



MUSIC REPORT

By RIMA ALHADDAD
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ACCLAIMED Arab and international artists are set to serenade audiences at a musical extravaganza next month.

The 33rd Bahrain International Music Festival, organised by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (Baca), will be held from October 1 to 24. It will feature acts from around the globe and local talents, with 11 performances taking place in venues across the kingdom.

Egyptian soprano Fatima Said will kickstart the musical celebration with her divine vocals.

The creative talent has mesmerised audiences at the world's top venues, including London's Royal Albert Hall, and shared the stage with Elton John, Ed Sheeran and other global artists at Paris's Global Citizen Live in 2021.

"The Bahrain International Music Festival returns in its 33rd edition, continuing its legacy since 1992," a Baca spokesperson said, in a statement.

"It transforms various cultural spaces around Bahrain into windows that open onto art, culture, and melodies from around the world, reaffirming the beauty of diversity and musical expression created by this exceptional artistic gathering.

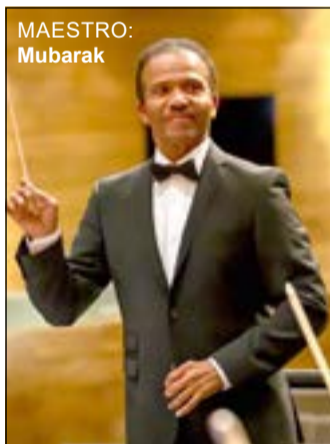
"Echoes of Bahraini, Gulf, Arab and international contributions will resound throughout the kingdom, inviting audiences to explore different musical styles and worlds, blending modernity and heritage."

Italian artists Luca Velotti and Silvia Manco will perform jazzy melodies on October 2, with Luca on the saxophone and clarinet, and Silvia on the piano. The concert is being organised in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and will be followed by more jazzy tunes on October 3 by Matti Klein Soul Trio.

Maestro Mubarak Najem's Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra will cast a spell on music lovers with *Songs of the Gulf* on October 4. Launched in 2022 by Mubarak, General Director of the Bahrain Police Band



TALENT: Fatima



MAESTRO: Mubarak

and founder of the Bahrain Music Institute, the orchestra comprises more than 100 talented musicians and choir members.

On October 5, enjoy a traditional folklore night with Qalali Folk Band. Since its establishment more than a century ago, the band has been preserving and promoting rhythmic songs and dances associated with Bahrain's rich culture connected to the pearl-diving industry and marine history.

On October 6, Bahraini pianist Noor Al Qassim, alongside the Orchestra Filarmonica del Mediterraneo, will perform *Waves from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Gulf*. It will be directed by maestro Giuseppe Monopoli.

Noor has performed in musical events

DATE	PERFORMER	VENUE
Oct 1	Fatima Said	Bahrain National Theatre
Oct 2	Luca Velotti Meets Silvia Manco	Cultural Hall
Oct 3	Matti Klein Soul Trio	Cultural Hall
Oct 4	Mubarak Najem	Bahrain National Theatre
Oct 5	Qalali Folk Band	Dar Al Muharraq
Oct 6	Noor Al Qassim	Cultural Hall
Oct 7	Dar Bin Harban Band	Dar Bin Harban - Muharraq
Oct 8	Korean Art of Nongak	Cultural Hall
Oct 11	Silk Road Melodies	Cultural Hall
Oct 12	Mohamed Abdulrahim, Maestro Zeyad Zaiman	Bahrain National Theatre
Oct 24	The Little Singers of Paris	Cultural Hall



JAZZY: Matti Klein Soul Trio

internationally and received several honours. In 2022, she was chosen to represent Bahrain at the International Council for Traditional Music.

Dar Bin Harban Band will enthrall Muharraq with their tunes on October 7. Set up by Mohammed bin Harban, the band will take the audience on a journey through a myriad of local traditional music forms, including Al

Ardhah, Al La'abouni, Al Khammari and Al Fjiri.

A vibrant performance of Nongak, a traditional Korean art, will take place on October 8 in collaboration with the Korean Embassy.

Silk Road Melodies will be performed by Abdulla Abdurehim on October 11. The national first-class performer from the Xinjiang Art Theatre Opera Troupe is renowned for his dance,

vocal and instrumental performances.

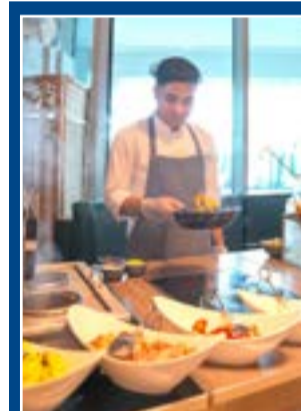
Renowned Bahraini creative Mohamed Abdulrahim, whose artistic journey dates back to the 1980s, will share the stage with Bahrain Music Band for *Ya Najmat Suhail* (Arabic for Oh Suhail Star), conducted by maestro Zeyad Zaiman, on October 12.

The festival concludes on October 24 with The Little Singers of Paris. Founded in 1907, the renowned choir focuses on religious repertoire while including contemporary music and popular genres. The concert will be held in collaboration with the French Embassy and the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence.

For more information visit culture.gov.bh or follow @culturebah on Instagram.



COMMUNITY BAZAAR
Giving back
SEE PAGE 2



CLASS ACT
Brunching back to school
SEE PAGE 3



SOLO SERENADES
Alisha in sync
SEE PAGE 5



PULSE OF POP
Marvellous Mischief
SEE PAGE 6



CAMPAIGN: Volunteers and beneficiaries of a previous One Heart Bahrain campaign

COLLECTION: Some of the goods collected for tomorrow's Community Bazaar

COMMUNITY REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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Together, we can

MORE than 25 selected families facing financial hardship are set to benefit from a Community Bazaar this weekend, as a big-hearted group within the kingdom kicks off its autumn season of charitable activities.

Volunteers at OneHeartBahrain have been busy collecting donations of clothing, linen, kitchenware, home decor and more, which will be distributed to a selected group of families and individuals, pre-approved based on financial need, tomorrow.

"This invitation-only event provides families and individuals in need with the opportunity to browse through donated items and select those that are most beneficial," the unregistered community initiative's operations director and project lead for this campaign Amal Mohammed Ishaq told *GulfWeekly*.

"We are committed to ensuring that our goods reach those who truly require them, and we will make transportation arrangements for those unable to attend the bazaar on their own.

"By expanding our goods redistribution efforts, we are not only addressing humanitarian needs but

All year round collection

DONATE GOODS

FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

We collect:

- Clothing
- Toys & books
- Kitchenware
- Computers & phones
- Bed linen
- Useful items

DM TO DONATE

ASK US WHAT WE ACCEPT @ONEHEARTBAHRAIN

DONATE: The community is looking for contributions

also contributing to a more sustainable, environmentally-conscious future."

The organisation is also asking if readers know of a family or individual in financial distress, who would benefit from the bazaar, they can message the group on *Instagram* or *WhatsApp*

at 38417111, to arrange an interview with the due diligence team to determine eligibility.

The group is continuing to collect donations year-round to be redistributed to those in need at regular intervals throughout the year.

Kind-hearted individuals



INITIATIVE: The group's kiosk at an event last year educating the community about their initiatives

are invited to donate clothing, toys, games, books, kitchenware, computers, phones, bed linen, household goods, hygiene items, cleaning tools, bicycles, home decor and other useful items.

"We will continue to run these bazaars throughout the year," Amal added.

"Now that the weather is cooling we are looking to create more free community events set in nature for families, aimed at nurturing a deeper connection with our natural environment.

"We ensure to keep these events charitable and free of charge, so that they are also accessible to families in need.

"Before the summer we would run one nature-based event once every month and

we received positive feedback from the parents and children. They were happy that we provide a free learning experience for the children set in the natural environment."

Later this month, on September 21, the organisation will be

organising a beach cleanup, in honour of National and World Cleanup Day, in collaboration with the Southern Municipality.

Next month, on October 5, there will be a tree planting in Askar, followed by a meal distribution to the labour community, as part of World Food Day.

In addition, the team is looking for volunteers to help out with campaigns, transport goods, distribute food, plan events, co-ordinate projects, handle enquiries, produce video and media content, conduct due diligence and more.

To get in touch with the group, follow @oneheartbahrain on *Instagram*.



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.



BIG-HEARTED: Volunteers with some of the packed donations before redistribution

Brunch in style!



VIBRANT: The back-to-school decor at Origin Kitchen and Culture



SWEET TREAT: A chocolate fondue station with fresh fruit and marshmallows



FOOD REVIEW

By JULIA CASSANO
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GET ready for a Friday brunch like no other! Hilton Bahrain's Back to School-themed feast is a masterclass in culinary delights, entertainment, and ambience. Savour a diverse selection of flavours, enjoy captivating performances, and take in the stunning city skyline views. This unforgettable experience is the perfect way to unwind and make memories with friends and family, in the heart of Bahrain's vibrant hospitality scene.

Hilton Bahrain launched the much-talked about brunch at Origin Kitchen and Culture earlier this month - one of the many spectacular themed feasts that offers guests a stunning selection of food and beverages.

When I arrived at the top-notch restaurant on the sixth floor, I was immediately drawn to the colourful back-to-school decorations, including life-sized stationery, and a lively atmosphere which made me nostalgic about my school days, and got me excited for what was to come.

Cheerful staff dressed in school uniforms escorted me to my table, where a pink drink with cherry brine, grenadine, lime juice and lemonade was the perfecting hydration in summer, without the sickly sweetness. I took



DELICIOUS: Fish and chips

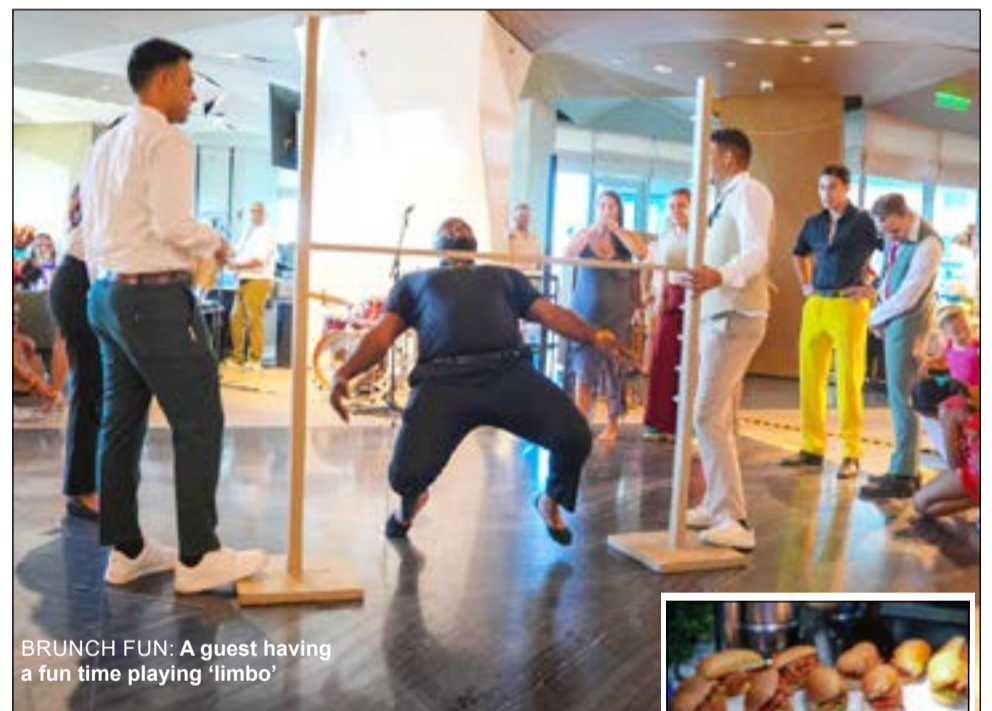
a quick sip and got off to explore the dozens of delectable dishes waiting to be devoured.

I started off with the fish and chips, which was, in my opinion, the star of the brunch. The lightly breaded fish, paired with crispy chips, tartar sauce and vinegar, was the perfect dish to kickstart the epic dining experience.

Next up was the carving station, which included perfectly browned roasted chicken and brisket slow-cooked for four to six hours. Peppercorn sauce, mushroom and barbecue were offered alongside the meats. I took two slices of the brisket, it was moist and juicy, just like the beef should be. I relished the subtle flavours and took a couple of minutes to walk around. I then found myself

at the stir fry station, which offered yummy fillings such as shrimp, chicken and beef, as well as vegetables including peppers, onions, green beans, cabbage, carrots, spring onion, broccoli and an unbelievable variety of noodles.

Next in line (may I add, my third plate) was a variety of fresh seafood. This station deserves an honourable mention. Being a seafood lover, I happily picked some Bahraini shrimps and green mussels, and topped them with fresh lemon and salt. It was so comforting and familiar, but lifted with brilliant twists and tweaks. The combination of sour lemon and the crisp sea flavours reminded me of my childhood, where I grew up on the sunny beaches of Spain



BRUNCH FUN: A guest having a fun time playing 'limbo'

and Portugal.

The selection of salads and sushi on display were wonderful, and I helped myself to some California maki and shredded crab, which were topped off with soy sauce. Salmon nigiri, spicy salmon and spicy tuna roll were just perfect.

The sumptuous brunch, which offers guests 50 to 80 different options and rotational menus, also included a pasta station, Indian cuisine, and other specialties such as honey glazed chicken thighs, sweet and sour fish, salmon, seabass, beef teriyaki and baked chicken parmesan.

Sticking to its theme of 'Back to School' a children's corner has also been set up with mini hot dogs, burgers, onion rings and pizzas.

Luckily, I left room for

dessert, which wasn't difficult as my sweet tooth would never allow me to leave without a treat. And I wasn't disappointed with the delectable spread.

Chocolate fondue with fresh fruits and marshmallows, traditional desserts such as dates pudding and other Arabic delicacies, brownies as well as pistachio profiterole rounded out the evening on a sweet note.

The entertainment at the brunch was excellent and the game 'limbo', in which all contestants must attempt to go under the bar with their backs facing towards the floor, made for an eventful part of the celebration. The winner received a voucher for the next brunch.

There is a lot to explore at the Back to School Friday



TASTY: Mini hot dogs and bites for children

Brunch at Origin Kitchen and Culture is 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 of BD25 net per person. A special rate is also offered to military personnel.

For more information, contact 33692013.

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



TEA-LICIOUS TREATS AT RITZ-CARLTON



DELICIOUS: Dishes at Cantina Kahlo

GATHER your friends and head down to the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain for a weekend filled with delicious bites and lively entertainment.

Rally the girls for Thai Lounge's Ladies Night and enjoy selected beverages for BD3. There is an added 50 per cent off on selected finger food items. Go a la carte, the offer is only available to ladies on Sunday, from 6pm to 9pm.

Experience the allure of a Floral Afternoon Tea at the Ritz

Gourmet Lounge, Lobby Lounge and Boulevard Lounge. Delight in refined elegance and delicate flavours, where every moment is crafted just for you.

It costs BD28 inclusive of two beverages, and BD31 for Bubbly Floral Afternoon Tea (only at the Ritz Gourmet Lounge).

The offer is available from September 18 to 26, 3pm to 7pm. Meanwhile, Cantina Kahlo invites guests to celebrate Mexican Independence Day in style at its Festival del Mole y el

Mezcal. Savour the rich flavours of traditional mole paired perfectly with exquisite mescal, alongside a showcase of vibrant culture and festive spirit. It's priced a la carte, until September 28. Explore the menu this week from Sunday to Wednesday, 4pm until midnight, Tuesday and Friday from 1pm to 1am, and on Saturday from 1pm to midnight.

For more information call 17586499 or email rc.bahrz.restaurant.reservations@ritzcarlton.com



CLASSY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BRUNCH

CELEBRATE the weekend in style at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Enjoy Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Back-to-School Brunch, featuring an abundant spread of savoury and sweet selections. Choose from the live peking duck station, mouthwatering burgers, chicken shawarma and fluffy pancakes; there is a dish for everyone.

It is available tomorrow (Friday), from 1pm to 4pm and costs BD35, including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

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

Bay View Lounge also invites guests to savour a special Taco Fiesta this month. Delight your tastebuds with tender corn tortillas, creamy guacamole, savoury fillings and fresh pico de gallo salsa. Explore the delights every day, from 11am to 11.30pm. It costs BD10 for vegetarian and BD12 for chicken, beef or fish.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with a bountiful feast featuring iconic German specialties such as crisp, golden schnitzels, paired with classic salads and barbeque favourites. Join the festival at Bahrain Bay Kitchen on September 27 and October 4, 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35



FAMILY FUN: Back to School Brunch

including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package. Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments and those aged six to 12 enjoy a 50 per cent discount.

Embark on a culinary journey featuring a seven-

course meal at Byblos, from Tuesday to Saturday, 6pm to midnight. It costs BD45 for two.

Don't miss out on Happy Hour at CUT Lounge, from Monday to Thursday and Saturday, from 5pm to 7pm. Pamper yourself and



CRISPY: Golden schnitzels at Oktoberfest

a loved one with an indulgent relaxation session, combining a 60-minute personalised massage and an express facial. Unwind any day, from Sunday to

Wednesday, from noon to 9pm. A 90 minute session will cost BD110.

For more information contact 17115500, 17115044, 17115046.

GET THE PARTY STARTED



DESSERTS: Sweet treats at RGC

THE Royal Golf Club (RGC) has lined up a weekend of sweet treats and fun.

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.

GET ready for an array of fine dining experiences at Hilton Bahrain this weekend.

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

Get your chopsticks ready for the restaurant's Pan Asian Night, on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD22net with unlimited soft beverages and BD28net with unlimited selected beverages.

Don't miss out on the freshest catch and live cooking stations at the hotel's ultimate Seafood Night. It's available tonight (Thursday), from 7pm to 10pm and costs BD32net with unlimited beverages and BD25net with unlimited soft beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can also enjoy Origin Kitchen and Culture's Breakfast Buffet, from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am. The price is BD13net per person.

A Lazy Breakfast is also available on Saturday, featuring live cooking stations and a spread of continental, Asian and Arabic favourites. It costs BD13net per person from 6.30am to 11.30am.

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 also

Weekly Entertainment

Culture Weekly



STUNNING VIBES: Thai Lounge



FAVOURITES: The hotel's breakfast buffet

FLAVOURS CRAFTED TO PERFECTION

get two free drinks.

Visitors can look forward to non-stop fun at Block 44's Salsa Nights tomorrow, from 9pm to 2am.

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

The hotel's Society Club is open everyday from 9pm to 2.30am. On Tuesdays, it

offers three free beverages for Ladies Night.

On Wednesday, a hip-hop and R&B Night with DJ Aaron Wolf will make for an unforgettable experience, from 9pm to 2.30am. Ladies get two complimentary selected beverages.

For more information, contact 33690081 or 33692013.



VARIETY: Pan Asian Night

MOVIE TIME

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

BEETLEJUICE

BEETLEJUICE (PG-15)

After a family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her teenage daughter, Astrid, accidentally opens the portal to the afterlife.

Actors: Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Justin Theroux
Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

STRANGE DARLING (18+)

Nothing is what it seems when a twisted one-night stand spirals into a serial killer's vicious murder spree.

Actors: Willa Fitzgerald, Kyle Gallner, Barbara Hershey
Timings: 11am, 3pm, 7pm, 11pm

IMMACULATE (18+)

Cecilia, a woman of devout faith, is welcomed to the Italian countryside where she is offered a new role at an illustrious convent. But it becomes clear to Cecilia that her new home harbours dark and horrifying secrets.

Actors: Sydney Sweeney, Alvaro Morte
Timings: 1pm, 5pm, 9pm

REAGAN (PG-13)

A drama based on the life of Ronald Reagan, from his childhood to his time in the Oval Office.

Actors: Dennis Quaid, Mena Suvari, C Thomad Howell
Timings: 11.45am, 4.15pm, 8.45pm

WAKEUP (15+)

In an attempt to draw attention to the environmental crisis, activists decide to invade and vandalise a furniture store. The protest turns into a massacre when they find themselves trapped with a hunting-obsessed night guard.

Actors: Benny Arthur, Jacqueline More, Charlotte Stoiber
Timings: 2.30pm, 7pm, 11.30pm

HAUNTED HEART (18+)

When Alex joins the team of a boutique seaside restaurant, tensions rise as she falls for the enigmatic restaurant manager Max. The relationship slowly slides into a harrowing tale of survival.

Actors: Matt Dillon, Aida Folch
Timings: 10.30am, 3pm, 7.30pm, 12am.



CREATIVE: Alisha performing

Sing for the moment

MUSIC REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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FORMER Bahrain resident Alisha Vickers is living out her songwriter dreams with the signing of a deal that could put her music in new movies, as she continues to write and release new singles throughout the summer.

The 27-year-old British singer-songwriter from Rotherham also recently wrote and released *I Am*, to tie in with her aunt Julie Lewis' book *Uncharted Waters*.

"I have been writing continuously over summer," she told *GulfWeekly*.

"Overall I've written 15 songs, so expect a lot of released music these next coming months, and writing is my true passion, even more so than performing!"

To live out her true passion, the musician also inked a 'sync' deal with a UK-based label, which would get her music in TV and advertisements, as well as major streaming services like *Netflix* and *Amazon Prime*.

So far, she has worked on an advertisement for a major car marquee, writing a 'really cool piece of music with a grand choral part', and hopes to make it her full-time job.

For her aunt, the singer-songwriter drew on African and Latin influences to write a song centred on embracing change, building resilience and finding flow.

"I read the book to really understand the context especially for the lyrical content and I feel it flowed quite easily as soon as I heard

found our love for electro pop," she explained.

"A lot of writing is just trial and error, but now I have a very clear vision of what I want."

Recently, she has also been seeing a surge in popularity of some of her older songs, like the three-year-old *It's Always Been You*, which shot up to 12,000 plays this year.

"Other songs people love include *Dream Chaser* as well as *Scared to be Alone* which is a very personal song for me as I wrote it at a very vulnerable point in my life," she added.

Despite being relentless in her releases of singles, the musician is not working towards an extended-play (EP) or album, because she wants

to focus on promoting herself as a songwriter, rather than an artist.

"I just want to keep writing and releasing and we see where we go from there," she added.

"I will also be working with two other girls to form our own girl group where our goal is to travel to China.

"But Bahrain is certainly somewhere I would like to settle down as it holds a very special place in my heart."

For more details, follow @iamalishamusic on Instagram.



RELEASED: The single cover for It's Always Been You

the beat," she added.

"I also wanted to add a modern touch on the pre-chorus - something people could easily sing along to - while having a positive influence with the mantra style lyrics."

Having started writing and recording since she was 19, Alisha spent the last year performing in Bahrain at a venue in Block 338 before returning to the UK.

"I started my first rock band 'Edited People' when I was 21 where our music was very heavy but then over time

Pulse of Pop

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

A MERICAN television miniseries *Agatha All Along* is premiering its first two episodes on Disney+ on September 18, followed by a weekly release of the other seven episodes until November 6.

Picking up from the events of *WandaVision* released in 2021, mischievous witch Agatha Harkness (Kathryn Hahn) escapes the town of Westview with the help of a 'goth' teen (Joe Locke) with whom she ends up forming a new coven of witches to face the trials of the legendary Witches' Road.

Despite it deriving from the 2021 series, showrunner Jac Schaeffer revealed that the idea for the antagonist-led dark comedy did not come during the making of *WandaVision*.

"I tend to not really dream the things that I want more than anything. The idea of doing a spinoff or doing a show on her (Agatha) didn't happen during *WandaVision*. But she did do things during *WandaVision* that made it clear to me that there was so much more story to tell," Jac added.

Kathryn, who portrays Agatha, also recalled the showrunner hinting her interest to create the spinoff around the time of wrapping

AGATHA STEALS THE SHOW

WITCHHUNT: Poster for *Agatha All Along*

WandaVision (November 2020.)

"I remember Jac saying 'God, I'd love to write for you again'. We both kept saying, 'we have unfinished business' to each other at the end of *WandaVision*. I didn't know if it necessarily meant something in this world or somewhere else, but our minds melded," Kathryn said

in an interview.

"Then over the summer, I got a call from Louis D'Esposito (Marvel Studios co-president) saying 'How'd you like your own *Marvel* show?' A call you never get. My heart was pounding."

Additional cast include Debra Jo Rupp as Sharon Davis, Aubrey Plaza as Rio Vidal, Emma Caulfield

Ford, Joe Locke, Maria Dizzia, Paul Adelstein, Miles Gutierrez-Riley, and more.

Before the official title reveal, which refers to the song of the same name that the character sings in the seventh episode of *WandaVision*, the fantasy series has had several different titles announced throughout the promotion

campaign.

The series was first announced in 2021 as *Agatha: House of Harkness*, but was renamed in 2022 to *Agatha: Coven of Chaos*. The year after, the title *Agatha: Darkhold Diaries* was revealed.

In May of this year, Marvel Studios released a new logo on social media with the title

Agatha: The Lying Witch with Great Wardrobe, but later took down the post.

The next day, Disney finally announced the real title at an upfront presentation, and released a video showing that the constant title change was orchestrated by the main character herself as a way to mess with the fans.

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

E NGLISH artist Alice Suki Waterhouse is releasing her new album *Memoir of a Sparklemuffin* tomorrow.

The album title reflects the singer finding herself resonating with a cannibalistic spider discovered in Australia, named *Maratus jactatus*, nicknamed sparklemuffin.

"It does this razzle-dazzle dance, and will be cannibalised by its mate if she doesn't approve of the dance," Suki said in an interview.

"It's a metaphor for the dance of life we're all in. The title felt hilarious, ridiculous and wonderful to me," she added.

Suki claims that the album, which is being released two years after her debut project *I Can't Let Go*, was inspired by changes that occurred in her life, as its main theme revolves around the concept

of 'rebirth'.

"I kind of felt like this record was a metamorphosis (change of physical form) something new, a new season of life, I was thinking about metamorphosis, I was like 'Could it be a butterfly?' But no, I don't feel like a butterfly. I feel more like this scraggly spider that hasn't always got it together."

Indie pop artist Alice Suki Waterhouse is also a model and an actress. She began her modelling career at the age of 16 and her first feature film was British crime thriller *Pusher* (2012) in which she played a minor role.

She released her debut single *Brutal* in November 2016, followed by the single *Good Looking* the next year, which became a hit in 2022.

According to *Spotify*, the 32 year-old singer currently has around 10 million monthly listeners on the music streaming platform.



TALENT: Suki

DUO ON A MISSION

R ICHARD Thomas Osman's new book *We Solve Murders* comes out on September 17.

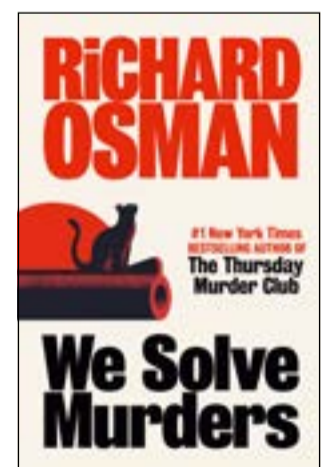
The new series follows detective duo Steve and Amy Wheeler.

Steve is a retired man who is invested in his normal life routines. His daughter-in-law Amy is a private security officer whose job is keeping famous author Rosie D'Antonio alive on a remote island.

However, a killer with their sights on Amy brings Steve back from retirement, as the two find themselves on a mission together.

The new crime mystery marks the start of a new series for the writer, after he became known for his bestselling *Thursday Murder Club* novels.

At this year's Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate, the 53 year-old author revealed that the departure from the four-novel series felt like a



betrayal to the much beloved universe.

"I felt like I was cheating on my other characters, it felt like I was having an affair," he told the festival.

"I made peace with myself in thinking the *Thursday Murder Club* characters are still there (in *We Solve Murders*)," he added.

Richard is also a comedian and television presenter. He is the creator and former co-presenter of *BBC One's* television quiz show *Pointless*.

Motoring Weekly

The top motoring and motorsport news

TWO-THIRDS of the season down, and the European leg done with, Formula 1 kicks off the final act of this season with a double-header in Azerbaijan and Singapore.

Here are a few emerging storylines to keep at the back of your mind as F1 heads to Baku.

MCLAREN PECKING ORDER

THE Formula 1 season has been a rollercoaster ride, with the competitive order constantly shifting. From Red Bull's early dominance to McLaren's recent resurgence, and even Ferrari's intermittent strong performances, predicting the outcome of each race has become increasingly challenging.

This unpredictability has led to much discussion about team orders at McLaren, especially given their current position in the championship.

Lando Norris, starting from pole in Monza, had a golden opportunity to close the gap to championship leader Max Verstappen from Red Bull. However, being overtaken by his teammate Oscar Piastri on the first lap and finishing behind him, Norris missed a crucial chance to gain ground.

Norris admirably said 'I'm not here just to beg for someone to let me past' when asked whether team mate Oscar Piastri should now be helping his title challenge.

However, Piastri has suggested he's open to playing such a role, sitting 106 points behind Verstappen compared to Norris's gap of 62.

McLaren Team principal Andrea Stella also suggested the situation would be looked at, as both championships are now realistic for the team to target.

FERRARI FOLLOWING THROUGH

FERRARI, like McLaren, are also becoming increasingly competitive in the constructors' championship. While McLaren narrowed the gap to Red Bull by eight points in Monza, Ferrari's victory, coupled with Sainz's fourth-place finish, means they remain 39 points behind the constructors' lead.

Ferrari experienced a difficult period after a disappointing upgrade at the Spanish Grand Prix, but they have since recovered with back-to-back podiums and a recent update.

Azerbaijan is a venue where Ferrari have traditionally excelled, particularly Charles Leclerc, who has secured



READY FOR ACTION: Baku City Circuit in Azerbaijan

Back to Baku



IN FORM: McLaren's Lando Norris during the drivers parade ahead of the Canadian Grand Prix last year

pole position here for the past three years, including both the Sprint and Grand Prix last season.

The new floor introduced in the previous race will be tested in Baku, providing a clearer indication of Ferrari's ability to compete for multiple victories in the remaining races.

The track's characteristics, with its long straights and tight corners, could suit Ferrari's car and driving style, further enhancing their chances of success.

Beyond the track, Ferrari's strategic approach and pit stops will also play a crucial role in determining their performance. The team has shown improvement in these areas recently, and if they can maintain this momentum, they could be a serious contender for the championship.

RED BULL REBOUND?

THE drivers' and constructors' championship leaders, who haven't won a

race since Verstappen held off Norris at the Spanish Grand Prix in June, are going to be looking to regain their lost form. The Baku City Circuit, even in their early-season form, could have been challenging due to its street-track characteristics.

Another tough weekend here could further hinder the team's hopes in Singapore.

Verstappen's dominant start, winning six of eight races and both Sprints, initially seemed to give him an insurmountable lead. However, the defending champion now admits that



ALL SET: Leclerc

both championships are currently unrealistic due to the RB20's struggles.

He has urged Red Bull to make drastic changes to try and regain the car's earlier performance, although he acknowledges that reverting to the previous specification is unlikely to be the solution given the gains made by rivals.

Zandvoort was an exercise in limiting damage for Verstappen, who finished second to Norris, and Red Bull had limited time to react before Monza.

The two-week gap before Baku offers a better chance to analyse data and find solutions.

RACEABILITY

THE lack of 'raceability' in the current generation of Formula 1 cars has been a recurring issue.

Overtaking has proven difficult, and drivers have complained about the lack of free air.

The Baku City Circuit, with its long straights and tight corners, could provide a challenging environment for overtaking.

Heading to the F1 Azerbaijan GP, it will be interesting to see if there's an impact, especially since the last time F1 raced in Baku, the race was simply not that exciting.

BEARMAN'S BACK

OLLIE Bearman, who made his Formula 1 debut earlier this season filling in for Carlos Sainz, will have another opportunity to showcase his skills this

weekend. Racing for Haas in place of the suspended Kevin Magnussen, Bearman will draw on his experience from the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

Magnussen's one-race ban, resulting from accumulating 12 penalty points in a year, has opened the door for Bearman to step up from

Formula 2 to Formula 1.

While Bearman will be driving a less competitive car and racing on another challenging street circuit, he has little to lose. The experience he gains this weekend will be invaluable as he prepares for a full-time Formula 1 campaign next season.

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 song does Baby Groot dance to at the end of the first *Guardian of the Galaxy*?
2. Which category of the Noble Prize was first awarded in 1969?
3. What is the Italian word for ice cream?
4. By what name was the republic of South Yemen known prior to 1967?
5. Which element has the chemical symbol Pb?
6. What is the name of the website that serves as an online pledge

system for funding creative projects?
7. Larger than all other Redwoods, the estimated 2,700-year-old General Sherman is a giant variety of what species of tree?

1. I Want You Back by Jackson 5
2. Economics
3. Gelato
4. Aden
5. Lead
6. Kickerstarter
7. Sequoia

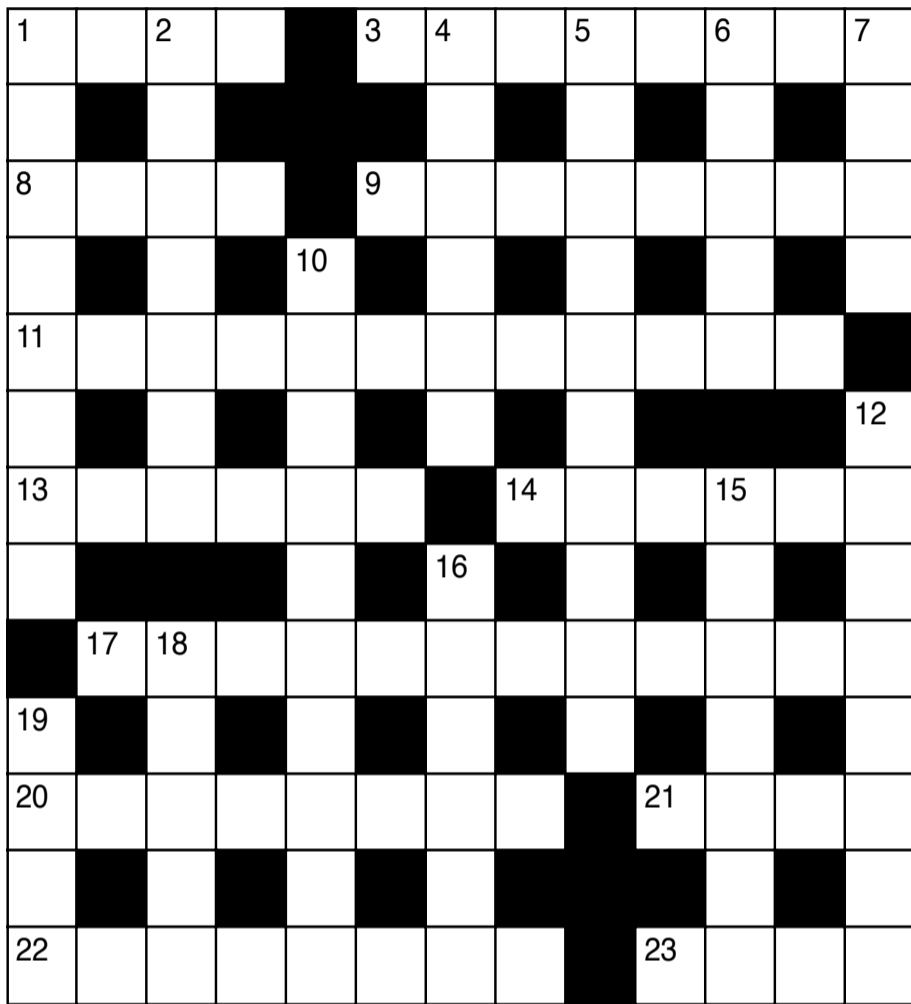
ANSWERS

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 1. Mountains (4)
- 3. Resign (8)
- 8. Saucy (4)
- 9. Portray (8)
- 11. Notice (12)
- 13. Abrade (6)
- 14. Dress (6)
- 17. Showy (12)
- 20. Devotee (8)
- 21. Cold-shoulder (4)
- 22. Breadth (8)
- 23. Simple (4)

DOWN

- 1. Estimate (8)
- 2. Associate (7)
- 4. Infringement (6)
- 5. Unfinished (10)
- 6. Foreign (5)
- 7. Still (4)
- 10. Addendum (10)
- 12. Practicable (8)
- 15. Beat soundly (7)
- 16. Be present (6)
- 18. Cleave (5)
- 19. Cain's brother (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... starred as David Lightman in the 1983 film *War Games*?
 WHAT ... operetta saw the first collaboration, in 1871, between Gilbert and Sullivan?
 WHERE ... did Aníbal Acevedo Vilá become Governor in 2005?
 WHEN ... did Marvin Pentz Gay, Sr., the father of singer Marvin Gaye, die?
 WHO ... played Prospero in the 1979 film *The Tempest*?
 WHAT ... author and playwright was made a Freeman of the English city of Leeds?
 WHERE ... is the resort of Cap d'Agde?
 WHEN ... was the Oscar-nominated British actress Samantha Morton born?

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

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Appropriate; 9 Grapple; 10 Aware; 11 Outre; 12 Sleuths; 13 Impost; 15 Astral; 18 Ignoble; 20 Basis; 22 Union; 23 Trivial; 24 Penetrating.

Down: 2 Plant; 3 Repress; 4 Please; 5 Image; 6 Traitor; 7 Ignominious; 8 Senselessly; 14 Pensive; 16 Subsist; 17 Better; 19 Binge; 21 Scion.

JUST SO: At long last, Three wise men, High and mighty, Do unto others.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Anthony Quayle; An expressway in a Spanish-speaking country; New Zealand; 2004; Armistead Maupin; Ragnarök; Bloomington; 1926.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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