



FILM REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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BAHRAIN-RAISED filmmaker Maryam Mir's stories feel like memories passed between generations across dinner tables, shared prayers and oceans.

And with her short film *Sweet Refuge* streaming soon on AMC+, as well as her Pillars Artist Fellowship just wrapped, the Brooklyn-based Kashmiri-Canadian is part of a growing wave of filmmakers expanding the landscape of storytelling from the region.

"Growing up in Bahrain, I used to watch Hollywood and Bollywood films with my family," she told *GulfWeekly*.

"Going to the cinema was our favourite activity and it was a beautiful way of bonding and being together. It helped me understand who I was and created dreams within me, about what was possible."

The 32-year-old filmmaker's short film *Sweet Refuge* will begin streaming on May 1 as part of AMC+'s *Future of Film: AAPI Rising Stars* series.

The cosy and quietly subversive film, which won a Directors Guild of America award, follows a Syrian baker during his first Eid in the US attempting to sell the walnut baklava he has spent his lifetime perfecting.

As he roams the streets of Brooklyn, he bumps into a savvy Indian laddoo maker, who appears to have figured out how to attract some of New York's most coveted customers: health-



Stirring stories

conscious Brooklynites.

The film is layered, unexpected, and full of warmth, just like fresh baklava, and it was a darling on the film festival circuit last year, warming the hearts and souls of audiences at more than 45 venues.

"I think this film taps into something universal - belonging, home and connection, told through the lens of food, and more importantly, dessert!" she added.

"Who doesn't love dessert?! I love how food is a universal access point and a way of connecting and sharing that

transcends language and culture.

"I also was particularly passionate about the fact that although the main characters' desserts appeared very different: laddoo and baklava, they actually shared a lot of similar ingredients (ghee, rosewater etc.)"

"I thought this was a beautiful metaphor for shared connections, and I wondered if they might invent something totally new once they started to work together."

Sweet Refuge is just one chapter in Maryam's soaring career. The Tisch School of Arts-educated creative

recently wrapped up the prestigious Pillars Artist Fellowship, a transformative experience for Muslim creatives, supported by the likes of Riz Ahmed and Academy Award winner Mahershala Ali.

The 'life-changing' opportunity inspired Maryam to develop several new feature-length ideas collaboratively, including a co-written romantic comedy and family drama set in the region.

Writing collaboratively, she said, has been a revelation: "Usually writing can be so isolating, but working with

someone else - dreaming big together - has been incredibly freeing."

Her upcoming projects reflect a shift in perspective catalysed by the fellowship.

"I no longer feel boxed in by genre," she explained. "Whether it's a documentary, a comedy, a romance - I feel empowered to explore it all."

Still, Maryam's filmmaking is always rooted in character and emotional truth.

Whether crafting a film about desserts, or her upcoming short *Grandma Swim*, the heart of her work has been in relationships - especially intergenerational ones.

Co-produced across US, Qatar and Bahrain, where the film is set, *Grandma Swim* explores a young girl helping her grandmother overcome a fear of the sea.

"Despite growing up on an island, I noticed we rarely swam in the sea. That stayed with me," she said.

"I wanted to explore that through a child's eyes - and capture the stunning Bahraini coastline on film."

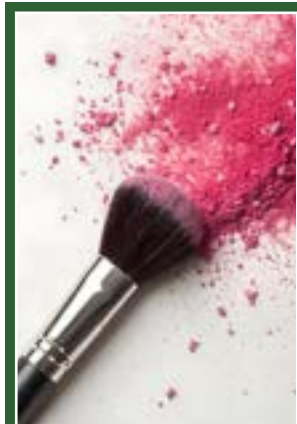
Working with a cross-cultural team, Maryam found joy in the small moments, like birthday breakfasts on set and helping first-time actors bring their characters to life.

"The sea became a character in the film. It represents fear, beauty and healing. I wanted to show that duality."

Grandma Swim is set to premiere this year, with the film in post-production, while Maryam continues to work on multiple narrative and documentary projects, with one over-arching theme: to help people feel seen.

"I want to make films that everyone can watch, and see themselves in," she explained.

"Films that can be accessible to all, films people watch with their families, where people feel seen, and imagine new possibilities of what friendship, home and belonging could look like."



BEAUTY BUZZ
Latest summer trends
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STUNNING MAKEOVER
MNS art challenge
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SHELTER ON SCREEN
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SWEET BONDS: Film poster



ACTION: Maryam, centre, during the filming of *Grandma Swim* in Bahrain



SHARED CONNECTIONS: A still from *Sweet Refuge*

Pretty woman!

As the temperatures rise and the days get longer, a fresh wave of makeup trends is sweeping over the island, writes Julia Cassano. This summer, it's all about radiant skin, vibrant colours and embracing your natural beauty, makeup artists in the kingdom attest.

Berry charming

BLUSH is having a major moment this season. From soft raspberry stains to peachy hues, sun-kissed cheeks will be the star of your summer makeup look.

For Bahraini makeup artist Sheetal Waya, a monochromatic blush and lip look is the move.

"Take a mousse (textured) liquid lipstick and apply two dots on the highest points of your cheek and blend with your fingers," she recommended.

"You can also apply a bit of highlighter, mascara, bronzer and gloss and voila! You have your perfect everyday five-minute go-to-glow!"

Safe than sorry

A KEY step to good makeup is SPF and skincare - cleansing, toning and moisturising - more so in the summer when skin damage can be worse due to the sun's harsh rays.

"Be sure to prep your skin with a high-quality face wash before applying any makeup products. Opt for a hydrating moisturiser as your skin might need more attention during the summer and SPF is a must," Bahraini makeup artist Maysam Meer, who has been in the field for the last 10 years, highlighted.

Modern minimalism

A LIGHTWEIGHT breathable base will help your skin breathe.

"A good quality concealer will do twice the work by applying it under your eyes, brightening the high points of the face," Sheetal said, adding that

you can skip foundation altogether.

The creative who has been in the makeup business for the last 13 years also recommended investing in a compact translucent powder, stating that they are ideal for touch-ups because they do not add coverage but refresh your makeup.

Bold and beautiful

EVEN though a simple base is the go-to this summer, Sheetal recommends elevating your look with a bold eye.

"It is a personal favourite of mine, as it draws the person's attention to soft, sultry eyes, rather than any minor imperfections of the skin, and it only takes three products," she said.

"Take a creamy eyeshadow stick in a gunmetal grey or cool-toned bronzy brown, and run the shadow all over your lid. To intensify the look take a deep brown gel liner and smudge at the base of your upper and lower lashes. Finally, take a creamy shimmer and pop it in the corner of your eyes, and you are ready to go!"

SPEAK YOUR MIND

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

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

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

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

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

Share your views in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram by April 23. We will publish a selection of the comments received in GulfWeekly - only 'original' entries will be considered for the top submission and win a box of Raw Candy vegan chocolates as a token of our appreciation.

Together, let's keep the conversation going!





COMMUNITY REPORT

By JAYNE HOUGHTON

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It was art, elegance and entrepreneurial flair on full display at the Multinational School Bahrain (MNS), as the campus in Adliya's bustling Block 338 was recently transformed into a vibrant open-air gallery for the school's much-anticipated 2025 Annual Art Exhibition.

This year, MNS didn't just paint outside the lines, they completely redrew the canvas!

Established in 2013, MNS is a fully accredited British School Overseas (BSO), delivering a rigorous British curriculum with an emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, and character. With a diverse student body representing more than 50 nationalities, the school has built a stellar reputation for nurturing well-rounded individuals.

The headline act? A boundary-pushing 'Makeover Challenge' that paired students and teachers into artist-canvas duos, inviting them to explore one of three elemental themes: wood, crystal, or metal. The result was a stunning fusion of visual and performance art, where painted faces and sculptural costumes became storytelling tools as participants presented their visions on stage to an enthralled audience.

All winners this year came from MNS' upper secondary section, aged 15 to 18, showcasing the incredible depth of talent among the school's senior students. Taking first place were sisters Mira and Maya Attari, whose concept left judges stunned with its elegant execution and thematic brilliance.

Second place went to Sai Locharam and Yunish Kafle, whose performance art element earned praise for its emotion and inventiveness.

Third place was awarded to Aengela Sibi and Hannah Bryant, whose creative



COLOURS: A selection of artworks on display at the event

Masterpieces in motion at MNS

use of materials wowed attendees.

The 'Makeover Challenge' also celebrated the educators who brought the themes to life alongside their students, with Sabitha Mathew and Niya Andrews earning top honours among the teachers participating.

The judging panel featured a trio of creatives who brought depth and diversity to the proceedings. Bahraini visual artist Waheeda Malullah, widely known for her work in photography, video, installation and painting, brought her critical lens to the event. Her art often explores cultural and

religious norms and the role of women in Muslim society. She was joined by Jasim Redha, one of Bahrain's leading abstract artists, whose layered compositions and artistic insight added weight to the panel.

Rounding out the trio was fashion designer Morisette Magalona, who merges his background in architecture with a deep appreciation for traditional Filipino style; his structural, heritage-inspired designs echo the concepts explored by the students.

But the exhibition wasn't just an art show.

Business and commerce students took centre stage

in their own right, offering complimentary refreshments as part of their ongoing business projects. Guests were treated to rich, velvety tiramisu, tropical mango desserts and trays of beautifully presented homemade cookies - all proudly developed, marketed, and served by the students themselves. Who says iGCSE Business can't be delicious?

The event also played host to an impressive list of dignitaries. Among those in attendance were Philippines ambassador Anne Louis and her husband Gerard Louis, Ethiopian ambassador Shiferaw Jena, Nepalese

ambassador Tiryha Wagle and Shura Council member and cultural advocate Nancy Khedouri.

The Education Ministry was represented by director of private education Lulwa Almuhanha, while community figure Ahlam Eid was also in attendance.

From Year 1 through to Year 13, every corner of the school buzzed with pride and purpose as students showcased months of effort and originality. Abstract sculptures stood side by side with vivid portraits, while others turned to digital media or performance to bring their ideas to life. Themes of

nature, resilience, identity, and sustainability were boldly explored.

As the sun set over the transformed campus, and guests lingered over one last cookie or compliment to the young artists, it was clear that MNS has an incredible community and platform for their future.

Admissions are now open for Nursery to Year 13 with a 20 per cent discount for nursery and reception class tuition fees. Year 1 students will receive a 25pc discount on Term 1 tuition fees.

Call 17711444 or visit www.mns-bahrain.com for further information.



ACCOLADE: The Makeover Challenge winners on stage with the school principal



TEAM: MNS board member Ismaeel Khesrwai, left, and principal Ola Abu Zaroor, fourth from left, with Education Ministry officials and ambassadors at the launch of the art exhibition

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



EXPLORE A MASTERCHEF'S BOLD MENU AT RITZ

INDULGE in an array of bites from around the world at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain this weekend.

MasterChef champion 2021 Daniel Lee will take over Thai Lounge with a bold Southeast Asian-inspired menu, brought alive through the support and culinary expertise of Chef de Cuisine Rerkden Paensurin.

With the blend of signature beverages and exceptional cuisine, every moment of the evening will be elevated to new heights. It costs BD45 per head for a minimum of two people for a set menu.

● Guests can embark on an immersive mixology experience and savour Mexican-inspired sips crafted by agave expert Vedant Shetty, alongside authentic flavours from Cantina Kahlo's newly-revamped

LUXURIOUS: Thai Lounge



menu. The dining affair will be complimented by lively rhythms of the Mariachi band.

● Meanwhile, discover innovative and refreshing beverages with a Japanese twist at the Burlington Club. Specially curated by head mixologist Sameer Shaw, the event

promises entertainment and fun.

Guests can explore all events from tomorrow, April 18, until April 24, from 1pm to midnight.

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



AT THE HELM: Daniel



HEALTHY: Lunch at Wild

A WILD BRUNCH AT SHERATON

GET READY for a flavour-packed weekend at Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.

Indulge in a range of vibrant dishes and sip on delicious beverages while enjoying live entertainment at The Wild Brunch, the perfect way to relax during the weekend with family and friends.

The brunch is being held every Friday this month from 12.30pm to 5pm, and costs BD36net per person with soft beverages and BD46 with a selected beverage package. A special French signature bubbly package is priced at

BD186net per person.

Guests can enjoy additional beverages, food and entertainment from 5pm to 9pm, at an extra fee.

Don't miss out on Wild's specially crafted three-course menu, featuring vibrant flavours from Spain, Asia, the UK, Italy, Peru and many more. It is available from Sunday to Thursday, from noon to 3pm, at BD10.500net, including homemade iced tea.

● Celebrate Easter in style this year at Wild on Sunday, with family and friends with a carefully curated

menu featuring a blend of seasonal ingredients. It's priced at BD20 net per person, inclusive of soft beverages, from noon to 4pm.

● Experience the Golestan Persian Grill, where a delightful array of authentic dishes, from fragrant kebabs to unique house specialities, will make for an unforgettable dining experience. It is open everyday, from noon to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm, and on weekends from noon to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm.

For more information contact 17533533 or 38885409 on WhatsApp.



DELICIOUS: Persian food at Golestan



ELEGANT: Blossom Tea at Bay View Lounge



WHOLESOME: Hawaiian Brunch at Bahrain Bay

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

ENJOY a range of delicious food and lively entertainment at the InterContinental Bahrain this weekend.

The Regency Tent invites guests for its iconic Seafood Night, which features freshly grilled fish, lobster and prawn thermidor at live stations.

It is available tonight, from 6.30pm from 10.30pm, at BD24net with soft beverages, and BD32 for endless house beverages.

● Indulge in delicious breakfast and lunch bites at the Legendz SteakHouse Brunch for Food Lovers, every Friday, from 11am to 4pm.

It costs BD28net, inclusive of soft beverages and BD37net with unlimited selected beverages. Children below six years dine for free and those aged between six and 12 can avail a 50 per cent discount.

● Make Easter memorable with Rigani-Regency Tent's Easter Brunch, blending Orthodox and Catholic traditions in a vibrant and



TRADITIONAL: Greek Easter eve dinner



FESTIVE: Easter bread, Greek Tsoureki

DIVE INTO A SEA OF FLAVOURS

immersive celebration. Greek and international hits will be played by a DJ, adding to the festive atmosphere. The occasion will be made more special with engaging cultural activities on April 20, from 2pm to 6.30pm.

The lavish brunch experience costs BD18net or BD26net with unlimited house beverages. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10.

● Celebrate Greek Easter Eve at

Rigani, on Saturday, from 9pm to 1am. The festivities will feature traditional Greek dishes such as mageiritsa soup, tsougrisma and sweet tsoureki, as well as music and cultural activities. Adults dine for BD16net inclusive of the buffet or BD24net with unlimited selected beverages. Children aged six to 12 dine for BD10.

● Choose Pranzo De Lavoro for a business lunch, everyday from noon

to 5pm. Prices start from BD4.900 per person.

● Tie the knot this summer at the InterContinental Bahrain with special rates for your dream wedding. The hotel's stunning banquet spaces can seat up to 260 guests at Al Rifaa Ballroom, and prices start from BD13net per person. It is available from June to September.

For more information, contact 36967701 or 39405217.

BEST OF THE WORLD ON YOUR PLATTER

THE Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay has lined up an array of exciting dining events that will make for an unforgettable weekend.

● Welcome spring with an enchanting Blossom Tea at Bay View Lounge. Savour the refined taste of stuffed zucchini flower with salmon and avocado, lemon saffron prawn with fresh mint and the perfectly balanced combination of bresaola, cream cheese and fig jam.

It is being held until May 31, from noon to 9pm and costs BD22, inclusive of a jing tea, and BD24 with a jing tea and refreshing mocktail.

● Be transported to the quaint streets of Italy with Bay View Lounge's Italian Aperitivo Experience, where artisanal boards and irresistible small plates set the scene for cherished moments with family and loved ones.

Indulge in cheese and charcuterie boards, as well as mushroom arancini, bruschetta and signature mocktails. Priced a la carte, it is available until May 31, from 11am to 11.30pm.

● Enjoy vibrant flavours and island favourites at Bahrain Bay

Kitchen's Hawaiian Brunch, tomorrow and April 25, from 1pm to 4pm. Savour delicious dishes such as lomi lomi salmon, poke bowls, Hawaiian garlic shrimp, teriyaki grilled salmon, and coconut pudding.

It costs BD35, including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

● It is time for an elevated Bubbly Brunch at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, featuring the finest selection of drinks, as well as a range of dishes crafted by executive chef Brian Becher.

It is available every Friday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, for BD70, inclusive of free-flow bubbly beverages.

● Elevate your week with a Moroccan Hammam Experience at The Spa. Enjoy a relaxing black soap cleanse, followed by a full-body exfoliation with kessa gloves and a body scrub. A gentle face exfoliation will complete the experience.

Guests can book the 60-minute treatment available everyday from 10am to 10pm. It costs BD85 from Sunday to Wednesday, and BD95 from Thursday to Saturday and public holidays.

For details, call 17115500 or 17115044.

BOXING CHALLENGE

THE Dilmun Club Bahrain is hosting the kingdom's fourth outdoor boxing event this weekend.

It will be a day of celebrating local talent across all age groups, genders and weights.

Families and friends can also enjoy a range of food stalls, beverages, and live music. Plenty of activities will be available for children, including water slides, bouncy castles, toys and games. It will be held tomorrow.

Doors open from 2pm, the event begins at 4pm, and the first fight starts at 5pm.

Dilmun club members can attend for free, while non-members (adults) can purchase a pre-booked ticket at BD5, or a walk-in ticket at BD6. Children under 15 years attend for free. Tickets are available at the club's reception.

For more information, contact 17690926.

FLY FOR A CAUSE

HEAD down to the British Club Bahrain for its annual Birdman contest tomorrow.

The fun event invites competitors to dress up as anything from airplanes to superheroes, launching themselves from a platform into the club's pool, to raise money for The Mission to Seafarers, a Christian welfare charity that serves merchant crews around the world.

With operations in more than 200 ports worldwide, the group aims to provide care to seafarers arriving at Bahrain's ports and spending

extended periods away from their family.

Prizes are up for grabs.

The event is open to everyone with free entry from noon to 5pm.

A colourful Easter party will be held on Saturday, featuring a fun Easter-egg hunt, as well as an array of games and live music from the club's band.

It costs BD3.500 per child for members, and BD4.500 for non-members. Accompanying adults pay BD1.500 per person. Seats are limited.

For more information, contact 17728245.

MOVIE TIME

HEAD down to CINECO Seef to watch the latest English-language films being shown this weekend. **THE AMATEUR** (PG-15) A CIA cryptographer manages to blackmail his agency into training him to let him go after a group of terrorists who killed his wife.

Actors: Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan, Jon Bernthal, Laurence Fishburne

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

MICKEY 17 (18+)

The unlikely hero, Mickey Barnes, has found himself in the extraordinary circumstance of working for an employer who demands the ultimate commitment to the job... to die for a living.

Actors: Robert Pattinson, Steven Yeun, Naomi Ackie

Timings: 11.30am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

INHERITANCE (2025)

When Maya learns her father Sam was once a spy, she suddenly finds herself at the centre of an international conspiracy. As she seeks answers, Maya herself becomes a target and must quickly learn her father's skills, in this thriller.

Actors: Phoebe Dynevor, Rhys Ifans, Ciara Baxendale

Timings: 12.30pm, 6pm, 11.30pm

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG-15)

A mysterious portal pulls four misfits into the Overworld, a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they'll have to master the terrain while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected crafter named Steve.

Actors: Jason Momoa, Jack Black, Emma Myers

Timings: 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 8.15pm

A WORKING MAN (15+)

Levon Cade left his profession behind to work construction and be a good dad to his daughter. But when a local girl vanishes, he is asked to return to the skills that made him a mythic figure in the shadowy world of counterterrorism.

Actors: Jason Statham, David Harbour, Michael Peña

Timings: 11am, 3.30pm, 11pm



SCRUMPTIOUS: Bruschetta at Bay View Lounge

Pulse of Pop

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

COUNTRY BALLAD

JOINT country album by indie rock artists Julien Baker and TORRES (Mackenzie Scott), titled *Send A Prayer My Way*, drops tomorrow.

The 12-track musical creation is set to tell the real stories and experiences of the two creative talents through playfully executed folktales rooted in country traditions and imagery.

Julien expressed how this album connected her to a genre she used to rebel against, saying it felt like a 'full circle' moment.

"From a really young age I was embedded in a culture where country music was just

around," Julien said in an interview.

"It was in the air you breathe, and on the radio, at every gas station.

"I even worked in a country-western steakhouse," she added.

Mackenzie revealed that she was tip-toeing around the idea of making a country record for a while, and while thinking of a partner, Julien, who she first met in 2016, was the first to come to her mind.

In terms of collaborating with somebody, I was like, who can understand where I am coming from?" she said, adding that Julien was the 'obvious choice'.



COWGIRLS: Torres (left) and Julien

SHELTER, said to be the Gulf region's first Malayalam language movie anthology, premiered at EPIX Cinemas in Dana Mall this month, and will now be screened at Bahrain Media City, as well as in Qatar and the UAE, writes Melissa Nazareth.

The production comprising four films - *Stalemate*, *The Lost Lamb*, *Locked* and *Faces in Phases* - runs for two hours and 40 minutes and has English subtitles. It was shot at various locations in Bahrain with part of the post-production done in India.

The project, produced by Edathody Films, has been brought alive by husband-wife duo Prakash Vadakara and Jaya Menon, along with two other directors, and a group of actors and creatives.

"I've been on stage since 1973, directing and acting in numerous stage plays but movies are a different ball game altogether," former banker Jaya, who has been living with her husband Prakash, a former marketing manager, in Bahrain for more than 50 years, told *GulfWeekly*.

"There's a lot of technicality involved and the editing phase is crucial. I spent a great deal of time on background work with three months just for shot division, so it was challenging but we're very happy with how it has turned out,"



LAUNCH: Organisers at the premiere

AN EMOTIONAL MASTERPIECE

The Shelter anthology

- **Stalemate** directed by Jaya Menon
- **The Lost Lamb** directed by Sourav Rakesh
- **Locked** directed by Prashobh Menon
- **Faces in Phases** directed by Prakash Vadakara

she added.

The *Stalemate* director, who also plays a lead character in the film, highlighted the level of talent in Bahrain, and commended all those who are part of the *Shelter* project.

Talking of *Faces in Phases*, in particular, she noted the 'brilliant' performances by protagonists Kathu and Neethu. "Acting in a movie is a lot more difficult when compared to stage acting because it's fragmental," she explained.



UNVEILED: The film poster

AGAINST THE ODDS

THE first four episodes of historical surrealist comedy drama *Government Cheese* are out now on Apple TV+, and will be followed by a weekly release until May 28.

Set in 1969, the show revolves around Hampton Chambers (David Oyelowo), a convicted burglar who returns to his Los Angeles home after being released from prison.

As he reunites with his family, Hampton tries to start over by inventing the 'Bit

Magician', a self-sharpening power drill.

However, there are complications to navigate - the unconventional structure of his family formed in his absence, his past, encounters with dangerous figures, and even divine intervention.

Actor David revealed in an interview that he felt drawn to portray Hampton due to the character being incredibly flawed yet relatable.

"I think all of us can understand and relate to the idea of wanting to be better, but constantly failing at doing that," he said.



RESTART: A poster of the series

Norris ‘a real role model’



LEADER:
Norris

FOUR-TIME world champion Sebastian Vettel praised Lando Norris as a ‘real role model’ and said the Formula One leader’s open self-criticism was a strength rather than weakness.

McLaren’s Norris, who leads Australian teammate Oscar Piastri by three points going into Sunday’s fifth round of the season in Saudi Arabia, blamed himself rather than the team after a scrappy Bahrain weekend.

The Briton said he was ‘clueless’ in qualifying, had made too many mistakes in the race - starting with a false start from sixth and finishing third - and struggled to feel comfortable with the car.

The old way of thinking in Formula One was to hide such vulnerability, lest rivals use it as a psychological weapon, but Vettel, who retired in 2022, said Norris reflected a new attitude.

“I think it’s a positive development because we are normal people,” the German,



READY: Aston Martin’s Vettel ahead of his race in Abu Dhabi last year

speaking from Saudi Arabia before a karting event he organises to help young women into motorsport, said.

“We do have normal problems just like everybody else.

“Heroism is fine but it’s

also part of the heroism to just talk about your problems and your weakness. I think that’s a great development to see and to witness and, you know, real role models.”

Vettel recalled as a kid being told not to share any

weakness, not to cry, and Norris was showing it was OK to be more open.

“I don’t think it’s a sign of weakness. It might be criticised by some people, but if you look at the broader picture, I think it’s just progress,” he said.

Vettel doubted the rivalry between Norris and Piastri, winner in Bahrain and managed by the German’s old teammate and rival Mark Webber, would have the same heat as his first title battle of 2010.

“I would still put Lando as an indirect favourite, but time will tell,” he said.

“Naturally people always look for entertainment, which is fine and it’s part of the sport, but I don’t see those two having a really intense and rough partnership.

“I think they’ll get along and I think (team boss) Andrea (Stella) also is in a position to manage them well.

“I think the rivalries nowadays are different. I think we had respect and

this generation has respect for each other. But I think they have progressed and they manage it better than us to differentiate what’s happening on track and what’s happening off track.”

Vettel said he was still keeping his fingers crossed for friend and rival Lewis Hamilton at Ferrari, even if clearly not a favourite to win the record eighth world championship he wants.

He did not write off Max Verstappen’s chances of winning a fifth straight title despite Red Bull’s current problems.

Verstappen finished only

sixth in Bahrain, a week after winning in Japan, triggering concern within the team even though he is still only eight points off the lead after four races.

“Obviously Red Bull isn’t very strong now, but if you just go back one year, Red Bull started off very strong and wasn’t that strong at the end and still won (the drivers’ title). So I think, you know, of course it can change,” said the German.

“It’s not that easy to fix but generally I think they know what they are doing. It is very likely or very possible that Red Bull can turn it around.”

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) A ‘give way’ sign is called what in the US?
- 2) What famed comic book creator co-wrote the screenplay for *RoboCop 2*?
- 3) Which organisation is used in place of the Red Cross in many Islamic countries?
- 4) Pyrite or iron sulphide is the chemical name for what?
- 5) Which popular product was first defined in 17th-century English dictionaries as ‘high East-India sauce’?



- ANSWERS**
1. Yield
 2. Frank Miller
 3. Red Crescent
 4. Fool’s Gold
 5. Ketchup
 6. Costa Rican colon
 7. Louis XVI

Hard to keep two F1 races in Italy

FORMULA One boss Stefano Domenicali has indicated his home race of Imola could drop off the calendar with Italy unlikely to retain two grands prix on a bulging 24-round schedule with plenty of candidates.

“Italy has always been and will be an important part of Formula One,” the Italian told *RAI* radio.

“It will be increasingly difficult to have two races in the same country because interest in F1 is growing and it’s a situation we will have to deal with in the coming months,” he added.

“It’s hard for this situation with Imola and Monza to continue together on the calendar for long.”

A native of Imola, whose race is

designated the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix, the former Ferrari boss said it would not be an easy decision from a personal point of view but he had to take a global approach.

Imola returned to the F1 calendar during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and has kept its place, although the 2023 race was cancelled due to flooding that devastated the region.

Monza, home of the Italian Grand Prix, has been on the calendar every year since the first championship in 1950, with the sole exception of 1980, and is the spiritual home of Ferrari. It



Stefano

has a contract to 2031.

No other country in Europe has two races, although Spain is due to have an overlap next season with Madrid coming in as the new Spanish Grand Prix venue when Barcelona will be in the final year of its contract.

The Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort has already announced it will not continue after 2026.

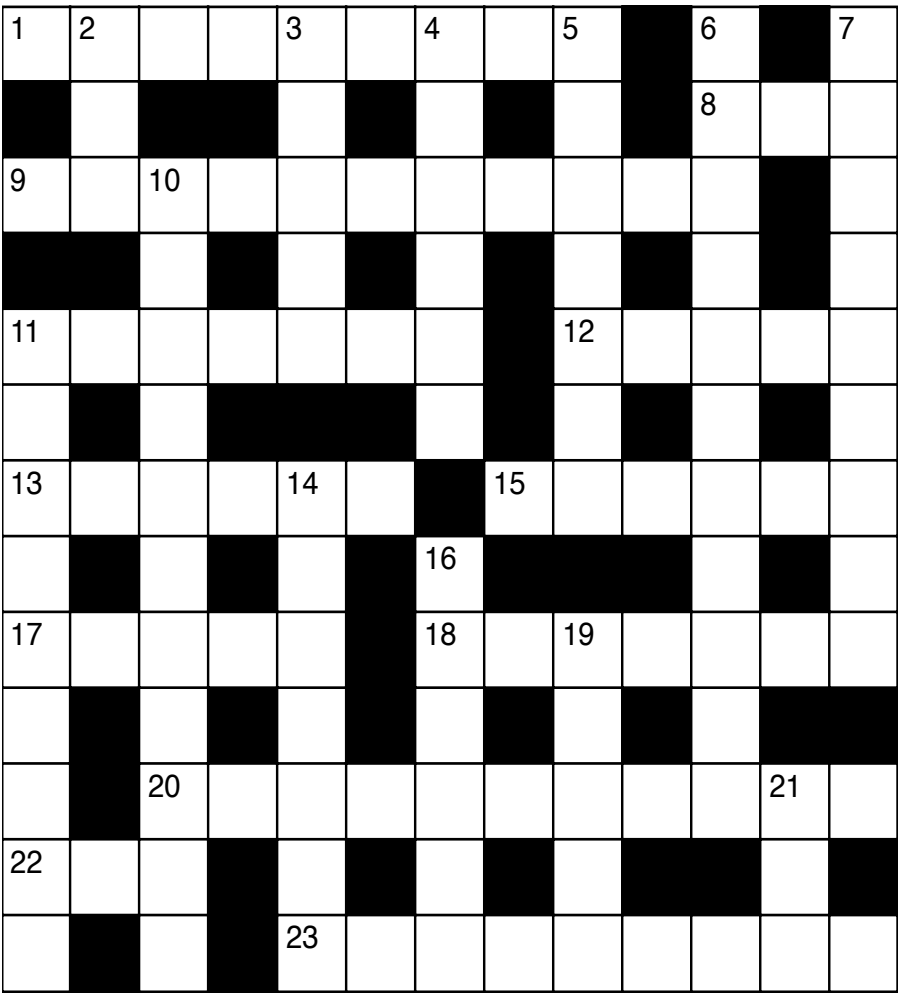
The United States has three races and there has been talk of China having a second. Thailand is also in talks for a round from 2028 and the sport wants to return to Africa.

Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

- ACROSS**
1. Navigation instruments (9)
8. Sheep (3)
9. Hopeful (11)
11. Gather (7)
12. Exhaust (5)
13. Fairness (6)
15. Discuss (6)
17. Comprehend (5)
18. Conceited person (7)
20. Fickleness (11)
22. Fuss (3)
23. Diminishing (9)
- DOWN**
2. Possess (3)
3. Revile (5)
4. Sea-song (6)
5. Cheat (7)
6. Disgrace (11)
7. Contingent (9)
10. Estimate (11)
11. Parson (9)
14. Representative (7)
16. A game (6)
19. Extravagant (5)
21. Study (3)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... recorded the 2005 UK No 1 single *Get Right*?

WHAT ... is the standard unit of currency of Morocco?

WHERE ... did Dame Nita Barrow and Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands serve as Governor-General in the 1990s?

WHEN ... were the Olympics held in Seoul?

WHO ... recorded the 2005 No. 1 single *Dakota*?

WHAT ... is the background colour on the flag of the Isle of Man?

WHERE ... is Port Blair?

WHEN ... did Houston first host the Super Bowl in American Football?

just so

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esarhp

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK

ACROSS: 1 Clutch; 4 Seldom; 9 Unconsciously; 10 Concede; 11 Niece; 12 Minor; 14 Genie; 18 Raise; 19 Catcall; 21 Confrontation; 22 Silent; 23 Dainty

DOWN: 1. Crutch; 2. Unconditional; 3. Canoe; 5. Enounce; 6. Dissemination; 7. Mayhem; 8. Screw; 13. Overrun; 15. Fracas; 16. Scent; 17. Plenty; 20. Tiara

JUST SO: The herd instinct, The man in the moon, The Pentagon, The zero hour.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Lee Child; Blue and yellow; Pride Park; 1974; Alice Cooper; Jakarta; Harrogate; 1799.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...