

FILM REPORT
By RIMA ALHADDAD
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BAHRAINI director and storyteller Mohammed AlFahad has released, what he claims is, Bahrain's first action film, with a bigger project for an accompanying series currently in the works.

The short film, *Chasing Dragons: Blades of Faith* is also set for its first public screening at the much-awaited Bahrain Comic Con on May 2 and 3.

Set in a dystopian world, the 11-minute production follows protagonists Agent Double8 (Mohammed) and H (Ahmed Bahman), who battle a force of masked warriors as part of a greater mission to track down a mysterious suspect tied to a critical operation that threatens the state of the world as they know it.

The movie blends elements of action, a psychological thriller and science fiction, which delivers intense drama packed with tightly choreographed martial arts sequences, and highlights the 'action' genre that, according to Mohammed, is not common in the local filmmaking scene.

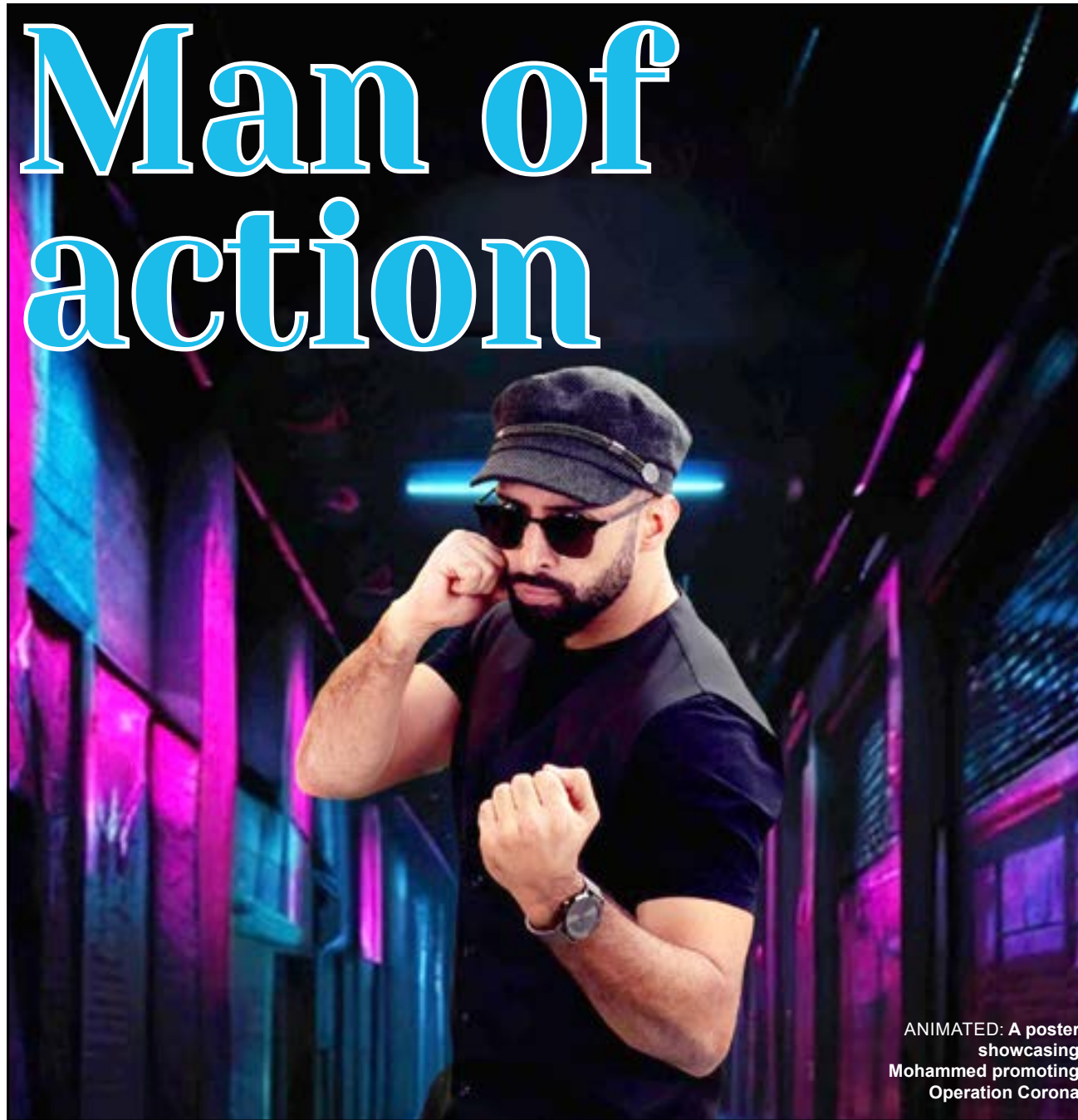
"In Bahrain, we have a lot of comedy and horror filmmakers, and I wanted to create something new for fans of action and superhero movies and comics," the 36-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"*Chasing Dragons* started as a passion project in 2020, when we introduced the characters through an episode (short video) titled *Operation Corona*. People really loved it and wanted more, so after the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, we returned to the idea. The film was completed in February this year," he added.

"It draws inspiration from Japanese animation shows, which always have a moral behind their story, and the moral of *Chasing Dragons* is to always stand up for what is right and never give up, and that good always trumps evil."

The creative entrepreneur has had a passion for films since he was a young boy. "I used to be a theatre kid and acted in theatre productions during my

Man of action



ANIMATED: A poster showcasing Mohammed promoting Operation Corona

"The moral of *Chasing Dragons* is to always stand up for what is right and never give up, and that good always trumps evil."

school days and wrote stories and made short films with friends," he revealed.

He used his degree in accounting and management to launch Hollyoud Studios in 2020, a subsidiary of his company Hollywood Ventures. Since its establishment, the studio has helped local talent by providing casting opportunities, including an upcoming Bollywood Netflix series, which was filmed in Bahrain in February; Mohammed will also feature in some of the action scenes for the show.

"My mission through Hollyoud Studios is to celebrate local talent, we are

aiming to continue casting and collaborating with Khaleeji actors, directors and producers, and are hoping to create films in English and Arabic to reach a wide audience," he said.

The Jeet Kune Do practitioner has a passion for martial arts, which is showcased in the *Chasing Dragons* universe.

Jeet Kune Do is a hybrid martial art conceived and practised by Bruce Lee, which Mohammed learned during his time living in the US.

"When I was 18, I had the opportunity to move to San Francisco, where I continued my education and began training in martial arts, and was extremely inspired by Bruce Lee, which is reflected in the *Chasing Dragons* universe," Mohammed said.

The short film is available to watch on *Hollyoud TV* on YouTube.

For more details, follow @hollyoud.tv on Instagram.



INTENSE: The film's poster



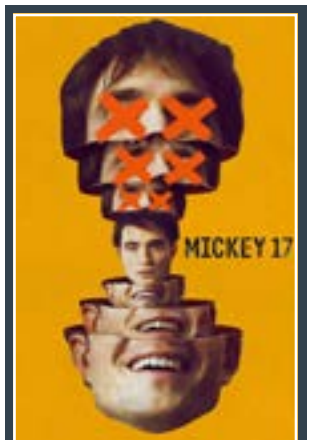
WRITERS' CIRCLE
Poetry showcase
SEE PAGE 2



TIME TO DINE
Sheraton Brunch
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Food & culture
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Music, TV & more
SEE PAGE 6

POETRY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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WORDSMITHS in Bahrain and beyond will gather for the kingdom's much-awaited annual poetry festival tomorrow, staged by the Bahrain Writers' Circle, featuring diverse themes like nature, childhood memories, love and loss and more.

Colours of Life will showcase 25 poets of various nationalities, including Canadian, Indian, British, Irish and Mauritian talents. They will present their creative interpretations of 'colours' across the spectrum.

While the event will be hosted on The Terrace at the British Club in Um Al Hassam, former Bahrain residents who continue to be members of the group will join it from various parts of the world, including the UK, Canada and Dubai.

The festival is being organised by The Second Circle, a sister group of BWC, founded by former resident and Irish poet David Hollywood.

David launched the poetry festival's inaugural edition at Bahrain Fort in 2012.

"The Second Circle troupe of poets was created in order to meet on a monthly basis to encourage and inspire each member to new, and then higher levels of poetic creation," David, who left Bahrain in 2016 but is an active member of the BWC, told *GulfWeekly*.

"As the formula proved successful, it was determined to provide an opportunity for those poets to publicly showcase their works through a festival of celebration. To our surprise and delight, it was such a success upon its launch, that it went on to become an annual event," the author, who will participate this year, added, while also revealing his ambitious



Colours of life

hopes for Colours of Life to become an international festival someday.

BWC director Saira Ranj hopes to present her piece, which conjures an image of 'blood red' hues. In it, she reminisces her life journey. She notes that the festival brings together her two passions – the written word and colours. The artist and marketing manager, who has her own art studio in Bahrain Financial Harbour, has been living in the kingdom for the last eight years.

"Colours possess the remarkable ability to evoke feelings, convey moods, and transport us to different

realms of imagination. Combine that with poetry and you get emotional alchemy," the Indian expatriate from Seef said.

Darius Abbasi, a British national of Iranian origin, who has been a BWC member for the last seven years and is part of the team steering the group, will be flying down to the kingdom from Dubai specifically for the event. He is set to present a poem about hope and gratitude, which according to him is best symbolised by 'white'.

"The inspiration came to me when I was visiting my dad. We spoke about

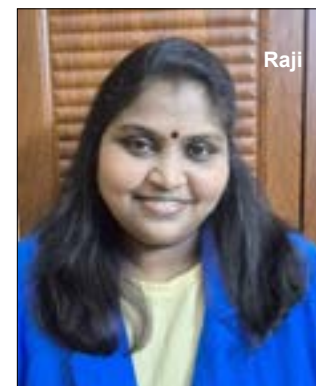
his charity projects and the ensuing challenges, sitting under the sun with a garden in front of us," the senior digital engagement director, who lived in Bahrain for four years, said.

An excerpt from the former Seef resident's work reads: "My father sitting by my side Each line on his face telling a story His kind and soothing words, full of hope"

Indian expatriate and educator Raji Murali, who also joined the group seven years ago, has chosen the colour green to bring alive her experience in the midst of nature.



Darius



Raji

"I was fascinated to know how poets associate their experiences and emotions in words linking them with a colour, which spurred me on to participate in the festival. I wanted to share my first trip to Coorg, a beautiful hill station in southern India. After a long road trip from Bangalore, we reached Abbey Falls and had to trek half a mile into the forest at sunset to reach this place. My poem tries to recreate this experience," project director at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation, who manages their overseas education initiatives, said.

An excerpt from the Hooraa resident's poem reads, "The Golden sunset filled the thick forest and our pleasant journey unfolds. Fragrances of blooming flowers filled the air, The moment when our senses were stolen away,"

The event is open to all on a first-come-first-served basis and will run from 7pm to 8.30pm.



POETIC: A performance from last year's festival

SPEAK YOUR MIND

WE'RE celebrating World Autism Awareness month and individuals and groups in the kingdom are coming together to spread awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and express solidarity towards the cause.

GulfWeekly is joining this 'movement' with its own initiative through the Speak Your Mind platform.

There couldn't be a better time to educate ourselves on autism and the challenges it entails for the individuals on the spectrum and also their families.

Our April topic tackles 'how being a care giver for autistic individuals affects mental health'.

We invite you, our family of readers, to write to us with personal anecdotes (your experiences or those of others that you might have observed); social challenges like judgement, anxiety worrying about the individual's future, physical strain ultimately impacting mental well-being, etc.

Share your views in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by April 23. We will publish a selection of the comments received in *GulfWeekly* - 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!





GOURMET REPORT
By STANLEY SZCOWKA
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It is so exciting to welcome back one of Bahrain's favourite dining destinations to the kingdom's highly competitive Friday Brunch scene ... and even more thrilling to report that the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel dishes up a different dining experience full of five-star fabulousness.

'This is where great weekends begin' is the theme for its 'WILD locally global' eatery and The Wild Brunch menu offers table service with sharing options and a few extra surprises thrown in for good measure, with only the desserts presented buffet-style.

German Oliver Webber, clearly a hands-on director of all things culinary and F&B at the hotel, and his team, have cleverly observed the competition and looked for gaps in the market, with this brunch opening later than most and offering a post-brunch extra for those who want to pay a little extra for the pleasure of having the fun continue into the evening outside.

They may just have hit on to a winning combination if Friday's opening extravaganza is anything to go by.

As reported in the *GDN* late last year, the newly-renovated Sheraton Bahrain reopened at its iconic location in the heart of Manama, with a renewed focus on attracting business and family clients from across the region and the globe.

The 210-room hotel is located next to the Bahrain World Trade Centre and Moda Mall, 15 minutes away from Bahrain International Airport and a quick walk down the road from the Manama Suq, making it an ideal destination for both business and leisure travellers.

It can now also boast one of the trendiest brunch offerings on the island.

Last Friday, Japanese emperor Nikkei oyster, poached Alaskan king crab leg and king prawns and Peruvian ceviche - fresh fish marinated with lime and



HEALTHY: Seafood and salad



SAY WHAT: Icecream in a bun



SCRUMPTIOUS: Hot dishes

Born to be Wild!



FRESH: Oyster delight



SWEETIES: The dessert station

leche de tigre - came on the Seafood Stand (with gloves provided for those who don't want to pick up the fare in their uncovered paws and lick the delights off afterwards!). On the sides were home baked, roasted farm bread with tomato spread and olives, plus melted Provolone, an

Italian semi-hard cheese, with basil, tomatoes and baguette bread.

The service was prompt, polite and personable, so a special mention must go to our table servers Ashley and Ajay. You can have the hottest chef in town but if the service is slow and miserable you may as well shut up shop. I will be back because this delightful duo made me and my table guests so welcome. Special thanks also to WILD restaurant manager Rita Garcia and restaurant and bar manager Ekaterine Usanetashvili who, alongside Oliver, must have made general manager Thomas Flindt proud.

The 'shareables' came both cold and hot. The healthy beetroot, kale, fennel and feta salad with a delightful citrus grain mustard dressing had the taste buds tingling and

the Mediterranean falafel and avocado bowl was beautiful.

It was then time to turf and surf, if you get the meaning, and two of my favourite main courses meant I didn't have to miss out on either one.

The pesto quinoa risotto with pan-seared seabass was perfect and the lemon-braised beef short ribs with potato pear puree were simply 'lush', to highlight a word used in the UK to mean 'really good'.

As any seasoned professional restaurant critic will tell you, always leave room for dessert. Choices included a Kunafa pistachio cheese cake, that proved a particular hit with my Bahraini friends, Peach and Blackberry Tart with vanilla sauce, a raspberry hazelnut tart and a delightful Dulche de leche Tiramisu.

Soon to arrive was a bonkers Brioche Ice Cream Sandwich,

different, I've to give it that but if you check out the Serious Eats website ... in 'Sicily you may as well call it breakfast'. I prefer a drizzle of honey in mine but it takes all sorts and who am I to argue with the Mafia's favourite sweet treat.

Throughout, a delightful duo with a vivacious female vocalist entertained. Alejandra Del Pino smartly took note to turn down the volume until the party warmed up which was polite and professional and allowed for folk to chat and chuckle at the start of the session. Those who stayed for the evening entertainment thoroughly enjoyed the sounds of the charismatic singer with a full band outside on stage in the glorious weather.

May the weekends continue to swing at the Sheraton Bahrain ... welcome back!

WILD EATERY - WILD BRUNCH

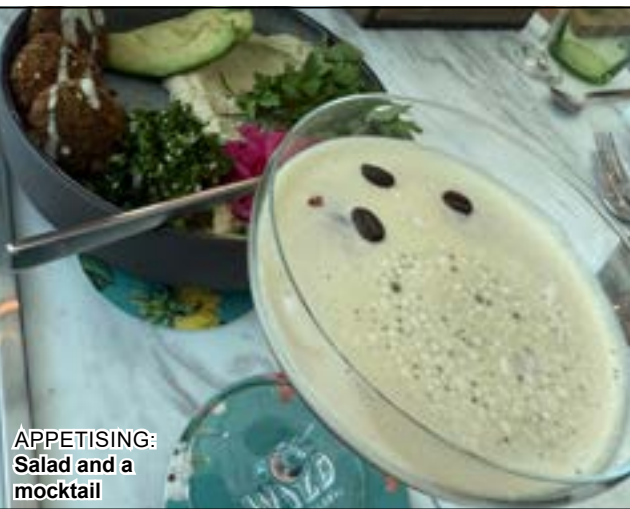
Get ready for a flavour-packed adventure every Friday at The Wild Brunch. Indulge in premium sharable cuisine and sip on punchy handcrafted drinks while live entertainment electrifies the atmosphere. But the fun doesn't stop there! Step out into the Wild Backyard, at the open-air venue where guests can unwind with cool drinks, live music and delicious bites from 5pm to 9pm. With signature drinks and a vibrant setting, every visit is a new adventure. Celebrate the weekend in style and let the good times roll!

The Wild Brunch, from 12.30pm to 5pm, starts at BD36net per person with the beverage package at BD46 per person.

An extra special French signature package freely flows at BD186 per person.

Those brunching and wanting to carry on the party into the evening can step out to the aptly named Wild Backyard, with a band/DJ on stage, for a reasonably priced extra fee.

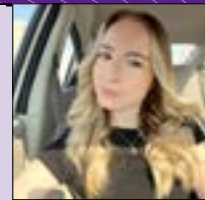
● Reserve your table by calling 17533533 or WhatsApp 38885408.



APPETISING: Salad and a mocktail

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



RITZ ON POLE FOR F1 CELEBRATIONS



LUXURY: Unwind at La Plage

FEEL the excitement of this weekend's Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2025 at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain.

La Plage will broadcast the race on its big screens, where guests can enjoy the thrills of every lap while indulging in delicious bites and selected beverages that will keep you fuelled for the action. It will be available from April 10 to 13, from 5pm to 9pm.

Some of the hotel's lavish restaurants will offer cuisines and beverages inspired by Grands Prix around the world during the race weekend.

- La Plage will celebrate the Bahrain GP by offering guests the local catch of the day, paired with a selected beverage, from Thursday to Saturday, 10am to midnight, and on Sunday from 10am to 11pm.

- Thai Lounge is offering an irresistible combination of flavourful Singapore noodles and a vibrant beverage from the southeast Asian country, transporting guests to the Singapore Grand Prix. Explore the menu on Thursday and Friday, from 10am to 1am and Saturday and Sunday from 10am to midnight.

- Cantina Kahlo invites guests to sip on signature beverages and tacos, inspired by the Mexican Grand Prix on



VIBRANT: Mexican feast at Cantina Kahlo

Thursday and Friday, 1pm to 1am and on Saturday, from 1pm until midnight.

- Primavera will serve pizzas and bubbly, influenced by the Italian Grand Prix from Thursday to Sunday, from 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Meanwhile, guests can escape to the heart of London at La Med, where the Easter brunch will transport you on a culinary adventure featuring a delightful selection of British classics, alongside a global array of flavours.

Immerse yourself in the iconic sites of London as you dine amidst replicas of Big Ben, the London Bridge and classic red phone booths.

This unique setting, combined with a vibrant ambience and delicious food,

creates a truly unforgettable brunch experience. It costs BD33, inclusive of soft beverages, BD44 with selected beverages and BD60 for a bubbly brunch, on April 18, from 1pm to 4pm.

Join Cantina Kahlo for an amazing feast of bold flavours and festive vibes as you celebrate the spirit of Mexico. Savour an array of mouth-watering dishes made with authentic ingredients, bursting with the vibrant tastes from the country.

Lively rhythms of a mariachi band will add to the wonderful atmosphere, tomorrow and Saturday, from 1pm to 4pm. Prices start at BD25 per person.

For bookings, contact 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.

BEST OF FRENCH CUISINE AT LEGENDZ STEAKHOUSE

INTERCONTINENTAL Bahrain invites guests for an array of delicious offerings this weekend.

Savour a specially crafted seven-course menu celebrating the essence of French gastronomy with refined flavours, elegant plating and masterful technique, at Legendz SteakHouse. It costs BD42, on April 30, from 6.30pm to 10pm.

The Brunch for Lovers features a variety of delicious dishes and beverages, from 11am to 4pm, tomorrow. It's priced at BD28net with soft beverages, and BD37 for unlimited selected beverages, at



Legendz SteakHouse.

Children below six years dine for free and those aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount.

Step into a night of magic and elegance at Elements Pool and Lounge, where tradition and modern charm blend seamlessly. Enjoy an exclusive

Arabic live music experience with Emna's soulful vocals and Rafaat's captivating

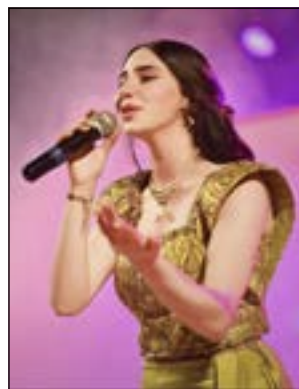
keyboard melodies.

Delicious beverages and Middle-Eastern bites will add to the lovely atmosphere.

It is available everyday, except Mondays, until April 19, from 9.30pm to 12.30am. The schedule may vary based on football matches.

Enjoy freshly grilled fish, lobster, prawns and more at the Regency Tent's wonderful Seafood Night. Available tonight, from 6.30pm to 10.30pm, it costs BD24net for soft beverages and BD32 inclusive of unlimited house beverages.

Join the hotel for a special



SOULFUL: Vocals by Emna

Easter Brunch with a Greek twist. Visit the Rigani – Regency Tent where guests can enjoy an exquisite culinary experience, live entertainment and engaging cultural activities, on April 20, from 2pm to 6.30pm. The lavish experience is priced at BD18net while guests have to pay BD26 to enjoy unlimited house spirits. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10.

Meanwhile, visitors are invited to celebrate Greek Easter Eve in a warm and festive atmosphere at Rigani. Dishes such as traditional mageiritsa soup, tsougrisma and sweet tsourekis will make for a truly festive experience. It costs BD16net and BD24net with unlimited house spirits. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10.

For details, call 36967701.



SUCCULENT: Perfectly cooked meat at Bahrain Bay Kitchen



AMBIENCE: CUT by Wolfgang Puck



Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

STAR-LIT SYMPHONY

BAHRAIN-BASED musician Simon Korsak is set to enthral audiences this weekend at the kingdom's popular cultural hub Market Street Bahrain, with his compositions spanning folk-style and rock 'n' roll.

The musical event will also include an open mic session to encourage other local artists.

The British expat and full-time artist returned to the kingdom last year after his previous visit in 2017.

"Dennver Awa will be jamming with me on the keyboard, while Josh Dinkler will accompany me on some songs, and I will accompany him on some covers," the creative talent told *GulfWeekly*.

"The last session will be open mic so if anyone wants to get up and jam they are more than welcome to do so.

"I believe it is a great opportunity to have this kind of musical night where people can bond through the music and encourage others to show their skills as well. Everyone's invited to have a good time."

The 50-year-old noted that his songs portray spiritual messages, and talk a lot about forgiveness, gratitude and letting go.

"I enjoy speaking to the audience and sharing the story or the feeling behind the song, which can build a connection and inspire people to spread positive messages, because we are all one," he said.

Market Street Bahrain, located behind the British Club in Um Al Hassam, aims to support local, home-grown artists, crafters and designers who need a space to showcase and sell their work.

"This will be Market Street's first musical event,"

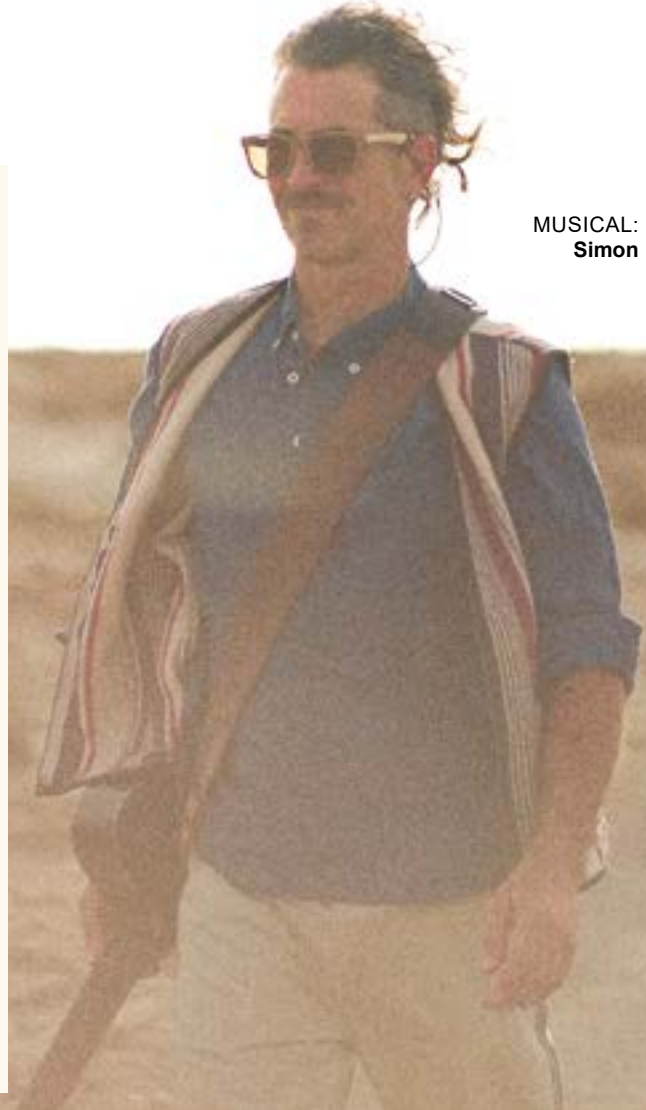
American expat Bradley Cox, who launched the market last year, revealed.

"The outside area of the venue will stage the musicians, while the inside will have all of the regular vendors," he said, adding that his goal with Market Street was to highlight all forms of art and create an inclusive environment.

"When we first opened, there were only about seven vendors; now there are around 110, with more on the waiting list and there are plans to create a second branch to accommodate more creatives."

Market Street is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 8pm. The musical event will be staged tomorrow, from 5pm to 10pm. Adult entry is BD3, while children can attend for free.

For more details, follow @simonkorsak and @marketstreetbahrain on Instagram.



MUSICAL: Simon

SATURDAY ROAST AT DILMUN CLUB

GATHER your family and friends and visit the Dilmun Club in Saar for an array of decadent dining experiences.

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

On Tuesdays, 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 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.

PRE-RACE LAWN PARTY WITH A SOUTH AMERICAN TWIST!

HEAD down to the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay to enjoy a range of events as the country hosts the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2025 this weekend.

The pre-race lawn party is back, and this year, executive chef Brian Becher and his team are turning up the heat with a South American twist at the hotel's lush gardens.

Watch chefs prepare lamb asado, tender wagyu brisket, and slow-roasted caramelised pineapple over open flames, alongside a range of other delicious sweets such as tres leches cakes, brigadeiros and mazamorra morada.

The celebration will be held on Saturday, from 8pm and costs BD110 per person, inclusive of beverages and an after-party at Blue Moon Lounge.

Bringing the racing spirit from the track to the table, Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Pit Stop Brunch features unique decorations and an extravagant buffet with an array of live stations.

Savour a gourmet wagyu beef burger and indulge in Mexican favourites such as tacos, nachos, and Indian delights tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 per person with a soft drinks package or BD48 with a special beverages package.

Byblos has crafted a new seafood menu by Chef Tony El Khory. Enjoy authentic Lebanese flavours and culinary artistry, until June 30, from Tuesday to Sunday, 6pm until midnight. It costs BD52 for two people.

Meanwhile, guests can relish the essence of Italy with a curated Aperitivo experience, where artisanal boards and irresistible small plates set the scene for cherished moments with family and loved ones, at Bay View Lounge. It is available until May 31, from 11am to 11.30pm, priced a la carte.

CUT by Wolfgang Puck has also lined up an elevated Bubbly Brunch. Savour the finest selection of beverages, poured tableside from the trolley. Executive chef Brian Becher and his team have also crafted a range of delicious dishes.

The brunch is available tomorrow, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and is priced at BD70, inclusive of free-flow bubbly beverages.

Rejuvenate your body and mind at Full Moon Yoga on Saturday, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. It costs BD6 per person for hotel guests and members and BD12 for outside guests.

For more information or bookings, contact 17115044 or 17115500.



TREAT: Small bites

LEARN AI SKILLS AT ART STATION

AN artificial intelligence (AI) and image-making workshop is being held this weekend at the Art Station, Muharraq.

Hosted by US tutor Daniel Lefcourt, who works as a professor of art and computation at The Rhode Island School of Design, the free workshop will explore how image generation applications work, covering both basic and advanced techniques.

Participants are encouraged to bring images of their own art to learn how to create personalised AI-assisted artworks. The workshop will be held on April 12, from 11am to 6pm and on April 13, from 5pm to 8pm. No prior coding experience is needed.

Daniel's paintings, drawings and digital artworks have received critical attention in Artforum, Frieze and *The New York Times*.

For more details, contact @theartstation.bh on Instagram



Daniel

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) Where was the first Formula One race held at night?
- 2) Prior to Covid, which was the last Grand Prix to be cancelled?
- 3) What does the yellow and red striped flag indicate?
- 4) For Formula One races in the Middle East, what is sprayed on the podium by the winners?
- 5) How many points are awarded for second place?
- 6) In 2011, DRS was introduced to



7. Zero
8. System
9. Drag Reduction
10. 18
11. Rose water (Ward)
12. Slippery track
13. Bahrain
14. Singapore
15. 1

ANSWERS

Pulse of Pop

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

SCI-FI black comedy film *Mickey 17* is out now in theatres.

Based on the science fiction novel *Mickey 7* by Edward Ashton, the movie follows Mickey Barnes (Robert Pattinson), a man who joins a space colony as an 'expandable', a disposable worker selected for dangerous tasks, who gets cloned every time he dies for research purposes, with his memories remaining intact. However, things go wrong with one regeneration!

This is South Korean director Bong Joon Ho's third English language production. He is best known for his 2019 black comedy thriller *Parasite*, which was the first foreign film to win the Best Picture honour at the 2020 Academy Awards.

Speaking about working on films that aren't in his native language, Bong said in an interview, "I had a co-writer or dialogue-polishing writer for those projects. Mostly I relied heavily on the actors in regards to the language of the film. With *Mickey 17*, it was Rob."

"I relied heavily on Rob. He has such a unique and amazing linguistic sensibility. Especially with Mickey 18 (a character in the film), he improvised

PERILOUS JOURNEY

BIZARRE:
The film's poster

a lot of really fun dialogue, a lot of which was not scripted.

"It was another great lesson in realising that you need to work with amazing actors to overcome, I guess, what you can call a 'linguistic handicap' I have, where it's not my

native language. It's working with very trusted actors and also a great translator," he added.

The director also revealed that he has been working on an animation film since 2019 that includes a crew of more than 100 artists.

"It's a really unique story about deep sea creatures that features very adorable creature protagonists," he said. "We also have human characters. It's a very unique CGI animated film, and it's really going. It's under works now. 2027, maybe," he revealed.

A TALE OF HOPE

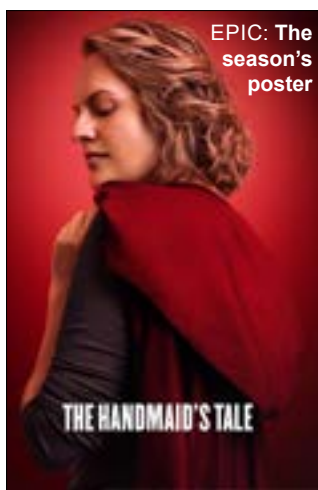
THE first three episodes of the sixth and final season of *The Handmaid's Tale* are available on Hulu and OSN+, with a weekly release scheduled every Tuesday, until May 27.

Based on the namesake 1985 novel by Margaret Atwood, the series takes place in a future dystopian society where women are forced to work in severely limited roles and are not allowed to own property, have careers, handle money or read and write due to the aftermath of a civil war, which caused a rise of extremism.

While attempting to flee with her husband and daughter, June Osborne (Elisabeth Moss) was captured and forced to become a handmaid, while her daughter was given to an upper-class family to be raised and her husband escaped to Canada.

In an interview, the cast of the series promised fans a surprising and unpredictable season with a grand finale they will be 'pleased' with.

"It goes a little wild there towards the end, and I think it's what the fans have been waiting six seasons for," said Madeline Brewer, who plays



Janine Lindo.

"We knew that this would be our very last chance to tell these stories with our beloved cast and our beloved characters, so it was definitely a now-or-never feeling," co-showrunner and executive producer Yahlin Chang noted.

"It's a wish fulfilment season, it's a season where we just want to be really rewarding and really satisfying," she added.

AMERICAN indie folk band Bon Iver are dropping their fifth album *Sable*, *Fable* tomorrow.

The musical creation is set to be a 'change of sound' for the band, who have become known for their melancholic melodies.

It starts with three tracks released last year as the *Sable* extended play, which feature their signature moody tunes, but the album later transitions into a joyful and hopeful vibe.

"*Sable* is this dark black colour and it almost started to become a cartoon of sad Bon Iver music," lead singer Justin Vernon said in an interview.

"I like the songs a lot, but they were kind of these last moments, the last gasping breath of my former self that really did feel bad for himself.

"It's also something that I've investigated as a person. It was all incredibly validating to me. I wasn't exactly the most confident guy in high school. And then suddenly it's like, oh, people are telling you you're one of these great artists. And then you



FISHY: Justin on the promotional poster

JOYFUL ANTHEM

wonder, am I a snake eating its own tail? Am I staying sad, am I hurting myself in order to get that validation," he added.

Founded in 2006, Bon Iver originally started as Justin's solo project. However, it eventually became a band comprising Sean Carey

(on drums, keyboards and vocals,) Michael Lewis (vocals, baritone guitar, guitar, violin, saxophone,) Matthew McCaughan (drums, bass, vocals,) Andrew Fitzpatrick (guitar, keyboards, vocals), and Jenn Wasner (guitar, keyboards, vocals), alongside the artist.

MOVIE TIME

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

● **DIRTY ANGELS (18+)**
Soldiers in an all-female commando unit pose as members of a relief organisation to save a group of schoolgirls taken hostage by terrorists.
Actors: Eva Green, Ruby Rose, Maria Bakalova
Timings: 11.45am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11pm

● **A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG-15)**
A mysterious portal pulls four misfits into the Overworld, a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they will have to master the terrain while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected crafter named Steve.
Actors: Jason Momoa, Jack Black, Emma Myers
Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

● **A WORKING MAN (15+)**
Levon Cade left his profession behind to work construction and be a good dad to his daughter. But when a local girl vanishes, he is asked to return to the skills that made him a mythic figure in the shadowy world of counterterrorism.
Actors: Jason Statham, David Harbour, Micheal Peña
Timings: 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12am

● **THE DAY THE EARTH BLEW (PG)**
Porky and Daffy, the classic animated odd couple, turn into unlikely heroes when their antics at the local bubble gum factory uncover a secret alien mind control plot. Against all odds, the two are determined to save their town, and the world... that is if they do not drive each other crazy.
Actors: Eric Bauza, Candi Milo, Peter MacNical
Timings: 12pm



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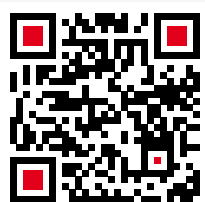
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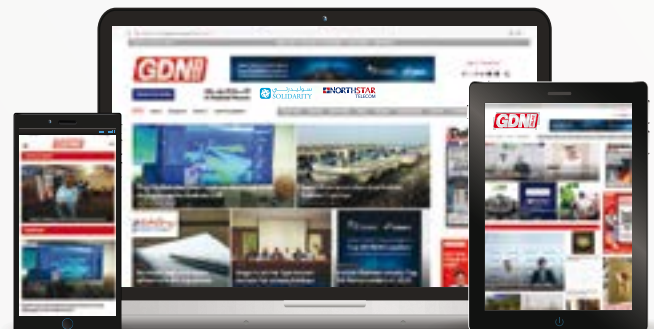
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Time Out



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crossword break

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

Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- Grasp (6)
- Rarely (6)
- Insensibly (13)
- Yield (7)
- Relative (5)
- Child (5)
- Spirit (5)
- Uplift (5)
- Jeer (7)
- Meeting (13)
- Quiet (6)
- Delicate (6)

DOWN

- Support (6)
- Absolute (13)
- Kayak (5)
- Enunciate (7)
- Spreading (13)
- Mutilation (6)
- Propeller (5)
- Swarm (7)
- Uproar (6)
- Fragrance (5)
- Abundance (6)
- Diadem (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... has written the thrillers *Die Trying* and *Tripwire*?

WHAT ... two colours are on the flag of Sweden?

WHERE ... have Derby County FC played their home games since 1997?

WHEN ... did South Africa win the Davis Cup tennis tournament by a walkover?

WHO ... released the record albums *Killer* and *Billion Dollar Babies*?

WHAT ... is the capital of Indonesia?

WHERE ... in Britain was the 1982 Eurovision Song Contest held?

WHEN ... did George Washington, 1st President of the US, die?

just so

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MOON ↗

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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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Brother-in-law; 7 Dress; 8 Wager; 9 Lob; 10 Streamers; 11 Actors; 12 Lesser; 15 Testament; 17 Lap; 18 Nears; 19 Story; 21 Condensation.

Down: 1 Brilliantine; 2 Hoe; 3 Resort; 4 Newsagent; 5 Argue; 6 Prescription; 7 Debut; 10 Surpassed; 13 Silly; 14 Reason; 16 Shako; 20 Ova.

JUST SO: Pillow talk, See a man about a dog, The bottom line, The darkest hour.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE,

WHEN: John Travolta; Crash; Weatherfield; 1980; Nick Faldo; Brazil and Argentina; Iceland; 1994.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...