

Bahrain on the silver screen



HONOUR: Ambassador Steven, top row fifth from left, and Youth Affairs Minister Rawan Tawfiqi, top row sixth from left, with the participants and winners

FILM REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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YOUNG Bahraini filmmakers presented three documentaries showcasing Bahrain's rich culture and close-knit community, in a grand red carpet event, culminating the third edition of Project Documentaries.

The initiative was staged by the US Embassy, in partnership with the Youth Affairs Ministry, at EPIX Cinemas, Dana Mall on Tuesday.

Youth Affairs Minister Rawan Tawfiqi, US Ambassador Steven Bondy and other guests attended.

A total of six awards were presented across various categories for the three films that were screened.

The visual creations were projects that 18 creatives worked on in teams as part of a programme in October, where they attended a series of workshops led by Emmy-nominated director and producer Todd Thompson.

"This is the third edition of Project Documentaries and I've been involved in each of



STORYTELLER:
Rashed

the three and it's incredible to see the progression each year," Ambassador Steven told *GulfWeekly*.

"I'm pleased to see that this year, the subjects of the documentaries are just perfectly Bahraini themes. For someone like me, who is a foreigner, who has a great desire to learn about the kingdom, each time I watch these films, I feel better educated.

"We, at the embassy, are extremely grateful for the works that we do with the Youth Affairs Ministry. The minister (Rawan Tawfiqi) is a very strong supporter of this.

"But let's not forget what the key aspect of this is: It's to impart skills to Bahraini youth so that when they enter the

labour force, they increase the capabilities of that sector. The film industry in Bahrain has a very bright future," he added.

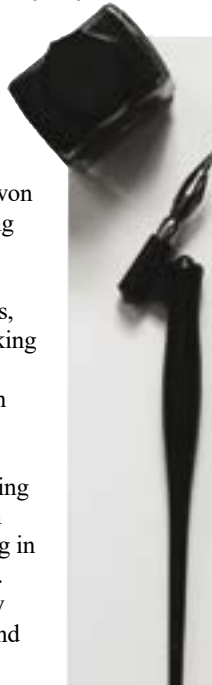
Jassim Ahmed, 22, who won the award for Best Directing for *Hope from the Ashes*, said bringing the film alive comprised many challenges, including permissions, making it a learning experience.

"It's a great feeling to win this award but the bigger prize for me is the positive reaction of the viewers during the screening," the Bahrain University student majoring in Mass Communication said.

"It was a learning journey especially in consistency and organisation. I found that combining storytelling with an event that happened six months ago was hard. It was like a puzzle where we had to work around the pieces and create a compelling, hopeful, story," the Hidd resident explained.

Hope from the Ashes paints a vivid picture of the plight of shopowners and others who were affected by the Manama suq fire in June.

"It's a very sensitive topic and we had to do extensive research to get our facts right," Bahrain Polytechnic



ROLL OF HONOUR

Best Directing – *Hope from the Ashes* (Jassim Ahmed)

Best Producing – *Hope from the Ashes* (Alaa Alshowaikh)

Best Storytelling – *Hope from the Ashes* (General)

Best Cinematography – *Al Dana* (Anwar Alzaki and Abdulla Naser)

Best Editing – *Hope from the Ashes* (Sayed Mujtaba Hasan)

Best Audio & Sound – *Heroes Beyond the Track* (Taimoor Walayat)

student Maryam Abdulwahab, 22, who worked in various production roles and managed the research work for the film, noted.

The other films – *Al Dana* documented Bahrain's pearling heritage and *Heroes Beyond the Track* glorified the Bahrain Marshals – volunteers who are entrusted with ensuring safety and managing motorsport events in the kingdom.

"It's been three months of intense efforts and a great

opportunity. There's so much that's already been said about Bahrain's sea and pearling tradition and so, the challenge for us was to tell the story in a unique way," Rashed Althuwaini, 24, *Al Dana* writer and media graduate from Bahrain University, said ahead of the screening.

Project Documentaries is a platform providing young Bahraini students the opportunity to learn the nuances of filmmaking from industry experts.



CHILDREN'S TALE
New book on shelves
SEE PAGE 2



FRIENDS FOREVER
Stage play release
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Food and culture
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Movies, music & more
SEE PAGE 6

Elephant tale



BOOK REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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BAHRAINI author Nada Fardan has dropped her first children's book in English, which normalises making mistakes and learning from them in a supportive environment, offering valuable lessons to both children and parents.

Illustrated across 20 pages by UK-based Iranian artist Maliha Ahmadi, *One Trunk Away* is the heartwarming tale of Harry, a young elephant, and his mother, who gently encourages him to face new challenges on his own.

"It's a delightful read for children and a comforting reminder for parents about the importance of nurturing confidence and resilience in their little ones," the Sanad resident told *GulfWeekly*.

"One day, when Harry's mother falls ill, he must dress himself without her direct help. Initially uncertain, Harry finds comfort in his mother's assurance that she is 'just one trunk away'.

"Through three relatable incidents, the story imparts valuable lessons about embracing independence, understanding that mistakes are part of learning and feeling reassured by a parent's unwavering support," she added.

The mother of one came across the phrase 'I'm just one phone call away', while watching television, which ignited the idea for the book.

"That simple yet powerful statement moved me and sparked the theme of my story: encouraging children's independence while reassuring them of parental support.

"I chose a family of elephants, to make it more relatable to young readers, and replaced the 'helping hand' with a 'helping trunk'. This story is targeted at children in higher kindergarten and first grade, and encourages them to embrace small steps towards independence while knowing their parents are always close by to guide them," she revealed.

The former architect, who took to writing as a full-time career a decade ago, has published 13 books so far, including *One Trunk Away*.

Initially, Nada was hesitant to write in English since it is her second language, but once she set the story concept, her confidence grew.

"Writing in Arabic feels natural and intuitive, while writing in English required a mindful approach, particularly in addressing cultural



CUTE: The book cover



TALENTED: Nada

“It's a delightful read for children and a comforting reminder for parents about the importance of nurturing confidence and resilience in their little ones.”

distinctions embedded in the language,” she said.

“What motivated me to take this step was a desire to reach a global audience of young readers. English, as a universally spoken language, provides an opportunity to connect with children from diverse backgrounds.

“Additionally, I have non-Arab friends who have long encouraged me to create

something their children can enjoy. Their unwavering support, even attending my book launches, inspired me to write this story as a gesture of gratitude,” she noted.

Nada thanked popular Bahraini creatives – author Rasool Darweesh and English professor Zainab Al Laith – who helped her in the editing process. *One Trunk Away* was published by local house Al Ayam Publishing.

“One of the biggest challenges I faced was finding the right sponsor and publisher. Initially, I signed with an Egyptian publisher, but the process was fraught with delays and complications, particularly regarding the quality and design of the book. After much deliberation, I decided to collaborate with a Bahraini publisher. This change allowed me to oversee the design process personally, ensuring that every detail met my standards,” she explained.

Not one to rest on her past laurels, Nada is already working on her next story *The Source of Generosity*, which is set to be published next month, and will also venture into illustration with this project.

“The book was commissioned to me by the Sharjah Institute for Heritage to enrich children's literature for the Sharjah Heritage Days Festival (being staged in February). This will be my first experience bringing my own artistic vision to life, and I look forward to sharing it with my readers,” she added.

One Trunk Away can be purchased at the Bahrain National Museum gift shop and online on www.alnadaworkshops.com.

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 animal has the strongest jaw and hardest bite?
2. In the individual medley in swimming, which stroke is first?
3. The Finger Lakes are a pattern of lakes located in the USA. In which state are the Finger Lakes located?
4. In which 2004 movie does Jude Law play Captain Joe Sullivan in one of the first ever movies to be filmed entirely using a digital backlot?
5. Which two countries' flags contain a map of the country on them?

6. Popeye the Sailor Man eats a certain food to gain his strength. What is it?
7. In science, red, green and blue are collectively known as what?

- ANSWERS**
1. Crocodile
 2. Butterfly
 3. New York
 4. *Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow*
 5. Cyprus and Kosovo
 6. Spinach
 7. Primary colours

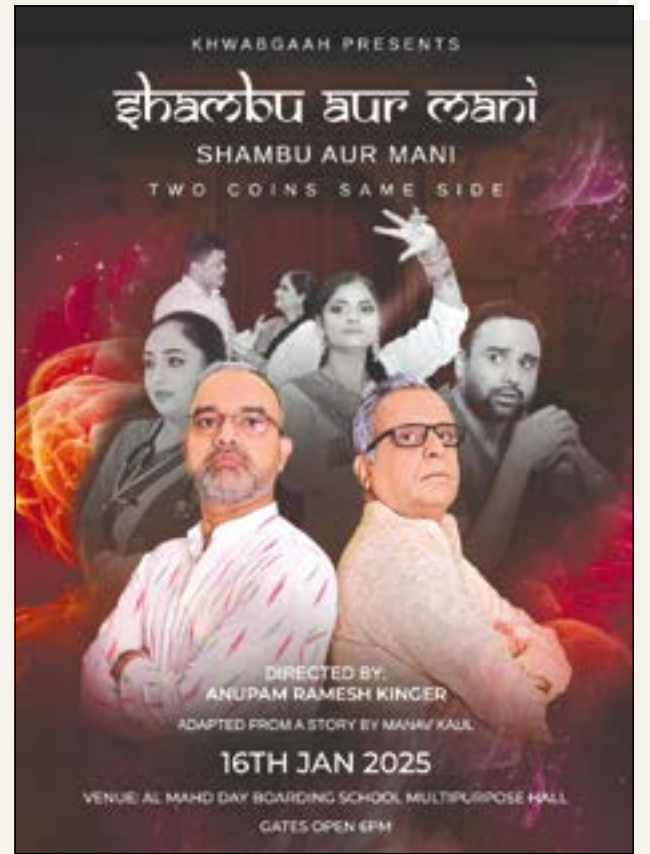


THE holiday season festivities have come to an end and most of us are back to the office. Getting into work mode after an extended break can be tough, especially when we don't space it with relaxation and recreation. Striking work-life balance is essential throughout the year, which brings us to the first topic of 2025 for *GulfWeekly's* 'Speak Your Mind' feature series: 'How does work-life balance affect your mental health?' We invite you, our family of readers, to share your views in no more than

100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or [@gdnonline](https://www.instagram.com/gdnonline) on Instagram by January 28. Please share some anecdotes of when and how you set boundaries between your professional and personal lives. 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!



DRAMA: A scene from the play and, right, the play poster



THEATRE REPORT
By NAMAN ARORA
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Young at heart

A poignant play about the magic of friendship is set to light up the stage next Thursday.

Bahrain-based production house Khwabgaah: House of Dreams is putting on a Hindi performance of *Shambhu aur Mani* (Shambhu and Mani) on January 16 at 7pm at Al Mahd Day Boarding School in Saar.

"*Shambhu aur Mani* is a Hindi play inspired by a script by Manav Kaul," Khwabgaah founder and the play's director Anupam Ramesh Kinger told *GulfWeekly*.

"It is a heartwarming story celebrating the magic of friendship.

"Set in an assisted living home, it portrays the journey of two elderly men from different walks of life who build a

profound bond while helping each other confront and offload the emotional baggage of their past." The 75-minute long production is a rollercoaster of emotions, featuring a talented cast and crew from the Indian diaspora in Bahrain, with an original music score by Indian banker and bard Chiradeep Ghosh.

Blending humour with a critique of societal attitudes towards the elderly, the play centres on two eponymous characters with very different personalities who come to form a deep friendship.

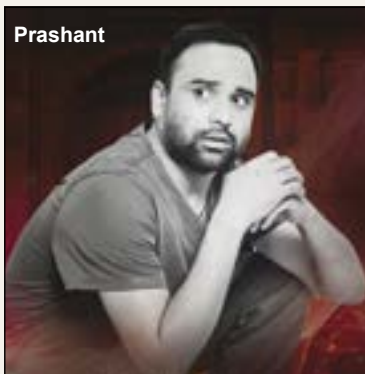
Arun Nagendra plays Shambhu and Sandeep Singh portrays Mani,



CREATIVE: Chiradeep, right, has scored the performance



BOND: Saptarishi with Bhagirathi



Prashant

with supporting roles played by Saptarishi Bhowmick, Bhagirathi Pania, Dr Gurpreet Kaur and Prashant Kumar.

"It has eight small acts," Anupam explained.

"We have tried to recreate the small town ambience through the props, lights and music, and the script requires just basic costumes and extensive lights.

"This play is timeless, which is something that fascinated me.

"It could be contemporary or set in the 1990s - the events are like leaves in the river of time. They just float."

The music for the performance has been composed by Chiradeep, an investment banker who loves to 'transition from the world of PowerPoints and spreadsheets to the vibrant realm of music composition.'

The self-taught pianist and guitarist has been passionately blending diverse musical genres for over a decade, including composing original music for plays and short films.

Beyond composing, he thrives on sharing his love for music by hosting



Anupam

engaging musical quizzes and events.

"The script of this play gave me a very strong emotional message," Anupam added.

"It works at a deeper level, taking you through the emotions of pain and camaraderie.

"The two old men and the pain that they experience was

the chief guest will be Indian Ambassador Vinod K Jacob.

Khwabgaah was established in 2018 and has become a platform for Indian diaspora artists residing in Bahrain. They have previously put on performances at Bapco Club in Awali and the Cultural Hall in Manama, attracting audiences of up to 680 people.

To register for tickets, scan the QR code.



Scan the QR Code to register

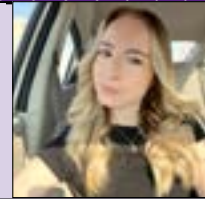
very real to me."

It will be staged at Al Mahd's 400-capacity auditorium, and entry, while free, requires prior registration.

Doors will open at 6pm. The guest of honour will be Royal Humanitarian Foundation secretary-general Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and

Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



SEASONAL FAVOURITES AT RITZ



NOSTALGIA: La Med Brunch

JOIN the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain on a magical culinary journey.

Escape to the heart of London at La Med's Big Ben Brunch, which features a delightful selection of British classics. Immerse yourself in the iconic sites of London as you dine amidst replicas of Big Ben, the London Bridge and classic red phone booths tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm.

This unique setting, combined with a vibrant ambience, makes for a truly unforgettable brunch experience. It costs BD33, inclusive of soft beverages, BD44 inclusive of selected beverages and BD60 for a bubbly brunch. Children aged four to 12 can dine for BD16.500.

Experience the perfect blend of business and pleasure at Primavera. From classic pasta to seafood and rich risottos, the menu boasts a selection of traditional Italian dishes, crafted with the finest ingredients. It costs BD15 per person for a three-course business set lunch.

For a truly magical evening, filled with seasonal favourites and a stunning view of the beach, opt for the Winter Chalet. It is available until February 28, from 6pm to 11pm. It's closed on Sundays.



COZY: Winter Chalet by the beach

Le Jardin by Kushiyaki invites guests to discover the Japanese grilling tradition. Savour delicious dishes while enjoying stunning views of the Arabian Gulf, from Wednesday to Saturday, 1pm to 9pm.

Guests can get their groove on at La Plage's Salsa Nights, tonight, from 8pm onward, where exquisite gourmet delicacies, captivating rhythms and

artisanal beverages will make for an unforgettable night.

Head down to Thai Lounge to enjoy its exclusive offer of a complimentary selected beverage with curry from the à la carte menu on Wednesday, from 1pm to 11pm.

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

LIVIN' IT UP AT HILTON!



SWEET: Treats at Lamar

HHEAD down to Hilton Bahrain to enjoy good food and live entertainment this week.

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

The restaurant will stage its Livin' La Vida Loca Brunch tomorrow, from 12.30pm to 4pm. It costs BD28net with unlimited soft beverages, BD39net inclusive of unlimited selected beverages and BD25net for military personnel.

Get your chopsticks ready for Pan Asian Night, where live cooking stations and delicious food will make for an

unforgettable night at the same location. It's available on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm, at BD22net with unlimited soft beverages or BD28 inclusive of unlimited selected beverages.

Origin Kitchen and Culture will also host a magnificent Seafood Night tonight, featuring the freshest catch and live cooking stations, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD28net with unlimited soft beverages and BD32net with unlimited selected beverages.

Meanwhile, guests can enjoy a range of breakfast favourites at Origin Kitchen and Culture's Breakfast Buffet. It's available from Sunday to Friday, from 6.30am to 10.30am, at BD13net per



FRESH: Seafood Night

person. Late risers can also enjoy a Lazy Breakfast on Saturday, from 6.30am to 11.30am. It costs BD13net per person.

Cocoluna Lounge offers ladies three free beverages on Wednesday, from 7pm to midnight. Guests can kickstart their weekend off at the hotel's Society Lounge, which is open from Monday to Saturday, from 9pm to 2am. Tonight, the club will host its Afro Series, which features live music, delicious beverages and good vibes from 9pm to 2am.

For a sweet treat, guests can enjoy 50 per cent off on pastries and cake slices everyday after 5pm.

For more information, contact 33692013 or 33690081.

DINE AND UNWIND AT THE ROYAL GOLF CLUB

ENJOY a range of delicious offerings at the Royal Golf Club (RGC) this week.

Join the club every Friday and Saturday, from noon to 5pm, for its iconic Weekend Roast, featuring a stunning selection of beef, lamb and chicken, and all the trimmings at Slice and Repartee. It costs BD9.500 per person, including a selected roast plate and a selected beverage.

Links invites guests for its Steak Night on Wednesday, from 6pm. Indulge in a selection of premium steaks

cooked to perfection and enjoy a vibrant evening filled with entertainment.

Enjoy a luxurious tea experience at Links. Available everyday from 11am to 7pm, Royal Tea for Two offers guests an array of delightful treats in a relaxed setting all while overlooking the stunning views of the club.

Two packages are available, including a gold package, including tea or coffee at BD15, or the platinum package, inclusive of tea, coffee or two glasses of bubbly at BD19.

For bookings or more information, contact 39007546.



ELEGANT: Royal Tea

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

A CULTURAL CELEBRATION

BAHRAIN'S popular Spring of Culture festival continues with a range of fun and cultural events.

Get ready to embark on a musical journey as the legendary Kadim Al Sahir graces the stage at Beyon Al Dana Ampitheatre, tomorrow at 8.30pm. The Iraqi national's performance will transport fans back in time with classics, and hits from his latest album *Maa Al Hob* ('With Love').

One of the kingdom's oldest and most prominent

musical groups, the Ismaeel Band, will also perform folk tunes at Dar Al Muharraq on Saturday at 8pm.

Art enthusiasts can check out Bahraini creative Khalid Farhan's latest sculptural works, inspired by the local flora of his country, at the Kurar House in Muharraq. The exhibition opens on Sunday (January 12) at 7pm and is available until February 12, from Saturday to Thursday, 9pm to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm.

Meanwhile, Tunisian artist Aya Dagnooj will stage a performance on Sunday



EVOCATIVE: One of the artworks at the Fayoum Portraits exhibition

(January 12) at the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research at 8pm.

An exhibition titled *Fayoum Portraits* by Egyptian artist Ahmed Emam will display 33 portraits inspired by the ancient Fayoum mummy paintings. The exhibition, which opens on Tuesday (January 14) explores identity and memory by blending the past and present together.

It will be open for viewing from Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm at Art Concept Gallery, until February 11.

FEAST FOR FOODIES AT DILMUN CLUB

HEAD down to the Dilmun Club for delicious offerings.

Enjoy the club's steak night on Wednesday's, from 6pm to 10pm. It includes two steaks and a selected beverage, priced at BD20.

Curry Night is also held every Monday, from noon to 10.30pm, which features any curry and a selected beverage for BD5.500.

On Saturdays, the club hosts its Saturday Roast Lunch, from noon to 4pm, priced at BD5.500. An all-inclusive package is also available for BD18.

For more information, contact 17690926.

CONCERT SET: Kadim



ENTICING EXPERIENCES AT FOUR SEASONS

GUESTS are invited to Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay to indulge in a range of culinary delights and spectacular events.

Celebrate Byblos's first anniversary with a BBQ Night. Perfectly cooked lamb chops, seabass, lamb tikka and a variety of vibrant side dishes will make for an unforgettable evening, on January 16 and February 6 and 27, from 6pm to midnight. It costs BD32 per person, inclusive of soft beverages.

The restaurant will also host a delightful Lebanese Saj Night, where enticing aromas of fresh flatbreads and minced meat will leave you wanting more. It's available every Wednesday until February 26, from 6pm to midnight, with items priced between BD8 and BD12.

Don't miss out on a Beverage Omakase

Experience at Blue Moon Lounge, and indulge in five bespoke beverages that have been specially crafted by expert mixologists and perfectly paired with special bites. It's available from Tuesday to Saturday, until 11.30pm, at BD36 per person.

'Omakase' is a Japanese phrase that means 'I'll leave it up to you' where diners trust the chef with their order. For a regal experience, head down to Bay View Lounge's Chocolate Tea. Curated by executive pastry chef Imad Boukly, a range of irresistible creations will be available, and your experience can be enhanced with premium teas, freshly brewed coffee and hot chocolate. It's available from January 12, from noon to 9pm. It costs BD 22 for regular afternoon tea and BD26 for royal afternoon tea.

Discover bold flavours at Bay View Lounge's Wrap Fiesta. From spiced adana



WINTRY: Chalet Brunch

lamb dürüm to vegetarian burritos, there is a dish for all tastes. It's available from January 12 to February 18, from noon to 11.30pm. It costs BD10 for the vegetarian burrito, BD12 for the fried chicken wrap

and adana lamb dürüm, and BD14 for lobster Thai roll.

Embrace the winter spirit with Bahrain Bay Kitchen's Chalet Brunch. Available tomorrow, from 1pm to 4pm, savour fondue crafted from artisanal cheeses and fresh

seafood with melted dipping sauces and more.

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

For details, call 17115500 and 17115046.

MOVIE TIME

HEAD down to CINECO Seef to watch some of the English-language films being shown this weekend.

NOSFERATU (18+)

A gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake.

Actors: Lily-Rose Depp, Nicholas Hoult, Bill Skargard
Timings: 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

BETTER MAN (18+)

The rise, fall and resurgence of British superstar Robbie Williams.

Actors: Robbie Williams, Jonno Davies, Steve Pemberton

Timings: 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm

ARTHUR THE KING (PG-13)

Over the course of 10 days and 435 miles, an unbreakable bond is forged between pro adventure racer Michael Light and scrappy dog companion dubbed Arthur.

Actors: Mark Wahlberg, Nathalie Emmanuel, Sumu Liu

Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

THE MAN IN THE WHITE VAN (15+)

Set in the 70s, in a quaint, family town in Florida, an ominous white van stalks a young girl, as her parents' disbelief leads to a terrifying Halloween nightmare.

Actors: Madison Wolfe, Bred Bassinger, Ali Larter

Timings: 4.30pm, 9pm, 11.15pm

WE LIVE IN TIME (18+)

An up-and-coming chef and a recent divorcee find their lives forever changed when a chance encounter brings them together, in a decade-spanning, deeply moving romance.

Actors: Andrew Garfield, Florence Pugh, Grace Delaney

Timings: 11.15am, 2.15pm

BOONIE BEARS: TIME TWIST (PG)

Vick is programmer living in the big city who often has strange dreams about two bears and a magical forest. One day, his boss leads him to a client who offers Vick a chance to restart his life as a simple logger, which sets him on an adventure.

Actors: Chris Boike, Patrick Freeman

Timings: Noon, 6.45pm

Pulse of Pop

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



ADORABLE:
Paddington

LIVE-ACTION animated adventure comedy film *Paddington in Peru* is out now in theatres.

The film series, which is based on the stories by Michael Bond, takes viewers along on Paddington Brown's journey.

It starts with the spectacled bear being adopted by the Brown family who find him at Paddington railway station in London sitting on his suitcase with a note attached to his coat that reads 'Please look after this bear. Thank you'.

The latest instalment in the series follows the beloved bear's adventure as he heads

to the wilds of Peru, home of the spectacled bear species, alongside the Brown family looking for Aunt Lucy, who has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears.

The gentle beast has become a popular and well-loved figure that is especially celebrated in the UK due to his friendly, charismatic and polite nature, and how he innocently finds himself in trouble.

He is also known for his old hat, battered suitcase, duffel coat and love for marmalade sandwiches, which Paddington's voice actor Ben Whishaw dislikes.

"Sadly, I don't like marmalade. It really doesn't

agree with me at all," Ben revealed in an interview, adding that when the audience see Paddington eating on screen, the munching sound is coming from the actor eating bread or fruit.

Director Dougal Wilson revealed that he was 'terrified' of carrying on the series from Paul King, who directed the previous movies.

"I was approached by Rosie Alison (producer) and StudioCanal (production company) because they were interested in doing a third instalment of *Paddington*, but Paul King, who so brilliantly did the first two, wasn't available because he was off

doing *Wonka* (2023).

"They needed someone new and they looked around, and for some reason thought I might be suitable. I thought, that's terrifying. Why on Earth would I want to attempt to make the most difficult instalment of something so brilliant? I'll inevitably mess it up. But I also thought, well, if I don't try, I'll probably regret it," he added.

The first two films were well-received by critics and audiences alike. The children's literature fictional character first appeared in 1958 in author Michael's book *A Bear Called Paddington*.

FEAR FACTOR

SEASON two of American supernatural horror television series *Goosebumps* releases tomorrow on Disney+.

Based on the children's namesake horror books by author R L Stine, *Goosebumps: The Vanishing* is set to follow different stories with different characters in each season, and mainly tackles adventures of teenagers or pre-teens who find themselves in frightening and supernatural circumstances.



SPOOKY:
The series' poster

The latest season of the anthology series follows teenage siblings Devin (Sam McCarthy) and Cece (Jayden Bartels) who discover a threat in their home that triggers a chain of events that unravels a profound mystery, resulting in the duo finding themselves entangled in the story of five teenagers who mysteriously vanished in 1994.

This season will also feature the *Friends* series star David Schwimmer, who will portray the siblings' single father.

"I've always been a fan of horror, a genuine fan. I love scary movies, I love

being scared at the movie theatre or at home," David said in an interview.

"So, I was just really excited, because the combination of horror, action and comedy is the sweet spot for me. I've always wanted to do it, and I thought this was going to be just a blast and it was," he added.

The *Goosebumps* book series was published throughout 1992 until 1997 and consists of 62 titles.

The Disney+ show is the second TV adaptation of the written works, with the first one, which consisted of four seasons, aired between 1995 and 1998.

THRILL OF BEING HUMAN

SCOTTISH rock band Franz Ferdinand are releasing their sixth studio album *The Human Fear* tomorrow.

The album marks the artists' return to the scene since 2018, and is set to sonically represent the group in an authentic way as they stick to their signature sound while also experimenting with new elements.

In an interview, Frontman Alex Kapranos said, "I don't think there's a single song that you'll hear on the album and won't think, 'Oh, is that Franz Ferdinand?' At the same time, there will be thinking, 'Oh, did they really do that?' That's not to say I start rapping or anything like that."

The 11-track album will tackle the subject of fear, a theme that found its way naturally throughout the creative process.

"Making this record was one of the most life-affirming experiences I've had, but it's called *The Human Fear*. Fear reminds you that you're alive. I think we all are addicted in some way to the buzz it can give us. How we respond to it shows how we are human. So

here's a bunch of songs searching for the thrill of being human via fears," Alex added.

"The song *Hooked* (off the upcoming album) starts with the line 'I got a fear, got the human fear' and those were the last lyrics written for the album.

"When we finished recording and took a step back, we realised that was the theme. All the songs on the album are about fear in one way or another," he revealed.

Formed in 2002, the Grammy-nominated band's original lineup was composed of Alex (lead vocals, lead guitar, keyboards), Nick McCarthy (rhythm guitar, keyboards, vocals), Bob Hardy (bass guitar, percussion) and Paul Thomson (drums, percussion, backing vocals).

In 2017, Julian Corrie (keyboards, lead guitar, backing vocals) and Dino Bardot (rhythm guitar, backing vocals) joined the band after Nick left in the previous year to concentrate on his family and personal musical projects, and Audrey Tait (drums, percussion) joined after Paul left in 2021.

The Human Fear marks the ensemble's first studio album recorded with drummer Audrey.



STRIKING: Franz Ferdinand



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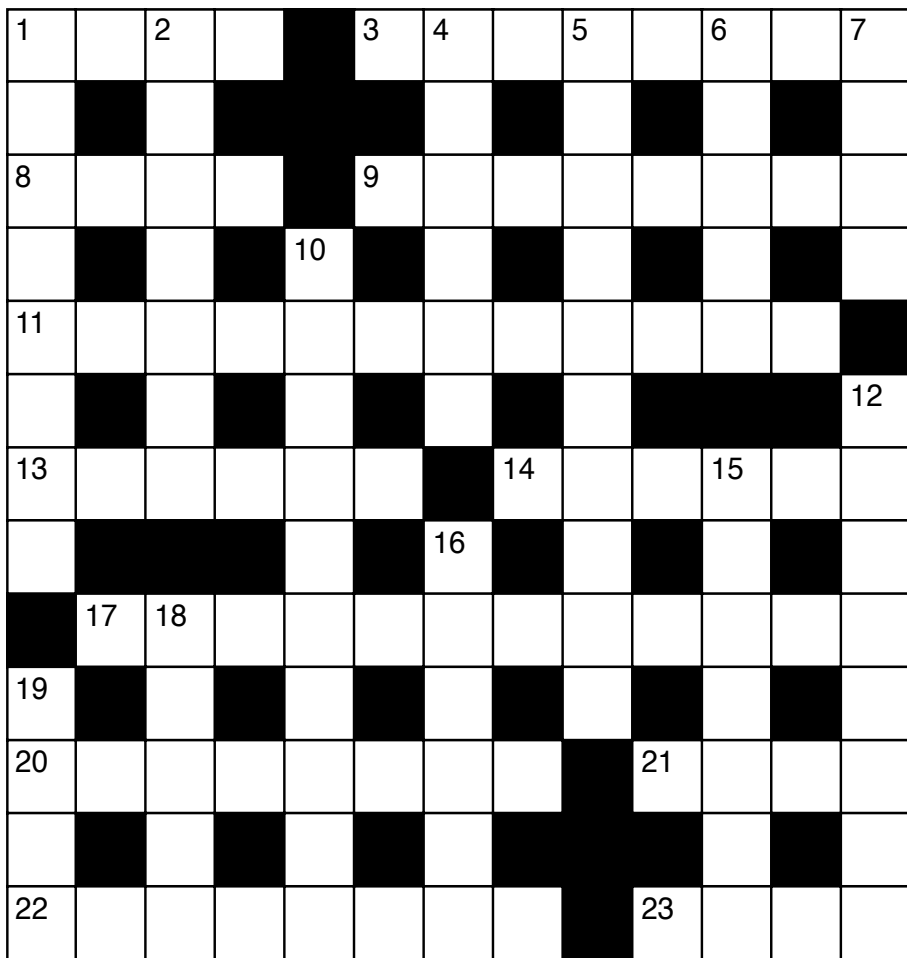
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Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

1. Roguish (4)
3. Spur (8)
8. Flow (4)
9. Series (8)
11. Shortening (12)
13. Drowsy (6)
14. Get (6)
17. Dread (12)
20. Dutiful (8)
21. Information (4)
22. Assemble (8)
23. Yield (4)

DOWN

1. Clapping (8)
2. Disintegrate (7)
4. Essay (6)
5. Trickster (10)
6. Language (5)
7. Outhouse (4)
10. Endanger (10)
12. Flood (8)
15. Stir (7)
16. Opportunity (6)
18. Iron (5)
19. Fate (4)

who, what, where, when

WHAT... does DVLA stand for?

WHERE... did Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin and Franklin D. Roosevelt meet in February 1945?

WHEN... was the first Ryder Cup golf tournament played?

WHO... plays Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter films?

WHAT... is the capital of Sweden?

WHERE... in the southern hemisphere is Arnhem Land?

WHEN... is St. David's Day?

just so

OLD BICHON FRISE

444444
all

CARTE

PAINT

darn tough sudoku

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

Last week's sudoku

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Tobacconist; 9 Uniform; 10 Eerie; 11 Rumba; 12 Obscene; 13 Envoys; 15 Stench; 18 Burglar; 20 Pagan; 22 Climb; 23 Violins; 24 Strait-laced.

Down: 2 Opium; 3 Anomaly; 4 Common; 5 Needs; 6 Surgeon; 7 Quarterback; 8 Telephonist; 14 Verdict; 16 Tapioca; 17 Cravat; 19 Libra; 21 Grime.

JUST SO: Rat race, Snake and ladders, Forget me not, Wise guy

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: Oleg Blokhin; A bird; Torbay, Devon; 1992; Ferdinand III; Magnetic levitation transport; Toronto; 1967/68.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...