

A reason to smile

COMMUNITY REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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SMILE, a Bahrain Future Society for Youth initiative, is set to officially launch the Smile Shop, a creative platform to support children with cancer.

The aim is to sell a variety of merchandise that will be made available online and at retail hubs across the country.

The products include bags, bottles, books and mugs, carrying striking designs by Bahraini artists, with 80 per cent of the proceeds from sale set to help children suffering from cancer.

The society's announcement comes as Bahrain gears up to mark International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) on Saturday.

The day, held annually on February 15, aims to raise awareness about childhood cancer and its unique challenges. It also highlights the importance of community participation and support in tackling challenges related to the disease. The theme this year is Inspiring Action, which will focus on collaborative efforts and initiatives for the cause.



AT THE HELM: Sabah

"We did a soft launch (for the shop) in September last year, and the response was overwhelming, with most of our stocks sold out, which spurred us on to stage an official launch this month," Future Society for Youth chairman Sabah Al Zayani told *GulfWeekly*.

"We're always looking for sustainable resources to support our children, which is why we came up with the idea. The products are high-end, making them the perfect gift for loved ones too," he added.

The 'Smile' initiative is a Bahrain Future Society for Youth programme that provides psychosocial support to children with cancer and their parents in Bahrain. It has successfully



INSPIRING MESSAGE:
A creation from the Smile Shop



ACCESSORY: Lapel pin from the Smile Shop

collaborated with private sector and government entities, particularly the Health Ministry and Government Hospitals as well as the Social Development Ministry, to spread awareness about the cause and raise funds for children suffering from cancer.

Cancer is a large group of diseases that can start in almost any organ or tissue of the body where abnormal cells grow uncontrollably. According to the World



PATRONS: The pop-up at City Centre Bahrain for the September soft launch

Health Organisation, cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents, with an estimated 400,000, aged from zero to 19 years, developing the illness.

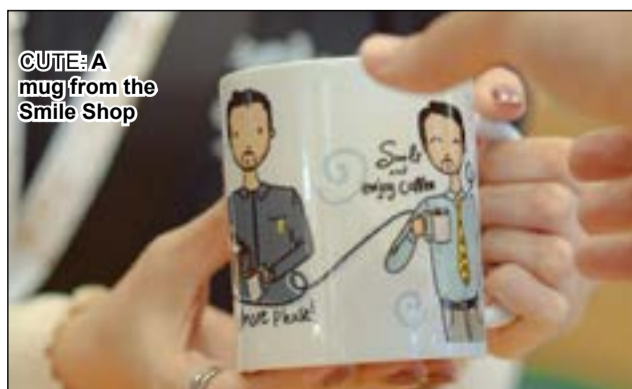
"Smile Shop has signed up with the Jahez application

and patrons can purchase the products and have them delivered to their homes at the click of a button after February 17," Sabah said.

According to him, the society is also in talks with malls and supermarkets, where the products will soon be made available.

"We have been working with a few Bahraini artists and are actively talking to more local creatives as well," Sabah added.

"In the past, we have released merchandise in connection with major events like Bahrain National Day, and we hope to continue this trend as it's popular with our patrons," he added.



CUTE: A mug from the Smile Shop

MERCHANDISE:
A book set to be sold at the shop



CLASS ACT
MTC improv show
SEE PAGE 2



VALENTINE'S GIFTS
For 'him' and 'her'
SEE PAGE 3



LEISURE SCENE
Food and culture
SEE PAGES 4-5



PULSE OF POP
Music, TV & more
SEE PAGE 6

FOCUS: James, left, with musicians during the Dubai act



ACT: James and his muse at the show in Liechtenstein

The art of improv



THEATRE REPORT
By RIMA ALHADDAD
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YOUNG British improv artist James Scarr is bringing his popular interactive one-man show, *A Man Akin to Mannequin*, to Bahrain tonight.

The Manama Theatre Club will stage the act at the British Club in Adliya.

The play is designed to engage the audience, who help the creative bring a mannequin alive by deciding its personality traits and looks, resulting in a unique show each time.

The play features music for which the 22-year-old London actor collaborates with local talents in the countries that he performs in.

For the event tonight, James has joined hands with Bahrain-based pianist Natalia Kashyrtseva.

"I like having a mannequin at the show because it feels like a blank canvas, and we decide together how we want to paint it," James told *GulfWeekly*.

"Through the show, I aim to give the audience a chance to be creative, as I believe we all are natural storytellers and artists, and I hope to, maybe, inspire them to discover their skills and perhaps even consider pursuing a creative field," the trained performer, who got his Bachelor's degree in acting from London-based Fourth Monkey last year, said.

A Man Akin to Mannequin premiered last year in Liechtenstein and since then has travelled across Europe. James decided to bring it to

the Gulf region last month, starting with Dubai, and now Bahrain.

"Having lived in Dubai for a while, I do have a special connection to this region and I am always happy to bring my shows to the audiences here. The next stop is Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE," James revealed.

The talented actor grew up in Dubai where he worked at a local improv theatre, directing, performing and teaching improvisation for eight years before moving back to London.

James said the idea for the show came together prior to him joining acting school, during a conversation with Canadian improv artist and fellow actor Shawn Kinley.

"He asked me, 'What's your one-man show?' From there I started brainstorming, and I loved the idea of having a mannequin onstage as a visual canvas for a character, and thus the show was born," he said.

According to the entertainer, a major challenge with improv is 'being a critic of your own work'.

"My advice to those who want to try it is not to be overly critical of yourself, after all, we improvise in our daily lives, so in a way we are all improvisers," James said.

"At times, the audience try to throw me off by adding something unexpected - like one time, someone wanted the character to have a pink wig - which I find nice because it's like they give me a challenge and see if I am up for it," he added.

For James, embarking on the acting career has been a

'dream come true', a field he has been passionate about since the age of 12.

"It's the best job in the world," he said.

"I get to go up on stage and be a different person and play and imagine, just like what we used to do as children.

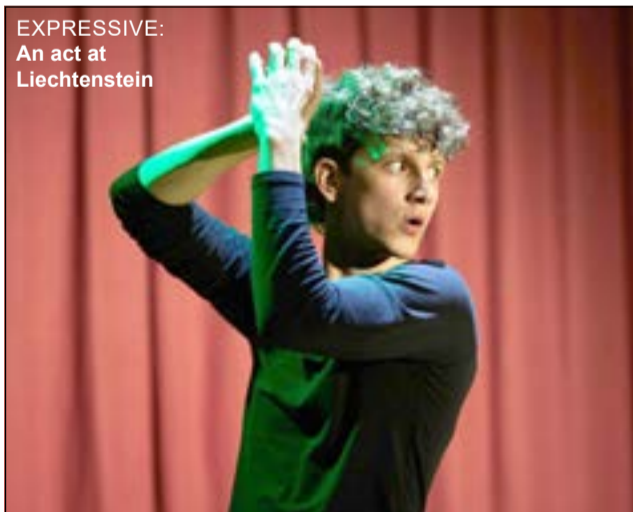
"Going to drama school

was a gift and a blessing," he noted, reflecting on his time at *Fourth Monkey*.

The actor has more projects lined up ahead and hopes to bring more shows to the Middle East. So watch out for this space!

For more details, follow @james.scarr on Instagram.

EXPRESSIVE:
An act at Liechtenstein



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 country is credited with starting the tradition of sending Valentine's Day cards?
2. Like the Taj Mahal, which of the seven Ancient Wonders was a gift of love from a king to his queen?
3. Who wrote 'tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all'?
4. Love-in-a-mist, love-in-idleness, and love-ies-bleeding are all examples of what?
5. What country has a tradition in which women give men chocolate on Valentine's Day?



6. Which singer originally wrote and performed Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*?
7. Which popular TV sitcom popularised the concept of celebrating Galentine's day?

- ANSWERS
1. England
 2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
 3. Alfred Tennyson
 4. Flowers
 5. Japan
 6. Dolly Parton
 7. Parks and Recreation

WITH Valentine's Day round the corner (February 14), it's a good time to think about how our romantic relationships affect our mental health.

They say 'two is better than one' - being in a romantic relationship can provide the comfort of companionship. However, conflict is inevitable. Our February topic: 'How has your romantic relationship affected your mental health?'



explores these ups and downs.

We invite you, our family of readers, to share your views in no more than 100 words by emailing gdnnews@gdnmedia.bh or @gdnonline on Instagram

by February 19. Please share anecdotes from your personal experience and how you worked around the issue - it just might be someone else's playbook!

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!

Precious gifts of love!

As we celebrate the month of love, GulfWeekly brings you a bunch of unique ways to say 'I love you'. Valentine's Day, the annual festivity observed on February 14, is a day when couples give each other presents and make their better halves feel special. If you haven't made plans yet, read on to discover unique ideas for romantic experiences and gifts for 'him' and 'her'.



diverse offerings, from beachfront venues to city abodes. Lounge together with drinks by the pool, enjoy a romantic dinner, or get a couple's massage – the perfect way for you and your darling to unwind. Check out *GulfWeekly's* leisure pages 4-5 for more.

A 'dramatic' date
Screen time doesn't always mean 'unromantic'.

Especially when you book an entire cinema hall for your loved one. This Valentine's day, EPIX Cinemas in Dana Mall, Sanabis, offers you the chance to enjoy the latest movies in a private viewing setup.

Serenade them with a ballad
Poetry and romance are really two sides of the same coin. Is there a better way to show your affection than with an emotional expression coming straight from the heart? It doesn't matter if you're a man (or woman) of few words – it's the thought that counts – be brave!

A 'You and me' Day
Take a day off from work

EXPERIENCES

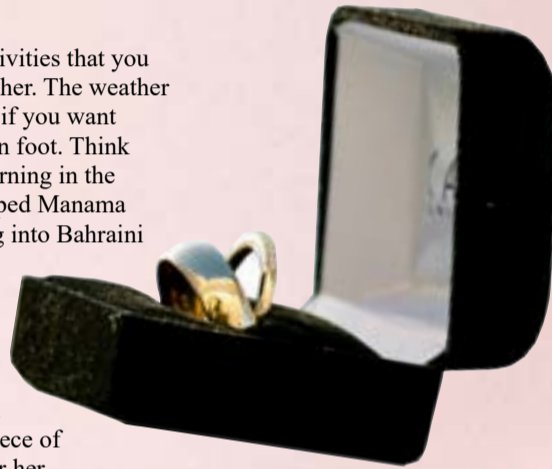
Do-it-yourself (DIY) Creations

A personalised gift shows that you have put thought into the process. Get one of the many local artists to print their striking designs onto cute merchandise – think coffee mug with a lovely message or a planner with a golden engraving of their name. Think out of the box – remember the mixtape that Chandler Bing gifted his beau Monica in the TV sitcom *Friends*?

A Romantic Staycation

A change of scene can elevate your day together. Book a short get-away at one of the many luxurious hotels in the kingdom. Bahrain is home to

and plan activities that you can do together. The weather is still great if you want to explore on foot. Think a Friday morning in the culture-steeped Manama Suq, tucking into Bahraini breakfast, exploring the spice shops, and a final pit stop at Gold City for a piece of jewellery for her.



GIFTS

Candy Crush
Chocolates are just the sweet note to start your Valentine's Day. Gift your beau or belle a decadent treat or two wrapped in a heart-shaped box – old school but hits all the right notes!

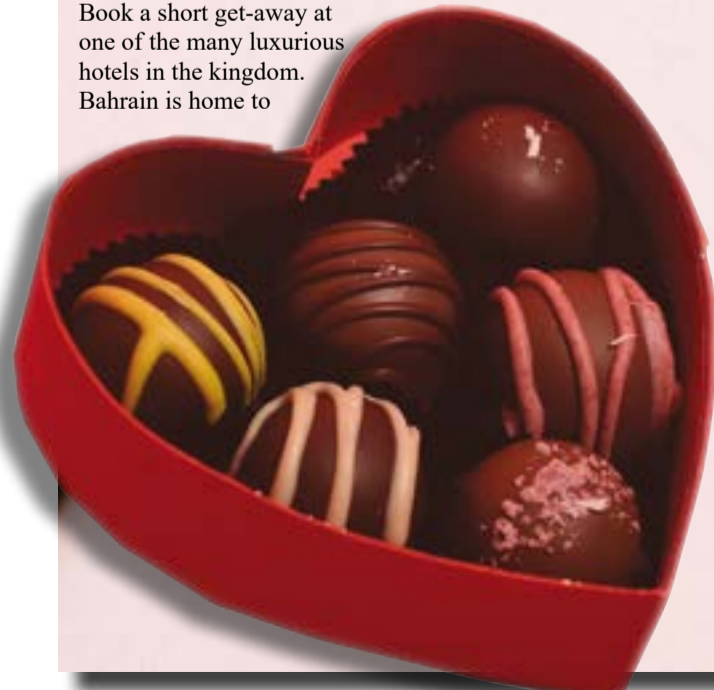
Fragrances
Create a romantic atmosphere with seductive floral notes or vanilla-scented creations for the lady, and irresistible aqua or magical musks for the gentleman. Perfumes are such a sentimental gift, reflecting your lover's taste and personality.

Time for love
Watches are a 'timeless' gift because not only are they functional, they're also wonderful keep-sakes to commemorate romantic milestones. Whether you go for a sporty or sparkly one, or just a classic design, you're sure to make an impression.

Style guru
Nothing more romantic than

giving your better half's wardrobe a timely boost. Spring-Summer fashion has started to show up in malls across the kingdom, spoiling you for choice. A stylish bag for the lady, or a pair of smart footwear for the gentleman will do the trick.

My precious
Gift your loved one a piece of jewellery and we promise that they will treasure it for life. A pair of earrings that she can wear every day or a stone-studded creation for those special occasions will surely make the connection.



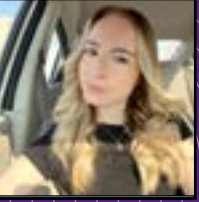
A ONE-STOP-SHOP!

• Dana Mall is the one-stop-destination for all your gifting needs. From chocolates and perfumes to watches, fashion and more, there's something for everyone.



Leisure Scene

What's on guide by
Julia Cassano



EXQUISITE: A feast for the senses

LUXURY: La Plage ... an ideal setting for Valentine's dinner



FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

THE Ritz-Carlton Bahrain is celebrating the season of love with an array of exclusive Valentine's Day offers tomorrow.

La Med's Big Ben Valentine's Day Brunch, from 1pm to 4pm, promises a variety of dishes, all the while looking over the hotel's beautiful green garden and pool area.

The luxurious experience costs BD33, inclusive of soft beverages, and BD44 with selected beverages.

Guests can enjoy exquisite

dining affairs - a four-course set menu for BD60 per couple at Nirvana; a three-course set menu for BD88 per couple at Primavera; and a three-course set menu for BD77 per couple at Plums.

All offers will be valid from 7pm to 11pm.

La Table Krug will also serve a three-course set menu for BD99 per couple, from 7pm to 11pm, while La Plage offers a five-course set menu for BD80 per couple, from 7pm to midnight.

Thai Lounge invites guests for its three-course set menu,

from 7pm to 11pm that includes selected beverages, for three hours. It costs BD100.

Meanwhile, Cantina Kahlo will stage the ultimate Mexican Valentine's Day celebration, from 1pm to 4pm, featuring a vibrant Mariachi band and flavourful dishes.

It's priced at BD70 per couple, inclusive of soft beverages and BD90 with selected beverages.

The hotel plans to celebrate the month of love and Tignanello's 50th anniversary at Primavera. Explore an exclusive four-course menu, expertly paired with a

Tuscan grape beverage. It costs BD75 for the set menu and one selected beverage, BD49 for the set menu, and BD35 for a grape beverage.

The feast is available every Thursday, from 7pm to 11pm, until February 27.

Elevate romance with an enchanting al fresco dinner at La Plage.

Surrounded by the serene beauty of the lagoon and the distant sounds of the ocean, indulge in a culinary journey that will ignite your senses. It costs BD80 per couple, inclusive

of one bottle of bubbly, BD150 per couple for the cabana, a five-course menu and a bottle of bubbly, tomorrow, from 7pm to 11pm.

Don't miss out on the hotel's annual Farmers Market, showcasing the finest local flavours and handcrafted goods. It's taking place tomorrow, from 8.30pm to 2.30pm.

Bahraini breakfast is available at the event.

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

MINDFUL: A previous meditation session



LIVE IN THE MOMENT

LEARN to meditate effortlessly and breathe properly at a free meditation session tomorrow.

The event is being organised by Art of Living, from 5pm to 5.45pm, at the group's centre in Zinj. It's designed to reduce stress, raise energy and help people reach a positive and clear state of mind.

CELEBRATE ROMANCE IN AN ENCHANTING SETTING

ELEVATE Valentine's Day with unforgettable dining experiences at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay.

Celebrate the occasion with a beachfront dinner at Byblos, where the vibrant flavours of Lebanese cuisine come to life.

Savour a meticulously crafted five-course menu featuring highlights such as smoked salmon, pesto hummus and shish tawook, tomorrow, from 6pm to midnight.

Pricing per couple ranges from BD120 to BD400, depending on the selected beverage package.

Re/Asian Cuisine and CUT by Wolfgang Puck are offering a curated selection of exceptional dishes from the a la carte menu, led by executive chef Brian Becher and his talented team.

As you dine, enjoy the breathtaking views of the Manama skyline through the restaurant's floor-to-ceiling windows, tomorrow, from 7pm. There is a minimum spend of BD50 per person.

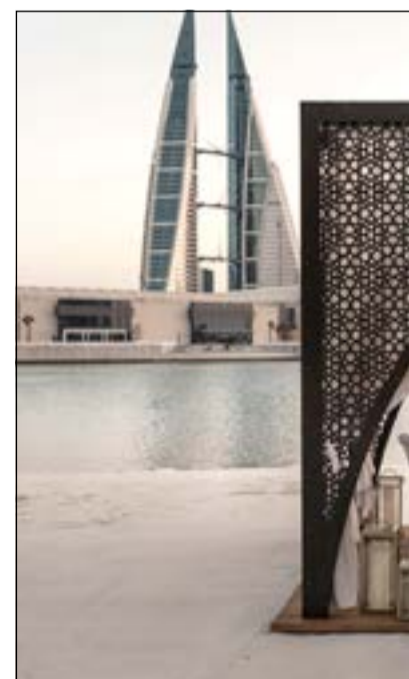
Celebrate love every Friday with an enchanting brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen. Enjoy oysters Rockefeller, smoked salmon, lobster thermidor with delicious sides and vibrant stations

offering ceviche, barbecue and more, from 1pm to 4pm. It costs BD35 including soft beverages and BD48 inclusive of a selected beverage package.

Bay View Lounge introduces its whole new cake menu, offering guests the opportunity to bring home a selection of their favourite indulgences. Cake orders require 24-hours' notice, and prices start from BD18.

The month of love is the perfect time to immerse yourselves in a bespoke beachside celebration at the hotel's private beach, Cabana.

Let the gentle sound of the waves and the glistening



Manama skyline set the stage for an evening of pure romance. Explore the experience until June 30 with prices ranging from BD175 to BD400.

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment



TREAT: Weekend roast

RULE THE ROAST!

H EAD down to the Royal Golf Club for a delightful weekend.

The club is hosting its iconic Weekend Roast, featuring a selection of beef, lamb, chicken, and all the trimmings at Slice and Repartee, every Friday and Saturday, from noon to 5pm.

It costs BD9.500 per person, including a selected roast plate and one soda or chilled juice, and BD13.500, inclusive of a 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.

Visitors can also enjoy a luxurious tea experience at Links everyday from 11am to 7pm.



UNWIND: Royal Tea

Royal Tea for Two offers guests an array of delightful treats in a relaxed setting ... all the while overlooking the stunning views of the club.

Choose from two options - the gold package, including tea or coffee for BD15, or the platinum package, inclusive of tea, coffee or two glasses of bubbly for BD19.

For details, call 39007546.

ROMANTIC: Cabana



Elevate your romantic getaway with a 60-minute aromatherapy couples' massage by Azure pool. It's priced at BD280, from Sunday to Wednesday, and

BD295 from Thursday to Saturday and public holidays, 7pm to 9pm and 9.30pm to 11.30pm.

For more information, contact 17115500.

HILTON SERVES UP THE PERFECT RECIPES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

C ELEBRATE the month of love at Hilton Bahrain.

Whether you're single, taken or just in it for the fun, Origin Kitchen and Culture's Love is in the Air Brunch will be a day to remember.

It takes place tomorrow from 12.30pm to 4pm, and costs BD28net with unlimited soft beverages and BD39net with unlimited selected beverages.

Feel the romance in the air with a special Valentine's Day. Enjoy an intimate evening as a violinist serenades you with your favourite love songs at Origin Kitchen and Culture, tomorrow from 7pm to 11pm. It costs BD25 per person, inclusive of a welcome drink.

Elevate the occasion with Hilton Bahrain's exclusive staycation package, which promises an unforgettable experience. It features a one night stay, a four-course dinner, 3pm checkout, in-room breakfast and a 20 per cent discount on any treatments at Cocoon Spa, priced at BD100+++ per couple.

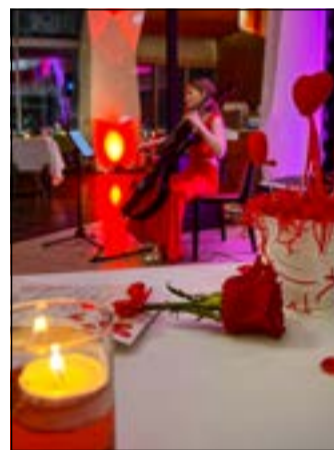
The spa is also offering several special promotions this month, such as a free goody bag with a couples' massage, and ladies can enjoy a 15 per cent discount on nail extensions.

Bookings depend on availability from Sunday to Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Origin Kitchen and Culture invites guests to its Pan Asian Night on Wednesday, from 7pm to 10pm. Relish



STUNNING: A Valentine's Day display at the hotel



SOOTHING: A violinist serenading guests

peking duck, delicious sushi and several live stations. It's priced at BD22 with unlimited soft beverages and BD28 with unlimited selected beverages.

Tonight is all about the freshest catch at Origin Kitchen and Culture as the hotel has lined up a Seafood Night, from 7pm to 10pm. It costs BD30net with unlimited soft beverages and BD32net inclusive of unlimited selected beverages.

Guests can also enjoy the restaurant's breakfast buffet, from Sunday to Friday, 6.30am to 10.30am, for BD13net per person. A Lazy Breakfast is also being held on Saturday, where guests can enjoy their favourites until 11.30am, for the same price.

Ladies can enjoy breakfast on Sundays and Mondays, from 6.30am to 10.30am, for BD5 each. The offer applies for a minimum of six people.

For more information or bookings, contact 33692013 or 33690081.



MOVIE TIME

H EAD down to CINECO Seef to watch an array of English-language films being shown this weekend.

LOVE HURTS (18+)

A realtor is pulled back into the life he left behind after his former partner-in-crime resurfaces with an ominous message. With his crime-lord brother also on his trail, he must confront his past and the history he never fully buried.

Actors: Ke Huy Quan, Ariana DeBose, Daniel Wu

Timings: 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

PRESENCE (18+)

A family moves into a suburban house and becomes convinced they're not alone.

Actors: Lucy Liu, Chris Sullivan, Julia Fox

Timings: 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm

OLD GUY (18+)

An ageing hit man must train a young prodigy when his employer moves to replace the old guard. However, when they learn they're being betrayed, the unlikely pair turns into a lethal team.

Actors: Christoph Waltz, Lucy Liu, Cooper Hoffman

Timings: 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm

THE BAYOU (15+)

Vacation turns disaster when Houston grad, Kyle and her friends escape a plane crash in the desolate Louisiana everglades, only to discover there is something way more dangerous lurking in the shallows.

Actors: Elisha Applebaum, Madalena Aragao, Isabelle Bonfrer

Timings: 3.30pm, 7.45pm, 12am

CULTURAL SHOWCASE BY PRODUCTIVE FAMILIES

C ITIZENS and residents can enjoy cultural activities and traditional food at an event this weekend aimed at supporting Bahraini productive families.

The celebration is being organised by Capital

Governorate officials and MP Mohamed Janahi as part of the National Action Charter's 24th anniversary. It will be held tomorrow and Saturday, from 9am to 9pm, at Exhibition Road, Hooraa.

Bahraini productive families will showcase

baskets, clothes and pottery as well as food.

The event will also feature traditional music and a range of activities for children including a carnival and games. Creatives will also have the opportunity to showcase colourful artworks.

DINING DELIGHTS AT DILMUN CLUB

T HE Dilmun Club in Saar has a week of dining delights in store.

Indulge in any curry and a selected beverage on Monday for BD5.500.

On Tuesdays, guests can enjoy a pie and a selected beverage for BD5.000.

The club also hosts its steak night every Wednesday, which costs BD20 for two

steaks and a bottle of a grape beverage.

The club's famous brunch will also be held tomorrow, 1pm to 5pm, along with live music. It costs BD18 (all inclusive), BD12 for food only and BD6 for children.

Don't miss out on the club's Saturday Roast. Guests can enjoy a full carvery buffet, from noon to 4pm for BD5.500.

For bookings, call 17690926.

Pulse of Pop

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

RUSTY STILL RARING TO GO

SOULFUL soft rock debut album *Grand Man* by 'hidden talent' Rusty Williams drops tomorrow.

Recorded from 1972 to 1983, the 13-track creation will finally see the light of day.

The 78-year-old's long-time music production partner, Frank Morris, unearthed the work, which got Rusty's granddaughter Hayley Williams, of the band Paramore, encouraging him to share it with the world.

His first-ever single titled *Knocking (At Your Door)* off the album released on January 14.

"Grandad has a way of cutting to the core of a feeling, and not overcomplicating it. Which we tend to do, because the world is hard. It's nice when you can hear something plain and simple and know that it is true," Hayley said in a statement, describing his lyrical approach.

The album is set to release under Congrats Records, Hayley's bandmate Zac Farro's label.

"I thought that it was a crime that these songs were sitting there on the shelf," Zac said, sharing her enthusiasm.

As for Rusty, he is not shooting for milestones, awards or a huge number of sales with this project, rather



TALENT:
Rusty

only hoping that listeners will connect to it.

"I don't expect anything, and I'm too old to be famous," Rusty said in an interview.

"But I just want to know someone liked what I did, and to be touched by whatever they are listening to. I want people to see how it felt when things were real," he added.

"You write stuff, and you want somebody to get something out of it, I just had to wait for a granddaughter

and a band with her to really do anything with mine."

The artist's only public musical contribution prior to the upcoming release was for *Crystal Clear* from Hayley's debut solo album *Petals for Armour* (2020), where he sings and plays the unreleased song *Friends or Lovers* on the piano.

Rusty has privately dedicated his life to creating music. He wrote songs as a child, joined a band and penned down jingles for local businesses.



SMITTEN: Renée attends the world premiere of the film *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* at Leicester Square in London last month

IN SEARCH OF LOVE

ROMANTIC comedy *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* is out now in theatres.

Starring Renée Zellweger as Bridget Jones, the film series explores the life events of the character.

Introduced in *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001), it follows a woman in her thirties, trying to keep her love life in order while dealing with her job as a publisher.

The fourth instalment's trailer, which released in November, revealed her husband Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) has passed away. The new film is set to tackle the 51 year-old single mother as she tries to navigate social media and dating apps in search of new love. She is eventually pursued by a younger man, played by actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, who happens to be her child's science teacher.

In an interview, Renée shared her feelings on the death of the fictional character, and how she missed working with Colin, who will only briefly appear in the film.

"I love this person that Colin plays when we get together again. And I was

heartbroken," Renée said.

"It was such a peculiar thing to be heartbroken that a fictional character is gone from your life, but I've gotten to know him since 2000. And of course, Colin, he's an integral part of that experience, and to not share it with him... I won't lie. I shed some tears," she added.

The film franchise is an adaptation of the *Bridget Jones* book series by author and journalist Helen Fielding, comprising four novels. However, not many know that *Bridget Jones's Diary* started as a newspaper column, which was requested by a publication and initially turned down by Helen.

"I said 'no' because it would be, ironically enough, hopelessly embarrassing and exposing," the British novelist said.

"But I really needed the money and said I would make a character up. The result was that I wrote a comic, exaggerated version of myself, which was read by tens of millions of people, and everyone ended up thinking it was me anyway," she added.



HOLIDAY: The new season's cast

THE third season of comedy drama series *The White Lotus* will be available on OSN+ and Apple TV+ starting February 17, with a weekly release scheduled until April 7.

Created, written and directed by Mike White, the show follows the guests and employees at the fictional White Lotus resort chain ... this time in Thailand. Each season is set in different properties of the resort - the first in Hawaii and the second in Sicily.

The latest release features seemingly picture-perfect travellers and

TOURIST TRAP

cheerful employees whose complexities eventually begin to emerge.

Creator Mike teased that fans are set for a much darker season that is 'grander' and 'more epic', with themes like death and spirituality.

"They're all in some kind of hurt. Like, they're all dead, but they don't know it," Mike said in an interview.

"Because it's dealing with these existential tropes of facing into the nothingness of self and Buddhist themes

that have life and death and ethical aspects, the season just got more heavy," he added.

Since its first season premiered in 2021, the series has received critical acclaim. It was included in the American Film Institute's 2021 and 2022 lists for the 10 best programmes, and won nine Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards in 2022 and 2024, as well as two Golden Globe awards in 2023, among many other accolades.



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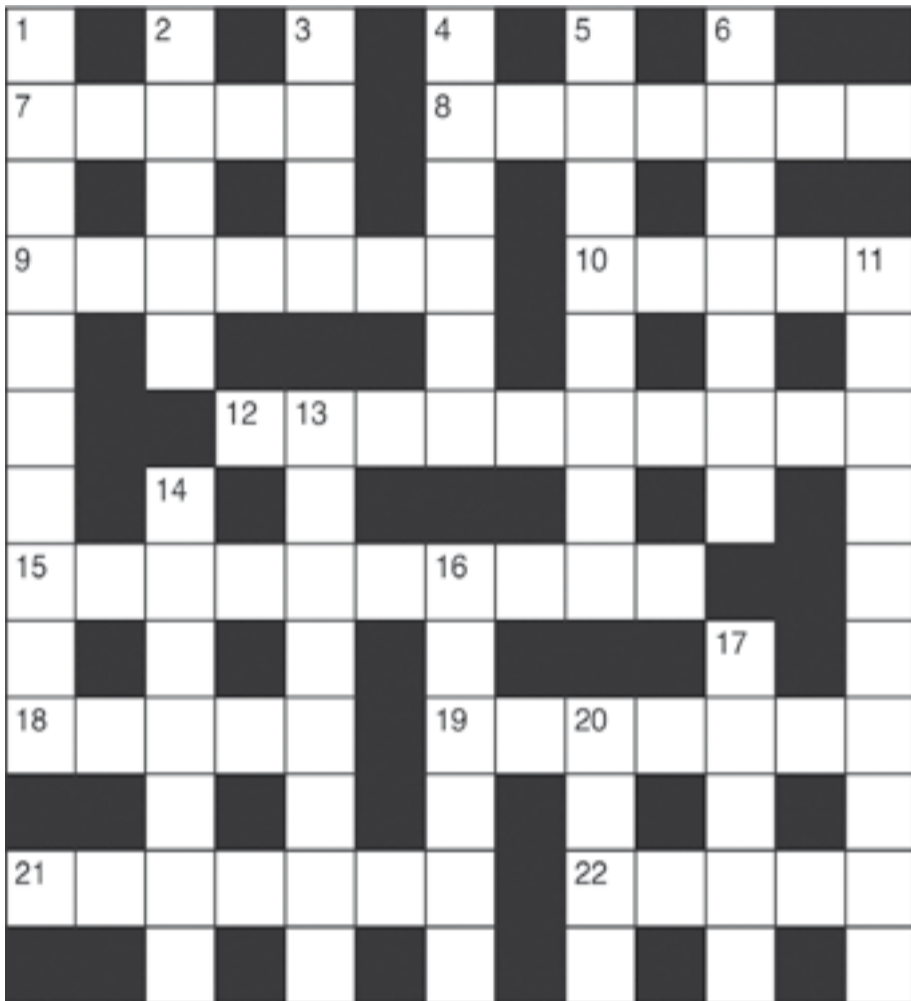


Time Out



Hilal Computers
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 Tel: 1729 3749 ext 2220

crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

- 7. Once more (5)
- 8. Worship (7)
- 9. Ignore (7)
- 10. Spiky plants (5)
- 12. Argued (10)
- 15. Failed to notice (10)
- 18. Relation by marriage (2-3)
- 19. Platform (7)
- 21. OBEs, knighthoods, etc. (7)
- 22. Punctuation mark (5)

DOWN

- 1. Pasta dish (10)
- 2. Canal boat (5)
- 3. Leg joint (4)
- 4. Beer (6)
- 5. Building material (8)
- 6. Musical instrument (7)
- 11. Formal accusation (10)
- 13. Illegal (8)
- 14. Lie back (7)
- 16. Female monster (6)
- 17. Russian mountains (5)
- 20. Ill (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO...wrote the novel *North and South*?
 WHAT...are the forenames of Mr. Burns in the cartoon series *The Simpsons*?
 WHERE...was the composer Luigi Boccherini born?
 WHEN... was the satirical magazine *Private Eye* first published?
 WHO...wrote the opera *Così fan tutte*?
 WHAT...does GCHQ stand for?
 WHERE...was the actor Sir Antony Sher born?
 WHEN...did boxer Chris Eubank last contest a title fight?

just so

6th
6th
6th
6th
6th

CROWN

A
REST

LABOUR

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

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

darn tough sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

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

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Beautiful; 8 Rug; 9 Commiserate; 11 Fanatic; 12 Scour; 13 Infamy; 15 Ensign; 17 Occur; 18 Pastime; 20 Uncertainty; 22 Tar; 23 Emergency.

Down: 2 Ego; 3 Twist;

4 Fierce; 5 Liaison; 6 Premonition; 7 Ignorance; 10 Manufacture; 11 Frivolity; 14 Miracle; 16 Sparse; 19 Slang; 21 Tic.

JUST SO: Hole in the wall, In hot water, Man of the world, Out for the count.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN: John Godber; Ceylon; Poland; 1993; Raymond Briggs; Fish; Edinburgh; 1997.

Darn Tough Sudoku

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

Your work pad space ...