



ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA
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BAHRAINI artist Nermin Habib is putting the kingdom's heritage on the global stage with her latest sculpture *Flow*, set to be exhibited at the internationally renowned Milan Design Week.

The model, made of clay hand-sculpted by Nermin and fired in the kilns of the kingdom, also features palm frond ropes weaved by Bahraini Hassan Al Shajjar.

It will be showcased at the ninth edition of Isola Design Festival, to be held in Milan from April 7 to 13, alongside pieces by more than 50 international artists.

"The design process for *Flow* began with an exploration of movement and the idea of transitions—the spaces in-between where different elements meet and transform," Nermin, 44, told *GulfWeekly*.

"I was captivated by the fluidity of waves and the rhythmic patterns of wind shaping landscapes, which felt like a powerful metaphor for my own journey between cultures, techniques, and ideas.

"Initially, I envisioned a form that could capture this sense of motion in a static medium like clay. As I started hand-building, the curves and contours naturally evolved to reflect the seamless flow of water and air. The raw, unglazed stoneware was a deliberate choice to preserve the tactile connection to earth, enhancing the sculpture's organic feel.

"Incorporating palm fibres spun in burlap was a turning point. This element not only highlighted Bahrain's weaving traditions but also bridged the tactile warmth of craft with the cool elegance of contemporary design.

"The process was very intuitive—allowing the materials and textures to guide the evolution of the piece. In the end, *Flow* became a dialogue between tradition and innovation, capturing the essence of movement and the beauty of crossing boundaries."

The piece came to life during Nermin's ongoing residency at the Art Station in Muharraq, a non-profit creative space under the umbrella of the Rashid Al



FLUID: The *Flow* sculpture

Culture of ceramic



COLLAB: Hassan and Nermin working on *Flow*

Khalifa Art Foundation.

Since she became a full-time artist just a couple of years ago, much of Nermin's work has been imbued with intricate and structured geometry, but with this one, she went with a more fluid and abstract form.

She draped the original flattened piece of clay and let gravity and tension shape the piece while she worked on it, coming up with a model that

"feels both spontaneous and intentional".

"The project unfolded over several months, with each phase demanding a different pace and focus," the artist of Egyptian origin explained.

"The initial concept and sketches took about two weeks, where I explored various forms to capture the essence of movement. The hand-building phase was the most time-intensive,

spanning around six weeks, as I shaped and refined the curves, allowing the piece to evolve organically.

"After drying, the firing process required careful timing to preserve the raw, unglazed finish. Incorporating the palm fibres and final touches took an additional two weeks, making the entire process about 10 weeks from concept to completion.



NATURAL: The sculpture retains an organic feel

"This extended timeline allowed me to stay true to the material's natural rhythm, ensuring that every curve and texture told the story I intended."

A self-identified 'cultural nomad', Nermin grew up in Bahrain before completing her undergraduate studies at the American University of Cairo in Egypt, and her Masters in Fine Arts at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

After a corporate stint in advertising and technology, she returned to her artistic roots in 2023.

With *Flow* set to be exhibited next month, Nermin is already hard at work on a series of new projects exploring the potential of local Bahraini clay, where instead of traditional glazes, she plans to incorporate glass, creating a dialogue between rawness and translucence.

For more details, follow @nerminhabib on Instagram.



TV TRADITIONS
Ramadan nostalgia
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Lanterns of light
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TASTE OF AL TAJ
Sheraton sizzles
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PULSE OF POP
Movies, music & more
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Show-stoppers!

Television series have long been an integral part of Ramadan traditions in Bahrain, the Gulf and the Arab world at large. Years ago, every evening at the iftar table, families would gather to break their fast and catch the latest episode of their favourite series. This has changed with the advent of satellite TV and video-on-demand, but the Ramadan customs continue. ZAINAB ALMAHDI has compiled a list of iconic shows that have shaped Bahraini popular culture, produced by Bahrain TV in the 80s and 90s, starring an ensemble of local talent. Every show boasts its own unique opening and ending sequence - a full-length music video - each a work of art in its own right.

HASAN AND NOOR AL SANA

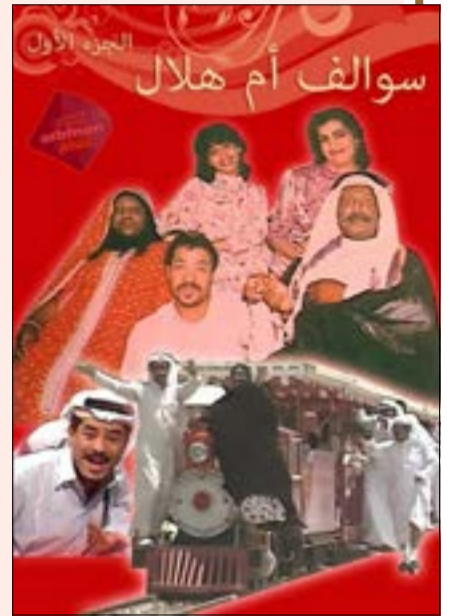
Year: 1995
Episodes: 15
Genre: Fantasy, adventure, romance
Summary: The fantastical series, set in medieval times, is about a young man named Hasan, whose path crosses with a sorcerer, and is eventually caught up with the goings-on of the jinn world. While in the other world, he falls in love with the swan maiden Noor Al Sana, the daughter of the Jinn king. Although it's an adaptation of the *One Thousand and One Nights* story *Hasan of Basra*, the characters still speak in the Bahraini dialect. The adventure series is tinged with elements of horror and surrealism, aided by the creative and advanced use of computer-generated imagery (CGI) and special effects. Viewers across the Gulf watched the series, which won several awards and has been noted as an early example of the use of CGI in regional productions. Bahrain TV still occasionally airs re-runs of *Hasan and Noor Al Sana*.



SEWALIF UM HELAL

(Um Helal's Tales)

Years: 1988-1990
Seasons: 3
Genre: Sitcom
Summary: This comedic series follows the high-jinks of Um Helal, a goofy housewife. Every episode, she goes on a new, whacky quest, joined by her husband Marzooq and son Helal. Though she may be a lot to handle, she is endearing to everyone around her. "Someone should stop her!" and "she is a terror!" neighbours often exclaim at her shenanigans. *Sewalif Um Helal* was so popular when it was initially aired in 1988 that it spawned two additional seasons, and a spin-off titled *Um Helal* in Cairo. *Um Helal*, played by Salwa Bukhait, has since become a household name and a media personality, and is more widely known by her on-screen moniker than her real name.



The TV series can be watched on YouTube using the QR codes provided. English subtitles can be enabled on the videos by clicking the Closed Captions (CC) button, and going to Settings > Subtitles > Auto-Translate.

SA'DOON

Year: 1998
Episodes: 15
Genre: Historical drama
Summary: Set during the British Empire's presence in Bahrain, the series follows troubled teenager Sa'doon, who runs away from home to escape his spiteful step-father and sets out on his own. Now homeless and destitute, he befriends Mahdi and Jam'aan, two young men living in similarly precarious situations. They band together to endure hardships, but between tragedy, hunger



and injustice, the three friends do not seem to catch a break. By the end of the show, Sa'doon becomes a symbol of resistance against the British. He is imprisoned for his dissent, and comes out of jail a permanently changed man.

This coming-of-age story is one of the most well-known Bahraini TV series, discussing social issues, including poverty, divorce, unemployment, and the final decades of Bahrain as a British protectorate. Despite being nearly three decades old and quite short, the show is still present in memory, and continues to have an enduring legacy, with actor Jam'aan Al Rowaie recently reprising his role as Sa'doon during festivities for Bahrain's victory in the Gulf Cup. The show was so influential that it even left its mark on the Bahraini dialect, which adopted many words and expressions popularised by the series that have since become commonplace.



TOGETHER: Friends, from left, Jam'aan, Sa'doon and Mahdi



SPEAK YOUR MIND

THE Holy Month is a time of prayer and fasting for our Muslim brothers and sisters. Bahrain comes alive during Ramadan, with people from different walks celebrating the values of the observed festivity, as one, such as abstinence and alms giving, making it a wonderful time to explore 'how acts of service affect mental well-being owing to their positive nature'. We invite you, our family of readers,

to share your views on our March topic, by including your personal experiences, in no more than 100 words. Email gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or [@gdnonline](https://www.instagram.com/gdnonline) on Instagram by March 26, and we will publish a selection of the comments - only 'original' entries will be considered for the top submission and win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation. Together, let's keep the conversation going!



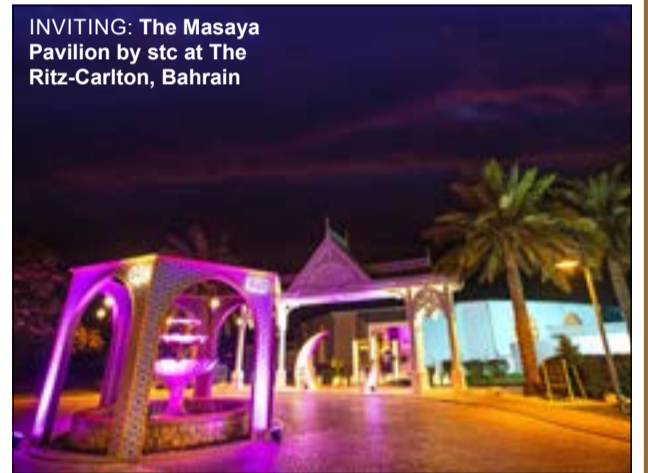
The Ritz and glitz of Ramadan



BOUNTFUL: The dessert station at the Ritz-Carlton



TENDER: Carving the wagyu beef



INVITING: The Masaya Pavilion by stc at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain

SET against the shimmering coastline of Bahrain, The Ritz-Carlton's Masaya Pavilion by stc, in partnership with Behbehani Brothers, has once again raised the bar for an indulgent Ramadan experience.

Pioneered by executive chef Joergen Sodemann and Bahraini junior sous chef Fatema Aghannemi, this year's offering is a masterclass in culinary excellence.

Themed 'Lanterns of Light,' the setting is nothing short of breathtaking; elaborate Arabian décor, the warm glow of flickering lanterns, and an atmosphere of refined grandeur that is effortlessly Instagrammable.

From the moment guests arrive, they are enveloped in a world of elegance. Attentive staff, dressed in beautifully co-ordinated attire, greet visitors with refreshing Ramadan beverages, a prelude to the feast that awaits.

The pavilion itself is a dazzling display of intricate hanging lights and plush seating, exuding both comfort and sophistication, while the gentle murmur



GOURMET REPORT
By JAYNE HOUGHTON
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of conversation and soft instrumental music create an ambience of warmth and conviviality.

The true star of the evening, however, is the cuisine—a lavish spread that spans continents while paying homage to Middle Eastern heritage. A series of live cooking stations provides a theatrical flair, from sizzling grills showcasing Arabic classics, meat carving stations offering prime meat cuts including tender wagyu

beef, to a pasta station where Italian specialities are twirled to perfection. Guests can wander between international delicacies, selecting from Italian, Mexican, Asian, Western, and Indian cuisines, ensuring there is something to satisfy every palate.

The evening commenced with a decadent selection of mezze—classic hummus, smoky baba ganoush, tangy muhammara and delicate vine leaves, all meticulously prepared. A personal highlight was the sushi station, an unexpected yet delightful inclusion, featuring

impeccably fresh cuts of fish and beautifully crafted rolls that offered a refreshing contrast to the richer dishes.

Among the undisputed showstoppers was the Gulf Ouzi, a regal centrepiece of succulent, slow-cooked lamb that fell off the bone, infused with the deep, aromatic spices synonymous with Gulf cuisine. Each bite was a perfect marriage of flavour and tenderness, a true representation to the skill of the chefs behind the feast.

The dessert selection was a spectacle in itself. The live Pistachio Kunafa crepe

station was a revelation; crispy, nutty, and dripping with a selection of syrups, a modern take on a Middle Eastern classic. Adding to the extravagance, the Pistachio Chocolate fountain was an invitation to indulgence, where fruits, pastries, and marshmallows disappeared beneath cascades of velvety chocolate. Café Gourmandise's signature Croffle creation was also part of the display, a croissant-waffle hybrid that is both crispy and fluffy, with toppings ranging from sweet to savoury.

Beyond the culinary offerings, the entertainment added another layer of enchantment to the evening. As we dined, we were treated to a mesmerising display of Sufi whirling, with two men dressed in flowing robes that lit up whilst spinning in hypnotic unison; their movements reflecting the spiritual essence of the performance. The rhythmic motion was utterly captivating and lent a sense

of cultural authenticity to the night.

For those seeking a more serene experience, the outdoor gazebo seating by the beach provided a tranquil escape. The sound of waves gently lapping against the shore, combined with the



RAMADAN KAREEM: A warm welcome at the Pavillion

soft evening breeze, made for an unforgettable setting—a moment of peace amid the evening's splendour. Whether breaking fast in style or indulging in a late-night ghabga, Masaya Pavilion by stc

is an unmissable event on Bahrain's culinary calendar.

Iftar is available from sunset to 8pm at BD40 and ghabga from 9pm to 2am at BD45. Children aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount while those under five dine for free.

A special rate is available for groups of 30 and above. For details, call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



STUNNING: Outdoor gazebo seating

Ramadan Ka

FEAST UNDER THE DOME



MAJESTIC: The Dome

HILTON Bahrain has lined up a spectacular feast at The Dome. An array of international and local dishes will be offered as part of its iftar and ghabga events.

A qanun and oud player will serenade guests, making for an unforgettable dining and cultural experience. It costs BD20+++ for iftar, from sunset to 8pm, and BD20+++ for ghabga, from

9.30pm to 1am on weekdays, and 9.30pm to 2am on weekends. Children under the age of five eat for free, while those aged six to 12 will be charged BD12.705net. Special rates



are available for corporate and group bookings. Ladies can savour the elegant ambience of The Dome on Tuesdays at 50 per cent off. For bookings, call 33692013 or 33690081.



FLAVOURS: The sushi counter



SPOILT FOR CHOICE: Sweet treats at InterContinental Bahrain

FLAVOURFUL EVENINGS AND LASTING MEMORIES

FOR an enchanting Ramadan celebration, filled with stunning décor and delicious food, look no further than the Royal Golf Club's Layali Al Riffa Tent.

The luxurious facility will

serve a variety of traditional and contemporary foods, specially prepared by expert chefs for iftar and ghabga. It costs BD12net per person for iftar and BD14net per person for ghabga. For more information, contact 32184647.

CELEBRATE TRADITIONS IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

IMMERSE yourself in a celebration of luxury and tradition with the InterContinental Bahrain's amazing Ramadan festivities.

Join the hotel for an unforgettable iftar or ghabga, and with every booking, you'll enter for a chance to win an incredible getaway.

The first prize consists of two economy tickets to Oman and a two-night stay at Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar, an IHG Hotel, with breakfast included.

The second prize includes two economy tickets to Riyadh and a two-nights stay at the InterContinental Durrat Al Riyadh, an IHG Hotel, inclusive of breakfast.

Call 36967701 to reserve your table and enter the Ramadan raffle.

Break your fast with the hotel's luxurious buffet, live cooking stations,

authentic delicacies and a variety of international flavours, everyday, from sunset to 8.30pm. It costs BD24net per person, with children aged six to 12 dining for BD10. Those below the age of six eat for free.

Delight in a lavish ghabga buffet, featuring culinary masterpieces and global delicacies, everyday from 9.30pm to 1am.

It costs BD20net per person. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10net and those below six eat for free.

Celebrate the spirit of togetherness at the Regency Tent's Ladies' Night, where a memorable evening and good food await you.

Ladies can enjoy iftar and ghabga every Monday, sunset to 8.30pm, and 9.30pm to 1am, at an exclusive 50 per cent discount.

The Regency Tent will also stage

a Gergaoun celebration for children with traditional dishes, sweets and lively music on the 14th night of Ramadan.

A 'best dressed' contest for the young ones will be held, with the opportunity to win exciting prizes.

Those aged six to 12 pay BD10, while under six dine for free.

Meanwhile, the hotel's Al Rifaa ballroom has been beautifully transformed to offer an exclusive Ramadan setting for a variety of occasions. Prices start at BD14.

Elevate your iftar or ghabga with delicious catering that brings traditional flavours directly to your house. Group bookings are available for 30 guests or more; prices vary based on requirements.

To make a booking or for more information, contact 32300704 or email convention.icbahrain@ihg.com.



Green



What's on
guide by
Julia Cassano



CELEBRATE the holy month with an array of cultural activities being held across the country as part of 'Ramadan in Bahrain'.

Explore Manama Nights at Bahrain National Theatre from 7pm to midnight on weekdays and 7pm to 1am on weekends, until March 30.

It features an installation depicting the moon's transition from crescent to full moon during the holy month.

The venue will also host a variety of cultural performances, including traditional live music, and guests will have access to seating areas with gorgeous views.

A number of food stalls have also been set up, where people can try a range of Bahraini sweets.



INSTALLATION: Bahrain National Theatre

Ramadan celebrations also began on Monday at the Pearling Path Visitor and Experience Centre, and will continue until March 20. It is available everyday from 9pm until midnight.

The Qalali Folk Band will

perform on Friday from 9pm to 11pm followed by the Shabab Al Hidd Band on Saturday from 9pm to 11pm.

Games and workshops will also be staged.

The Heritage Village in Askar is staging celebrations,

featuring Al Musaher, Gergaoun, Al Widaa and Daq Al Habb. Visitors will be able to explore traditional markets, local shops, cafes and food stalls, everyday from 8.30pm to 1am, until March 18.

EXTENSIVE BUFFET AND LIVE STATIONS AT FOUR SEASONS

GET together with your family and loved ones to celebrate Ramadan at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Visit the hotel's Ramadan tent for iftar and ghabga, which will feature a vibrant spread of Arabic and international cuisines, an extensive buffet and live stations including delectable Bahraini classics such as lamb ouzi and machboos.

The dessert selection includes Arabic sweets such as cheese kunafeh, Bahraini halwa and um Ali.

Live musical performances will also be held, with an oud player serenading guests on the outdoor terrace during ghabga.

Iftar, held from sunset to 8pm, costs BD37 per person, inclusive of water, juices, Arabic coffee and tea. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD20, while those under six can enjoy for free.

Ghabga, from 9pm to 2am, is priced at BD40 per person - both in the ballroom section during the week, and in the tent from Saturday to Wednesday. On Thursdays and Fridays, it costs BD44 per person in the tent section, inclusive of juices. It's priced at BD20 for children aged six to 12, and is free for those



LUXURY: Ramadan tent



FUN: Activities for children

games, henna, a bouncy castle, and face painting, will be the highlight of the Ramadan Tent on that special day. It will take place on the 14th night of Ramadan, from 6pm to 8.30pm and is available for guests with an iftar reservation.

At the hotel's award-winning spa, an exclusive Ramadan Escape package awaits those seeking rejuvenation, with 30 per cent savings on traditional spa and facial treatments, as well as hammam experiences.

Guests are also invited to experience an exceptional stay in the hotel's luxury rooms and suites throughout Ramadan with exclusive offers, including 15pc savings on stays of two nights or more and 25pc savings on five nights or more.

For more information, contact 17115070.

under six.

A Premium Experience is also offered at the tent from 9pm to 2am.

It features exclusive service and a full table of the finest mezze and mains, complemented by the option to select additional dishes from the extensive buffet. The cost is BD55 per person for a minimum of four people

and BD220 for three people or less.

Youngsters can enjoy their own buffet during the Holy Month, with activities such as painting, classes, scavenger hunts and arts and crafts at the Al Manama Ballroom's Gergaoun celebration.

The Gergaoun parade, complete with a traditional band, distribution of sweets,

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 fish, very adept at camouflaging itself as a rock, has the most potent neurotoxins of all fish?
2. What two-word phrase essentially means that a person cannot be tried or punished for the same offence more than once?
3. In which decade was the Hubble Space Telescope launched?
4. What was the name of the last queen of France?
5. Who is the longest reigning monarch in history?

6. On the Olympics flag, which colour ring represents Africa?
7. Which type of habitat covers a fifth of the earth's land mass?

- ANSWERS**
1. Stone fish
 2. Double Jeopardy
 3. 1990s
 4. Marie Antoinette
 5. King Louis XIV
 6. Black
 7. Desert

CLUB TO MARK ST PATRICK'S DAY

JOIN the British Club for a stellar afternoon as it hosts its St Patrick's Day event tomorrow.



A variety of food and beverage packages are available at the club for members and non-members.

For details, call 17728245 or email reception@britishclubbahrain.com.

GOOD FOOD, GREAT VIBES

HEAD down to the Dilmun Club in Saar for a week of good food and great vibes.

Indulge in any curry and a beverage on Monday for BD5.500.

On Tuesdays, guests can enjoy a pie and a beverage for BD5.

The club also hosts its steak night every Wednesday, which costs BD20 for two steaks and a bottle of a

beverage.

The club's famous brunch will also be held tomorrow, from 1pm to 5pm, along with live music.

It costs BD18 (all inclusive), BD12 for food only and BD6 for children aged above six. Don't miss out on the club's Saturday Roast. Guests can enjoy a full carvery buffet, from noon to 4pm for BD5.500.

For bookings, call 17690926.

GET SET FOR QUIZ NIGHT

THE Bahrain Rugby Football Club will stage their Quiz Night every Wednesday, from 7pm, all of this month.

It will be hosted by

GulfWeekly's quizmaster and Radio Bahrain RJ Shannon Crockett, and costs BD10 for each team of up to six. Limited spaces are available. For more information, call 17695809.

DELICIOUS: Some of the grills



ASSORTMENT: A selection of desserts to satisfy all



A culinary odyssey



GOURMET REPORT
By JAYNE HOUGHTON
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THE air crackled with a hushed excitement, a gentle murmur punctuated by the clinking of delicate glassware and the tantalising sizzle of live cooking. I'd braved a brief, uncharacteristic downpour to reach the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel's Al Taj Ramadan Tent, and, I can confidently say, the journey was more than worth it.

Forget the predictable buffet line; this was a culinary odyssey.

Imagine, if you will, stepping into a modern-day suq, a symphony of colours and aromas swirling around you.

My first port of call, and a revelation, was the burrata station. Now, I consider myself something of a burrata aficionado. But this was something else. A curated selection of tomatoes, each a jewel in its own right, from sun-drenched to confit, partnered with the silkiest burrata and the finest olive oil. I found myself waxing lyrical to a bewildered gentleman attempting to select a date, proclaiming, "This, my friend, is what burrata dreams are made of!" I even risked a second helping, a rare indulgence for a seasoned food critic, but one I simply couldn't



GATHERING: Al Taj Ramadan Tent at Sheraton Bahrain

resist.

The global influences were evident, a nod to Bahrain's cosmopolitan spirit. Yet, the heart of the feast remained firmly rooted in Arabian tradition. A dedicated section showcased Iraqi and Turkish mezzes amongst other Middle Eastern fare. I'd overheard a family discussing the merits of the kibbeh, the matriarch declaring it 'just like my grandmother's', a seal of approval that spoke volumes.

The planned outdoor barbecue, sadly, was thwarted by the aforementioned rain. But the Sheraton team, demonstrating the very essence of hospitality, adapted

swiftly. The grills were relocated indoors, the smoky aroma still permeating the tent



SPREAD: Delectable appetisers



SWEET TOOTH: Delicious Kunafa

and adding to the authentic atmosphere.

While the Al Taj Ramadan

tent is renowned for its Arabian culinary focus, I did notice nods to international flavours. Amidst the traditional offerings, a beautifully presented sea bass dish caught my eye, its delicate flakes hinting at a lighter, more contemporary touch.

And while sushi wasn't a prominent feature, the freshness of the seafood showcased quality ingredients.

Of course, at the heart of the experience was the vast array of meat dishes, from succulent grilled kebabs to slow-cooked lamb, each prepared with a depth of flavour that spoke

to the region's culinary heritage. It was a delightful blend catering to a diverse range of palates while staying true to the spirit of Ramadan.

And then, the desserts. Oh, the desserts. From the delicate, pistachio-laced kunafa to the comforting warmth of apple crumble, a concession to a more Western palate, there was something to satisfy every sweet tooth. I even witnessed a young boy, eyes wide with delight, attempting to balance a towering plate of luqaimat (small, round deep-fried dumplings).

The Al Taj tent, with its blend of traditional Arabic décor and modern flair, provided the perfect setting for this Ramadan experience.

The Sheraton Bahrain has clearly poured its heart into these iftar and ghabga nights. The combination of exceptional food, attentive service, and a truly magical atmosphere make this a Ramadan experience not to be missed.

The Sheraton Bahrain Hotel's Al Taj Ramadan Tent offers iftar from sunset to 8pm (BD22+++), and ghabga from 9.30pm to 2am (BD24+++). Children aged six to 12 receive a 50 per cent discount, while those under six dine for free at both events.

For bookings, email dining.bahsi@sheraton.com or contact 17533533 or 38885431.

Pulse of Pop

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

COMEDY superstar John Mulaney has launched his live celebrity talk show on Netflix.

Everybody's Live with John Mulaney is set to air every Thursday for 12 consecutive weeks.

The show promises a spontaneous feel as its host, co-showrunner and executive producer is set to interview celebrities to a live studio audience, in addition to the global audience at home.

"It's a fun feeling to know that hopefully a lot of people are watching, and it's live, globally, with no delays, and you could really damage your career!" John jokingly said. "It feels like there's more at stake, I love that. It's the best," he added.

The idea for the show began as an experiment. The stand-up comedian had earlier hosted the talk show *Everybody's in LA* during the Netflix Comedy Festival last year, which had a similar premise and ran for six episodes.

The 42 year-old rose to prominence as a writer for the sketch comedy series *Saturday Night Live* from 2008 to 2013, and returned to host the show six times following his departure.

He won two Primetime Emmy Awards for outstanding writing for a variety special for his two comedy specials *Kid Gorgeous* (2018) and *Baby J* (2023).

John has also done voice acting roles for several animated projects including the character *Big Jack Horner* in *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (2022).

THE STAND-UP'S SITTING DOWN!



LIVE: The show's poster

THE CHARM IN CHAOS

AMERICAN comedy series *Deli Boys* is out now on Disney+.

Created by Abdullah Saeed, the 10-episode series, parallely releasing on Hulu, tackles two Pakistani American brothers, Mir (Asif Ali) and Raj Dar (Saagar Shaikh), whose lives are turned upside down when they discover the secret criminal life of their convenience store-magnate father (Iqbal Theba) following his sudden death.

Abdullah said that instead of focusing on representing certain ethnic groups, he focused on the entertainment aspect, while also writing from his own environment.

"I was speaking from what I know, which is being one of a pair of Pakistani brothers," he said.

"I wasn't trying too hard with the representation stuff and I think that's what really helped. It's truly just entertainment. The by-product is that you get to learn about Pakistanis, Pakistani-Americans specifically."

This is Abdullah's first fully scripted creation. He previously has been a hip hop and electronic music journalist, composer and



ACTION: A scene from the series

documentaries' host.

"The thing I've learned as a screenwriter - and this didn't happen to me as much when I was a journalist - is that you end up living the story of your script in some way," he said.

"It really did feel to me like the boys embarked on essentially a career shift, a career opportunity where, like, okay now we're dealing in this heightened and somewhat dangerously glamorised world that they're in. They're navigating it and every episode they learn something new.

"For me, as a first-time creator of a scripted show, it really was that process. I was looking to my fellow executive producers to really educate me and guide me. It was an incredible learning experience," he added.

LIFE WITH ROBOTS

SCI-FI novel *Luminous* by South Korean author Silvia Park has hit the shelves.

The novel takes place in a futuristic unified Korea, where robots are integrated into society as second-class citizens.

Estranged siblings Jun and Morgan, haunted by memories of their lost brother Yoyo, reconnect upon an investigation that leads Jun, a robot crimes detective, to his robot designer sister dating one of her creations in secret.

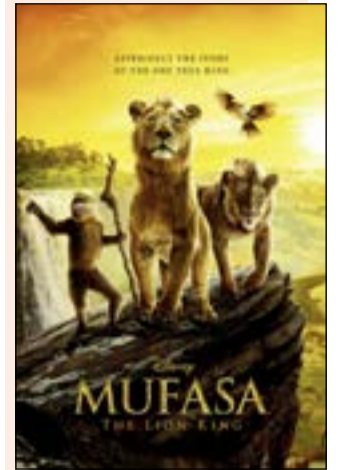
On another side of Seoul, in an abandoned robots junkyard, 11 year-old Ruijie discovers robot boy Yoyo, and the two form a bond.

"For *Luminous*, I wanted to explore the paradox of our relationship with robots. By far the uncanniest for me is



the child robot," Silvia said in an interview.

"Nowadays, we have grieving parents who can take the pictures of their deceased child and use AI to age them, giving themselves a chance to see their child grow up. This was one of the starting points for *Luminous*," she added.



MOVIE TIME

HEAD down to CINECO Seef to watch an array of English-language films being shown this weekend.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (PG-13)

Sam Wilson, the new Captain America, finds himself in the middle of an international incident and must discover the motive behind a nefarious global plan.

Actors: Anthony Mackie, Harrison Ford, Danny Ramirez

Timings: 1.30pm, 8.30pm, 11pm

CLEANER (2025) (15+)

Hoping to expose corruption, radical activists take 300 hostages at an energy company's annual gala in a high-rise building. Their cause soon gets hijacked by an extremist within their ranks who's ready to kill everyone.

Actors: Daisy Ridley, Clive Owen, Taz Skylar

Timings: 2.30pm, 9.15pm and 11.30pm

THE BAYOU (15+)

Vacation turns disaster when Houston grad, Kyle and her friends escape a plane crash in the desolate Louisiana everglades, only to discover there is something way more dangerous lurking in the shallows.

Actors: Elisha Applebaum, Madalena Aragao, Isabelle Bonfrer

Timings: 7pm, 9pm

MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG)

Simba, having become the king of Pride Lands, is determined for his cub to follow in his paw prints while the origins of his late father Mufasa are explored.

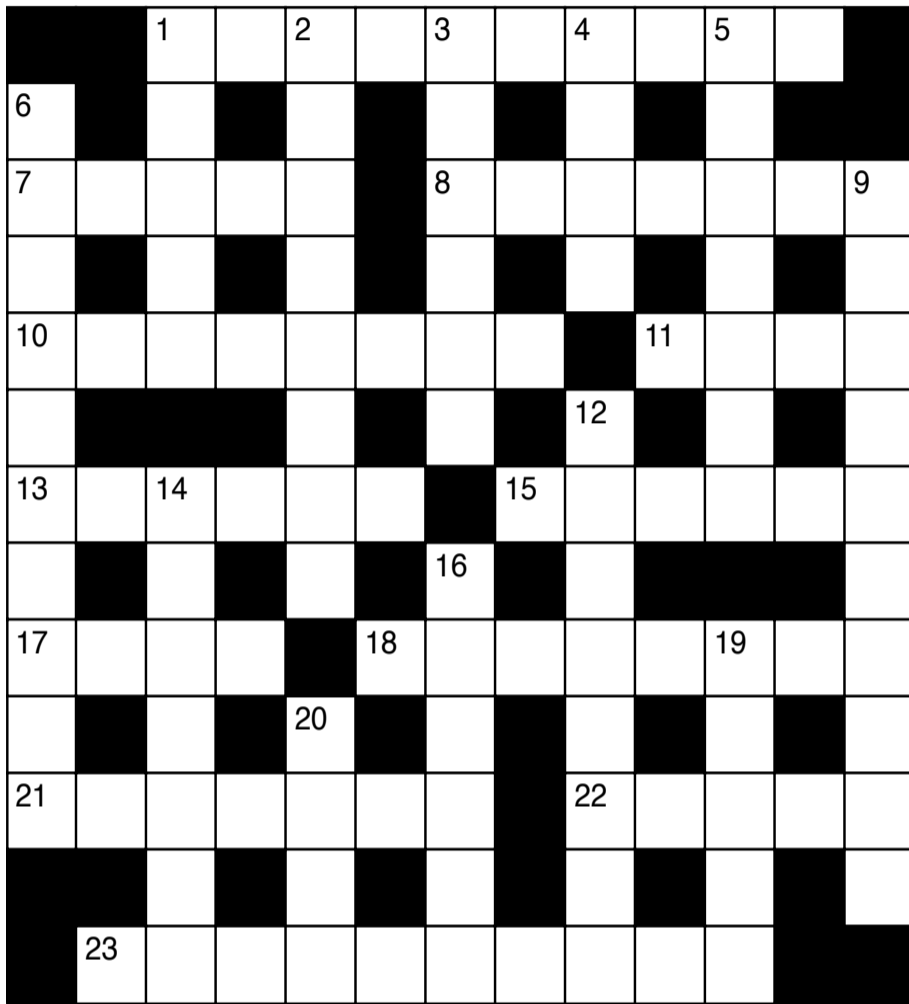
Actors: Aaron Pierre, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner
Timings: 12pm, 8pm

Time Out



Hilal Computers
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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Rearrange (10)
7. Male relative (5)
8. Ardent (7)
10. Leaning to one side (8)
11. Fake (4)
13. Study of plants (6)
15. Hat (6)
17. Cooking fat (4)
18. Uneasiness (8)
21. Paper-folding art (7)
22. Eskimo dwelling (5)
23. Unjustified (10)

DOWN

1. Summarise (5)
2. Dutiful (8)
3. Talented (6)
4. Standard (4)
5. Man's name (7)
6. Commotion (10)
9. Enticement (10)
12. Insect (8)
14. Type of dog (7)
16. Two-piece swimsuit (6)
19. Loiters (5)
20. Hypocritical talk (4)

who, what, where, when

WHAT...colour, apart from white, is on the flag of Bahrain?

WHERE...was Goran Persson Prime Minister in 1996?

WHEN...is St. Swithin's Day?

WHO...directed the film *A Clockwork Orange*?

WHAT...is the nationality of tennis player Michaël Llodra?

WHERE...in England are Ipplepen and Marldon?

WHEN...did the painter Pablo Picasso die?

just so

Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
 Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
 Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
 Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday Sunday
 Sunday Sunday

DE
LA

GRESSIVENASTYMEAN
ANGRESS

w th sc ence

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

- Across:** 6 Remnant; 7 Ideal; 9 Dry; 10 Negotiate; 12 Perfunctory; 15 Reformation; 17 Discourse; 19 Try; 21 Still; 22 Rejoice.
- Down:** 1 Yearn; 2 Inn; 3 Knee; 4 Addiction; 5 Pasture; 8 Bonnet; 11 Reconcile; 13 Famous; 14 Deviate; 16 Trick; 18 Seed; 20 Cox.
- JUST SO:** Too close to call, A drug on the market, A feast for the eyes, A house divided.
- WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:** Dan Brown; Eat it - its a fruit; Melbourne; 1975; Salvador Dali; Gulf of Bothnia; Epsom; 2003.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...