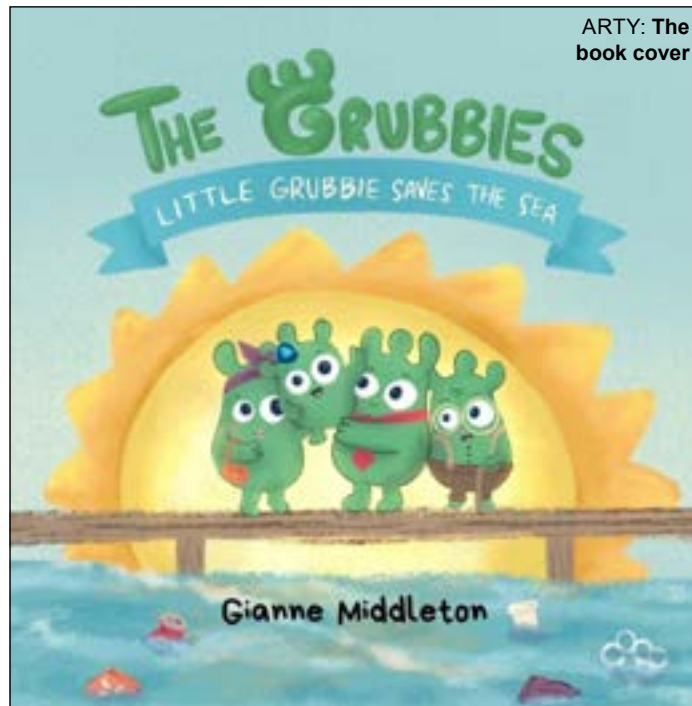


# Leading through reading



ARTY: The book cover



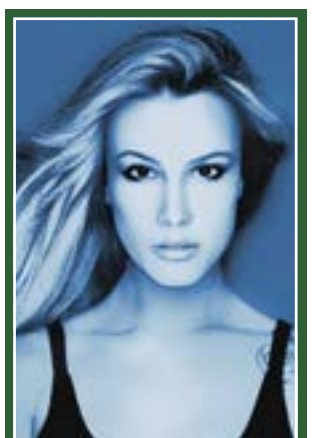
TRADITIONAL TALE  
New book release  
SEE PAGE 2



ETHNIC DRAPES  
Wedding trend  
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE  
Food, fun and more  
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP  
Music, movie and books  
SEE PAGE 6



## COMMUNITY REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH  
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

**R**EADING can help children on the spectrum with their speech and important life skills, while also immensely benefiting children without special needs, according to a Bahrain-based behaviour psychologist.

"Reading has a magical way of opening up the world to children, regardless of their developmental differences," Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and Reach Behaviour and Development Centre founder Mona Tadayyon told *GulfWeekly*.

"I've seen how stories with simple language and illustrations aid children who may struggle with verbal communication or social cues. Repetitive language helps youngsters with speech delays, or language challenges, to better develop their vocabulary and communication," she added.

Children's books often feature easy-to-read words, fun pictures and exercises that offer young readers an interesting experience while also creating an avenue for learning.

"The structure of a story provides a sense of predictability, which can be comforting to children who thrive on routine," Mona explained.

"It's through these stories that they begin to grasp important life skills and break down complex topics, like empathy, co-operation, kindness, fear, and love."



HELLO: Meet the Grubbies

There's been a growing trend to explore educational themes within children's story books, which is what former Bahrain resident Gianne Middleton discovered while researching for the best topic for her latest title.

"I noticed that many parents focused on educational topics, especially with millennials starting to become parents," she said. Her book *The Grubbies: Little Grubbie Saves The Sea*, the first in a four-part series, is an underwater adventure where a group of unlikely heroes embark on a mission to save the sea.

"Young readers will discover the beauty of the ocean and the importance of keeping it clean," Gianne added.

Her three other books offer lessons in protecting biodiversity, sustainable farming, and urban sustainability, and the series revolves around the adventures of Mummy Grubbie, Daddy Grubbie, Grandpa Grubbie and Little Grubbie (@the.grubbies



ADVOCATE: Amena

on Instagram). Each title features activities, offering children an immersive experience.

"In *Little Grubbie Saves The Sea*, readers can match the different types of trash to the correct recycle bin. The book ends with helping Mummy Grubbie get from point A to point B, leading to the 'next journey' (the next book)," the 35-year-old, who currently works in the energy sector in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, revealed.

Gianne grew up in Bahrain and continues to visit her parents who live in Manama. She has always been passionate about teaching -

from playing 'classrooms' with her siblings as an adult - and believes it's important to start education at a young age.

"Reading about sustainability to children is like planting little trees in their minds. It helps them grow into caring and responsible adults," she explained.

Amena Shahrukh, the founder of Shahzaib's Club House - a local community of differently abled people - endorsed the benefits that reading provides by citing an example of a family she knows from her days living in Saudi Arabia before moving to Bahrain 10 years ago.

"This family has two sons - Basil is a mainstream child and the younger one, Raed, has Autism Spectrum Disorder," Amena said.

"Their parents started reading to them when they were four and two respectively, as part of a school initiative, and noticed considerable improvements."



AUTHOR: Gianne

Autism, also called Autism Spectrum Disorder, is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by symptoms of deficient reciprocal social communication and the presence of restricted, repetitive, and inflexible patterns of behaviour.

"The exercise helped Basil clearly express himself even at the age of five and his vocabulary improved. He went on to take up reading on his own, a habit that continues to this day - he is 26," Amena added.

"Raed was able to recognise letters early and quickly grasped each letter's sound. His grammar skills and imagination developed and improved. He read comic books as a teenager, which are easier for children on the spectrum," she added.

The club house has more than 50 families and, last month, launched Special Sparks, a newsletter featuring information and inspirational stories. To contribute to the newsletter, follow @shahzaibclubhouse on Instagram.





WRITER: Nada with her book at the launch in Sharjah

# Dove tale

**B**AHRAINI children's author Nada Fardan's latest book *Hamama Nodi* (Arabic for 'the dove Nodi') is inspired by the popular namesake Arab folk song and hopes to kindle a communal spirit in the minds of young readers.

"As a child, I fondly remember singing *Hamama Nodi Nodi*, which is still popular today, not only in Bahrain but across the Gulf, with slight variations," the 39-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

The 27-page book was brought alive by Nada, along with other local creative talents, including renowned author Rasool Darweesh, who reviewed the initial and final draft, heritage researcher Atiq Al Qubaisi who reviewed the initial draft, and artist Jasim Al Maqabi, who worked on the imaginative illustrations.

"Every September, the Sharjah Institute for Heritage hosts the Sharjah International Narrator Forum, a prestigious global event that unites writers, narrators, and scholars from around the world. This year, the theme was 'birds tales', offering an ideal opportunity

to showcase Bahrain's rich heritage through a story I had the honour to present – one inspired by the deep connection between traditional culture and birds," the Sanad resident noted.

In the story, protagonist, Radheya asks her brother Sayodi, who is performing the Haj pilgrimage in Mecca, to pray for rain, hoping to bring life back to their drought-stricken village of Jabal (mountain in Arabic). The dove Nodi plays a key role in the story, much like the dove in the folk song, carrying messages between the siblings.

The story touches upon the themes of hope, community, and interconnectedness.

"This dove and the girl are a tribute to my grandmother, also named Radheya, who was a vital link in our family, much like the messenger bird," the architect and mother of one revealed.

"My father's frequent travels and my mother's inability to drive meant we often stayed home, and it was my grandmother who, through her daily phone calls, brought us news of family and the outside world, keeping us connected."

For more details, follow @nada.fardan on Instagram.



GULFWEEKLY'S COLUMNIST PREETY PRAVEEN EXPLORES THE TOPIC 'THE IMPACT OF CANCER ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING WITH OR BATTLING THE DISEASE', ENCOURAGING A POSITIVE MINDSET AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

**W**E all wish to have a nice day, doing productive things, laughing at a silly joke, and having a sound sleep. None of us want to break this sweet bubble and think of something unpleasant or unpredictable to happen to us or to anyone who is close to our hearts.

Our lives take a 180-degree turn when it comes to health issues. These days, untimely food habits, daily busy routines and stressful lives have become normal and acceptable. And that, I believe, has eventually decreased the gap between diseases and age group. In the past, cardiac arrest was generally prevalent among those aged above 50, now even people in their 30s are affected.

Some health conditions are curable at any point of time, but then there is cancer, and its treatment and outcome depend on the stage when it is detected.

Cancer affects people physically, and the mental trauma of going through the treatment takes away the willpower and positivity as well - not only from the individual battling the disease, but also from their near and dear ones.

The agonising journey starts from the day a person comes to know that they're suffering from cancer. The ordeal continues as they go through various tests, chemotherapy and surgery, in fact, the agony never ends.

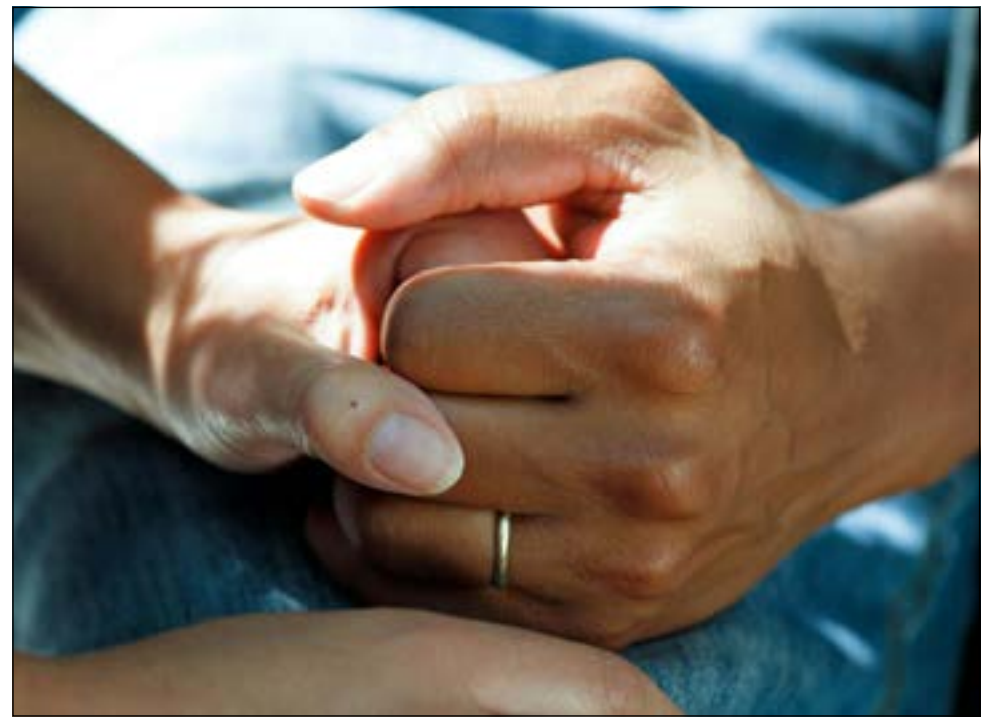
Fear of survival, living a normal life, freedom from medications, anxiety over the possibility of a relapse ... these factors may never allow a patient, or their family, to laugh wholeheartedly during this difficult phase.

A more tormenting situation is for the people who have to take care of their dear ones. Keeping a constant smile, showing a positive attitude, showering encouraging words are no less painful than going through the disease itself.

There's a saying, 'Willpower works better than medicine'. And it is true.

It's unfortunate if someone has to go through this unpleasant phase, but fortunate ones are those who show strong willpower, surrender themselves in the hands of their qualified doctors, take care of their medications, believe in themselves and have the courage to give their lives a second chance.

# When the going gets tough, the tough get going



All this isn't easy as it seems to be, but undoubtedly possible with a positive mindset and willingness to live.

Family members play a vital role in building up this confidence and courage. Their love and care build a strong bridge between one's health and the treatment one's going through.

The most important factor is timely and regular health

check-ups. While we plan and prepare for holiday trips every year, we should also set time aside for a visit to hospital. It's not something we would look forward to, but it definitely should be done without excuses.

I recently got chance to talk to a few cancer survivors and this is what they said:

- I survived because I wanted to survive.
- My family's love kept me

pushing and here I am today, healthy and smiling.

● It was painful, but I defeated that pain with my willpower.

● Don't fear the disease, fear losing in front of it. I'm not only a survivor, but I'm also a winner; because I defeated it.

Never forget ... "Tough times never last but tough people do."

(Preeti Praveen is a psychologist and author.)

# THE STRENGTH OF FAMILY SUPPORT

*GulfWeekly's readers share their views on the topic.*

MY maternal grandfather and both of my uncles battled cancer.

Sadly, my grandfather and one of my uncles passed away, while the other survived after receiving proper treatment.

The emotional toll of losing loved ones, combined with the financial strain of treatment, was extremely challenging for our family.

Cancer may be more common today, but the uncertainty, fear, and heartbreak never get easier.

**Tanveer Khan**

I have observed some of my close friends and family

deal with the ordeal of having a loved one suffer from cancer.

The first blow is when the news is shared, which is typically met with denial. Once it sinks in, the mental turmoil makes one feel isolated. Questions like 'why me' begin to surface. Prayer and emotional support help to an extent.

Eventually, one comes to terms with reality. Even so, I've always wondered about the fear of dying – how does one deal with it. Spiritual comfort and family support are much needed.

**Maya B N**



**Speak Your Mind!**  
GulfWeekly is continuing its 'Speak Your Mind' feature series where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your mental health concerns and challenges on a chosen subject. With our experts who will respond to a selection of them. Together, let's get the conversation started! October's topic is: 'The mental health impact on

the financial strain of treatment and the emotional impact of witnessing the ordeal. The pressure of 'showing up' for day-to-day activities amidst the gamut of emotions. Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by October 30. We will publish



# Feel like a princess!



**FASHION REPORT**  
By MELISSA NAZARETH  
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

**T**RADITIONAL Indian styles and designs are becoming a trend at Arab weddings and parties with more and more Bahrainis turning to Asian ethnic attire, according to local fashion enthusiast and entrepreneur Natasha Awaz.

Armani Fashions boutique in Muharraq, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, showcases a diverse collection, featuring lehengas (skirts), gararas (flared trousers), gowns and more, in vibrant colours and plush pastels, embroidered with opulent gold thread work and sparkly sequins that adorn sharp-cut blouses and flowy

silhouettes.

While her designs are popular among Bahrain's South-Asian expatriate community, a major chunk of her patrons are local women.

"Our styles are a hit at Arab weddings and henna functions," the 33-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"While yellow and green coloured pieces are popular for henna events, we have a demand for all kinds of colours for the aroos (bridal) functions.

"Arabs appear to love Indian culture and what they have seen in Bollywood films. After trying on our dresses, some of them sing Indian songs and even groove in front of the mirror in our boutique!"

India's relationship with the Arab world is understood to have begun at the end of the seventh century when Arab traders arrived on the subcontinent's Western coast. Since then, the two have enjoyed a flourishing association both economically and culturally.

"Our collections are reasonably priced, ranging from BD8 up to BD50 for the heavily-embroidered pieces," said the creative talent, who lives with her husband, Awaz bin Abid, a marketing manager, and their schoolboy son, Armaan bin Awaz, in Muharraq.

Natasha, an Indian expat from Kerala, arrived in Bahrain in 2012 and opened her boutique one year later. While the majority of her dresses are sourced from Indian cities such as

**SPARKLY:**  
Sequins like stars in the night sky



Surat, Mumbai and Banaras, the artist also sketches her own designs, which are then completed through collaborations with tailoring shops.

In addition to finished outfits, a selection of ready-to-stitch pieces are equally popular with those seeking a more customised fitting.



FASHIONISTA: Natasha



MODERN: Natasha's feathery creation blending traditional silhouettes with contemporary style

"One of my own designs is a skirt and blouse style with a dupatta (stole) that has feather work on it," she added. "It's available in multiple colours including pastels, white and red. While it's an Indian silhouette, the feathers lend it a modern feel, which makes the piece so versatile."

"We just finished Navratri

(a nine-night Indian festival) earlier this month and the garba collection (skirt-and-blouse attire worn during the folk dances performed during Navratri) did quite well too."

Natasha is not resting on

her laurels, as the wedding season beckons with demands for traditional outfits, alongside modern examples with ethnic touches, plus her own original designs.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

**Q**uizmaster 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. Vanilla comes from what flowers?
2. The Pittsburgh Penguins play which sport?
3. Which two fruits are anagrams of each other?
4. What is the biggest British fast food chain?
5. Who wrote the book *The Origin Of The Species* in 1859?
6. Pakistan were six-time team World Champions



between 1977 and 1993, in which sport?  
7. How many legs does a Bombay Duck have?

7. None. It's a fish.
6. Squash
5. Sir Charles Darwin
4. Gregg's
3. Lemon and Melon
2. Ice Hockey
1. Orchid

**ANSWERS**

LADY IN RED: A colour commonly worn by Indian brides

from Indian cities such as

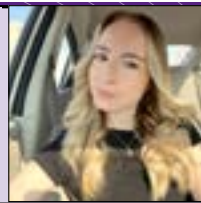


FLORAL: There's something for every personality



# Leisure Scene

What's on guide by  
Julia Cassano



## SAVOUR THE BEST OF ITALY AT RITZ-CARLTON



AUTHENTIC: An Italian dish at Primavera

**J**OIN the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain for a range of dining experiences that are sure to make your weekend a special one.

Enjoy the essence of Italy at Primavera with the restaurant's exquisite three-course menu, which combines authentic flavours and artisanal ingredients.

Step into the hotel from Wednesday to Monday, 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm, and relish the delicacies for BD25.

Meanwhile, guests can savour the true taste of London at La Med's Big Ben Brunch. It promises to transport your tastebuds across the Atlantic with a pleasant feast of British favourites and flavours.

Immerse yourself in the

charm of London as you dine amidst enchanting decor, featuring iconic landmarks like Big Ben, the London Bridge, and the classic red phone booth.

The spread is priced at BD33, inclusive of soft beverages, BD44 inclusive of selected beverages and BD60 for a bubbly brunch. Children aged four to 12 dine for BD16.500.

The Burlington Club will also stage its 'Two Taos' night, bringing you an unforgettable evening of live entertainment featuring timeless classics from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. It's available on Wednesday, from 9pm.

For more information: Please call 1758 6499 or email [rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com](mailto:rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com)



LIVELY ATMOSPHERE: Musicians at the Burlington Club

## SLICE OF BLISS



**F**OR a weekend filled with special dining experiences, visit the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Dig into premium steaks, all cooked to perfection, at Links Steak Night, 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 more information or bookings, contact 39007546.

SWEET: Pastries at RGC

## THOUGHTFUL TREATS ON FOUR SEASONS' MENU

**G**ATHER your family and friends and enjoy a range of memorable dining experiences at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay this weekend.

Don't miss out on Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Pink October Brunch, which is available for one more weekend.

Delight in a selection of irresistible mains and pink desserts tomorrow (Friday), from 1pm to 4pm, and a percentage of the funds will be donated to the Bahrain Cancer Society.

The brunch costs BD35 including soft beverages or BD48 including a selected beverage package. Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy 50 per cent savings.

Guests can also indulge in an exquisite Afternoon Tea experience at Bay View Lounge.

Relish classic tea sandwiches and delicate pastries everyday from noon



STUNNING: Views at Byblos

to 11pm. It costs BD18 per person and BD22 including sparkling apple juice.

Meanwhile, Bay View Lounge has organised a Taco Fiesta, which includes tender corn tortillas, creamy guacamole and fresh pico de gallo, among other savoury fillings. Relish the taco feast until October 31, from 11am to 11.30pm. It's priced at BD10 for vegetarian and BD12 for chicken, beef or fish.

Get together with family and friends and head down to Byblos to savour Lebanese flavours, while overlooking

a stunning sea view, from Tuesday to Sunday, 6pm to midnight. Enjoy dishes such as cold and hot mezze platters, beetroot mutabbal and spicy sujak with a special sauce and seabass tajin and grilled jumbo prawns.

Visitors can also treat themselves to an array of relaxing treatments, specially tailored to address the unique needs of their skin, at The Spa. They are available everyday from 10am to 10pm. Prices range from BD70 to BD95.

For details, call 17115500.

## BRITISH CLUB TO HOST FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

**T**HE British Club is all geared up to host a series of fun events and programmes in the coming weeks.

A Family Sports Day will take place on November 15, from noon to 5pm.

Members and guests can also enjoy the club's 'Llongsteppers Race Night', which features raffles and the chance to own a racehorse, on November 21, from 5pm. The first race starts at 6.30pm.

To kick off the holiday season, the club will stage a Christmas Tree Lighting, complete with festive treats, such as mince pies, on November 29, 7pm.

The Manama Singers and the Jazz Orchestra of Bahrain will also perform festive carols and entertainment, adding to the festive atmosphere.

For more information on events, contact 17728245.





# Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

FLAVOURFUL:  
Pan Asian Night



## SPOOKTACULAR FEAST LINED UP

**A**N impressive line-up of festive and fun promotions are available at Hilton Bahrain.

Enjoy Origin Kitchen and Culture's Halloween Brunch 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' on November 1, from 12.30pm to 4pm.

The feast is priced at BD39net with unlimited beverages and BD28net with unlimited soft beverages.

Guests can also pre-order a Thanksgiving Turkey To-Go, which includes a whole turkey (mustard honey-glaze or apple and honey-glaze), brussel sprouts, maple-glazed carrots, chestnut, sage and onion stuffing, cranberry sauce and turkey gravy. A 15 per cent discount is available for orders before November 15. Advance payment is required.

Early bird offers are also available for The Nutcracker Christmas Brunch (BD30net with unlimited beverages) and the Midnight Masquerade – A Fairy Tale New Year's Eve Ball (BD50net for unlimited regular and premium drinks).

Tonight, guests can get ready to enjoy the freshest catch at Origin Kitchen and

Culture's Seafood Night, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD32 net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25 with unlimited soft beverages.

The restaurant has also lined up a Pan Asian Night on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD22net with unlimited soft beverages or BD28net inclusive of unlimited selected beverages.

Meanwhile, hotel visitors can also enjoy a fantastic breakfast spread at Origin Kitchen and Culture's Breakfast Buffet, available Sunday to Friday from 6.30am to 10.30am, at BD13net per person.

Late risers can indulge in Asian, continental and Arabic favourites at the restaurant's Lazy Breakfast on Saturday, from 6.30am to 11.30am. It costs BD13net per person.

Kickstart your weekend at the hotel's Society Club, on the 44th floor, for an evening of superb nightlife and sophistication. It's open from Monday to Saturday, 9pm to 2am. Ladies can enjoy three complimentary selected beverages on Wednesday at Cocoluna Lounge, from 7pm to midnight.

For more information or bookings, call 33692013.



VARIETY: Breakfast favourites at Hilton Bahrain

## MOVIE TIME



**H**EAD down to CINECO Seef to watch some of the English language films being shown this weekend.

**DIE ALONE (PG-15)**

Lost in a world overrun by mysterious creatures, a young man with amnesia teams up with an eccentric survivalist to find his missing girlfriend.

**Actors:** Frank Grillo, Carrie-Ann Moss, Douglas Smith  
**Timings:** 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

**LITTLE EMMA (PG)**

Little Emma dreams of unlocking the mystery of her human origins, kick-starting an extraordinary journey.

Along the way, Emma befriends Newton, a smart turtle investor, and together, they search for a hidden island inhabited by tiny humans.

**Actors:** Travis Cloer, Niko Gerentes, Natalie Grace  
**Timings:** 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm

**SMILE 2 (18+)**

About to embark on a new world tour, global pop sensation Skye Riley begins experiencing increasingly terrifying and inexplicable events. Overwhelmed by the escalating horrors and the pressures of fame, Skye is forced to face her darkest past to regain control of her life before it spirals out of control.

**Actors:** Naomi Scott, Rosemarie DeWitt, Kyle Gallner  
**Timings:** 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm, 12.15am

**CASH OUT (PG-15)**

Tempted by what could be his biggest score ever, professional thief Mason joins forces with his younger brother to rob a bank. However, when the heist goes awry, the thieves find themselves trapped inside, surrounded by SWAT teams, the FBI and Interpol.

**Actors:** John Travolta, Kristin Davis, Lukas Haas, Quavo  
**Timings:** 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm



CREATIVE: Margherita at the launch

## Capturing the spiritual realm



ART REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH  
melissa@gdnmedia.bh

**R**ENOWNED Italian photographer Margherita Verdi has launched her first solo exhibition in Bahrain, which embodies the vibrant energy and spiritual significance of religious buildings across Europe.

*Soul's Habitats*, on display until November 2, was inaugurated under the patronage of Italian Ambassador Andrea Catalano, coinciding with the 20th edition of the Day of Italian Contemporary Art.

Promoted by the non-profit Association of Italian Contemporary Art Museums, the day aims to showcase the vitality of the country's art, and involves museums, foundations, public and private institutions, galleries, studios and artists' spaces throughout Italy.

"I was immersing myself in these places, savouring the atmosphere. Feeling this suspended time inside made me reflect on how, regardless of the religious cult practiced there, there is an aura within these walls, a soul that unites them," the visiting artist told *GulfWeekly*.

"I invite viewers to explore the profound essence that transcends their architectural form by capturing their vibrant energy and spiritual significance," she added.

Margherita's evocative photographs go beyond

traditional depictions of sacred spaces.

A celebrated photographer since the 1980s, her illustrious career is marked by international acclaim and prestigious awards. Her work delves into the intricate relationship between nature, human experience, and cultural identity.

*Soul's Habitats* offers enthusiasts an immersive experience, displaying the interiors of religious buildings across Europe and showcasing their roles as physical structures and dynamic spaces for spiritual connection.

Margherita's unique approach plays with focus and movement, capturing the essence of the places rather

than striving for technical perfection. The photographs are characterised by a rich colour palette and intentional blur elements, emphasising the transitory nature of the sacred environments.

Her career includes notable solo exhibitions like *Sottovuoto*, which took place earlier this year, *Impronte* (2019), and *Aquarium* (2017). In addition to numerous group exhibitions exploring themes of identity, memory, and the environment, her work has been featured in festivals and galleries worldwide.

'*Soul's Habitats*' is on display at Art Concept in Andalus Garden, Gudaibiya, Sunday to Thursday, from 10am to 6pm.



SOULFUL: An artistic interpretation of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Türkiye



# Pulse of Pop

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

## MELODIC MIMICRY

**A**merican singer Halsey's fifth studio album *The Great Impersonator* drops tomorrow.

It explores the songwriter's authenticity as she impersonates different musicians throughout the 18-track project.

The artist initiated a social media countdown for the concept album's release by revealing all the music icons she mimicked for each song, including Dolly Parton, Aaliyah, Britney Spears, Cher, David Bowie, and Amy Lee of metal band Evanescence among many more.

Fans believe the album also serves as Halsey's way of paying homage to the artists she grew up listening to.

The visionary also takes inspiration from her younger self. She revealed that for the track *Hurt Feelings*, she refers to her



IMPRESSION: The album cover

*Badlands* (2015) look, when she was recognised for her vibrant blue hair.

The recording process, from 2022 to 2024, happened during a time when the singer was struggling with lupus and T-cell disorder diagnoses, which she only revealed earlier this year.

She explained that the idea for the album comes from her having to wear wigs and heavy makeup during the height of her illness.

"There was already this magic trick brewing subconsciously in a sleight



STARWOMAN: Halsey as David

of hand of 'don't notice how sick I am'. I was like a magician, I felt like a professional Halsey impersonator," she said in an interview, adding that she believed at some point this would be the last album she would ever make.

Born and raised in New Jersey as Ashley Nicolette Frangipane, Halsey started writing music at 17 and posted her first original song titled *Ghost* on SoundCloud in 2014.

Her 2021 album *If I Can't Have Love, I Want*

*Power* was influenced by the industrial music genre (aggressive fusion of rock and electronic music), and tackled the 'joys and horrors of childbirth' from the single mum's perspective.

Its ambitious concept and theatrical production earned it the Best Alternative Music Album nomination at the 2022 Grammy Awards.

Halsey's stage name is an anagram of her first name and also a reference to New York City Subway's Halsey Street station.



DUALITY: The film's poster

## DUO ON THE RUN

**T**HE final instalment of the 2018 *Venom* movie franchise, *Venom: The Last Dance*, is out now in theatres.

The comic-based franchise follows investigative journalist Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) who gains superpowers after becoming a host of alien symbiote (extraterrestrial parasite) Venom whose species aims to invade Earth.

Taking place after *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* (2021), the third movie follows the duo on the run. Hunted by both of their worlds, they are forced into a devastating decision and bring the curtains down as they embark on their final adventure together.

Marking her directorial debut, Kelly Marcel wrote both previous *Venom* movies before she stepped into the director's role for the finale.

"Eddie and Venom are

fugitives in this movie, far away from San Francisco and everyone they've ever known," Kelly said.

"Pursued by multiple adversaries, they're now all the other has," she added.

As the character is considered an iconic rival of Spider-Man, Venom Spidey fans have been holding onto the hope of finally seeing the two (or three!) fight each other on the big screen for the current franchise.

Speculation was spread around the dream grand finale as viral set photos revealed Eddie roaming the streets of New York, Peter Parker's hometown.

However, when asked about it, actor Tom did not provide a clear statement.

"There are always possibilities, but I couldn't possibly say anything because this is the last movie, I would love that," he said.

## POETIC MEMOIR

**W**ELSH singer Marina Diamandis makes her publishing debut with a collection of poems entitled *Eat the World*, on October 29.

Marina's autobiographical poems are set to delve into trauma, youth, and the highs and lows of relationships.

The singer first shared on social media about her writing process in 2022, saying that she has been writing a poetry book that was 'like her lyrics, but way more savage'.

The creative stated that poetry allowed her to be more honest and vulnerable than she could through song-writing, and gave her an insight about her own self.

"The book has allowed me the space to be able to explore things I wasn't happy about myself in a way that I just don't think I could have with music," Marina said in an interview.

"On the subject of relationships, they're amazing because they are mirrors for us. Even being out of relationship, if something ends or if you're doing random dating, all of those things just show us different parts of ourselves," she added.



PRIMADONNA: Marina with her book

The 39-year-old creative talent embarked on her music career in 2007 when she self-published her debut extended play *Mermaid vs Sailor* under the stage name Marina and the Diamonds.

She is known for her cult classic 2012 studio album *Electra Heart*, which was listed among the 50 greatest concept albums of all time by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

**C**RIME action show *Like a Dragon: Yakuza* releases worldwide tomorrow on Amazon Prime.

The American-Japanese series will premiere with the first three episodes, followed by the remaining three on November 1.

Adapted from Sega's *Yakuza* video game series, the live action set in 1995 and 2005 follows the story of Kazuma Kiryu (Ryoma Takeuchi) during his years as a Japanese transactional organised crime syndicate member - Yakuza - and his dynamic with childhood friend Akira Nishikiyama (Kento Kaku).

"I was surprised to be offered this role," Ryoma said in an interview.

"I knew about the game series and had played the first game at my uncle's home. It's a real challenge to play a character from an existing work, and I considered very

## TALE OF A WARRIOR



PAST AND PRESENT: The series' poster

carefully whether I was suited to portray Kiryu, and whether it was right for me.

"From the beginning, I knew I would have to give it everything I have, or I'd never pull it off," he added, describing the character as 'strong, well-built and heroic'.

The video game franchise released its first instalment in 2005 for PlayStation 2.

It was positively received in Japan for its innovative gameplay and cinema-like storytelling.

Released worldwide in 2021, the adapted namesake video game, which serves as the eighth mainline title in the series, earned nominations including for Best Role-Playing Game at the 2020 Video Game Awards.



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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fleet and Drivers Management      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuel and Maintenance Management |
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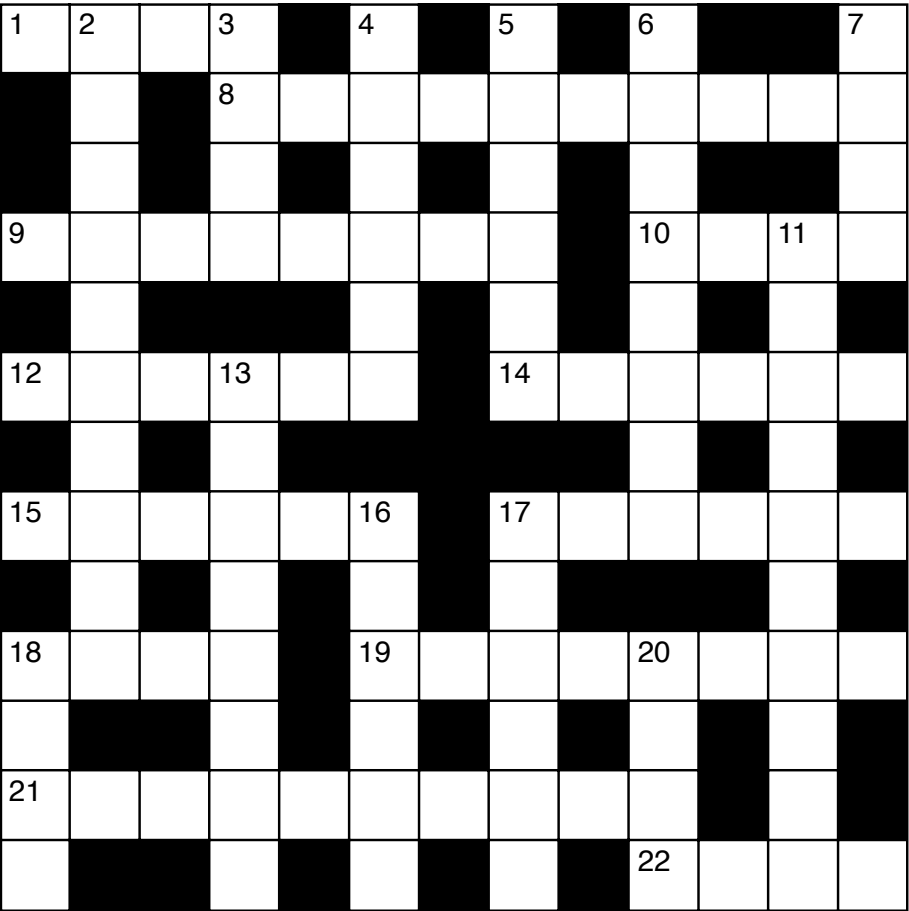
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# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

- 1. Eager (4)
- 8. Deviation (10)
- 9. Power (8)
- 10. Fashion (4)
- 12. Sullen (6)
- 14. Fanciful (6)
- 15. Hand digit (6)
- 17. Chaperon (6)
- 18. Psalm (4)
- 19. Produce (8)
- 21. Fulfil (10)
- 22. Retain (4)

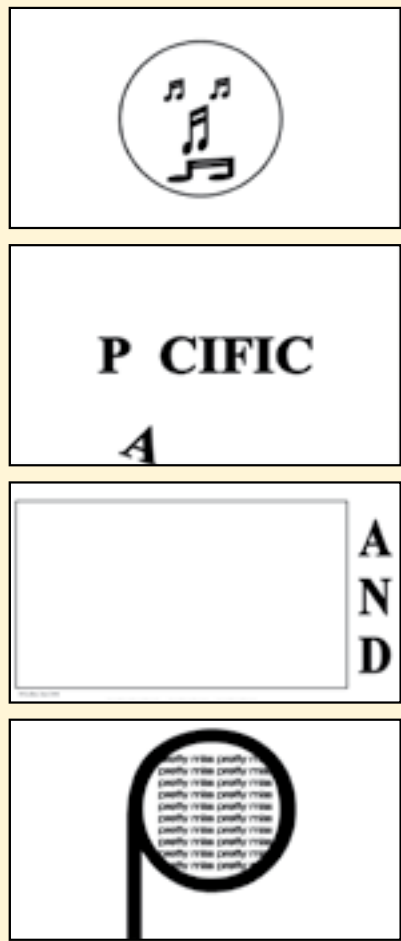
### DOWN

- 2. Brilliance (10)
- 3. Valley (4)
- 4. Scant (6)
- 5. Curved (6)
- 6. Rush (8)
- 7. Gaming stake (4)
- 11. Tiny (10)
- 13. Arrange (8)
- 16. Diet (6)
- 17. Refusal (6)
- 18. Chop roughly (4)
- 20. Smell (4)

### who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote the novel *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*?  
WHAT ... type of creature is a nannygai?  
WHERE ... in South America is the city of Londrina?  
WHEN ... did Martina Navratilova last win the Wimbledon Ladies Singles tennis title?  
WHO ... designed the Admiralty Arch in London?  
WHAT ... city lies across the Hooghly River from Calcutta?  
WHERE ... was Agustin de Iturbide emperor from 1822-23?  
WHEN ... did Jacques Delors first become president of the European Commission?

### just so



## 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

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

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

### darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

Sudoku

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

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 7 Chase; 8 Promise; 9 Prickle; 10 Kudos; 12 Revelation; 15 Impeccable; 18 Mania; 19 Rostrum; 21 Illegal; 22 Crown.

Down: 1 Scepticism; 2 Magic; 3 Weak; 4 Sphere; 5 Cocktail; 6 Disdain; 11 Sanctimony; 13 Exchange; 14 Spindle; 16 Airily; 17 Broom; 20 Suck.

JUST SO: For the love of god, Last but not least, Sign on the dotted line, The Royal Mail

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Ninus; Italy; Craggy Island; 1788; Peter Bowker; Earth, Air, Fire and Water; South Africa; 1985.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...