

Woolly warmth

A CROCHETED wollyback, reminiscent of the popular labubu toy, is winning the hearts of people in Bahrain as it aims to raise awareness about autism and support individuals on the spectrum.

Arroy the Lamb, dubbed as the 'Bahraini Labubu', is a fun twist on the viral international trend, and is the initiative of Alia Early Intervention and Rehabilitation Centre, which has designed it as an extension of a story series to help young minds navigate difficult situations.

The toy was brought alive through a collaboration with Bahraini women specialising in local handmade products, and continues to be handcrafted by bright young individuals at the Alia centre.

It is based on Arroy, a lovable character steeped in Bahraini culture and widely featured in children's stories.

"Grandparents tell these tales when children in the family do not listen," the centre's public relations head Khalid Al Awadhi explained, adding that their new story, entitled *Arroy the Lamb*, hopes to help children, including young adults at the centre, with the anxiety associated with hospital visits.

"It is a story for all kids and the first in a planned series of social stories designed to help children understand everyday situations in a calm, reassuring way," Khalid added.

"It was developed through collaboration between our students, teachers and therapists, so it really reflects what our children need to see and hear. The aim is to build confidence, reduce anxiety, and make these experiences feel familiar and safe."

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological and

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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ACCESSORY: Arroy key-chain for your bags

developmental condition marked by disruptions in brain signalling that cause people to behave, communicate, interact and learn in atypical ways. Currently, Alia centre works with 160 individuals on the spectrum, aged from six to 45 years.

The toy, Arroy the Lamb, and the story book are available at Halla by Alia café in A'ali, the kingdom's first café run by young adults with autism. Proceeds from the sales of the toy will be used towards the centre and

for individuals it works with.

"Arroy is more than a handmade toy; it's a symbol of connection," the centre's director Dr Shaikha Rania Al Khalifa told *GulfWeekly*.

"Watching our students and team bring Arroy to life reminds me daily that small things, made with care, can make a big difference," she added.

Each Arroy is handmade by the centre's boys and girls, giving it a one-of-a-kind charm.

"Every purchase helps students develop creative

and work skills while raising public awareness about autism. It's a small symbol of Bahraini creativity, inclusion, and community spirit," said an employee at the centre, who works directly with the young adults.

"Crocheting Arroy with the children has been such a grounding experience. You see them relax, follow patterns, and express themselves. It helps them handle big feelings in a gentle, tangible way," the employee added.

While there are no

treatments or cures for autism, intervention with supportive measures, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, social skills training, sensory integration therapy, visual aids, structured routines, individualised education plans, family therapy and providing a calm and predictable environment, remains critical for improving cognitive, social and communication skills in children with ASD.

The Arroy toy is priced at BD16.



CREATIVE EFFORT: Boys from the centre holding the iconic wollyback



BEAT THE HEAT
Tips for your blooms
SEE PAGE 2



SCRIPTING HISTORY
Spotlight on filmmaker
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Food and frolic
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Movies, music & more
SEE PAGE 6



SERENE: Houseplants are more than just decorative elements; they are natural purifiers that can improve air quality and reduce stress levels.

How does your garden grow?

AS the sun blazes outside and temperatures soar, indoor plants feel the heat too. Summer brings its own set of challenges for houseplants, from scorching sunlight to dry air. *Melissa Nazareth* speaks to green-fingered enthusiasts, exploring some common seasonal plant parent peeves and tips to keep your foliage thriving.

● Water, water everywhere but...

The sun is stronger in this part of the world, which can make staying hydrated a challenge for both bough and beast.

"Plants dehydrate at a faster rate as the soil gets dry," Indian expatriate and plant mum Soumi Sarkar, who started housing indoor plants during the Covid-19 pandemic, told *GulfWeekly*.

"Some tried and tested tips that have helped me are bottom watering in a tub or bucket, with pebbles for plants that soak up water faster as they create a barrier. The inverse bottle method based on drip irrigation technique has also worked for me," added the 37-year-old artist from Tubli.

Bottom watering is a technique in which plant pots are semi-submerged until the top is wet to the touch,



PLANT CARE: Gravel, sand, or rubber mulch are suitable for house greens

helping even distribution of moisture.

● Without 'mulch' ado

While used more for outdoor plants, mulching can help indoor foliage too by reducing evaporation and retaining moisture in the soil. Gravel, sand, or rubber mulch are suitable for house greens as outdoor mulch can be too heavy.

"Organic mulch retains soil moisture and regulates temperature," said Bahrain-born-and-raised Sultan Quresh aka 'Bahrain Plant Guy', who has a garden and a collection of indoor plants.

The data science and

artificial intelligence enthusiast's passion for gardening blossomed during the pandemic.

"It's a time when many of us turned inward for comfort and creativity. I still recall getting my first pothos, and from there, my indoor plant collection grew rapidly," he said.

● Soiled for choice

According to Sultan, it is essential to select plants that thrive in warmth, given Bahrain's climate.

"Snake plant, aloe vera, and jasmine sambac perform well when temperatures are warm but not extreme,"

said the plant lover, who has travelled across Europe and Asia, exploring diverse plant cultures and regional climates.

"These experiences have broadened my understanding and you'll often find exotic indoor plants in my collection – species that wouldn't typically survive Bahrain's outdoor climate, but thrive under careful indoor conditions."

Meanwhile, Soumi recommended snake plant, rubber plant and ZZ, as well as dracaena varieties and money plants. "Unlike, say, spider plants and jade, these are more resilient," she noted.

● United we stand

Grouping plants, as observed by plant parents worldwide, has many advantages.

"The cluster method works all the time. Keeping all the plants together so each of them benefits from the humidity created in one place has helped me," Soumi revealed.

Meanwhile, Sultan has reaped the benefits of partial shading through taller companion plants, which he observed reduced heat stress for more delicate varieties.

Different plants have different needs and the tips listed in this feature might need to be customised to suit individual requirements.

BRAIN-BUSTERS

QUIZMASTER and Radio Bahrain host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon's seven brain-busters.

- 1) What is the very well known Urdu word for 'palace'?
- 2) What type of fruit is York Imperial?
- 3) In a photographic dark room, what colour light is safe?
- 4) One of the earliest domesticated dog breeds that has long, silky fur that covers its body, notably on the top of its head. What breed is it?
- 5) The US escapologist Harry Houdini was born in which eastern European country?
- 6) What is the name of the microstate located between Spain and



- France?
- 7) What expression, meaning everything from A to Z, alludes to the three key components of a rifle?

ANSWERS

1. Mahal
2. Apple
3. Red
4. Afghan Hound
5. Hungary
6. Andorra
7. Lock, Stock and Barrel



WORRY: Moving countries for a new job can be stressful

SPEAK YOUR MIND

CHANGE is the only constant, they say, and rightly so.

All of us have at some point or the other experienced a life transition, whether it is a trailing spouse trying to settle in a new country or a child who has had to change schools and make new friends.

Most of us have resisted when faced with similar situations, clinging on to the old and wary of what lies ahead, which can impact our

mental health.

Our July Speak Your Mind topic explores 'how navigating transitions can have a negative impact on mental health'.

Write to us, in about 100 words, how you might have embraced a major life change. Email gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh by July 30 or follow [@gdnonline](https://www.instagram.com/gdnonline) on Instagram. The most creatively written entries will be featured in the paper – only original responses will be considered.



FILM REPORT

By JAYNE HOUGHTON
jayne@gdnmedia.bh

CREATIVE Zaid Sater has made history as the first Bahraini filmmaker to have a project featured at the CineYouth Festival in Chicago.

Mixed Signals, his latest short film, explores the inner world of an Arab immigrant turning to dating apps; not in defiance of tradition, but in search of connection.

"It's a huge honour, and honestly, a bit surreal," Zaid told *GulfWeekly*.

"Being the first Bahraini filmmaker at CineYouth is meaningful not just on a personal level, but also because it signals that stories from the Gulf are starting to find space on international stages," the 22-year-old, who was raised in Dubai and trained in Los Angeles, added.

"The story follows an Arab immigrant who turns to dating apps, not out of rebellion, but out of loneliness. For me, it's less about romance and more about how tradition and technology collide in really personal ways.

"*Mixed Signals* was inspired by conversations I've had with friends about what it means to search for connection when your cultural background is wired for privacy and silence around desire. I hope audiences walk away thinking about how much of our identity is shaped not just by where we come from, but by what we choose to hide or reveal in the digital world."

Zaid's nuanced exploration of identity isn't limited to one film. It's central to his broader creative philosophy. He isn't interested in fitting into categories and is carving out a cinematic language that refuses to be boxed in. This fusion of identities – regional, cultural and artistic – has become the core of his creative voice.

"Diasporic identity isn't just about leaving one place for another; it's about constantly negotiating who you are in relation to where you are. That's something I've felt deeply growing up between the Gulf and the West."

Zaid is particularly drawn to stories that sit in between binary ideas of East and West, or old and new.

"A lot of young Arabs today are navigating complex inner lives, faith, family pressure, shame, pride, love, all while engaging with the same digital culture as everyone else. That blend creates a kind of emotional whiplash that I think deserves more screen time."

Though rooted in the region, Zaid's work has been

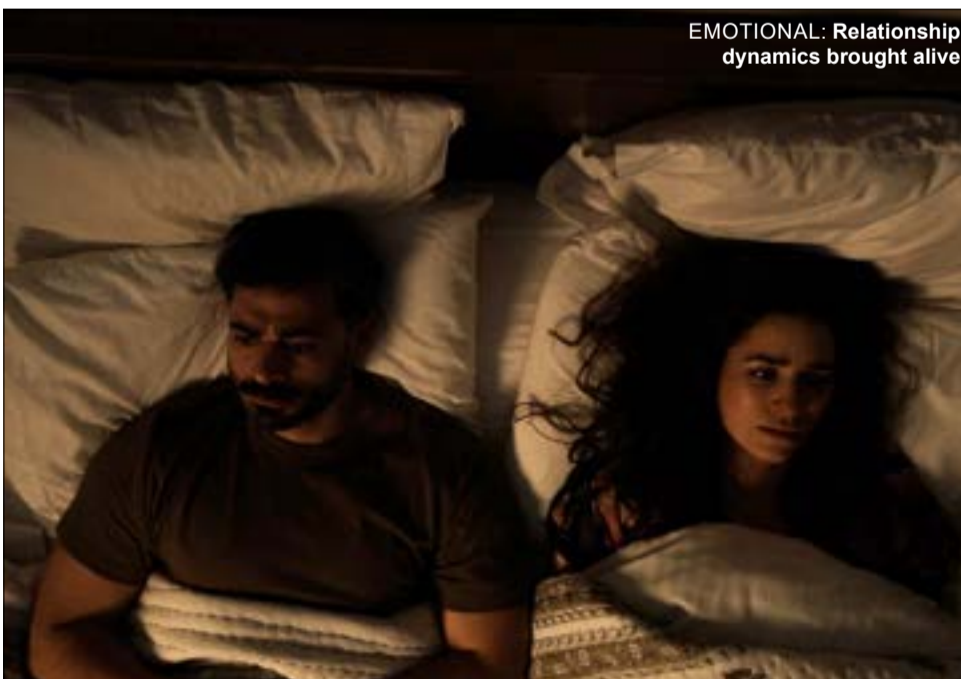
ELATED:
Zaid



INTENSE: Above and below, scenes from the film



Spotlighting Arab cinema



EMOTIONAL: Relationship dynamics brought alive

shaped just as much by his experiences in the US.

"I grew up with a Bahraini father, an Iraqi mother, and spent most of my childhood in Dubai. Visiting Bahrain often kept me grounded in my roots and gave me a strong sense of cultural identity. Then later,

moving to the US for film school (Emerson College) gave me the cinematic tools to express those experiences more clearly.

"One thing that really stood out to me in Los Angeles was how much personal identity is celebrated; how you're

encouraged to turn your unique background into your creative voice. Ironically, being away from home actually made me embrace my heritage more deeply," he explained.

This cultural fluidity has led him to develop what he

describes as a 'dual vision'.

"The Gulf, with its deeply private social fabric, teaches you to communicate through what's left unsaid — through gesture, tone, and subtext. LA, on the other hand, is all about bold expression and pushing visual storytelling to its limits. As a filmmaker, I'm constantly trying to bridge those two ways of seeing the world; the Arab instinct for emotional subtlety and the Western emphasis on structure, spectacle and psychological depth."

Zaid co-wrote *Mixed Signals* with creative partner and fellow filmmaker Ibrahim Fitaihi. Together, they also co-founded Obscura Films, a production company created to give voice to under-represented filmmakers. That collaboration is part of a wider mission.

"Growing up, I rarely saw stories that reflected the realities of people like me, Arabs navigating layered identities across different cultures. Too many stories

about the Middle East were either filtered through an outsider's gaze or reduced to clichés. We wanted to create a space where diasporic filmmakers could tell stories on their own terms, with nuance, humour, and emotional complexity.

"When we started Obscura, it wasn't just about representation, it was about reclaiming authorship. We're especially drawn to projects that feel culturally specific but emotionally universal; stories that explore identity, migration, class, and generational tension, but in unexpected or genre-bending ways," he said.

Looking to the future, Zaid hopes to build on the momentum of *Mixed Signals*, not just as an individual director, but through Obscura's expanding slate.

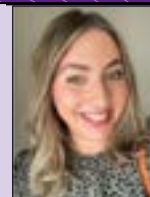
"My aspirations for my filmmaking career and for Obscura Films are deeply rooted in the goal of making a meaningful mark in Arab and Middle Eastern representation in cinema," he noted.

He envisions a moment when global audiences will meet Arab stories on their own terms.

"Much like how *Parasite* and *Squid Game* created a cultural bridge that invited the world to explore Korean cinema on its own terms, I want our projects to connect our culture with the world in a way that feels authentic and grounded, never exoticised," he said.

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Jayne Houghton



GLITZY CLASSY RITZ

TOP-NOTCH: A Night to Savour at Plums



THIS season, the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain invites guests to indulge in a collection of exquisite dining experiences across its celebrated venues; from beachfront elegance to timeless Latin traditions.

At Plums, Sundays are reserved for A Night to Savour, an elegant evening crafted to bring you closer over exceptional flavours in an intimate setting. Dine from 7pm to 11pm for BD69net per person, inclusive of soft beverages. Grape beverage pairing is available for an additional BD25.

For a refined midday affair, Primavera hosts its Seasonal Business Lunch every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

from 12.30pm to 3pm.

Ideal for client meetings or a sophisticated break from the office, the three-course menu includes a starter, main, and dessert or coffee, all for BD19net per person.

At La Plage, guests can embrace the summer spirit with the Soleil Select Lunch, a three-course seaside menu featuring a salad, main, and dessert, paired with a soft drink for BD18net. Add a house-pour hops or grape beverage for BD5. It's available daily from noon to 4pm.

Step into Cantina Kahlo and discover the comfort of Traditional Tamales, lovingly hand-wrapped and steeped in heritage. With both savoury and sweet varieties, this nostalgic Mexican classic is available Monday to Saturday from 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to

midnight and is priced at BD10net.

On Fridays, Cantina Kahlo comes alive with its vibrant Brunch Fiesta, where bold Mexican flavours are served alongside festive beats from the resident mariachi band. From 1pm to 4pm, enjoy authentic dishes and lively rhythms for BD35net with soft beverages or BD45net with selected beverages.

For an unforgettable gathering, the Villa Barbecue at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain offers private beachfront villas and a bespoke barbecue experience. Let dedicated chefs prepare grilled delicacies while you and your guests soak up the sunset in luxurious seclusion — ideal for birthdays, family get-togethers or relaxed corporate evenings. Looking to impress your



clients or team? The hotel's bespoke Corporate Event packages are tailored to suit

UNTAMED GASTRONOMIC ADVENTURES

DISCOVER an array of vibrant dining experiences this summer at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel, where bold flavours, artisan creations, and global culinary traditions come together across its signature restaurants.

WILD Eatery invites guests to embark on a flavourful journey with its weekday Daily Lunch at WILD. Available Sunday to Thursday, from noon to 3pm, the three-course lunch menu showcases an ever-changing lineup of global cuisines — from Spanish and Asian to British, Italian, and Peruvian. Priced at BD10.500net, the meal includes homemade iced tea.

Every Thursday, WILD Chef's Night transforms the restaurant into a buffet-style showcase of the chef's favourite à la carte dishes. Expect shareable appetisers, pass-around salads and desserts served to the table in a warm and lively setting. Available from 6pm to 11pm at BD19.500net per person, inclusive of soft beverages, tea or coffee.

Fridays at Sheraton are all about The Wild Brunch, where bold cuisine meets live entertainment. From 12.30pm to 5pm, enjoy premium sharable dishes and muddled concoctions. Packages start from BD36net (soft drinks) and BD46net (premium), with a special BD23net rate for women.

Take a slower pace with Daily Afternoon Tea at &More by Sheraton. From 2pm to 5pm daily, indulge in delicate pastries, freshly baked scones, curated sandwiches, and seasonal tea blends or coffee for BD15net.

Adding a touch of sweetness to any occasion, Sheraton Bahrain partners with Maya La Chocolaterie to offer artisan chocolates rooted in Arab heritage. Made fresh in Bahrain and crafted from premium ingredients, these exclusive creations are available only at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.



MARINE: Treasures to devour at the WILD Brunch

For something truly special, head to the rooftop and discover Brasero Atlántico Bahrain, now open for lunch. Against panoramic views of the Manama skyline, the restaurant brings authentic Argentine cuisine 'a las brasas' using traditional wood-fire techniques. Lunch is served daily from noon to 3pm, with dinner from 7pm to 11pm. The lounge opens from 4pm to 2am, with a beverage menu featuring organic mocktails and crafted drinks from Argentine producers.

For more information, call 17517715 or 38885409.



JUICY: Steak at Brasero Atlántico



ARTY: Bites at &More by Sheraton

MARKING 45 years of world-class hospitality, InterContinental Bahrain is set to host summer experiences designed to delight families, food lovers and those in need of a refreshing escape.

Until September, the hotel is offering a daycation package for BD45, inclusive of a private room available for use from 9am to 6pm. The offer also includes a floating breakfast for two adults, full access to the swimming pool for two adults and two children under six, and up to 30 per cent off on dining and massage treatments.

Legendz SteakHouse invites guests to indulge in a vibrant brunch today, July 17, from noon to 4pm. Expect buffet stations, à la carte mains and live entertainment, with options such as barbecue, seafood and cheese stations. The brunch costs BD28net with soft drinks and BD38net inclusive of selected beverages. Children under six dine for free, while those aged six to 12 receive 50pc off.

Families can also head to Medzo for a convivial Italian weekend feast.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



BREATHTAKING:
Interior at Cantina Kahlo

every occasion, combining elegant venues, curated menus, and flawless service

to elevate your meeting or celebration.
For more information, call

17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



UNWIND: Take a dip to rejuvenate

SUMMERTIME CELEBRATIONS

The generous offer, ideal for groups of three to six, features unlimited pizza, pasta and salads served on sharing platters, garlic bread, and free ice cream for kids. Priced at BD8.900 per adult and BD4.500 per child under 15, the menu is available tomorrow, July 18, and Saturday, from noon to 10pm.

Meanwhile, Selections Restaurant is offering themed lunch buffets throughout July and August. Enjoy Mediterranean Mondays, Tandoori Thursdays and more, with a diverse daily



SCRUMPTIOUS: An Italian feast to enjoy

rotation of summery dishes including grilled lemon-herb chicken, tropical quinoa, and panna cotta. Priced at

BD8.900, the buffet is served daily from noon to 3pm.
For more information, call 36967701.

INSPIRED FLAVOURS TO SAVOUR

FOUR Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay presents a curated collection of luxurious dining experiences, indulgent spa rituals, and uplifting wellness sessions this July, all designed to capture the spirit of summer in the most exquisite way.

At Bay View Lounge, discover a delightful twist on the classic éclair with their Gelato-Filled Éclairs. Each handcrafted creation is layered with gourmet flavours from Black Forest with cherry and fiore di latte to banoffee with dulcey mango and salted toffee. A perfect treat, it's available daily from 11.30am to midnight at BD7net.

Also at Bay View Lounge, guests can enjoy a Mediterranean-inspired Tapas Style Experience with small plates ideal for sharing or a light pre-dinner bite. Highlights include Patatas Bravas and Chicken Croquettes (BD7 each), Calamari Sandwich with Lemon Jam and Grilled Octopus with Creamy Potato and Paprika Oil (BD8 each). Available daily until August 2, from 11.30am to midnight.

Afternoons are best spent indulging in Afternoon Tea at Bay View Lounge, where delicate finger sandwiches, warm scones, and elegant pastries like caramelised pear canelé and ricotta cannoli are served with tea or coffee. Available daily from noon to 9pm, it's priced at BD22net for the regular set, or BD26net inclusive of sparkling apple juice.

Elevated evenings await at re/ASIAN CUISINE, where bold Asian flavours meet Californian flair. From Korean Fried Chicken and Robata-grilled Bluefin Otoro to premium sushi and crafted cocktails, the sharing-style menu is served to a backdrop of DJ sets. Open Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7pm to 11pm, and Wednesday to Friday until 11.30pm. Closed Mondays. A la carte pricing applies.

On Fridays, CUT by Wolfgang Puck hosts its renowned Bubbly Brunch — a midday celebration of flavour with signature dishes like Black Bass Ceviche, Beef Sliders, and premium steaks, all served alongside free-flow bubbly and DJ entertainment. From 12.30pm to 3.30pm, priced at BD70net.

For muddled drink connoisseurs, Bar Omakase at Blue Moon Lounge offers a bespoke tasting experience. Begin with



DELICATE: Premium sushi packed with umami goodness



TEMPTING: Tea-time treats that tantalise your taste buds

a trio of signature elixirs, followed by a golden fortune cookie revealing your next personalised concoction. Enjoy five expertly crafted drinks paired with thoughtful bites, from Tuesday to Saturday until 11.30pm for BD36net per person.

Retreat to The Spa for a Celebration Massage, the perfect way to mark a special moment. This personalised aromatherapy massage includes a mocktail, a choice of cake or healthy treat, and a surprise gift from the spa team. Available daily from 10am to 10pm, it's priced between BD90 and BD120.

Refresh your complexion with the VIP O2 Oxygenating Facial by Biologique Recherche. Designed to combat environmental stress, this revitalising treatment re-oxygenates and deeply hydrates for a radiant, balanced glow. Offered daily from 10am to 10pm with prices starting from BD70.

Finally, restore your inner calm under the stars with an upcoming New Moon Yoga session. This peaceful moonlit flow takes place on July 24 (New Moon), from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Priced at BD6net for hotel guests and members, or BD12net for outside guests.

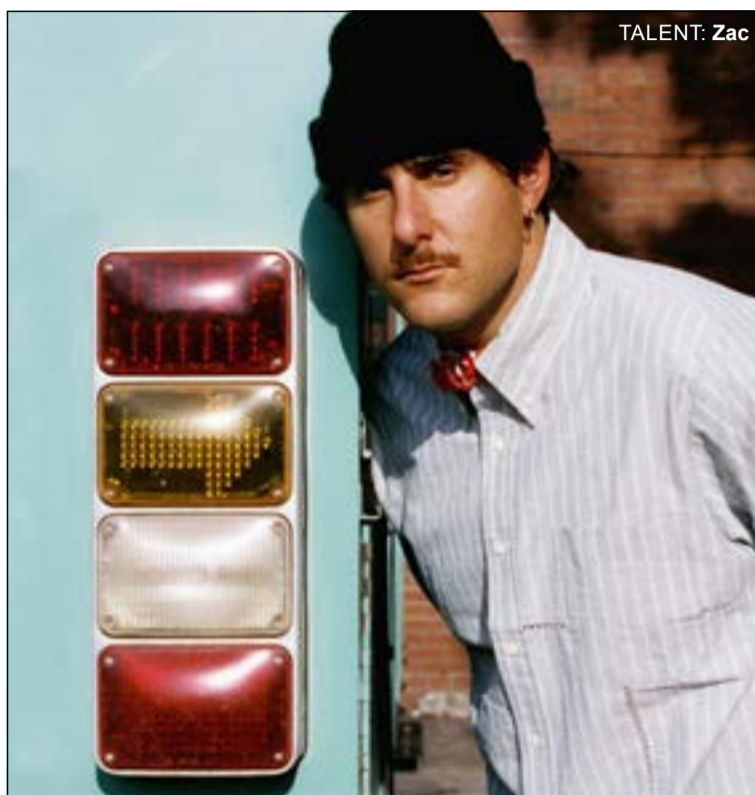
For more information, call 17115500, 17115045 or 17115046.



LUXURIOUS: Revitalising treatment that soothes your senses

Pulse of Pop

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



TALENT: Zac

A MUSICAL DIALOGUE

American musician Zac Farro drops his debut solo album *Operator* tomorrow.

Primarily known as a founding member and the drummer of Grammy-winning rock band Paramore, the artist is now embarking on a new journey with nine tracks, which he initially 'did not have too much of a vision for' but they eventually came together while working in the studio with close friends and co-writers Josh Gilligan and Matt Chancey.

Zac said that he let 'vibe and intuition guide him' without an overarching theme in mind, which led to creating a relatable body of work exploring shared human experiences such as anxieties,

family issues and communication.

"We said, let's show up at the studio and see what happens," the 35-year-old recalled.

"I've always had such a vision, even sometimes the name of an album, before I go in, this one was like, if we're together, the magic will reveal itself. And it did," he added.

The creative talent said that despite running a solo musical project titled *HalfNoise*, he chose to release the record under his own name due to it being his most personal creation, as it is expected to musically feature sounds inspired by 70's rock and psychedelic tunes the artist sought through his personal hard times.

"This record is an entire inner dialogue with myself, within

myself, so it felt right to cut out the middleman and go 'This is Zac Farro'. It's exciting and it feels a lot more pointed," he explained.

The drummer embarked on his musical career with Paramore at the age of 14 in 2004; he departed from the band in 2010 to create *HalfNoise*.

Seven years later, Zac returned as a drummer for Paramore, which currently consists of him alongside vocalist Hayley Williams and guitarist Taylor York.

Under *HalfNoise*, Zac released five studio albums, with the latest one being *City Talk* in 2023.

With Paramore, the drummer was involved in the band's entire discography with the exception of their 2013 self-titled album.

SMART SMURFS ON A MISSION

ANIMATED comedy *Smurfs* is out now in theatres.

Based on the 1958 Belgian comic series by Peyo, the film tackles the kidnapping of Papa Smurf (John Goodman) by evil wizards Gargamel and Razamel (both voiced by JP Karliak), which causes Smurfette (Rihanna) to lead the Smurfs on a mission, away from the safe confines of the Smurf

village and onto the real world to save their leader, as well as unravel their true purpose in the universe.

In an interview, director Chris Miller expressed that he wanted to honour the original comics' DNA with the film series reboot, which is preceded by *Smurfs: The Lost Village* (2017).

"It was really important to approach the story like this was the first Smurfs movie that's been made,

something that would stand on its own," he said.

"We centred the story around a Smurf named No Name (voiced by James Corden) who does not yet have a clear identity or thing and is on a journey to discover it.

"That's something all of us can relate to, we all share this 'moment' in life where we don't know who we are or what we're meant to be.

"Sometimes the answer just comes to us and sometimes it takes longer, and patience is always easier said than done! That's what makes this story so relatable," he added.

Chris is also known for his contributions to the DreamWorks Animation hits *Puss in Boots*, the first three *Shrek* films and *Madagascar* among many others.



GALACTIC: The series' poster

IN A GALAXY FAR AWAY

THE first two episodes of the third season of sci-fi series *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* are out now on Paramount+, with a weekly release scheduled until September 11.

The show takes place a decade before *Star Trek: The Original Series* (TOS), which ran from 1966 to 1969.

It follows Captain Christopher Pike (Anson Mount) and the crew of the USS Enterprise (NCC-1701), a series of fictional starships in the *Star Trek* franchise, as they explore new worlds and carry out missions throughout the galaxy in the 23rd century.

Last month, Paramount+ announced that the production is set to end with a fifth season.

Series' co-creator Akiva

Goldsman explained that had it not been for the studio's decision, it could have gone on forever.

However, the creatives behind the show will make sure that the prequel will catch up to the original series in a way that will satisfy the fans.

"We've got to reach TOS to fulfill the promise to the fans, which was 'what happens to all these people? How do they start to become those characters we know, and what happens to the ones we don't see in canon?'" Akiva said.

Meanwhile co-creator Henry Alonso Myers explained: "We spend a lot of time for each episode trying to think of what we can have the actors try and do that they haven't got a chance to try before, so it doesn't feel like they're just showing up to do the same thing every week."



BLUE: A scene from the film



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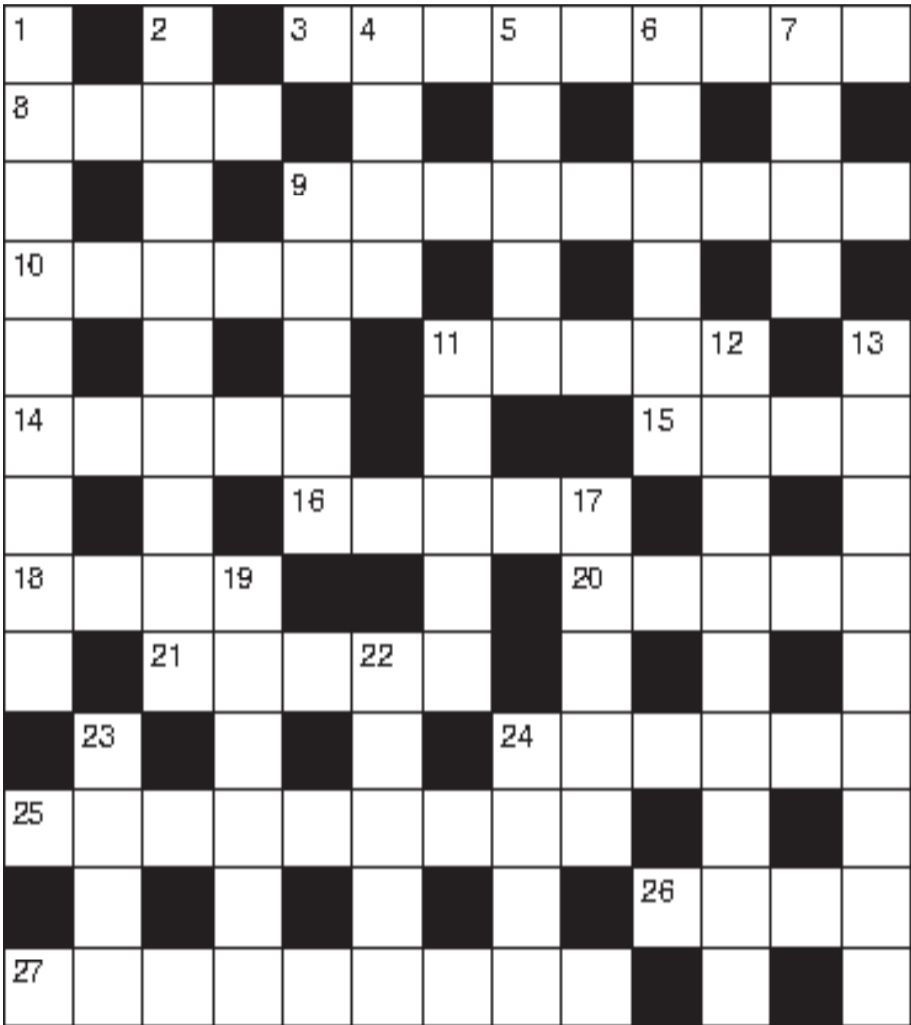
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Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 3. Belong (9)
- 8. Kind (4)
- 9. Joined (9)
- 10. Writer (6)
- 11. Clinch (5)
- 14. Big (5)
- 15. Volume (4)
- 16. Province (5)
- 18. Close (4)
- 20. Corpulent (5)
- 21. High (5)
- 24. Claim (6)
- 25. Vanish (9)
- 26. Scheme (4)
- 27. Accompanying (9)

DOWN

- 1. Attacker (9)
- 2. Brotherly (9)
- 4. Inferior (4)
- 5. Boredom (5)
- 6. Voucher (6)
- 7. Particular (4)
- 9. Lid (5)
- 11. Prepared (5)
- 12. Not too bad (9)
- 13. The accused (9)
- 17. Proposer (5)
- 19. Revolve (6)
- 22. Lukewarm (5)
- 23. Raise (4)
- 24. Daybreak (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... is known as The Father Of Jet Flight?

WHAT ... sort of creature is an oriole?

WHERE ... was the drama series *Tenko* set?

WHEN ... did Bjorn Borg first win the Wimbledon Men's Singles title?

WHO ... designed and built the banqueting hall in the UK's Whitehall?

WHAT ... is the name of the *BBC Asian Network's* daily soap?

WHERE... did US band Toto '*bless the rains*' in 1983?

WHEN ... did Laker Airways collapse?

just so

DOYARDOR
3

THOUGHTN

PARACHUTE

LEICESTER

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

Across: 1 Dais;
3 Handicap; 8 Dupe;
9 Prestige;
11 Contemptible;
13 Tremor; 14 Bitter;
17 Obstreperous;
20 Exigency; 21 Able;
22 Together; 23 Rest.
Down: 1 Dedicate;
2 Impinge; 4 Abrupt;
5 Dispirited; 6 Chill;
7 Plea; 10 Deportment;
12 Prospect; 15 Trouble;
16 Rescue; 18 Being;
19 Left.

Who, What, Where, When: Simon MacCorkindale; Let the buyer beware; Tallahassee; 1982; Matthew McConaughey; Helium; Oxford; 1599.

Just So: The prodigal son, The three rrrs, The whys and wherefores, Turn the other cheek.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work space here