



ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA  
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**A Bahraini artist has been showcasing her work and the kingdom's heritage of clay on a global platform at the London Design Week, inviting audiences to engage with her artistic process.**

Multidisciplinary artist Nermin Habib's *The Becoming* series is being displayed at Isola x Design London Shoreditch, which ends today at the Shoreditch Town Hall.

"*The Becoming* series is a deeply personal exploration of transformation, where both the clay and I evolve together through the creative process," she explained.

"Each piece reflects my intimate relationship with the material, capturing the marks I leave behind, like a camera freezing a moment in time – traces of the making that tell the story of our shared journey."

"As the clay transitions from raw material to an expressive form, I, too, grew as an artist."

"This series celebrates process and identity, where every imprint holds the memory of connection, patience, and becoming – a dialogue between the clay and me, shaping us both into something meaningful."

The exhibition invites audiences to engage with transformation – not as an end point but as an ongoing state.

Each vessel and fragment on display bears the traces of its making, from fingerprints to impressions, offering a record of dialogue between clay and artist.

The series captures not just the clay's evolution from raw matter to expressive form, but also her own artistic growth.

Isola, in partnership with Design London Shoreditch, brought together designers, studios, brands and institutions to showcase contemporary craft, sustainability, collectable and innovative design.

This year, the festival is hosted inside the Shoreditch Town Hall as part of the Shoreditch Design Triangle's House of ICON programme.

Over the three-day event, visitors have explored an array of furniture, lighting, textiles, accessories and ceramics, all curated to reflect innovation and craftsmanship

SHOWCASE:  
Nermin is highlighting her series of sculptures on a global stage



## SHAPING STORIES IN CLAY



ARTIST: Nermin at work

at the highest level.

Nermin, currently an artist-in-residence at The Art Station in Muharraq, Bahrain, has built a multidisciplinary practice that encompasses creative strategy, filmmaking, photography and ceramics.

Her work is rooted in the concept of the 'in-between,' exploring the intersections where cultures, identities and ideas converge.

Before dedicating herself fully to ceramics, she worked in advertising and brand strategy, contributing to global

projects, including Nasa campaigns, during her tenure at Google.

Her creative output extended to filmmaking, with her short film *Cairo Soul*

winning awards and hearts.

A clip from the film was also featured in Pharrell Williams' music video *Freedom*.

Ceramics has become a medium through which Nermin explores the subtleties of human experience.

Her practice is informed by a career that blends creative industries and the arts, offering a rare perspective on how discipline, experience and intuition intersect.

Following her MFA from the Academy of Art University in

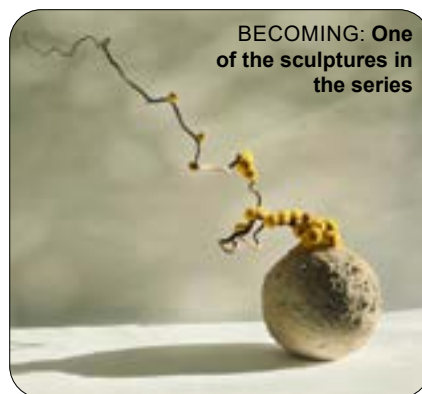
San Francisco, Nermin has explored the spaces where visual storytelling and material expression overlap.

She has previously exhibited internationally, including at Isola during Milan Design Week 2025, where her sculpture *Flow* was met with significant acclaim.

London Design Week has become a mainstay of the city over the last 20 years and, in 2019 attracted a record number of more than 600,000 visitors.

*The Becoming* series will be on display until today.

For more details, follow @nerminhabib on Instagram.



BECOMING: One of the sculptures in the series



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The final leg kicks off  
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**MUSIC REPORT**  
By JULIA CASSANO  
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**B**AHRAIN'S music scene just got a fresh burst of Afrobeat energy, thanks to Charles Clay, better known by his stage name Clayze.

The passionate music enthusiast has stepped into the spotlight with the release of his debut single and music video, *Chance*.

The rhythmic celebration of love pulses with vibrant Afrobeat grooves and heartfelt lyrics, capturing the spark of new romance and the magic of emotional connection.

"From an early age, music has been my constant companion, shaping my dreams and fuelling my passion," the American, who works as a quality control manager in a private firm, told *GulfWeekly*.

"Recording and sharing my own single and music is a milestone I have dreamed about for years, and I am overjoyed to see it come to fruition."

Charles, who moved to Bahrain in 2020, said his affair with music and unwavering belief in the power of love inspired him to write the song.

"The single, rooted in the vibrant rhythms of Afrobeat, was recorded in Manama, while the music video was brought to life in Nairobi, Kenya, in July," he explained.

Shot in one day, the video reflects the 'dedication and excitement behind the project'.

"It was filmed using a Sony Large Frame Cinematic Camera to ensure high-quality visuals," he noted, adding that he chose Kenya

CONNECTION: A screenshot taken from the video



"Recording and sharing my own single and music is a milestone I have dreamed about for years, and I am overjoyed to see it come to fruition"

was balancing his professional commitments with his passion for music.

"However, seeing it all come together has been incredibly rewarding, and the release of the song is my way of sharing the magic of love, especially new love.

"I hope listeners are swept up in the warmth and energy of the song, and that it brings a sense of joy and connection to those who hear it."

"I hope the song resonates with the listeners and they share the same love and excitement that inspired its creation."

Looking to the future, Charles hopes to release more music and is currently

as the location because he wanted Rodman, a well-known producer in Kenya, to help him film the music video.

He also collaborated with Yabaangelosi, a respected artist and producer from South Sudan who is currently based in Bahrain.

"The entire process of the song – from start to finish – took several months," he said.

Charles' biggest challenge



THE MAKING: Behind the scenes

working on his first solo album.

*Chance* is available on all platforms and its music video can be streamed on YouTube.

For more details, follow @clayzemusic on Instagram.

## BRAIN-BUSTERS

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

1. The Bee hummingbird, which is the smallest living bird in the world, is native to which island?
2. *Peaky Blinders* is a 1919 saga set in which UK city?
3. What is Winnie the Pooh's actual name?
4. What is the national dish of Saudi Arabia?
5. According to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, what is the 'ultimate answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything'?



6. Who was the first and only US president to resign?
7. What was the Roman name for England?

**ANSWERS**  
1. Cuba  
2. Birmingham  
3. Edward  
4. Kabsa  
5. 42  
6. Richard Nixon  
7. Albion

## RUSSIAN FILMS TO BE SHOWCASED

**F**IVE Russian films are being showcased over the weekend, as part of a unique festival in the kingdom.

The Russian Film Festival kicks off today, and runs until Saturday, September 20, at Reel Cinemas in the Marassi Galleria mall.

"As part of the Russian Seasons, the Russian Ministry of Culture and ROSKINO, in collaboration with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, are organising the Russian Film Festival from September 18 to 20, where audiences can enjoy free screenings of a selection of outstanding Russian films," organisers said, in a statement.

*Finist: The First Warrior* is being screened today at 8.30pm. In the film, Finist ventures to distant Eastern territories on a perilous quest.

Tomorrow at noon, *Cats in the Museum* will follow Vincent, a ginger

cat, and Maurice, a mouse, who team up with other cats to protect pieces of



COMEDY: *Cats in the Museum*

artworks in the Hermitage Museum.

The movie will be in Arabic, with English subtitles.

In the afternoon tomorrow, at 3pm, *The Spirit of Baikal* will tell the story of a father who takes his son to his grandfather for ice fishing, hoping to distract the young boy from the loss of his mother, but ends up caught in a blizzard.

On Saturday at noon, *Red Ribbons* will tell the 1944 story of Nadia, who, along with German children, paints ribbons for a wish tree and dreams of the end of the war.

In the afternoon on Saturday at 3pm, *Hockey Dads* will depict the story of Andrey, a children's hockey coach, who gives his all to his pupils as they compete in a tournament for the future of their local ice rink.

Other than *Cats in the Museum*, all the films will be in Russian, with Arabic subtitles.



# A brush with nature

ARTIST: Su, centre, discusses some of his favourite pieces with guests



BIRDS AND BLOSSOMS: One of Su's pieces



**ART REPORT**  
By NAMAN ARORA  
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**A new exhibition of Chinese fine brushwork painting opened on Sunday at the Bin Matar House in Muharraq.**

Organised by the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research, in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy, the show, titled *Fine Brushwork Flower and Bird Paintings*, will run until the end of the month.

The exhibition presents 28 works by Beijing-based artist Su Xiaofeng, who has dedicated more than two decades to refining the traditional gongbi style of painting.

The collection highlights floral subjects with strong cultural symbolism, such as China's national flower – the peony – which Su describes as symbolic of prosperity, good fortune, and auspiciousness.

"Our Chinese paintings blend traditional Chinese painting, calligraphy, poetry, and philosophy," he told *GulfWeekly* in an interview. "Through the pairing of flowers and birds with distinct symbolic meanings, we express the beautiful meanings of traditional Chinese culture."

"For example, the peony represents prosperity, good fortune, and auspiciousness, while the bee represents diligence."

Born in 1968 in Guangdong Province, Su was influenced early on by the Lingnan School of Painting, before studying under Professor Zhou Yansheng at the



ON DISPLAY: A piece at the exhibition

Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts.

After moving to Beijing, he broadened his artistic outlook through both scholarship and collaboration with fellow artists.

Over the years, he has established a reputation for a style that he calls 'clear and elegant', drawing on tradition while also striving for new realms of expression.

For Su, the choice of subjects goes far beyond their surface beauty.

The exhibition also aims to foster cultural dialogue and Su hopes that visitors in Bahrain will see more than decorative imagery.

"Through this exhibition, Bahraini artists and people can get close to Chinese paintings and have the opportunity to understand

traditional Chinese culture, thereby integrating and communicating with their local culture and art, learning from each other and promoting each other," he explained.

"This exhibition is a good communication platform to further increase the integration of Eastern and Western cultures and enable the two countries to reach a new understanding of each other's culture."

When asked about similarities and contrasts between his gongbi style and Islamic art, Su pointed to both differences in technique and shared values in design.

"Chinese gongbi painting is based on line and must be integrated with Chinese calligraphy," he added.

"Western art, on the other hand, utilises a variety

of creative forms and techniques.

"Furthermore, Eastern and Western aesthetic systems differ significantly.

"Despite these differences, there are also commonalities, such as the principles of composition and colour."

The artist is no stranger to Bahraini audiences. Just last month, he presented his work at the Art Centre in Manama, where the response was, in his words, 'very positive'.

He added that it gave people in Bahrain the chance to engage closely with Chinese fine brushwork painting, culture and history.

Among the works on display at the Shaikh Ebrahim Centre, Su admits to having a personal favourite.

"I like all my works, but my favourite is the peony

theme," he added.

"As China's national flower, the peony represents wealth and good fortune.

"It has been a flower loved by both royal nobles and ordinary people throughout China's long history.

"The audience can understand the meaning of the flowers in the paintings in traditional Chinese culture and thus understand the connotation of my works."

Beyond the birds and blossoms, visitors to the exhibition will also get a glimpse into the artist's lifelong pursuit of balance between nature, philosophy, and artistic spirit.

As Su puts it, "The deeper you delve, the more wonders you discover."

For more details, follow @shaikh\_ebrahim\_center on Instagram.

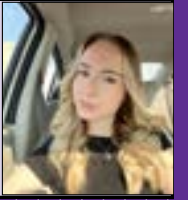


DIGNITARIES: Su, fifth from left, with esteemed guests at the opening of the exhibition



# Leisure Scene

What's on guide by  
Julia Cassano



## A TROLLEY OF TREATS AT RITZ

**I**NDULGE in a fabulous weekend of sweets and fun with the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain's Unlimited Piccolo Tiramisu Experience.

Served from a signature trolley, guests can create their own tiramisu with a variety of delicious toppings, tailored to suit all tastes.

Available exclusively to guests dining for lunch and dinner at Primavera, the tiramisu treat costs BD7 per person, from 12.30pm to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Switch up your weekend plans with a hands-on cooking class, where participants will learn how to make dishes and pastries from around the



VARIETY: Traditional thali

world. The class, designed to refine skills and delight palates, will make for an unforgettable cooking experience with family and friends. It costs BD40 per person for pastry cuisine and BD45 per person for regular cuisine. Subject to availability, early booking is advised.

Celebrate Saudi National

Day in style with a selection of beautifully crafted treats all week – from September 19 to 27, 10am to 10pm, at Ritz Gourmet Lounge and Lobby Lounge.

Cakes are priced at BD6.500, while oriental rose beverages cost BD6. Guests are also invited for a wonderful staycation at the five-star hotel to

celebrate Saudi National Day.

Serene surroundings and refined comfort will set the tone for an unforgettable escape. As the sun sets, the experience can be elevated with the option of a private villa barbecue at the hotel, a bespoke dining moment crafted by talented chefs.

Meanwhile, guests can savour an array of mouthwatering Mexican dishes at Cantina Kahlo's Friday Brunch Fiesta.

Enjoy the lively rhythms of a resident mariachi band, creating the perfect backdrop for a magnificent dining affair. It's priced at BD35 per person, inclusive of soft beverages and BD45 with selected beverages, tomorrow, Friday, from



REFRESHING: Villa barbecue

1pm to 4pm.

Delight in a vibrant Indian dining experience with a traditional thali. Guests can enjoy aromatic curries, tender tandoori

specialities, a variety of fish and more for BD19 per person, inclusive of lassi. It's available on Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from noon to 3pm and 7pm



**G**ET together with your family and friends to enjoy some of the English language films being shown at Cineco Seef this weekend.

**THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (15+)**

Paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren take on one last terrifying case involving mysterious entities they must confront.

**Actors:** Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson, Steve Coulter

**Timings:** 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm

**TIN SOLDIER (PG-15)**

The Bokushi offers a programme for US combat veterans seeking their purpose and path forward. Now, the government is concerned with the rapid rise of the well-armed, highly-trained operatives in the cult-like programme.

**Actors:** Robert De Niro, Jamie Foxx, Scott Eastwood

**Timings:** 11.45am, 4pm, 8.15pm

**THE CUT (18+)**

A retired boxer returns for one last shot at the title, but only if he can make the weight. He embarks on an extreme and illegal weight cut under the eye of a ruthless trainer.

**Actors:** Orlando Bloom, Caitriona Balfe, John Turturro

**Timings:** 11.30am, 4.40pm, 9.30pm



SUMPTUOUS: A selection of sushi

## K HOTEL BAHRAIN REVAMPS FRIDAY BRUNCH

**D**IVE into a culinary celebration unlike any other as The K Hotel Bahrain unveils its revamped Friday Brunch.

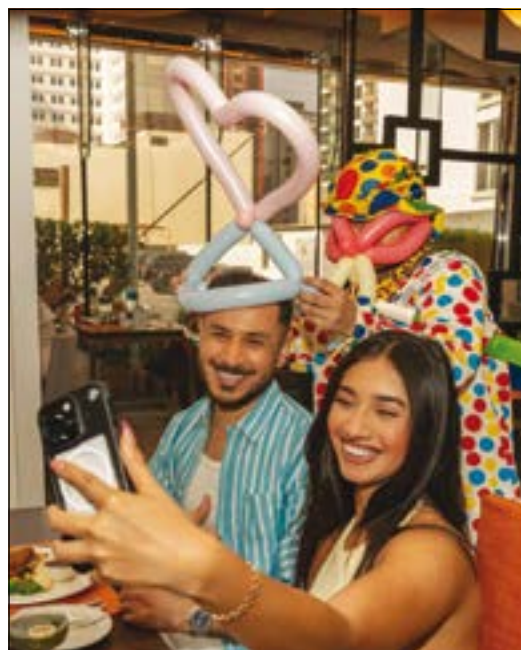
Indulge in a spectacular buffet, overflowing with mouthwatering new dishes that will tantalise your taste buds.

Sip on the finest beverages, expertly crafted to elevate the experience, while a live band sets the perfect mood for an unforgettable day.

Explore the interactive live cooking stations, where culinary magic unfolds, all within a vibrant and lively atmosphere that guarantees a fantastic time.

The experience costs BD18net per person, inclusive of unlimited soft beverages and BD25 with unlimited selected beverages, every Friday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

For bookings, contact 36600433.



LIVELY: Guests enjoying the fun

## GOURMET GETAWAY AT WILD!

**T**HE Sheraton Bahrain Hotel has lined up a delightful range of events that promises a weekend full of flavour and unforgettable experiences.

Don't miss out on an exclusive chef-curated dining experience, featuring signature dishes, showcasing the very best of culinary offerings at WILD. Savour beautifully plated delicacies, shareable appetisers, salads and delectable desserts at the WILD Chef night, every Thursday, from 6pm to 11pm. It costs BD19.500net per person, inclusive of soft beverages, tea and coffee.

Now, get ready for a flavour-packed adventure at The Wild Brunch.

Indulge in premium shareable cuisine and sip on handcrafted beverages, while live entertainment electrifies the atmosphere. It is available every Friday, from 12.30pm to 5pm, and costs BD36net per

FRAGRANT: Kebab dish at Golestan



person for soft beverages and BD46net per person inclusive of selected beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can relish an exquisite Afternoon Tea in the hotel's lobby.

Enjoy a variety of delicate pastries, freshly-baked scones with clotted cream and homemade jams and sandwiches every day, from 2pm to 5pm. It's priced at BD15net per person.

Visitors can also opt for a feast at the Golestan Persian Grill. The menu features a delightful array of authentic dishes – from fragrant kebabs to unique house specialities. The restaurant is open from noon to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm throughout the week, and



# Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



to 11pm at Nirvana.  
For more information or bookings, contact 17580000 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



FLAVOURS: A dish made at Wild Chef Night

on weekends from noon to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations, call 17517715 or 38885409.

## A FEAST FOR THE LEGENDZ

**E**XPERIENCE an elevated brunch at InterContinental Bahrain, where gourmet buffet stations, à la carte mains, and live music come together for a vibrant and flavourful weekend.

Head down to the Legendz SteakHouse and enjoy stations such as barbecue, seafood and fresh cheeses, along with delicious beverages.

It costs BD28 with soft beverages and BD38 with selected beverages, tomorrow, Friday, from noon to 4pm. Children under six dine for free, and those aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount.

Treat yourself every Saturday to a delicious crisp caesar salad, 18-hour slow-cooked barbecue beef ribs and caramel and praline dessert. Available at Legendz SteakHouse from 6pm to 10pm, this dining experience is the perfect blend of fresh, smoky, and sweet, and costs BD26 net per person.

The restaurant has also introduced its steak and lobster three-course menu, featuring a delicious starter selection, followed by a 300gm lobster tail and 200gm grilled tenderloin, and a dessert selection of your choice. It's priced at BD28 net per guest, every day, from 6pm to 10pm.

On Tuesdays, visitors can also enjoy a tender, grilled tenderloin paillard with mushrooms, served with unlimited serving of crispy pommes frites. It costs BD15 per guest, from 5pm to 10pm.

Meanwhile, relax today and tomorrow with a magnificent afternoon tea at Noor Lounge. A selection of treats, sandwiches, and beverages will make for a special experience. It costs BD6.500 net per guest, from 2pm to 7pm. Bubbly can be added for BD4.

Gather the family for a weekend Italian feast at Medzo. Indulge in a heartwarming Italian spread perfect for sharing. Bring your loved



TENDER: Grilled tenderloin paillard with fries

ones and enjoy unlimited servings of pizza, pasta, and salad – ideal for groups of three to six. Free ice cream is also available for children. It costs BD8.900 net per adult and BD4.500 net per child under 15. Dig into the delicacies today and tomorrow, from noon to 10pm.

For more information, contact 17227777.

TALENT: Ganga



## 12-YEAR-OLD VIOLIN PRODIGY TO PERFORM

**A** SPECIAL musical evening showcasing the extraordinary talent of violin prodigy Ganga Sasidharan will be held tomorrow.

As part of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) ongoing Onam celebrations, Sraavanam 2025, the concert will be held at the BKS DJ Hall at 8pm.

"Ganga's music touches the heart and soul," said BKS president PV Radhakrishna Pillai, expressing confidence that the event would draw

genuine music enthusiasts.

"She has already won thousands of admirers with her extraordinary talent."

At just 12 years old, Ganga has already captivated audiences worldwide with her soulful performances, earning recognition for her ability to move listeners through music rather than showmanship.

Inspired by the late violin maestro Balabhaskar, she began her musical journey at the tender age of four-and-a-half, supported and encouraged by her family.

## LEBANESE CLASSICS WITH A BYBLOS TWIST

**E**XPERIENCE a vibrant new take on Lebanese cuisine at Byblos, located at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

The refreshed menu features standout dishes like eggplant raheb with crispy kunafa, freekeh shrimp, and kibbeh short ribs, all served in a mesmerising seaside setting.

Guests can enjoy this unique dining experience Tuesday to Sunday, from 6pm to midnight.

For a lively Friday, head to Bahrain Bay Kitchen for a Family Brunch. Enjoy an array of fresh salads, nachos, tacos, Japanese takoyaki and more for BD35 inclusive of soft beverages and BD48

with a selected beverage package. Children under five dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged four to 12 enjoy 50 per cent savings, from 1pm to 4pm.

Bay View Lounge has introduced soft, steamed buns filled with bold flavours. Options include slow-cooked beef brisket, spicy lobster, mango chicken and more, available throughout this month from 11.30am to midnight.

Experience an amazing view of Bahrain at Blue Moon Lounge. Located on the 50th floor, the lounge offers panoramic views of the kingdom, alongside premium sushi selections, on Sunday from 12.30pm to midnight and Wednesday to Friday from 6pm to



NEW MENU: Fresh season at Byblos

2am. The restaurant is open from 6pm until midnight on Saturday.

Meanwhile, visitors can head to CUT by Wolfgang Puck for a lively brunch featuring black bass ceviche, beef sliders and more on Friday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. It costs BD70 inclusive of selected

beverages.

At re/Asian, visitors can share vibrant plates including pan-seared dumplings, Korean fried chicken, Hokkaido scallops and more. It is available from 7pm to 11pm on Tuesday, 7pm to 11.30pm from Wednesday to Friday and 7pm to 11pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Gather under the night sky for a New Moon Yoga session at the hotel, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on September 19. The experience is priced at BD6 for members and hotel guests, and BD12 for non members.

For more information, contact 17115000.



# Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY NAMAN ARORA



SUPERHEROES: The main cast of Gen V

## GEN V IS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

**S**ATIRICAL superhero drama *Gen V*, the acclaimed spin-off of the Emmy-winning *The Boys*, is back with a second season that blends biting social commentary, shocking twists and an emotional farewell to one of its stars.

Season 2 started yesterday, September 17, with a three-episode launch and will continue with weekly releases until October 22.

Set at Godolkin University, the series focuses on aspiring young superheroes, who compete for the university's top ranking and a chance to join The Seven, Vought International's elite superhero team.

The first season of the show took place prior to the events in the fourth season of *The Boys*.

This season is set after the events shown in the most recent episodes of the original series, after the university has undergone a dramatic transformation in the wake of The Seven's leader Homelander's rise to power.

Once billed as a training ground for aspiring Supes, the campus has now become a militarised space where students are moulded into

soldiers. The new dean, Cipher, played by Hamish Linklater, is a staunch believer in the supremacy of individuals with superpowers.

His character imposes a chilling vision of eugenics and superiority that reflects the authoritarian politics reshaping the world outside the university.

Hamish, known for his acclaimed role in *Midnight Mass*, describes Cipher as 'a true believer in creating a super race to rule them all.'

"The Superheroes have become the elite race, and Homelander has been put in charge of America," he explained.

"I'm playing a Dean that he would think would be appropriate for his America."

"So that should tell you what a good hire I am. This Dean is a true believer in Superhero eugenics. In creating a super, super race to rule them all."

"All of that is in the first episode of the season."

"Things have changed since the first season where humans were normal people, non-Supes, running the country."

"Now, that's been flipped on its head and the slogan on the front of the school is 'Make America Super Again'."

Marie (Jaz Sinclair), Emma (Lizze Broadway), and Jordan

(London Thor and Derek Luh) return as they attempt to survive in an environment rife with betrayal and fear.

The group continues to grapple with being scapegoated for the bloody finale of Season 1, and now they must also navigate Cipher's oppressive regime.

Adding to the intrigue, a secret programme known as Project Odessa hints at a deeper conspiracy linked to the university's origins. The new season will feature crossovers from *The Boys*, with Starlight, Black Noir, The Deep and Stan Edgar all making appearances.

Behind the scenes as well, the second season is defined by loss.

In March last year, Chance Perdomo, who played fan favourite Andre Anderson, died in a motorcycle accident.

The creative team chose not to recast the role and instead reworked the storyline to ensure that Chance and his character had a presence throughout the new season. Showrunner Michele Fazekas said it was vital to 'honour Andre and Chance' in a way that felt authentic.

She explained that the writers had to grieve both the actor and the character, and took pride in the tribute that was crafted.



TRIBUTE: Chance

The new episodes also serve as a narrative bridge between Season 4 of *The Boys* and the eventual climax of the flagship series.

It is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

## MUSICAL ANGST

**C**ANADIAN singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan is set to release her 10th studio album, *Better Broken*, this Friday, September 19.

The record will be her first album in nine years and her first collection of original material since *Shine On* in 2014, following the holiday release *Wonderland* in 2016.

Sarah has described the

project as a response to the turbulence of recent years, saying in a statement that she wrote much of the album while reflecting on the state of the world and the uncertainty people are experiencing.

"A lot of the lyrics on this record came from thinking about the world right now and asking, 'How do we move through this landscape? How do we keep our heads above water when it feels like so much is falling apart?'," she added.

"I don't know if I have any answers, but channelling all that angst and uncertainty into the music has been so cathartic."

"I hope that this record provides people with some relief and release, but in the end I just want them to take whatever they need from it,

and make the songs part of their own story."

The album features contributions from Wendy Melvoin, Matt Chamberlain, Benny Bock and Greg Leisz, as well as Katie Gavin of MUNA on the track *Reminds Me*. Its release was led by the singles *Better Broken*, which was issued alongside the album announcement in June, and *Gravity*, released in August.



RELEASE: New album cover

The latter has been described by Sarah as one of her most personal songs, written about her relationship with her eldest daughter.

She explained that the song was an attempt

to reach out across years of emotional distance and convey unconditional love. The other tracks on the 11-track album will be *The Last to Go*, *Only Way Out Is Through*, *One in a Long Line*, *Only Human*, *Long Road Home*, *Rise*, *Wilderness* and *If This Is the End*....

Recorded primarily in Los Angeles, the album was produced by Tony Berg and Will Maclellan.

Sarah remains best known for her 1997 album *Surfacing*, which earned her two Grammy Awards and four Juno Awards.

## ALL PRESENT, NO PAST

**A** highly anticipated new novel from Booker Prize finalist Patricia Lockwood offers a dizzying plunge into illness and identity.

*Will There Ever Be Another You*, arriving next Tuesday, September 23, tells the story of a young woman grappling with a strange affliction in the midst of a global pandemic.

Her body and mind feel undone - the floorboards terrify her, and Depeche Mode's *What Is Love?* *Baby Don't Hurt Me* plays endlessly in her ears.

She cannot recognise her friends, her family reels from a cruel loss, and



she wonders whether the disease has erased who she was and granted her a new self instead.

Time and memory float through her as she writes, "I live completely in the present now."

This phosphorescent and wild novel blurs fiction and reality in pursuit of human connection amid disorientation and grief.

Patricia's book has been described as a "vertiginous novel about a woman's descent into illness and insanity" by its publisher Four Seasons Books. The author of the cult memoir *Priestdaddy* and her Booker-shortlisted debut *No One Is Talking About This* is known for her original, inventive and often uproarious voice.

In this new novel, she departs from conventional illness narratives that demand closure or redemption.



# MotoringWeekly

The top motoring and motorsport news



BAKU: The notorious castle section at the city circuit

**THE European leg of the 2025 Formula 1 season is behind, and as the championship heads into its final third, all eyes turn to the Baku City Circuit this weekend for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, writes Naman Arora.**

With eight rounds remaining, the final act kicks off with a race weekend where anything can happen.

## MCLAREN MOMENTUM

The defending Constructors' Champions head to Baku in dominant form. They currently lead the Constructors' standings by a huge margin – about 337 points over Ferrari, and even more over Mercedes and Red Bull.

They could wrap up the Constructors' title this weekend if they outscore Ferrari by nine points, regardless of what their rivals do. Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris have been relentless in racking up results. Between them, they have secured a dozen wins and seven one-two finishes.

This weekend could see history made.

If McLaren outscore Ferrari by nine points and are not outscored by Mercedes by 12 points or more, or Red Bull by 33 points or more, they will seal the Constructors'

title with seven races still to spare, setting a new record for the earliest clinch.

For a team that last defended a championship in the early 1990s, this could be an iconic weekend.

## TITLE DUEL

While much of the spotlight is on McLaren's collective bid, the individual battle remains fierce.

Piastri leads Norris, with both locked in as the only real contenders for the driver's crown. Unlike the inter-team battles of years past that often soured relationships, theirs has been conducted with sharp competition but mutual respect.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen



BEARMAN: Future in question

is barely a threat, as McLaren's consistency has put the reigning champion on the defensive.

With points gaps widening, his role may be less about winning the championship and more about spoiling McLaren's run.

## YOUNG PRESSURE

Two of the sport's youngest drivers arrive in Baku under pressure.

Oliver Bearman is balancing on the edge of a ban, sitting on 10 penalty points, and just two more would trigger an automatic race suspension.

Kimi Antonelli, meanwhile, has endured a tough European stretch.

Criticism from Toto Wolff after Monza raised questions, but the rookie has often performed better on unfamiliar tracks.

Having scored a podium in Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Canada, earlier this season and run well in Baku in F2, this weekend could be a chance to reset.

## BULLS NOT DOZING

Monza reminded everyone that Red Bull are not finished.

Verstappen's emphatic win there, complete with fastest laps, marked his third victory of the season and offered evidence of renewed pace.

Baku is a very different challenge, demanding precision in the tight castle section and bravery on its long straights. If Red Bull's Monza performance was down to setup changes and their new floor, Azerbaijan will show whether the resurgence is real.

Victory in Azerbaijan would mark Verstappen's fourth of the campaign and reassert their relevance in a season where they have often

looked outclassed.

Sergio Pérez, meanwhile, faces pressure to rediscover form, as speculation swirls around his long-term place in the team.

## THE BAKU FACTOR

The city circuit in Azerbaijan has become a bit of a fan favourite for its unpredictable drama. Its combination of the tight, technical castle section and a long flat-out run to the finish line creates both overtaking opportunities and unforgiving hazards.

The 2017 edition remains infamous for its collisions and safety cars, while 2021 produced high drama with Verstappen's late tyre blowout and Lewis Hamilton's restart error.

Last year, a gripping duel between Piastri and Charles Leclerc kept fans on edge until the final lap.

The castle section is barely wide enough for a single car, demanding inch-perfect precision, while the flat-out blast along Neftchilar Avenue offers the longest full-throttle stretch in Formula 1. Drivers must balance aggression with survival, knowing that even a minor misjudgement can end their race.

The walls are unforgiving, the strategy windows are narrow, and safety cars are almost expected.



MCLAREN: Piastri and Norris poised to take the team to divisive victory this weekend, as the battle between the two heats up

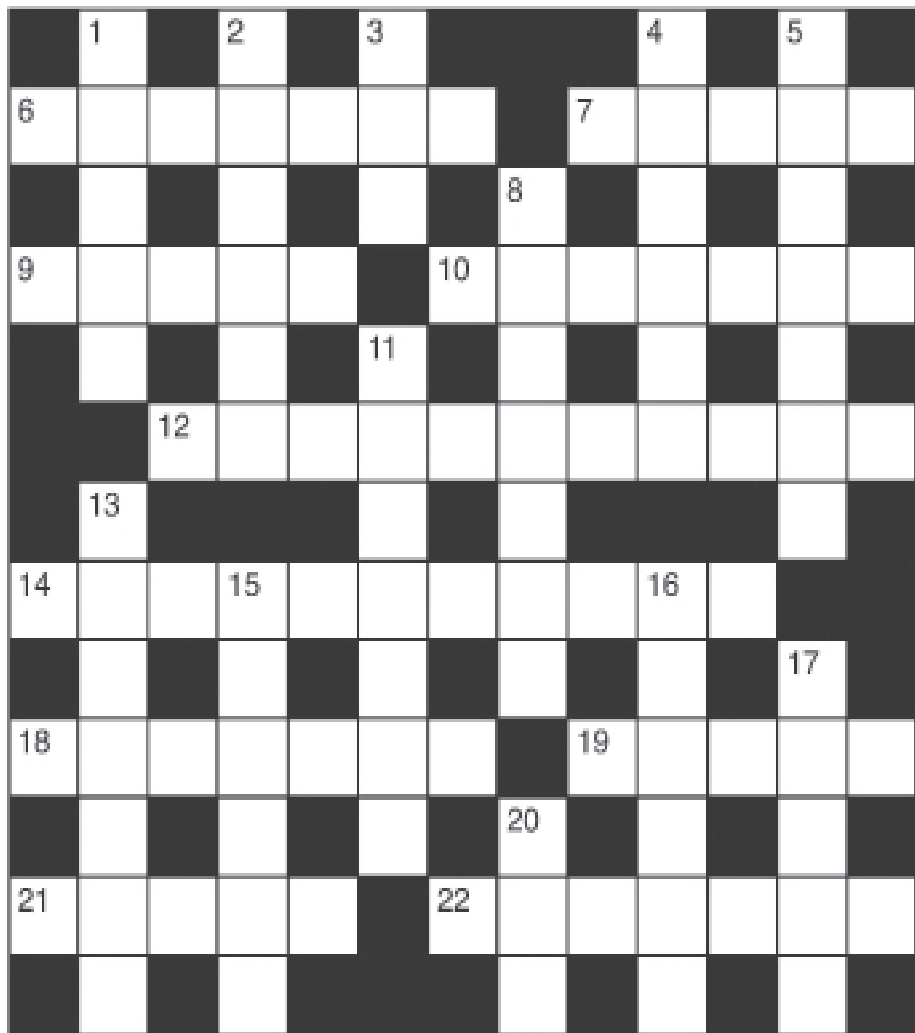


# Time Out



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## crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

### ACROSS

- 6. Postpone (7)
- 7. Essential (5)
- 9. Angry (5)
- 10. Shield (7)
- 12. Belief (11)
- 14. Diversion (11)
- 18. Exalt (7)
- 19. Condition (5)
- 21. Likeness (5)
- 22. Proposition (7)

### DOWN

- 1. Ornament (5)
- 2. Cad (6)
- 3. Spy (3)
- 4. Fire-arm (6)
- 5. Scarcity (7)
- 8. Uprightness (7)
- 11. Progress (7)
- 13. Quandary (7)
- 15. Groove (6)
- 16. Choice (6)
- 17. Aquatic animal (5)
- 20. Timid (3)

### who, what, where, when

- WHO ... invented the hovercraft?
- WHAT ... colour is sulphur?
- WHERE ... was the Treaty of Locarno signed?
- WHEN ... did *Rain Man* win Best Picture at the Academy Awards?
- WHO ... wrote the musical *Kiss me Kate*?
- WHAT ... is cephalology the study of?
- WHERE ... was Mark Cohn walking in his 1991 hit?
- WHEN ... was Britain's Charles I executed?

### just so



low  
low  
low  
low  
low



S GOOD S AU

## 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

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

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

### darn tough sudoku

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

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

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

### Last Week's Leisure Solutions

#### CROSSWORD BREAK:

- Across: 1 Get married;
- 7 Alarm; 8 Restive;
- 10 Sedative; 11 Cede;
- 13 Fasten; 15 Pretty;
- 17 Oval; 18 Penchant;
- 21 Tripled; 22 Irate;
- 23 In two minds.
- Down: 1 Grand;
- 2 Tomatoes; 3 Arrive;
- 4 Ruse; 5 Evident;
- 6 False front;
- 9 Every other;
- 12 Fraction; 14 Station;
- 16 Seldom; 19 Amass;
- 20 Blow.

#### JUST SO:

- Mad about you;
- No right turn;
- Odds and ends;
- The cheque is the mail.

#### WHO, WHAT, WHERE,

#### WHEN:

- Helmut Kohl;
- Trinitrotoluene; Chile; 1981;
- Barry Humphries; Rainfall;
- Italy; August 1991.

### Darn Tough Sudoku

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