



ART REPORT

By NAMAN ARORA
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In his first solo exhibition in Bulgaria, Bahrain's foremost art patron is paying homage to his home's maritime history and cultural heritage.

National Arts Council chairman and Rashid Al Khalifa (RAK) Art Foundation president Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa unveiled his latest exhibition *Continuum* last night at the Credo Bonum Gallery in Sofia, Bulgaria.

"I am delighted to bring my works to Sofia and to share my artistic journey with the audience in Bulgaria," he explained.

"*Continuum* represents a celebration of tradition, culture, and the ever-evolving nature of art, and I am honoured to present these pieces in this beautiful city."

"Through these series, I aim to bridge the legacy of cultural heritage with a contemporary perspective, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in a symphony of tradition and modernity."

The exhibition features three of Shaikh Rashid's creative projects - *Spectrum*, *Waves*, and *Les Roses de Bagatelle*.

Spectrum offers visitors a contemporary perspective on Islamic art's 'rules of repetition', seamlessly merging traditional aesthetic principles with echoes of modern Arab architecture.

Waves pays homage to Bahrain's maritime history, intertwining rhythmic repetition with the island's cultural heritage.

And finally, *Les Roses de Bagatelle* embarks on a delicate journey inspired by the flora of the neoclassical French castle in Paris, Château de Bagatelle, reflecting Shaikh Rashid's contemplation on the rose as both a natural entity and a metaphor.

"This diverse collection of artworks embodies Shaikh Rashid's artistic evolution, invoking notions of rhythm, purity, and ephemerality," a spokesperson from Credo Bonum Foundation and Gallery said, in a statement.

Born in 1952 in Riffa, Shaikh Rashid held his first solo exhibition at the Dilmun



FLORAL HOMAGE: *Les Roses de Bagatelle* on display at the gallery in Bulgaria

From Bahrain to Bulgaria, and beyond!

Hotel in 1970 when he was 18, before moving to the UK in 1972 to study at the Hastings College of Arts and Technology in Sussex.

Over the decades, his work has continually evolved from blended figurative and landscape works in the late 1980s through a 'convex canvas' in the 2000s to his current exploration of the dynamics of light and colours characteristic to Bahrain's geographical and cultural diversity.

In recent years, he has showcased his pieces at the Saatchi Gallery in London as well as Liechtenstein



Shaikh Rashid

Landes Museum, receiving international acclaim.

"Shaikh Rashid's artistic journey has evolved through

various phases, from deeply emotional figurative painting to abstract compositions, and eventually to large-scale outdoor sculptures where he boldly experiments with materials, colours and symbols," Credo Bonum curator Vessela Nozharova added.

"His work is always unique and captivating, continuously engaging in a dynamic dialogue with the audience."

"The works we have the privilege to showcase here in Sofia were created in recent years, where the beauty of the Far Eastern sea, sky and desert, and a deep reverence

for nature, have been masterfully distilled into their most refined form."

Credo Bonum Foundation, established in 2006 by Tzvetelina Borislavova, is an independent non-governmental organisation striving for positive change in modern society, focusing on sustainability and environmentalism.

Over the years, Shaikh Rashid has also become an avid art collector, starting with the first piece in his collection – a print by Henry Moore – while he was at university in the UK.

Since then, his collection has grown to an impressive size, consisting of hundreds of international works of fine and decorative art, camera and film equipment and furniture and interior design.

Works by 20 Bahraini artists, which are part of the RAK collection, are currently being showcased at an exhibition at the QGallery in Baku, Azerbaijan.

For more details, follow @rashidalkhalifaart and @rakartfoundation on Instagram.



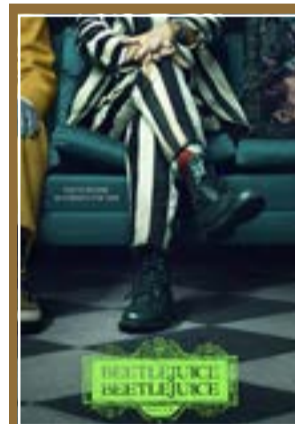
EVOLUTION: Some of Shaikh Rashid's art pieces on display



SONIA'S SPACE
Anecdotal podcast
SEE PAGE 2



SAIRA'S SECOND SOLO
Creative Commerce
SEE PAGE 3



PULSE OF POP
Beetlejuice is back
SEE PAGE 6



TROUBLE IN PARADISE
Horner under pressure
SEE PAGE 7

Smooth storyteller



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT
By RIMA ALHADDAD
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BAHRAINI-SAUDI *TikTok* sensation Sonia Alsowaiegh is expanding her horizons and aiming to stir up more conversations with her new podcast series.

Sonia's Personal Space features anecdotes and 'bizarre tales' from her daily life and endless travels, which she hopes will make people think, learn and laugh.

The content creator has close to a million fans on *TikTok*, where she gained popularity for her funny, 'story-time' videos.

Her first podcast was aired on *YouTube* on August 19. The 15-minute episode served as an introduction, with Sonia describing it as a 'personal diary' that will provide her audience 'a deeper look into her life'.

Sonia says she was inspired to launch the podcast after reading suggestions from her followers.

"I started my *TikTok* in 2020 and really wanted to bring my humour to it," Sonia told *GulfWeekly*. "The thing that caught people's attention was my storytelling and I got a lot of comments, with people asking me to start a podcast so they could hear my stories all day," the former Bahrain Bayan School student added, describing her journey as a compilation of 'trust the process' moments.

The first episode has more than 1,500 views.

Last week's drop, which has earned more than 3,300 views, featured Sonia's mother as a guest, and touched upon various topics, including her life growing up in Bahrain, moving to Dubai for work and her relationship with her mum, among other things.

She also talks about 'code switching' - a linguistic phenomenon where a speaker alternates between two or more languages, or language varieties, in a single conversation or situation - for example a mix of Spanish and English (termed 'Spanglish').

The podcast reveals how the family speaks Arabic at home, but started code switching for Sonia's niece, who had a speech delay. While they were advised to focus on one language by speech therapists, they had to speak English too as the child's family was in London.

Language alternation is common around the world,



CANDID: The poster for Sonia's podcast

however, Sonia has been criticised by a section of her audience who argue that code switching indicates a lack of pride in the Arabic mother tongue.

However, the creator code-switches between English and Arabic (Bahraini dialect) in her content and believes it adds to the genuine delivery of her stories.

"We have a whole new generation that code-switches so much. During my studies in Manchester I mainly spoke English in my day-to-day life, so I'm being as authentic as I can online by not forcing myself to stick to one language and talk the way I do offline," she added.

Sonia also believes her appeal comes from what she describes as 'Khaleeji humour', which is imbued

in her stories, as she showcases her life as an Arab woman who deals with different people and cultures during her frequent travelling escapades. Her dramatised delivery is further enhanced as it's set against catchy sound effects and photographs.

In one of her most viral posts, with more than 35,000 views on *TikTok*, Sonia shares an account of her trip to Georgia where she got a manicure at a salon located in an 'old and sketchy' apartment building. In a follow-up video, she tells her fans how the nail expert - who knew neither Arabic nor English - found her video and mistook her 'traumatised experience' to be positive feedback.

"I believe my stories are

funny because you don't expect the ending, it keeps getting worse and worse and worse," the graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK added.

Sonia hopes to continue her podcast which she claims will allow listeners to take a break from life's responsibilities and have a hearty laugh.

GulfWeekly previously featured the multimedia artist for her musical projects including her 2020 EP (extended play) *Adulting and Adapting*. The singer revealed that she is still writing and creating in hopes of releasing more music next year.

Sonia currently resides in Dubai but frequently travels to Riyadh for her freelance work, collaborating with brands to put together creative advertisement campaigns.

She also continues to visit her family in Isa Town, Bahrain, all of which makes her feel like 'her home is around the Gulf'.

Sonia's Personal Space will have a weekly release every Tuesday.

For new episodes, subscribe to @PersonalSpace. Podcast on *YouTube*, and for more details follow @personalspace.pod on *TikTok* and *Instagram*.



CREATIVE: Sonia in her element

Speak your mind!



GulfWeekly is continuing its 'Speak Your Mind' feature series where we invite you, our family of readers, to share your mental health concerns and challenges on a chosen subject, with our experts who will respond to a selection of them.

Together, let's get the conversation started! September's topic is: 'The mental health impact of witnessing violence and global conflict on social media' Some points to ponder:

↳ A feeling of helplessness over not being able to 'fix' things.

↳ Guilt about living a 'normal' life.

↳ Anger boiling over into day-to-day social interactions.

Share your thoughts in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or

@gdnonline on Instagram by September 30. We will publish a selection of the

comments received in *GulfWeekly* and the top submission will win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation.

* Congratulations to our August winner Anju Kapoor!



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By NAMAN ARORA
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THROUGH the canvas and her creativity, 'art-preneur' Saira Ranj is sharing her journey and what it means to challenge the status quo, in her upcoming solo art exhibition.

Featuring 11 of her oil, acrylic and mixed media pieces, Saira's exhibition titled *An Entrepreneur's Odyssey* opens on Saturday on the ground floor of the Harbour Gate located within the Bahrain Financial Harbour.

It is scheduled to run until September 27.

"These pieces were created over a period of three months," Saira told *GulfWeekly*.

"The painting process is an all-encompassing one. When I start the journey, it bleeds into days... weekends are a blur, hours are a blur, it's just the complete immersion in the piece being brought to life."

The exhibition encapsulates Saira's artistic and business development journeys, building on the experience she gained during her first solo showcase last year titled *The Hands Speaketh*.

"Solo exhibitions have a messaging that's far more intense than a group one," she reminisced.

"It takes a lot out of you. *The Hands Speaketh* showcase, held right here, spoke about reading art and how a layperson with no art education can enjoy understanding and interpreting art."

With *An Entrepreneur's Odyssey*, the 50-year-old Seef resident, who will celebrate her birthday just the day before her latest exhibition, has expanded beyond her comfort zone of oil portraits with many of the pieces on display bringing in themes of pop, abstract and realistic art, depending on 'whatever the canvas demanded from the idea'.

"Essentially I am an oil portrait artist, that's what is at the core of my being," she explained.

"However when crafting commerce you can't delve into just that. It's such a balancing act - like a juggler, you keep the multiple objects in the air moving in a well-co-ordinated manner, showcasing the skill and dexterity while managing your anxiety levels quietly."

Saira's artistic journey was inception in childhood, with writing and painting. Over the years, she has learned and taught a multitude of mediums, from pencil to charcoals, acrylics, water colours and oil, in a



PAPERWORK IS MY SUPERPOWER: Acrylics on hardboard



SUBMERGED: Mixed media on canvas

The odyssey of an art-preneur



GOLF MATTERS: Oil on canvas



SHOWCASE: Saira addresses the audience during her solo exhibition last year

smorgasbord of styles from miniatures to murals.

"Over the years, I have tried out various mediums and practised and taught them as well," she added.

"I truly believe my life is about bringing beautiful things to life! And when I talk about beauty, it is beauty with all its shades from the pristine whites to the shady greys and the dark darks.

"The painting process is an all-encompassing one. When I start the journey, it bleeds into days... weekends are a blur, hours are a blur, it's just the complete immersion in the piece being brought to life"

Everything has a streak of beauty in it." On the entrepreneurial

side, Saira currently heads the marketing division of a regional automobile rental company, and is also the founder of an avant-garde artistic skill development centre.

"To be an entrepreneur is a challenge in itself. However, to be one riding the dark horse is no mean feat and so this exhibition is all about

uncovering just that," she added.

"It's up there for people to see the steps of how one needs to just dive in and do it! It entails not the 'how to' but the 'how I did it' - in my own way.

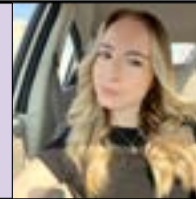
"Steps show up as you walk, they literally appear and you trust the light in front of you and move. Momentum is everything."

For more details, follow @threadconnector and @createit.bh on Instagram.



Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



TEMPTATION:
A lobster dish,
paired with a
delicious sauce



TASTY: Plum's
Angus tomahawk
steak

EXQUISITE DISHES CRAFTED WITH PASSION AT RITZ

DISCOVER a number of special dining experiences this weekend at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain. Enjoy a contemporary menu at Nirvana, where

personalised and exquisite dishes, crafted with passion, will leave you wanting more.

The offer is available from Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Meanwhile, elevate your Tuesday nights at Plums with an Angus tomahawk steak, grilled to perfection.

You can also choose two delectable sides, paired beautifully with a fine bottle of a grape beverage.

Reserve now for an evening of luxury. The one-of-a-kind experience costs BD69, on Tuesday, from 7pm to 11pm.

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day in style at Cantina Kahlo's Festival

del Mole y el Mezcal (Mole and Mezcal festival). Join the restaurant for an unforgettable evening filled with authentic cuisine, vibrant culture and festive spirit. Explore the delicious varieties on Monday and

Tuesday, 4pm to midnight, and Thursday to Saturday, 1pm to 1am.

For more information call 17586425 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com.



VARIETY: Some breakfast favourites at the hotel

SAVOUR THE BACK TO SCHOOL BRUNCH

CELEBRATE the weekend in style at Hilton Bahrain.

Origin Kitchen and Culture is showcasing an array of cuisines to suit all tastes.

Kickstart the weekend with the hotel's Back to School Brunch, available every Friday this month, from 12.30pm to 4pm. It costs BD39 net with unlimited selected beverages and BD28 with unlimited soft beverages. Teachers can join the fun for a special rate at BD25net per person.

Origin Kitchen and Culture has also organised Pan Asian Night on Wednesday from

7pm to 10pm. The sumptuous feast is priced at BD22net with unlimited soft beverages and BD28 with unlimited selected beverages.

The elegant restaurant has also lined up a delicious Seafood Night, featuring the freshest catch and live cooking stations tonight (Thursday), from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD32 net with unlimited selected beverages and BD25 with unlimited soft beverages.

The breakfast buffet is available from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am at BD13 net per person at Origin Kitchen and Culture.



NEW BEGINNINGS:
Back-to-school brunch

On Saturday, the Lazy Breakfast will feature live cooking stations and a spread of continental, Asian and Arabic favourites from 6.30am to 11.30am, at the same location.

Hilton Bahrain also invites guests to start their weekend right at Block 44's Afro Series tonight, from 9pm to 2am. A 50 per cent discount will be applied on selected beverages from 9pm to 11pm. Ladies receive two complimentary drinks.

Tomorrow, enjoy non-stop fun as a DJ keeps the party going at the property's lounge from 5pm to 7pm.

Guests can also move to the groove at Block 44's Salsa Nights tomorrow, from 9pm to 2am. Ladies receive two complimentary drinks.

The hotel's Society Club is open everyday from 9pm to 2.30am. On Tuesdays, it offers three free beverages for female guests from 8pm to 2.30am as part of Ladies' Night.

Cocoluna Lounge also offers ladies three complimentary beverages on Wednesday for Ladies' Night.

For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.

SPOTLIGHT ON GRAPHIC NOVELS AND COMICS

AL RIWAQ Art Space is hosting an interactive discussion about comics, graphic novels and manga in the Arab world.

Bahraini artists Zainab Almahdi and Yaser Al Hamad will discuss the history of Arabic graphic stories, what the comic scene is like today, and where it may head in the future.

They will also talk about the process of writing and drawing comics, their sources of inspiration, the challenges they face and more.

The event will be held at Al Riwaq's coworking space next Tuesday, September 10, from 6.30pm to 8pm.

An exhibition, *Majal: Design as Storytelling*, will feature a number of creations that are rooted in storytelling practices. It will also focus on narratives and preservation of oral history related to land, identity, culture and heritage.

The participating artists include Hasan Albasri, Deema Al Tharman, Saryeh Al Rumaihi, Sumana Buhasan, Aysha Abdulqader, Fatema Yusuf, Maryam Al Khalifa, Huda Aldaqaq, Waleed

Alfadhel, and Yasmeen Al Rumaidh.

The 13-week-long programme included weekly meet-ups, guest lectures and field trips, during which the nine artists honed their ideas, using community interviews, colour exploration, prototyping, testing and feedback.

In the discovery phase, the designers identified and unpeeled many traditions and histories through interviewing their relatives and extended communities. They solidified this research into concrete artistic projects.

Muharraq-born Waleed, for example, found a connection between art and therapy in Eastern and Western practices, including Rorschach, Mandalas and Rangoli designs.

Hasan, on the other hand, took a deeper dive into Bahrain's boat-building tradition, and has been working on 'Al Jizmah', a simplistic vessel which used to be popular amongst children and those who did not have advanced seafaring boats.

The exhibition will open on September 17 and run until October 31.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

ENJOY fun workshops covering a range of activities at Al Jasra Handicrafts Centre.

The events have been organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca).

The Professional Video and Editing on Phone workshop will teach participants how to take videos using their smartphones, through studied theoretical material and practical applications.

Topics include essential filming rules, lighting, choosing the right settings for high-quality mobile videos, slow-motion and time lapse-filming, enhancing audio quality, adding music and sound effects and editing.

The workshop will equip participants with the skills needed to complete the video process on their own. It will be held on September 9, 10 and 11, 4pm to 6pm, in Arabic and English.

The Punch Needle Embroidery workshop will highlight the role of blotting needles in works of art. Create stunning embroidery on bags and make artistic cup coasters and medals. Participants will learn about the tools used in the process as well as the techniques and basics of using needles. They will also learn how to print designs on fabrics.

CHANCE TO LEVEL UP YOUR VIDEO SKILLS



Learn the new craft on September 9, 10 and 11, from 4pm to 6pm, in Arabic

and English. Meanwhile, the Arabic Calligraphy workshop

will introduce trainees to the history of the art form and main types of fonts

within it. It will also shine a spotlight on the tools used and ways to employ them according to the type of font.

It will be held on September 14, 21 and 28, from 10am to 12.30pm.

Craft lovers can also join the Pottery on the Wheel workshop which will delve into the types of pottery and tools used in shaping them. Trainees will discover the methods of pottery, wedging and kneading as well as how to use the wheel to shape and sculpt pottery.

The workshop, in Arabic and English, will take place on September 14, 21 and 28, from 10am to 12.30pm.

For more information, contact handicrafts.workshops@culture.gov.bh

MOVIE TIME

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

AFRAID (15+)

Curtis and his family are selected to test a revolutionary new home device: A digital family assistant called AIA. And she can make sure nothing – and no one – gets in her family’s way.

Actors: John Cho, Katherine Waterston, Havana Rose Liu
Timings: 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

THE WASP (18+)

The movie follows Heather and Carla, who meet after having not spoken in years. Heather is about to present a very unexpected proposition that could change their lives forever.

Actors: Naomie Harris, Natalie Dormer
Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

BELIEVER (15+)

After being attacked by a notorious cult leader and mass murderer, Kate wakes up in the hospital claiming no memory of the attack. The media and her own family, begin to question her real motives as well.

Actors: Ella Ballentine, Lauren Smith, Peter Mooney
Timings: 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm, 11.15pm

HOUSERS OF WAR (PG-15)

After a mission goes wrong, only one of a group of mercenaries is left alive to avenge for his brothers.

Actors: Frank Grillo, Rhona Mitra
Timings: 5pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm

OZI: VOICE OF THE FOREST

This is the story of Ozi, an orphan orangutan who uses her influencer skills to save her forest and home from deforestation.

Actors: Amandla Stenberg, Laura Dern, Dean Chapman
Timings: 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 7pm

SLBS OF PRESSURE (18+)

In this gripping action-thriller, Adam, an ex-con who served a 16-year stretch for murder, walks a rocky path of forgiveness towards the son who grew up without him, while the bitter volatile brother of the youth he killed looms in the background.

Actors: Luke Evans, Alex Pettyfer, Stephanie Leonidas
Timings: 11.45am, 4.15pm, 8.45pm.

SWEET INDULGENCE

FOR a weekend filled with sweet treats and good fun, opt for the Royal Golf Club (RGC).

Dig into premium steaks, all cooked to perfection, at Links Steak Night, every Wednesday, from 6pm. It’s priced a la carte.

Guests can also satisfy their sweet tooth cravings with the club’s decadent cakes and desserts. Order your cake today at 32184647. All orders must be placed 24 hours in advance.

For more information or bookings, contact 39007546.



FRUITY: A cake at RGC

DELIGHT IN TENDER TORTILLAS AND CREAMY GUACAMOLE AT TACO FIESTA

HEAD down to the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay for a weekend filled with delicious food, refreshing drinks and a lively atmosphere.

Celebrate the new academic year with Bahrain Bay Kitchen’s Back to School Brunch. Indulge in an abundant spread of savoury and sweet selections such as breakfast burritos, Belgian waffles, peking duck, mouthwatering burgers, salads and more.

Explore the menu every Friday this month from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 including soft beverages and BD46 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

Children under six years dine with the hotel’s compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy 50 per cent savings.

Meanwhile, Bay View Lounge is offering a Taco Fiesta. Guests can delight their taste buds with tender corn tortillas, creamy guacamole, savoury fillings and fresh pico de gallo salsa.

It’s available everyday from 11am to 11.30pm and costs BD10 for vegetarian and

BD12 for chicken, beef or fish.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with a bountiful feast featuring iconic German specialities at Bahrain Bay Kitchen.

The barbeque corner will offer smoky steckerfish and tender and Bavarian-style beef short ribs. Join the celebration on September 27 and October 4, 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35, inclusive of soft beverages and BD48 including a selected beverage package

Byblos has lined up a one-of-a-kind culinary journey, including a seven-course seafood experience, from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight.

It’s priced at BD45 for two people. Don’t miss out on CUT Lounge’s happy hour. Guests can sit back and relax while enjoying Wolfgang Puck’s signature bites and drinks.

It’s available Monday to Thursday and Saturday, 5pm to 7pm.

Join the hotel for a day of rhythm and dance at Al Bahrain Ballroom on September 28. The celebration costs BD12.

For more information contact 17115500, 17115044, 17115046.



DELICIOUS: Vibrant tacos at the hotel’s Taco Fiesta

Pulse of Pop

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

WEDDING GONE AWRY



ACTION: Nicole in *The Perfect Couple*

A MERICAN mystery drama *The Perfect Couple* is out now on Netflix.

Starring Nicole Kidman, Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning and Eve Hewson, the adaptation of the 2018 novel of the same name tells the story of Amelia (Eve) who is about to marry into one of the wealthiest families on Nantucket, an island in Massachusetts, until a body found hours before the ceremony turns the attendees into suspects.

"*The Perfect Couple* is a murder mystery set over the Fourth of July weekend on the island of Nantucket, it is juicy, elegant, tense, and a little bit sensual," show creator Jenna Lamia

explained in an interview. "It is my favourite kind of show to watch; a thriller with multiple love stories embedded in the narrative."

Nicole acts as Amelia's future mother-in-law and murder mystery novelist Greer Garrison Winbury. "I grew up on (murder mysteries) and... I haven't seen one like this for a while, so it was really exciting to be a part of it and to be able to produce it as well," Nicole said at the series' UK premiere in London.

Novel author Elin Hilderbrand is known for her romance novels, which usually take place on and around Nantucket.

The Perfect Couple marks her first dive into the murder mystery genre.

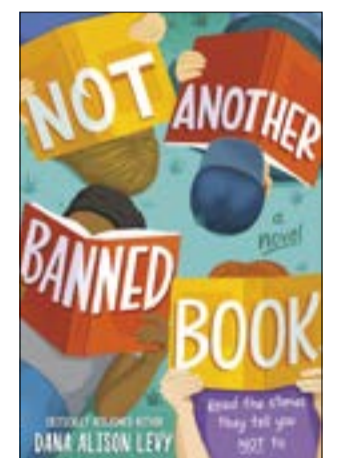
READING BETWEEN THE LINES

MIDDLE-GRADE novel *Not Another Banned Book* by Dana Alison Levy is set to hit the shelves on September 10.

To cope with the death of her brother, Molly finds solace in her teacher Ms Lewsiton's book club at school, however, an anonymous complaint about the club causes it to be suspended indefinitely. The books are removed and Ms Lewsiton is asked to go on leave.

Molly and her friends attempt to bring the club back and the book depicts the truths she discovers in the process.

Author Dana is passionate



about writing books for teenagers and younger kids. She generally believes writing has always been a big part of her day-to-day life.

"Writing is what I do now, and in some ways what I've always done. Stories, journals, professional writing; it has always been a vital part of my life. My stories are for children and young adults, as well as for people like me who, no matter what their age, are still looking for their next experience," she said on her website.

CREATORS Alfred Gough and Miles Millar's beloved character is back! *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* is out now in theatres.

Tim Burton returns as a director along with the original cast consisting of Michael Keaton as Betelgeuse (pronounced Beetlejuice,) and Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara reprising their roles as Lydia and Delia Deetz.

They are joined by Justin Theroux, Monica Bellucci, Jenna Ortega and Willem Dafoe.

Taking place 36 years after the events of *Beetlejuice* (1988) the sequel follows the Deetz family's return to Winter River after an unexpected family tragedy.

Soon enough, chaos returns to the household after Lydia's teenage daughter Astrid (Jenna) finds a mysterious portal to the afterlife.

Tim had not expected to revisit one of his earliest hits, but said he had been encouraged by making *Wednesday* for Netflix in 2022 and decided it was time to check in again with the anarchic demon Betelgeuse, played by Michael.

"In the past couple of years I got a bit disillusioned with the movie industry, you could say ... this movie was re-energising, kind of getting back to the things that I love doing," Tim said.

After a string of early successes, including *Edward Scissorhands* and *Ed Wood* in the early 1990s, more recent outings have been less fruitful, including the 2019 live-



SPOOKY: Beetlejuice Beetlejuice poster

IT'S SHOWTIME!

action remake of Disney's *Dumbo*, which was panned by critics.

"I'm not out to do like a big sequel for money or anything like that, I just wanted to make this for very personal reasons," Tim said.

He also recalled the overwhelming emotions of reuniting for the second instalment.

"I almost started crying the first time I saw these people again," he said.

"I did! I cried," Winona

added in an interview. "I get emotional talking about it sometimes. It was like falling back into it, like no time had passed."

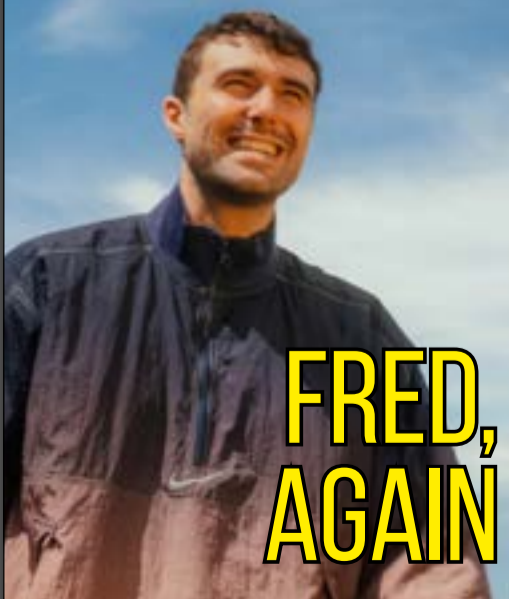
Considered a 'goth culture' pioneer in the American film industry, the 66-year-old director and producer is known for his work that incorporates 'spooky' elements, thus making a majority of his films considered to be 'Halloween staples'. His previous projects include *Corpse Bride* (2005) and

Big Eyes (2014).

The critically praised original dark fantasy film, *Beetlejuice*, won Best Horror Film and Best Make-up awards at the 1988 Saturn Awards and earned the Academy Award for Best Makeup (by artists Steve La Porte, Ve Neill, and Robert Short) in 1989.

The film's success was also followed by an animated television series that ran from 1989 until 1991 and as a 2018 stage musical.

STAR: Fred



ENGLISH producer and DJ Fred Again is releasing his fourth studio album *Ten Days* tomorrow.

The 20-track album consists of 10 songs separated by short interludes.

The producer had announced on social media that the concept project would take place throughout 10 days, recalling particular memorable moments of his life.

"There's been a lot of big mad crazy moments in the last year but basically all of these (songs) are about really very small quiet intimate moments. Some of them

are like the most intensely joyful things I have felt, and some of them are the other side of things," he added.



SPONTANEOUS: *Ten Days* album cover

Born Frederick John Philip Gibson, the artist is known best for his *Actual Life* project from 2019. The tracks combined samples collected by the talent from various sources, including voice memos, social media clips and music by other artists into original material.

Actual Life's three parts were released throughout 2021 and 2022.

The third instalment won Best Dance/Electronic Album at the 2024 Grammy Awards.

Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

Bulls see red



WORRIED: Verstappen in action at Monza

RED Bull Racing's Christian Horner is under immense pressure following a disappointing Italian Grand Prix, admitting they need to 'turn the situation around' to avoid losing their championship lead.

Last weekend, after a difficult qualifying session, Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez started the race in seventh and eighth, respectively.

Despite their best efforts, the duo were unable to

match the pace of Ferrari and McLaren, finishing in sixth and eighth.

Verstappen, frustrated with the team's performance, suggested that 'basically changing the whole car' might be necessary to address the underlying issues.

McLaren's strong finish in Monza, with both cars on the podium, has narrowed Red Bull's lead in the constructors' championship to just eight points.

Horner acknowledged that the RB20 is struggling with a 'very clear issue' that has

been exposed at the Italian Grand Prix. He emphasised the urgency of addressing this problem to avoid further losses in both the drivers' and constructors' championships.

"With the pace that we had today, both championships absolutely will be under pressure, for sure," Horner said after the race. "We have to turn the situation around very quickly."

Horner explained that the team's balance issues have been exacerbated on certain tracks, leading to a 'vicious circle' of compensating for

one problem only to create another.

He admitted that Red Bull had been grappling with these issues since the beginning of the season, but the problems have become more apparent as the team has pushed the car harder.

"I think it's been there for some time," Horner said.

"I think actually, really going through the data, there [were] issues there at the beginning of the year in the characteristics.

"I think others have obviously made a step, and

as we've pushed the package harder it's exposed the issue."

Horner also revealed that the team has faced challenges in accurately identifying the problem through their simulation tools, adding another layer of complexity to the situation.

With Red Bull now facing a significant challenge from their rivals, Horner highlighted the importance of understanding the issue and implementing solutions before the next race in Baku.

"The most important thing is understanding the issue, and I think there are certain fixes that potentially can be introduced, perhaps not to resolve the whole issue but address some of it," Horner



Horner

added.

"I think we have a two-week period before Baku and Singapore and then we have another mini-break where we can work in-between Singapore and Austin, so this time now is crucial."

THE Formula 1 debate over flexi-wings has intensified this season, with Ferrari and Red Bull demanding clarity from the FIA regarding the rules around them.

Teams have sought to optimise their cars' performance amid the challenges posed by the new ground-effect regulations.

Flexi wings, capable of bending and twisting under aerodynamic load, can offer significant advantages in terms of balance and downforce.

The FIA has been closely monitoring the situation, conducting video checks to better understand the various designs being employed.

While the governing body insists that its focus is on gathering information rather than identifying rule-breakers, the growing competitive advantage enjoyed by teams like McLaren and Mercedes has raised concerns.

"The front wing of McLaren and Mercedes must be analysed," Red Bull motorsport adviser Helmut Marko told reporters after qualifying at the Italian

ACTION: McLaren's Norris in action at the Italian Grand Prix



Grand Prix.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner explained at the Italian Grand Prix that he had to trust the FIA in the matter.

"I think the regulations are very clear and that's an FIA issue," he said. "Obviously they are tested and they pass, but then you have to look at the wording of the regulations."

Asked if further clarity from the FIA that rival designs were all good meant that Red Bull would have to pursue such ideas itself, Horner said: "Well, if it's acceptable then you have to join in."

The FIA has long tried

to keep control of teams exploiting aerodynamic elasticity, with the technical regulations making clear how static loads will be applied to wings to ensure they comply with the regulations.

Teams, however, know that as long as their wings pass these tests in the garage, then extra flexibility on track can be exploited.

Speaking earlier this year about the new Mercedes front wing that featured more flexible elements, technical director James Allison explained that all teams knew where the boundaries were.

"I think that all of us are trying to ensure that we pass the FIA's flexibility test," he

said. "They put loads on and you've got to not move by more than an amount."

In a technical directive (TD34) from the FIA, it has emphasised that there are certain behaviours that will not be tolerated even if wings are passed as legal in the pits. In the note, the FIA says that it does not consider legal 'designs whose structural characteristics are altered by secondary parameters, so as to produce (whilst running at the track) a different deflection characteristic than when stationary during the FIA checks. Examples of secondary parameters could be temperature, aerodynamic load etc.'

BRAIN-BUSTERS

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

1. Which breed of cat has no tail?
2. Who painted *The Starry Night*?
3. What two symbols appeared on the flag of the USSR?
4. Which author wrote *The Silence of the Lambs*?
5. What is the Italian version of the omelette?
6. Which colour are the question cards in *Cards Against Humanity*?



7. Which island is divided between people of Turkish and Greek origin?

1. Manx
2. Vincent Van Gogh
3. Hammer & Sickle
4. Thomas Harris
5. Frittata
6. Black
7. Cyprus

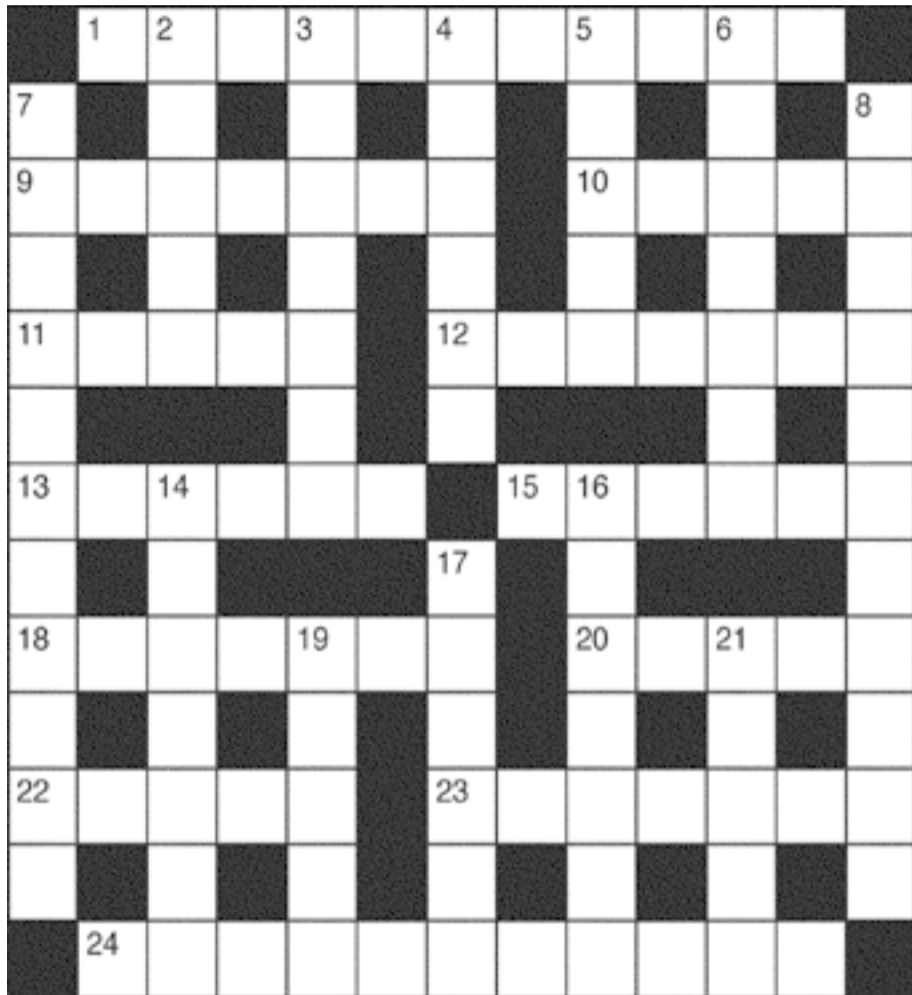
ANSWERS

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 1. Suitable (11)
- 9. Struggle (7)
- 10. Mindful (5)
- 11. Extravagant (5)
- 12. Detectives (7)
- 13. Tax (6)
- 15. Starry (6)
- 18. Base (7)
- 20. Foundation (5)
- 22. Joint (5)
- 23. Paltry (7)
- 24. Sharp (11)

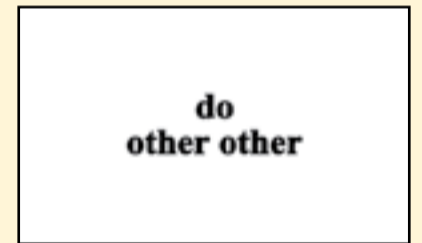
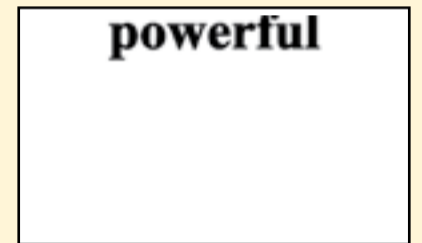
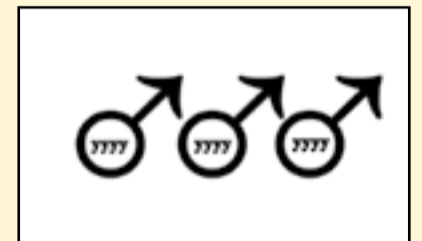
DOWN

- 2. Equipment (5)
- 3. Crush (7)
- 4. Gratify (6)
- 5. Likeness (5)
- 6. Turncoat (7)
- 7. Shameful (11)
- 8. Stupidly (11)
- 14. Thoughtful (7)
- 16. Live (7)
- 17. Improved (6)
- 19. Spree (5)
- 21. Shoot (5)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... played the title character in the 1960s television drama series *Strange Report*?
WHAT ... is an autopista?
WHERE ... was Frederick Aloysius Weld the Prime Minister from 1864-65?
WHEN ... did Alan Hollinghurst win the Man Booker Prize?
WHO ... wrote the novel *Tales of the City*?
WHAT ... is the Norse equivalent of the German *Götterdämmerung*?
WHERE ... is the main campus of Indiana University?
WHEN ... was the nine-day General Strike in Great Britain?

just so



darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Reliable; 5 Romp; 9 Dash; 10 Execrate; 11 Filmy; 12 Crevice; 13 Unenlightened; 18 External; 19 Pipe; 20 Screech; 21 Sweet; 22 Lull; 23 Progress.

Down: 2 Elation; 3 Inhuman; 4 Lexicographer; 6 Oration; 7 Pretend; 8 Accent; 13 Utensil; 14 Enthral; 15 Larder; 16 Empower; 17 Express.

JUST SO: Information highway, Below the belt, Ace in the hole, The lie of the land.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Tom Stoppard; Crested crane; Edinburgh; 1965; Derek Jarman; *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*; Philippines; 1995.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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