recent workshop titled Cosplay Essentials organised at a local café by Hasan ‘Osmology’ Mohamed (IG: @awesome_ology).

“I hosted and organised the workshop to keep the community fresh and alive, and I think my efforts ignited something within the

local community,” Hasan explained.

The workshop served as an introduction for newcomers to cosplay basics like makeup, crafting and wig-making.

Hasan, 25, who recently won the best performance award at this year’s Middle East Film and Comic Con and will be a guest judge at Compass Abu Dhabi on Saturday, hopes to offer workshops with certificates, to provide cosplayers with a ‘solid’ and ‘academic route’ for levelling up their skills.

From costume sewing and crafting to wig styling and makeup, as well as acting and performing, cosplayers put a lot of thought, time and effort into every aspect of their usually solo, and sometimes collaborative act.

Competitions and summits with cash prizes offer rising cosplayers a chance to pursue the art form professionally, or at least reduce the cost of the hobby, which can get pricey quickly.

Professional gamer Marwa Ashoor (IG: @marwaashoor), who is currently on hiatus from cosplaying, reflected on how expensive purchasing costumes and other materials can get. She highlighted that



TEACHING: Osmology
dressed as Loki from
Marvel, leading the
workshop

cheaper alternative resources are often available and even suggested shopping locally to save money.

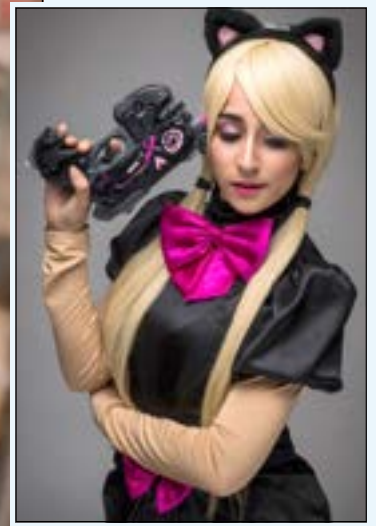
“Communicating your cosplay designs to a local tailor will give you a better idea since they are more experienced and they can help you bring it to life, and usually for a cheaper price than online purchases,” she explained.

“In the cosplay community, personally designed cosplays

are more of a challenge and they are appreciated,” Marwa added.

In a community that sometimes gets a bad reputation for sexualising characters from pop culture, the 27-year-old has also become an advocate for modest cosplay, saying that it should be appreciated and deserves its own category.

And while some may deem cosplay to be ‘all play and no work,’ Bahraini-Kuwaiti



MODEST: Marwa Ashoor
dressed as D.Va from
Overwatch

cosplayer Danah ‘Vitsuna’ Alshatti (IG: vitsuna), who also studies marketing at Kuwait Technical College, is quick to disagree, saying that these experiences give her ‘real life’ skills like improving her confidence in front of audiences, both at conventions and in the classroom.

“It can be scary at first, but once you’re on stage, there’s no better feeling,” the 20-year-old explained.

She recently won second place in Kuwait’s Comfest in the performance category and first place at Bahrain Comic Con 2022 in crafting.

Vitsuna has set her eye on the international stage, hoping to reach a global audience and maybe one day represent her country at the World Cosplay Summit.



NUANCED: The many layers
of Gracie, played by Julianne
Moore, left, being unravelled

Complex web of relationships

BAHRAIN CINEMA CLUB – Wednesday, June 12 at 7pm, Juffair
Film: May December
Director: Todd Haynes
Duration: One hour 57 minutes
Cast: Natalie Portman,

Julianne Moore, Charles Melton, Cory Michael Smith, Elizabeth Yu, Gabriel Chung, Piper Curda, DW Moffett, Lawrence Arancio
Plot: A married couple, Gracie and Joe, buckles under pressure when an actress

arrives to do research for a film about their past. The actress travels to study the life of Gracie – the controversial woman infamous for the 24-year-long relationship she had with her now husband, which began when he was 13

and she was 36! The film was nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the Academy Awards this year, and also received four Golden Globe nominations.

For details, call Huda Tabbara on 39682323.

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 is an Italian word for ‘candy’ which we use to describe something you often see at weddings?
2. Bottlenose dolphins live in groups of up to 30 members called what?
3. What is the name of the dog in the 2009 movie *Up*?
4. In which game do you use a wedge of cheese and a marble?
5. What is known in the United States as ‘The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports’?
6. What is measured using the unit called olf?
7. The oldest expat members club was

GulfWeekly
The community newspaper at the heart of Bahrain

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



called The Bahrain Sports Club, what is it called today?

1. Confetti
2. Pod
3. Dug
4. The Mouse Trap
5. Kentucky Derby
6. Smell
7. The Indian Club

ANSWERS

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



PIPING HOT:
Hilton's Wild
West
Brunch

FANTASTIC SPREAD

H EAD down to Hilton Bahrain for a week of good food and fun.

Get ready for Origin Kitchen and Culture's Wild West Brunch with mouth-watering food, live cooking stations and exciting games. It costs BD39net with unlimited beverages and BD28net inclusive of unlimited soft beverages, tomorrow, from 12.30pm to 4pm.

A fantastic spread of the finest seafood is also available at Origin Kitchen and Culture's Seafood Night. The feast costs BD32net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25 with unlimited soft beverages, tonight from 7pm to 10pm.

Guests can also explore Origin Kitchen and Culture's breakfast buffet from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 11.30am. It's priced at BD13net per person.

The restaurant offers a Lazy Breakfast on Saturdays, featuring live cooking stations and a delicious

spread of continental, Asian and Arabic favourites, from 6.30am to 10.30am. It costs BD13net per person.

Meanwhile, ladies can kick-start their weekend at Block 44's Afro Series party tonight with two free drinks from 9pm to 2am. All guests can enjoy a 50 per cent discount from 9pm to 11pm.

On Wednesdays, ladies can avail two free drinks from Block 44's Old Skool Party from 10pm to 2am, and three drinks from Cocoluna Lounge's Ladies' Night, from 7pm to midnight.

Visitors can get their groove on at Block 44's Salsa Night tomorrow from 9pm to 2am. Ladies get two complimentary beverages.

Perched high on the 44th floor, the Society Club offers a one-of-a-kind night-time experience everyday from 9pm to 2.30am. Ladies can also avail three free drinks on Tuesdays from 8pm to 2.30am.

For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.

FUSION OF FLAVOURS

A N array of delicious food and entertainment awaits families and friends this week at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain.

Blending elegance and comfort, Café Gourmandise offers guests a special breakfast experience. Whether you're in for a quick bite or a morning meal, the hotel's curated menu caters to all tastes.

The Café is open everyday, from 8am to 11pm, and is priced a la carte.

Meanwhile, Thai Lounge's Bento Box offers a one-of-a-kind experience where every bite tells a story of Thailand's vibrant culinary adventure.

The offer, available everyday from 1pm to 6pm, promises a delightful fusion of flavours. It costs BD18.

An exquisite culinary journey of curry and kebab is available this weekend. The irresistible blend of Indian and the Middle Eastern flavours creates a tasteful harmony

SUCCULENT:
Kebabs at
Nirvana



that will keep you coming back for more at Nirvana. Priced at BD16, the fantastic dining affair is available today, tomorrow and Saturday from noon to

3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

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

RGC LINES UP SUMMERTIME DELIGHTS

E NJOY unique culinary experiences at the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Links Steak Night offers guests an array of the highest quality of steaks - all cooked to perfection. Dig into the delightful feast every Wednesday from 6pm. It's priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth cravings 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

DECADENT:
Delicious
cake on
display



which has everything from sports to dance and kindergarten activities. 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 a 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.

GASTRONOMIC INDULGENCE

E XPLORE an impressive world of delicious food and fun at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Kick-start your weekend at Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Latin American-themed brunch, which features an array of tasty dishes like tacos and enchiladas.

Parents can relax as the brunch includes many children's activities such as face painting, jumping castle and scavenger hunts that are sure to keep the little ones entertained.

The offer is available from 1pm to 4pm tomorrow. It costs BD35 including soft beverages, BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package and BD65 with a premium

beverage package.

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

Don't miss out on Byblos's Seafood Feast by the beach, which offers an irresistible six-course menu including items such as prawns, seabass and scallops. It's available from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight, at BD45 for two people.

Meanwhile, new delights are available at CUT by Wolfgang Puck.

Executive chef Brian Becher will whip up delights such as black bass ceviche, apple tart, French toast, and

more tomorrow, 12.30pm to 3pm. It's priced a la carte.

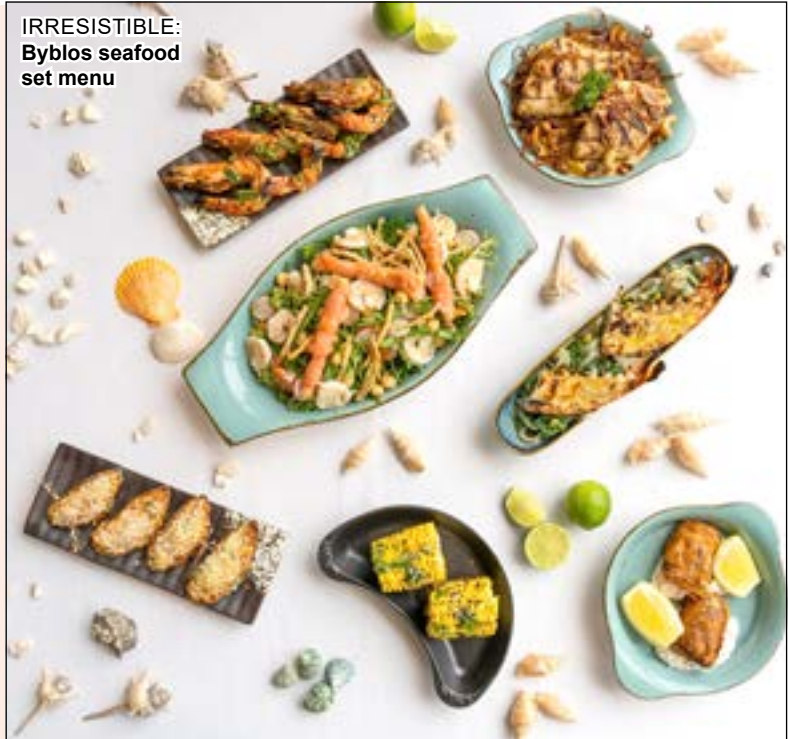
Unwind at Bay View Lounge's Around the World Tea. A delectable selection of sandwiches and sweets are on display every day from 11am to 11pm.

It is priced at BD18 per person, inclusive of a cup of Brazilian tea or Asian tea, or BD22 inclusive of sparkling Jasmine tea.

Elevate your evenings at Blue Moon Lounge for sky-high bites and drinks. Available Saturday to Friday, 6pm to midnight, and Sunday 12.30pm to midnight, priced a la carte.

For more information, call 17115046, 171145044 or 17115500.

IRRESISTIBLE:
Byblos seafood
set menu



Weekly Entertainment

VARIETY:
Thai Lounge's
Bento Box

ELEGANT: Em Sherif Sea Café

MUSICAL SOIRÉE

GATHER your family and friends and visit the Em Sherif Sea Café for an evening of live entertainment as you tuck into authentic Lebanese cuisine.

Guests can experience the freshest and finest ingredients the region has to offer, while overlooking the stunning views of Bahrain Bay.

The restaurant offers an array of lively musical genres such as jazz, soul, guitar, and Arabic music.

The popular destination pays a culinary tribute to the earth and sea, and attracts food enthusiasts from across Bahrain. The live entertainment takes place every Friday at 9pm.

For more information, call 77100777.

Culture Weekly

New beginnings

BAHRAIN-BASED creative and social entrepreneur Ramanpreet Praveen, better known as Preety Praveen, shares her empowering story, through adversity to the stars, as she embarks on a new journey as *GulfWeekly's* columnist, writes Melissa Nazareth.

An ambitious and driven individual, Preety had big dreams of becoming a dentist. However, life took a different turn when she met with a horrifying accident that forced her to drop out of college.

"My low phase started after my accident where my right femur bone broke into two pieces," the 49-year-old told *GulfWeekly*. "I had to leave college in the final year. I couldn't walk without support for more than a year. Blaming myself, I hid under the layers of loneliness and guilt.

"It took me years to understand that I wasn't being myself and wasn't helping either myself or my dear ones. That's when I made up my mind and decided to pursue a career in psychology."

Preety chose to complete her education as a way to empower herself and bring 'life back into her soul'. She obtained a Master's in Alternative Medicine

COLUMNIST:
Preety

from the Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine with a specialisation in psychology. Today, she uses her knowledge in the field and her empathy to reach out to others who might be going through a low phase.

"It's more than a decade that I've been practising

counselling, but as a freelancer. I've dedicated my knowledge to helping people who juggle and struggle to clear the network of their thoughts and make wise decisions to have a smooth normal life. A healthy, open conversation can help."

When the Covid-19

pandemic hit, Preety reached out to people, the majority of whom were strangers, and helped them get over their emotional struggles.

"There was one lady I met and it took me more than five months to put a smile on her face, but I succeeded. She is living a happy, normal life with her family now," she revealed.

Preety observed how the pandemic put a strain on people's emotional well-being. And, while the digital world has gradually taken over our daily routine, relationships, and thought processes, she believes the 'punch' was the long pandemic phase.

"That's when I thought of creating a platform, where all of us can share our thoughts and opinions on a common subject, learn from each other's experiences, and figure out solutions to small issues that we fail to address," she added.

Preety approached *GulfWeekly* with her idea to get the 'difficult conversations going' and we put our heads together to bring her dream 'Speak Your Mind' to fruition.

"I encourage readers of *GulfWeekly* to come forward and share what's on their minds. Let's learn from each other, forge a bond of trust and understanding, and set the inhibitions and confusions free."

GULFWEEKLY is launching a new 'Speak Your Mind' feature where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your queries on the chosen subject with our panel of mental health experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the conversation started!

June's topic is 'Are festivals and holidays an opportunity to reconnect with family?'. Some points to ponder over:

- Being far away from family.
- Face-to-face bonding instead of online messages.
- A time to rekindle lost or wounded relationships.



Speak your mind!

Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words on gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram

by June 15.

We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly*

and one star entry will be awarded a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a 'thank you' gift.

Pulse of Pop

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

OH MY DOG!

SNOOPY returns for a third time on *Apple TV+* with the latest Peanuts comic strip adaptation, *Camp Snoopy*, streaming on June 14.

Produced by Peanuts and WildBrain, the cosy light-hearted cartoon series will follow beloved canine character Snoopy's adventures with his Beagle Scouts troop to earn their badges, crossing paths with his owner Charlie Brown and friends as they enjoy the outdoor experience.

The show was directed by Rob Boutilier, who also worked on *Apple TV+*'s *The Snoopy Show* and *Snoopy in Space*. He is also a credited executive producer alongside two-time Daytime Emmy nominee Craig Schulz, son of the Peanuts creator Charles M Schulz.

In a recent interview, Rob highlighted the essentialism of translating the creator and illustrator's art style from comic strips to the animated series.

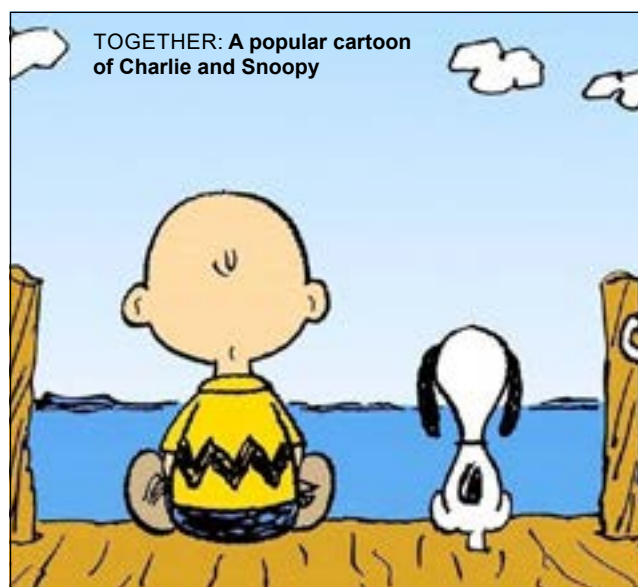
"I was expressing my admiration of Schulz's pen and brush lines in those strips with our art director, Joseph Holt, when we asked ourselves the question: 'What would a classic special have looked like if Schulz had drawn the backgrounds?'" Carrying his father's legacy, Craig has worked on several adaptations of the comic strip. He co-wrote the first Peanuts special produced without his father's involvement titled *Happiness Is a Warm Blanket, Charlie Brown*, released in 2011.

The producer and screenwriter is currently the president and CEO of Charles M Schulz Creative Associates, managing the Peanuts brand licence.

The Peanuts characters first landed on *Apple TV+* in 2019 with *Snoopy in Space*, which ran for two seasons and ended in November 2021. The streaming service's second Peanuts adaptation *The Snoopy Show* has earned four awards since its February 2021 premiere, including best animated programme or series at the 2023 Canadian Screen Awards. The show currently consists of three seasons, with the most recent being released a year ago.



TROOP:
Snoopy and
the Beagle
Scouts



TOGETHER: A popular cartoon
of Charlie and Snoopy

While the comic strip and its adaptations focus on the universe's animal characters, *Apple TV+* has released several Peanuts specials that highlight the

human characters, the latest one being *Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin*, which focused on Franklin Armstrong and Charlie Brown.

GRAMMY Award-winning producer, rapper and DJ Kaytranada is set to release his third studio album titled *Timeless* tomorrow (June 7).

The 17-track dance album offers a lineup of featured artists, including Childish Gambino, Tinashe, Anderson .Paak, PinkPantheress and frequent Kendrick Lamar collaborator Thundercat. The album will also feature

CLASSIC COLLABORATION

a new version of the Rochelle Jordan collaboration *Lover/Friend* as well as *Stuntin* featuring Channel Tres, both originally released last November.

This is Kaytranada's first solo album since his 2019 release *Bubba*, which earned two Grammy awards in 2021 including best dance/electronic album.

However, his most recent

ELECTROPOP and folk artist Aurora is set to release her fourth studio album titled *What Happened to the Heart?* tomorrow (June 7).

The 27-year-old singer expressed in an interview that she was inspired by the heart as a symbol and metaphor.

"I was looking at the history of the heart and what the heart has been a symbol for. Even before we knew about the anatomy of a human as scientifically as we

do now, we talked about the heart and the core," she said.

On the process of making the album, the *Cure for Me* singer revealed that the writing sessions took place in 'different rooms and temperatures'.

"It gave me access to a lot of parts of me that I haven't really faced before; even parts that scared me a little, very personal parts," she said. "I've been exploring my own darkness more, so it is maybe my most personal album."

Born Aurora Aksnes, the Norwegian artist embarked on her career in 2012 when she self-released her debut single titled *Puppet* under her birth name.

She rose to fame when her 2015 single *Runaway* caught the attention of pop sensations Katy Perry and Troye Sivan.

Her third album titled *The Gods We Can Touch* gained critical acclaim and was *Spotify*'s third most streamed album upon its release week in 2022.

A COMING-OF-AGE graphic novel *Brownstone* by author Samuel Teer and illustrator Marina 'Mar' Julia is set to hit the shelves on June 11.

As her Caucasian mother heads on a trip without her, the young adult novel's biracial protagonist Almudena finds herself on a self-discovery journey. She spends the summer with her estranged Guatemalan father Xavier in his Latin American neighbourhood, navigating their relationship and the English-Spanish language barrier between them.

She also attempts to

NAVIGATING HERITAGE



adjust to her culture, which she is uninformed of, by connecting with her father's neighbours, only to find

herself being judged for not knowing or understanding her heritage, which causes her to feel alienated.

The novel aims to discuss the joys and hardships of the Latin community and is expected to speak to a teen audience who see themselves in Almudena.

"This was less about my need to tell a story and more about sending up a signal flare into the world, to say to other mixed race people of all ages, 'Hey! You are not alone'," Samuel said in an interview.

COOL: Kaytranada



project was released last year - *Kaytraminé*, his joint album with American rapper Aminé. The artist has released several collaborative albums with different artists throughout his career.

Born Louis Kevin Celestin, the Haitian-Canadian producer embarked on his career in 2010.

His early projects were released under the name

Kaytradamus, before he changed his stage name to Kaytranada in 2012.

The DJ became an overnight success for his remix of the Janet Jackson song *If* released on the music platform *Soundcloud* in 2013. He released his debut album 99.9% in 2016, which was met with critical acclaim as it received near-perfect scores by several music outlets.

MotoringWeekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Magical Montreal

THE roar of engines and scent of burning rubber return to Montreal this week as Formula One descends upon the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve for the 2024 Canadian Grand Prix.

This iconic race, nestled on the picturesque Île Notre-Dame, promises a captivating weekend of on-track battles, fuelled by a resurgent championship fight, intriguing driver dynamics, and a circuit notorious for its unforgiving nature.

After three different winners in the last three races and a narrowing gap between the leaders in the driver standings, this weekend promises plenty of thrills throughout the racing grid.

THREE-WAY THRILL RIDE

The narrative of a predictable championship battle has been shattered. Ferrari sweetheart Charles Leclerc's emphatic victory in Monaco, coupled with raging Red Bull Max Verstappen's misfortune, has injected a dose of excitement into the drivers' championship.

The gap between the two has

narrowed significantly, down to 31 points, a margin that can be cut in a single race weekend with a bit of strategic brilliance and touch of luck.

This resurgence by Ferrari is further bolstered by their consistent performance throughout the season.

They haven't finished a race outside the points zone yet, demonstrating a level of reliability and pace that Red Bull needs to be wary of.

Meanwhile, McLaren has emerged as a genuine threat. Lando Norris's stunning victory in Miami, albeit aided by a well-timed safety car, showcased the raw pace of the McLaren package.

Their ability to challenge Red Bull and Ferrari on a consistent basis throws another variable into the mix, transforming the championship fight into a captivating three-way battle.

CHINK IN THE ARMOUR?

Red Bull, the undisputed leader in both constructors' and drivers' standings, finds itself in a curious position.

While Verstappen holds a seemingly comfortable 31-point lead, recent races have exposed a potential



GEARED UP: Verstappen is seen before the Bahrain Grand Prix



Achilles' heel: the car's struggle with kerbs and uneven surfaces.

Monaco, a track notorious for its bumps and tight corners, proved to be Red Bull's kryptonite, with Verstappen limping to a disappointing sixth-place finish.

THE CIRCUIT GILLES

Villeneuve, while featuring long straights, also boasts challenging chicanes and bumps, raising concerns about Red Bull's ability to maintain its dominance.

Will they be able to adapt and find a setup that allows Verstappen to exploit the car's raw power, or will their struggles continue, opening the door for his rivals?

INTERNAL COMBUSTION

The drama off the track threatens to spill over onto the asphalt in Montreal.

The collision between Alpine teammates Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly in Monaco was a microcosm of simmering tensions within the team.

Ocon's audacious lunge down the inside at Portier, defying team orders and

ultimately taking himself out of the race, left a bitter taste in the mouth of Alpine management.

While the team insists Ocon's departure at the season's end was pre-planned, the incident undoubtedly added fuel to the fire. Along similar lines, there are rumours about potential friction between Lewis Hamilton and George Russell at Mercedes.

Hamilton's comments hinting at different treatments within the team suggest that while Mercedes maintains a facade of equality, internal dynamics could play a crucial role in the latter stages of the championship.

THE ASTON MAGIC?

Aston Martin, the surprise package of 2023, finds itself in a precarious position. The midfield battle has intensified as traditional powerhouses like Ferrari and McLaren have returned to form.

While Aston Martin has shown steady development, it hasn't been enough to keep pace with the front-runners.

Fernando Alonso's concerns about slipping back into the midfield pack are well-founded.

However, Canada offers a glimmer of hope. Last year, Alonso secured a podium finish here, showcasing the car's ability to perform well on certain circuits.

HIGH-OCTANE DRAMA

The Canadian Grand Prix transcends mere on-track action; it's a spectacle.

The Circuit Gilles Villeneuve itself plays a starring role.

Long straights offer ample overtaking opportunities, while tight chicanes and unforgiving walls demand precision and punish mistakes severely.

Last year's race, with Alex Albon's masterful defence

against a DRS-equipped car, is a testament to the circuit's ability to produce thrilling wheel-to-wheel battles.

Throw in the unpredictable Canadian weather, with the ever-present threat of rain, and Montreal has all the ingredients for a truly captivating weekend of F1 action.



SEEING RED!

REIGNING F1 champion team Red Bull has found itself in a strategic bind, as it develops and improves on three different racing cars at the same time.

On one hand, with Ferrari and McLaren mounting a serious challenge, pressure is on to improve the current RB20.

On top of that, they're already laying the groundwork for 2025's contender.

But looming large is the massive rule overhaul coming in 2026, requiring a completely new car design. This multitasking frenzy coincides with the news of chief technology officer Adrian Newey's departure in early 2025.

Newey, a mastermind behind Red Bull's recent

success, will leave a significant gap to fill. Technical director Pierre Wache acknowledged these challenges and added that another hurdle was taking engine production in-house for the first time.

"The main challenge is how to balance the resource between all these projects," he added.

"We are looking forward, because the more you think about it, the more you can anticipate some issues."

For 2026, they are already planning for the introduction of 'active aero' and a completely new power unit with increased electrical output and sustainable fuels. Red Bull's ability to navigate this three-pronged attack while ensuring engine independence will be critical to their continued success in F1.



CHAMPION: Norris

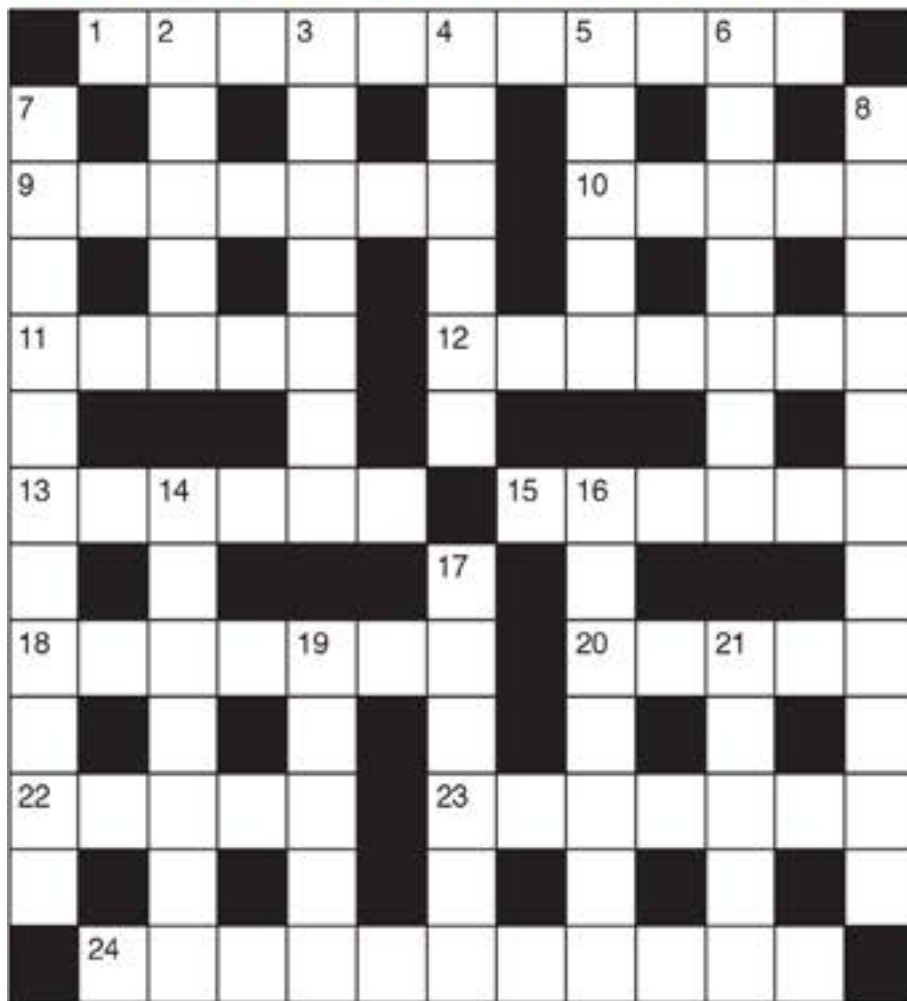
Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Liaise (11)
9. Ebbbed (7)
10. Less frequent (5)
11. Energy (5)
12. Effective (7)
13. Take in (6)
15. Aft (6)
18. Non-specific (7)
20. Kingly (5)
22. Correct (5)
23. Withdraw (7)
24. Postulate (11)

DOWN

2. Happen (5)
3. Lunacy (7)
4. Nakedness (6)
5. Joyous song (5)
6. White ant (7)
7. Sexton (11)
8. Newness (11)
14. Arsenal (7)
16. Cloud formation (7)
17. Char (6)
19. Wireless (5)
21. Pasture (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the stage plays *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* and *The Petition*?

WHAT ... Shakespeare play features the character Tullus Aufidius?

WHERE ... did the film director Luis Buñuel die in 1983?

WHEN ... did the *Archie Comics* comic book character Archie Andrews first appear?

WHO ... recorded the 1953 UK No 1 single *She Wears Red Feathers*?

WHERE ... was the film director Terry Gilliam born?

WHEN ... was Ahmed Ben Bella elected as the first President of Algeria?

just so

YEHUDI MENUHIN

RROUGH

YELTSIN

cc

float

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Fabulous; 5 Solo; 9 Hard; 10 Magazine; 11 Adore; 12 Chariot; 13 Unfortunately; 18 Hesitate; 19 None; 20 Proverb; 21 Bogus; 22 Yank; 23 Derisory.

Down: 2 Abandon; 3 Undergo; 4 Unaccountable; 6 Orifice; 7 Overtly; 8 Panama; 13 Unhappy; 14 Festoon; 15 Rotten; 16 Tenuous; 17 Languor.

JUST SO: The eighteen twelve overture, A guinea pig, The North pole, When in Rome

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Lloyd Alexander; Australia; Scotland; 1975; Peter Hall; The five pillars of Islam; India; 1961.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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