**Best of 2019**

Eight of the most memorable book-to-film releases. *P4-5*

**Showbiz**

Hollywood surviving on superhero movies, says filmmaker Gupta.  
*Page 15*

**Backpage**

Classical Arabic music attracts visitors at Souq Waqif Spring Festival.  
*Page 16*
**USEFUL NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide Emergency Number</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahramaa – Electricity and Water</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Directory</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Calls Enquires</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad International Airport</td>
<td>40106666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Department</td>
<td>44508111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowasalat Taxi</td>
<td>44588888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>44490000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>44392222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation</td>
<td>44845555, 44845464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care Corporation</td>
<td>44933333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Assistive Technology</td>
<td>4493363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>44590450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar News Agency</td>
<td>44490205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Post – General Postal Corporation</td>
<td>44490333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>40253372, 40253372, 40253369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>40253370, 40253364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamad Medical Corporation</td>
<td>40253364, 40253365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Airways</td>
<td>40253374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 4.55am
- Shooorq (sunrise): 6.19am
- Zuhr (noon): 11.35am
- Asr (afternoon): 2.33pm
- Maghreb (sunset): 4.53pm
- Isha (night): 6.23pm

**QUOTATION**

“Correction does much, but encouragement does more.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**COMMUNITY**

**ROUND & ABOUT**

**The Legend of the Christmas Witch**

**DIRECTION:** Michele Soavi  
**CAST:** Paola Cortellesi, Stefano Fresi, Fausto Maria Sciarappa  
**SYNOPSIS:** During the day Paola is an ordinary primary school teacher, but at night, she turns into…The Christmas Witch, a magical creature who brings gifts to the good kids. One night, Paola disappears, kidnapped by Mr. Johnny, a cruel Toymaker who got his childhood ruined by the Witch and is now seeking revenge. A group of six brave pupils who found out their teacher’s secret, will live an extraordinary adventure to rescue her. Will they be able to save Paola and Christmas?  
**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

**I See You**

**DIRECTION:** Adam Randall  
**CAST:** Helen Hunt, Jon Tenney, Judah Lewis  
**SYNOPSIS:** Strange occurrences plague a small town detective and his family as he investigates the disappearance of a young boy. When a 12-year-old boy goes missing, lead investigator Greg Harper (Jon Tenney) struggles to balance the pressure of the investigation and troubles with his wife, Jackie (Helen Hunt).  
**THEATRE:** Royal Plaza

**For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com**
The Colour Run 2020
WHERE: QNCC
WHEN: January 25
TIME: 7am – 10pm
Your Health First is a five-kilometre, untimed event. At each kilometre mark, Colour Runners are doused from head to toe in a different coloured powder. Participants wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in colour. Once the 5k is over, the fun continues at the Finish Festival, a larger-than-life party equipped with music, dancing, photo ops, activity booths, vendors, and more massive colour throws, which create millions of vivid colour combinations.

Water sports, Winter Dragon Boat Festival is back to show us their fast rowing skills. Dragon boating is a canoe-sport and was originally a traditional festival game dating back 2,000 years throughout Southern China. It has now become a popular sport with competitions held around the world.

Gems and Jewels Exhibition
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art
WHEN: Ongoing till January 18
TIME: 9am onwards
The exhibition comes in celebration of the Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture and presents a look at magnificent gems and jewellery from India. Set in Stone: Gems and jewels from Royal Indian Courts showcases more than 100 pieces from across Qatar Museums’ (QM) collections, including many masterpieces that have never been displayed before.

Al Wakalat Car Market 2019
WHERE: Parking opposite to Khalifa International Stadium
WHEN: Ongoing till December 28
TIME: 4pm – 11:30pm
Al Wakalat Car Market aims to congregate car enthusiasts, prospective buyers, and automotive retailers with the best deals of the year in a single location. Al Wakalat Car Market will enable visitors to have access to cars at their best offers of the year, which ensure to clear out stocks of approved cars.

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music and arts activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

Winter School for Grade IX-XII Students
WHERE: Inspire Training Academy, Najma St.
WHEN: Ongoing till December 29
TIME: 8:30am – 1:30pm
Developing the leader within every teen today — for a better world tomorrow. Each student deserves to discover their potential and acquire the skills, confidence and motivation to make things happen and bring about change. The five-day leadership and innovation programme is an exciting series of interactive workshops, energetic activities and fun-filled challenges specifically designed to inspire and enable each and every student to uncover their unique abilities, develop greater confidence and master strategies for success in the classroom and beyond. Programme leader, Dr Ram B. Ramchandran is Vice Dean and Professor of Strategy and Planning at the O.P. Jindal Global School, India. The event is organised by Right Track Consultants. For registration details, contact 55448835.

Public Speaking Classes for Adults
WHERE: Sharq Capital, C Ring Road
WHEN: January 15 – July 1
TIME: 6:30pm – 9pm
Get trained by experts to be a good speaker. Smedley Toastmasters is conducting a six-month speech-craft programme that teaches new members to speak confidently and develop leadership skills. For more information, 66053485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atellanqatar.com or call on 33003839.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults. Mamangam has become the favourite centre for learning. We offer regular classes in the following disciplines like traditional classical and folk dance forms, art and craft, drawing and painting, personality development and public speaking, Bollywood dance, contemporary, hip hop styles, music both vocals and insturmentals. To develop health consciousness, we train them karate, yoga with special sessions for kids and adults. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience, as they sharpen their minds and brains too.

For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

NYE – Countdown in the desert
WHERE: Al Bahar Camp, Inland Sea
WHEN: December 31
An exclusive getaway this New Year’s Eve to avoid the crowd. Join us in the Qatari Desert and camp under the starry sky by the beach at the most beautiful waterfront camp. Wake up to the most stunning sunrise over the dunes and make your New Year’s resolutions. For further information, call 3339 3323 or visit www.365adventures.me

Secret Santa Village
WHERE: Al Bahar Camp, Inland Sea
WHEN: Tomorrow
Join and spread the amazing night with your loved ones in the middle of the desert, as Santa awaits for everybody with lots of smiles, dance, music and gifts. For further information, call 3339 3323 or visit www.365adventures.me

Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change.
Book-to-film: Combo to contend with

Chris Barton gives the lowdown on a combination of holiday reading list and viewing guide for the Oscar season.

With Oscar season in full swing, a new batch of classic and memorable books makes the leap from page to screen. Although there are no rules for adaptation, the process at its best recalls the way a musician covers a song.

The core of what made the original story special remains, but the results should unearth something new through the interpreter’s voice. Here are eight noteworthy, literary-inspired films either on their way or recent arrivals. Think of it as a combination of holiday reading list and viewing guide.

Just Mercy
The book: Written by Bryan Stevenson, this memoir looks at the civil rights attorney’s work in opposition to inequities in the American criminal justice system. Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, a New York University law professor and a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” grant recipient who has mounted legal challenges to free wrongly convicted prisoners. He published Just Mercy: A Story of Redemption and Justice in 2014. “I just want people to see what I’ve seen for 35 years,” Stevenson says.

The movie: Much like the book, the bulk of the adaptation directed by Destin Daniel Cretton (Short Term 12) centres on Alabama inmate Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), an African American pulpwood worker sent to Alabama’s death row in 1988 for the murder of a white woman. It’s one of Stevenson’s highest-profile cases. With Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) advocating against a litany of abuses by law enforcement, the story is part of a cultural legacy that reaches from slavery to the present day. Stevenson’s book avoids tidy Hollywood conclusions, and in coming to the screen Just Mercy remains “a damning indictment and powerful call for action,” writes Los Angeles Times entertainment columnist Glenn Whipp.

The Irishman
The book: Originally released in 2016 under the title I Heard You Point Houses.

The movie: Italian-American mob bosses and gangland killings collide with the mythology of 20th century America. Who else but Martin Scorsese could direct this movie? There’s a sense the filmmaker is playing the hits here, with nods to Goodfellas and a cast that includes Al Pacino, Joe Pesci and Robert De Niro. But Scorsese is aiming for more contemplative territory with a script by Steve Zaillian. Now on Netflix with a 3½-hour running time, The Irishman offers plenty to contemplate, including the film’s use of digital technology to reverse-age its veteran cast. It’s already an Oscar favourite.

Richard Jewell
The book: Richard Jewell draws from The Suspect.

The movie: Director Clint Eastwood re-examines this unfortunate, mostly forgotten moment in US history. Eastwood’s retelling, however, could be seen as a less measured account than the book. Olivia Wilde portrays a reporter at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, whose editor has denounced the accuracy of the film and its depiction of the late reporter Kathy Scruggs. Alexander and Salwen served as consultants on Richard Jewell.

Cats
The book: Long before Macavity, Bombalurina and Old Deuteronomy became Twitter-famous in the trailer revealing this film’s surreal jump from Broadway to the big screen, these characters lived in the Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats.

The movie: While Elliot’s verses still provide the lyrics for this movie’s indelible songs, the story also adheres to the narrative from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s stage adaptation. The film version has been interpreted by director Tom Hooper (Les Misérables) and a galaxy of anthropomorphised feline stars such as Taylor Swift.

Little Women

The movie: In much the same way Cats can be seen as a dual adaptation of a book and its famous stage counterpart, so too will the Greta Gerwig-directed Little Women be compared with its previous onscreen iterations. Indie filmmaker Gerwig follows its previous onscreen iterations. Gerwig’s adaptation of a book and its famous stage counterpart, so too will the Greta Gerwig-directed Little Women be compared with its previous onscreen iterations. Indie filmmaker Gerwig follows its previous onscreen iterations.

The movie: Released during spring, the film version from German director Christian Petzold could return to theatres if academy voters recognise it in the Oscars’ foreign language category. Petzold’s adaptation shifts the novel’s setting to an indeterminate yet contemporary time frame with haunting results.
The film centres on the wayward Georg (Franz Rogowski) as he awaits government approval for passage from France to the Americas. It touches on the harrowing civilian costs of wartime conflict as it carries echoes of the current refugee crisis. Times film critic Justin Chang wrote that Georg makes “a strangely ideal guide for this grim netherworld — a repository of the lost and forgotten souls of Europe from the last century, the present one and possibly the next.”

Doctor Sleep
The book: Published in 2013, this Stephen King novel provided a sequel to one of his best-known novels, The Shining, which followed the psychically gifted child Danny Torrance as his family endured an ill-fated winter as caretakers of the Overlook Hotel. King famously disavowed the 1980 adaptation of The Shining by Stanley Kubrick, who broke from King’s work on multiple key fronts. Centring on a traumatised Danny as an adult, Doctor Sleep aims to split the difference between King’s vision and that of Kubrick, whose signature, surrealist touches on The Shining have left an indelible mark on pop culture. While King has already given his blessing to Flanagan’s effort, critics have been more mixed. Chang noted that the film “taps into the minutiae of Kubrick’s vision without fully teasing out its mystery.”

Motherless Brooklyn
The book: This 1999 noir novel by Jonathan Lethem centres on unusual young detective Lionel Essrog, who has Tourette’s. The book gleefully twisted the genre’s penchant for intricate mysteries with detours into Zen Buddhism, corporate misbehaviour and elderly mobsters.

The movie: Maybe the most laboured-over adaptation of those listed here, writer-director Edward Norton’s imagining of Lethem’s contemporary twist on classic noir was two decades in the making. Norton portrays detective Essrog, and instead of being set in the ’90s, the film relocates the novel to a more conventionally noir 1957. That sets aside the original story’s self-aware tone and injects a new central conspiracy that addresses New York City’s history of gentrification with a villain (Alec Baldwin) inspired by city planner Robert Moses. As with most adaptations, impressions of the film are inevitably colored by the strength of the viewer’s bonds to the book, which has already been developed and cast inside the imagination. —LAT/TNS
GWC Logistics wins MSC Cricket Challenge Trophy 2019

Mediterranean Shipping Company (Qatar) W.L.L recently organised the second edition of MSC Cricket Challenge Trophy 2019. GWC Logistics won the championship title by winning the final match by 7 wickets. Geethan Anurudha Joseph of GWC who scored 13 runs and took two wickets was adjudged as the Man of the Match.

Twelve teams participated in the tournament which was played in two groups. Twenty-six matches in two days, including 18 league stage matches and 8 knockout matches were played. Imran Khadar of MSC bagged the Player of the Tournament title. Nadeemul Afsal of GAC, the best bowler; Nibin Nair of GWC Shipping, the best batsman of the tournament; Sameesh Syamalan of Q terminals, the best wicket keeper; and Milan Chitzeath of Hapag Lloyd, the outstanding catch of the tournament. Bassem Aly Elgireity, Supply Chain Manager at Muntajat, along with Mrunaljyaj Dhawal, Chief Operating Officer at QTerminals; and Shammi Mohan, Marketing Manager at Mwani Qatar, felicitated the teams. Biju John, General Manager of MSC Qatar, also attended the felicitation ceremony.

WISA workers elect their representatives at the Workers Joint Committee

The Qatar Manpower solutions company (WISA) recently elected its workers representatives for the joint committee of the company under the supervision of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs and in the presence of a representative of the ILO. WISA is one of the leading companies to implement this decision believing in the important role played by the workers in the company and keen to provide all the requirements of comfort and commitment towards the welfare of workers’ rights. The company also organised a seminar to explain the mechanisms, which was followed by the reception of the applications of candidates, who numbered up to five applications for two seats, within the time limit.

ICAI Doha organises stand-up comedy act and a musical event

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently organised a stand-up comedy act and a musical event for its members and their families as part of Qatar National Day celebrations at Hotel Holiday Inn, Ruakaya Pachisia, Chairperson of ICAI Doha Chapter, welcomed the gathering and shared information about the five-day Blockchain Certificate course. Harsh Gujral, renowned stand-up comedian from India, opened the night, which was followed by a performance by a local troupe led by Imtiaz Hussain. The troupe included young talents from different schools across Doha. Ahir Bhowmick, renowned local emerging singer, performed Arabic and English songs at the event. Sandeep Chowdhary, Vice Chairman of ICAI Doha, proposed a vote of thanks.

ICAI Doha organises stand-up comedy act and a musical event

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently organised a stand-up comedy act and a musical event for its members and their families as part of Qatar National Day celebrations at Hotel Holiday Inn, Ruakaya Pachisia, Chairperson of ICAI Doha Chapter, welcomed the gathering and shared information about the five-day Blockchain Certificate course. Harsh Gujral, renowned stand-up comedian from India, opened the night, which was followed by a performance by a local troupe led by Imtiaz Hussain. The troupe included young talents from different schools across Doha. Ahir Bhowmick, renowned local emerging singer, performed Arabic and English songs at the event. Sandeep Chowdhary, Vice Chairman of ICAI Doha, proposed a vote of thanks.

WISA workers elect their representatives at the Workers Joint Committee

The Qatar Manpower solutions company (WISA) recently elected its workers representatives for the joint committee of the company under the supervision of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs and in the presence of a representative of the ILO. WISA is one of the leading companies to implement this decision believing in the important role played by the workers in the company and keen to provide all the requirements of comfort and commitment towards the welfare of workers’ rights. The company also organised a seminar to explain the mechanisms, which was followed by the reception of the applications of candidates, who numbered up to five applications for two seats, within the time limit.

ICAI Doha organises stand-up comedy act and a musical event

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently organised a stand-up comedy act and a musical event for its members and their families as part of Qatar National Day celebrations at Hotel Holiday Inn, Ruakaya Pachisia, Chairperson of ICAI Doha Chapter, welcomed the gathering and shared information about the five-day Blockchain Certificate course. Harsh Gujral, renowned stand-up comedian from India, opened the night, which was followed by a performance by a local troupe led by Imtiaz Hussain. The troupe included young talents from different schools across Doha. Ahir Bhowmick, renowned local emerging singer, performed Arabic and English songs at the event. Sandeep Chowdhary, Vice Chairman of ICAI Doha, proposed a vote of thanks.

WISA workers elect their representatives at the Workers Joint Committee

The Qatar Manpower solutions company (WISA) recently elected its workers representatives for the joint committee of the company under the supervision of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs and in the presence of a representative of the ILO. WISA is one of the leading companies to implement this decision believing in the important role played by the workers in the company and keen to provide all the requirements of comfort and commitment towards the welfare of workers’ rights. The company also organised a seminar to explain the mechanisms, which was followed by the reception of the applications of candidates, who numbered up to five applications for two seats, within the time limit.

STAR WINNER: Sahil Sudhakar Shetty, son of long time Doha residents Sudhakar Shetty and Prarthana Shetty and alumni of Bhavans Public School, recently bagged the title of Star Mr Teen India at Palm Green Hotel and Resorts New Delhi. He competed with 105 contestants to clinch the title.
Olive Kitteridge is back in Elizabeth Strout’s novel

Olive, Again is a collection of linked short stories, like Strout’s also terrific 2017 book Anything Is Possible, writes Colette Bancroft

A cranky old woman living in a small town in Maine might not sound like the right subject for a fiction writer. But the indomitable Olive Kitteridge burst into life in Elizabeth Strout’s Pulitzer Prize–winning 2008 book named for her, and in an HBO miniseries based on it that won eight Emmy awards.

And now she’s back, thank Godfrey, as she might say, in Olive, Again. The book is a collection of linked short stories, like Olive Kitteridge and Strout’s also terrific 2017 book Anything Is Possible. It’s a form that allows the author to bend time and to explore the lives of what might seem to be minor characters, with all of the 13 stories linking in some way to Olive.

Olive, Again begins just a few weeks after Olive Kitteridge ended. (Do you need to read the other book first? It will enrich this one, but it’s not necessary; Strout fills in Olive’s story so the second book can stand alone. But why wouldn’t you read the first one?)

The first story in Olive, Again is Arrested, which focuses not on Olive but on Jack Kennison, who has retired to her hometown of Crosby. Formerly a professor at Harvard, now he’s “just an old man with a sloppy belly and not anyone worth noticing. Almost, this was freeing,” he thinks. It’s a sentiment Olive will echo much later in the book. Jack is struggling with a lot – the death of his wife after a long marriage. The pair have estrangement from his daughter; his life is Olive, who is also widowed and searing loneliness crash up linking in some way to Olive.

Oddly enough, one bright spot in his life is Olive, who is also widowed after a long marriage. The pair have struck up a tentative relationship: “Tall, big; God, she was a strange woman,” he thinks. But now she’s not answering his emails and her voice mail is turned off, and he’s preoccupied with that when he has an unsettling encounter with a couple of local cops.

Olive, meanwhile, has just delivered a baby. In Labour, she improbably attends a baby shower, a ritual she’s unfamiliar with and observes with anthropological remove: “She could not imagine how long it would take this child to unwrap every gift on that table and put the ribbons so carefully on the paper plate, and then everyone had to wait – wait – while every gift was passed around. She thought she had never heard of such foolishness in her life.”

But when one of the guests goes into hard labour and gives birth in Olive’s car, it leaves the retired math teacher thinking about her own son, Christopher, a middle-aged podiatrist living in New York, and about the toddler grandson she hasn’t met yet.

By the end of Labour, Olive and Jack are together again. She spends a chaste night in his guestroom, and when he appears at the door in the morning she tells him to go away. “Please, she thought. But she did not know what she meant by that. Please, she thought again. Please.”

When Christopher and his family finally come for a chaotic visit in Motherless Child, Olive and Jack are getting married. Chris is angry about her new relationship and grieving for a lost child of his own, leading Olive to a stunning revelation (the first of several) about her own faults.

Several of the stories foreground other characters, with Olive in a supporting role. Cleaning is the stark tale of eighth-grader Kayley Callaghan, mourning the death of her father with no emotional support from her family. Helped by a twisting story about Suzanne Larkin, who moved away from Crosby after her brother committed a gruesome murder. Her father has died in a fire, and most of the story takes place in the office of his attorney, but it’s electric with anger.

One of the gifts of Strout’s fiction is how it opens the inner lives of her characters. In all the stories in Olive, Again, bitter regret and searing loneliness crash up against unexpected mercies and stubborn hope, with surprising but utterly believable results. Strout writes with rare humour and fearlessness about ageing.

In Heart, the penultimate story, Olive dies. When she wakes in the ICU and is told she had a heart attack but was resuscitated, she says, “Well, I don’t know if that was such a good idea.” But she rallies; there are still people to judge and, amazingly, friends to make.

If you’re feeling woozy from corny holiday movies, Olive, Again is just the astringent antidote. As Olive knows, no one really gets happily ever after, but she discovers that many of us end up with more happiness than we deserve.

~ Tampa Bay Times/TNS
The challenges of holiday travel with a sleep disorder

A recent study of 1,000 travelers found that 53% of people with a sleep disorder plan to travel this holiday season, yet 22% of those say they try to avoid overnight trips because of their sleep disorder, writes Scott Laird.

**CONCERNS:** Concerns about overnight trips range from traveling with assistive devices for sleep disorders, such as CPAP (Continuous Positive Airways Pressure) machines to oversleeping and being tired or keeping others awake.

**SLEEP AID:** Melatonin is the natural hormone that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, and melatonin supplements can be used as a sleep aid.

**PRO TIP:** US law requires air carriers to transport CPAP machines and other assistive devices outside of the normal carry-on limits for passengers. If you’re told you have too many carry-on bags and your CPAP is the excess, simply identify it as a CPAP, and it won’t count toward the limit.
Qatar’s first-ever balloon festival kicked off to a spectacular start at the Aspire Park earlier this month. The Hot Air Balloon Festival was a 12-day event that attracted many visitors to the park. During the festival, more than thirty balloons were tethered together at the park in front of huge crowds to watch the spectacle as entertainment activities unfolded in the country.

— Photos by Chito Almacen (@chitos_peak)
Bilingual kids are able to use this flexibility to convey stories in creative ways," Nicoladis added. The researchers examined a group of French–English bilingual children who have been taught two languages since birth, rather than learning a second language later in life. Results show that bilingual children used just as many words to tell a story in English as monolingual children. Participants also used just as many words in French as they did in English when telling a story.

According to the researchers, previous research has shown that bilingual children score lower than monolingual children on traditional vocabulary tests, meaning this results are changing our understanding of multiple languages and cognition in children. This research used a new, highly sensitive measure for examining cognitive flexibility, examining a participant’s ability to switch between games with different rules, while maintaining accuracy and reaction time.

This study builds on previous research examining vocabulary in bilingual children who have learned English as a second language. “Learning a word is related to how much time you spend in each language. For bilingual children, time is split between languages. So, unsurprisingly, they tend to have lower vocabularies in each of their languages,” Nicoladis said. “However, this research shows that as a function of storytelling, bilingual children are equally strong as monolingual children,” Nicoladis added. — IANS
Wordsearch

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.

Codeword

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9 with no repetition.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Train a swimming group (6)
4 Start pulling strings for situations (6)
8 Western farm operated by church (5)
9 Walter’s turned out to be a good-for-nothing (7)
10 Advertisement on northern gate (7)
11 Sound of distress when girl’s first put on horse (5)
12 Rouse runners in Yorkshire town (9)
17 One from Glasgow, perhaps, seen in racecourse (5)
19 Left Spain and Portugal for part of Africa (7)
21 They go to make several reforms (7)
22 Saint, not well yet (5)
23 Neglect daughter - poor Susie! (6)
24 Such discourtesy is trivial (6)

Down
1 Fights for leftovers (6)
2 Small tool spotted by worker (7)
3 Colour seen in loch recently (5)
5 Angela’s cooked an Italian dish (7)
6 Stuff carried in cold Greek ship (5)
7 Listen out for mum (6)
9 Autumn turns out to provide unexpected gains (9)
13 Christopher gets numbers of small pets (7)
14 Learner with bold exterior gets sweetheart (7)
15 Jack suffered behind bars (6)
16 Sort of hammer everyone’s come across outside (6)
18 City girl showing form (5)
20 A herb for Mr Fawlty (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword

Answers

Colouring

Super Cryptic Clues

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword
A drama that shines brightest when painful truths are exposed

By Kenneth Turan

Ryan Stevenson, an attorney whose exceptional work is dramatised in Just Mercy, does not take the easy way out in his professional life, and this film tribute to him and what he’s accomplished also chooses a challenging path.

As the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Stevenson has dedicated the past 30 years to, among other things, providing legal services to death row inmates and has saved more than 125 unjustly sentenced people from execution in the process.

As directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Just Mercy focuses on Stevenson’s legal beginnings, on the first seemingly impossible case he took on. But though it features Michael B. Jordan as the man himself, Just Mercy is not simply about bringing a hero to life. Those looking for a sense of who Stevenson is and the entirety of his career should check out the fine documentary True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality, which is an essential introduction to Stevenson’s life’s work.

Rather, the film is at its most convincing when doing something more difficult: allowing us, emotionally, to feel the extent of the crisis Stevenson has made his life’s work. As co-written by Cretton and Andrew Lanham based on Stevenson’s memoir, Just Mercy calmly presents a world where entrenched racism, suffocating intimidation and an all but closed legal system stack the deck, to a terrifying extent, against impoverished defendants of colour.

It is not for nothing that one of Stevenson’s most quoted remarks is that “the opposite of poverty is not wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice.” A most useful insight in making these points is the film’s impressive group of supporting players (Carmen Cuba was the casting director for the film, as she was for Queen & Slim).

Especially effective is the group of actors (Jamie Foxx, Tim Blake Nelson, Rob Morgan, Darrell Britt-Gibson, J. Alphonse Nicholson and O’Shea Jackson, among others) who portray individuals whose lives have been mangled beyond recognition by being trapped in the machine.

Introducing first is Walter John Young Jr. McMillian, a pulpwodder worker strongly played by Foxx (who already earned a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for his work), initially almost unrecognisable behind a thick mustache.

Almost as soon as we meet McMillian in 1987, we watch as he’s arrested in Alabama’s Monroe County by Sheriff Tom Tate (Michael Hardin) on charges of murdering an 18-year-old white woman in Montevideo, which happens to be the town where Harper Lee wrote To Kill A Mockingbird.

Though there is a brief prologue of Stevenson as a student, he’s introduced more fully as a recent Harvard Law graduate who gives his family pause when he turns down big jobs to go to Montgomery, Ala., and “fight for people who need the most” – death row inmates.

Though he has the assistance of local activist Eva Ansley (Brie Larson, who starred in Cretton’s previous Short Term 12 and The Glass Castle), Stevenson doesn’t initially understand what he’s up against with the local power structure.

A visit to Holman prison and its death row, where he endures a humiliating strip search, and a stonewalling conversation he has with the seemingly affable district attorney, Tommy Champan (a spot-on Rafe Spall), begins a process of education for both Stevenson and the audience.

Though Just Mercy spends time with several of the death row inmates Stevenson has represented, most of its focus is on McMillian, and the film truly comes alive when the two men meet. Foxx, throwing himself into the character, explosively expresses a total lack of confidence in, and near contempt for, this young attorney.

Introduced next is Walter John Young Jr. McMillian, as it turns out, is not the first person to underestimate Stevenson’s grit, devoted perseverance and passion for justice. Not one for grandstanding, he simply refuses to be discouraged or even consider backing down.

Stevenson eventually realises that all roads in the McMillian case lead to Ralph Myers, a white career criminal whose questionable testimony was valued more by the jury than the numerous African American alibi witnesses the defense produced.

Myers is played with compelling eccentricity by Tim Blake Nelson, who recently starred for the Coen brothers as the very different Buster Scruggs. Myers’ shiftly, twitchy, damaged personality holds us completely, and his interactions with Stevenson provide some of the film’s high points.

Another strength of Just Mercy is its refusal to tip toe around what it took to make McMillian the first man ever freed from Alabama’s death row – a long, tortuous and difficult process despite compelling evidence of his innocence.

The film portrays the ferocious resistance of some people to the possibility that this man had nothing to do with the crime. And that’s when Just Mercy is at its best. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

A film adaptation that leaves a scent the audience won’t forget soon

By Rafer Guzman

Cats, Tom Hooper’s film version of the celebrated stage musical, creeps into theatres on little human feet this weekend. Featuring live dancers covered in digital fur from ankle to neck, Cats lies at the very bottom of the uncanny valley – a term borrowed from robotics that denotes the revulsion we feel when a creature is recognisably but not fully human. It’s as good a description as any of this extravagant but unsettling musical.

The film portrays the ferocious resistance of some people to the possibility that this man had nothing to do with the crime. And that’s when Just Mercy is at its best. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

The male dancers have been digitally spayed – nothing left but a flat space – which also brings up weird questions. W orse, every now and then an actor gracelessly sticks a leg into the air. (Please, I thought, don’t do what cats usually do next.) Children’s minds might not go there. Y ours most certainly, and unwillingly, will.

Is it just me, or is there something disconcertingly sexual about this movie? The dancers’ sensuous movements, curving tails and furry cat butts all gave me unwelcome ideas.

The male dancers have been digitally spayed – nothing left but a flat space – which also brings up weird questions. W orse, every now and then an actor gracelessly sticks a
Hollywood surviving on superhero movies, says filmmaker Gupta

By Ahana Bhattacharya

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta is all set to adapt the graphic novel Rakshak into a feature film. On Tuesday, the filmmaker announced on Twitter that he has acquired the rights for Rakshak, which is a thrilling graphic novel about a vigilante superhero.

The filmmaker also announced that this is India’s first graphic novel to be made into a “massive and ambitious feature film” under his direction.

“I was always looking out for some material in this genre because it is a highly unutilised genre in our movies. Today in Hollywood, they are only surviving on all the superhero films, which are the big ones. So, I was always on the lookout and then when I read the story of Rakshak, I felt it is very timely with everything that is going on in our country be it lynching or rape. It is set right in the heart of India, in Delhi and NCR,” Gupta said, when asked why he chose Rakshak.

However, it is not actually the superhero but the villain who excited the filmmaker! “The character of Rakshak is very well written but what really attracted me to it is the character of the villain. In any of the superhero films, you will find the villain makes the superhero even more interesting. For example, Joker in the Batman movies or Thanos in the Avengers series. Similarly, in Rakshak, the villain’s character is absolutely fantastic. It is something I have not really come across. I read pretty much everything that comes out of the West. I have not read anything so exciting from there in a long time. That really attracted me to make this into a film,” he shared.

Which Hollywood star does the filmmaker have in mind for the role? He replied: “It is going to be a feature live-action film and we will be working with major stars. It’s a very ambitious film and the budgets are high. We will need A-level names. However, it’s too early to say which star we will be working with because we have just acquired the rights. Once the screenplay starts taking some shape, then we will think about who to cast.”

Gupta added: “A lot of factors will go into deciding the lead, like the longevity of the actor, because he has to be a part of the franchise every two to three years.”

The filmmaker also revealed that he is planning to start shooting towards the end of next year.

Singer Justin Bieber had told fans in March that he was taking a break from music to focus on “repairing some deep rooted issues”. Now, he has revealed that he is returning with new music, tour and docuseries.

NEW PROJECT: Sanjay Gupta is all set to adapt the graphic novel Rakshak into a superhero film.

EXCITED: I’m right where I’m supposed to be,” says Justin Bieber.

Singer-actress Miley Cyrus and actor Liam Hemsworth have reportedly worked out the details regarding their divorce.

“My past, my mistakes, all the things I’ve been through, I believe I’m right where I’m supposed to be and God has me right where he wants me.”

He continued: “I feel like this is different than the previous albums just because of where I’m at in my life. I’m excited to perform it and to tour it. We all have different stories, I’m just excited to share mine.”

The Baby hit-maker ended the clip by saying: “It’s the music that I’ve loved the most out of everything I’ve done.”

The trailer also saw him reveal his 46-city tour dates. The tour will begin in Seattle, Washington, on May 14 and conclude in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on September 26. He will also play in Canada from the beginning to mid-September. His last album, Purpose, was released in 2016. His last solo single, Company, from Purpose was released in January.
Souq Waqif is a place that epitomises both local Qatari culture and Arab traditions. Together they continue to attract visitors in large numbers as the authorities keep adding new attractions and facilities for the public.

It is that time of the year when residents and tourists can freely enjoy classical Arab music presented by noted singers at the spacious areas of the Souq during the pleasant evenings. As part of the ongoing Spring Festival, the classical music is arranged by Al Rayyan Radio for the public with no charges.

The musical performances are arranged every evening with a group of musicians led by a lead singer from different Arab countries present various romantic, traditional and folk songs to entertain the audience that comprise different countries and backgrounds.

A visit to the area where the tents have been set up for the singers show that all and sundry visit the place and listen to the classical singers coupled with melodious sounds of oud and other instruments.

The third edition of the Spring Festival opened at Souq Waqif in Doha and Souq Al Wakrah last Saturday. The event is organised by the Organising Committee of the Private Engineering Office in order to draw local and international tourists and give them an opportunity to enjoy various art forms.

According to the organisers, around 60 games and rides are also open at the two Souqs. Circus shows are also being staged. A circus show from Russia is also a major attraction for the visitors as they get a chance to see wild animals.

Souq Waqif Arts Centre is also hosting various art related programmes including workshops. Popular teams from across the world including various Arab countries will give folk art presentations. The Souqs will also host poetry gatherings.

Abdulla Ali al-Jaber is unit head of Social Media at Al Rayyan Radio. While talking to Community, Abdulla explained how he along with his team has been organising the classical music performances for many years.

He said: “The radio is based in Souq Waqif and we do all our activities in the Souq. We are also a part of the Spring Festival. The radio organises the musical events. We usually hold two kinds of music events. One includes less known singer and the other features internationally popular classical singers from other Arab countries.”

The organisers further said: “For this year’s Spring Festival, our performance started with a group of Yemeni singers who sang Yemeni folkloric songs using their traditional drums. The Yemeni group is going to stay for the background music till the end of the programmes. Two singers from neighbouring Kuwait and a Qatari singer have already performed and one more Qatari singer will perform here.”

Abdulla added: “For the major singers, we have chalked out six performances inviting well-known singers from different Arab countries. The famous singers coming for the performances include Khalid al-Mulla from Kuwait, Mansour al-Mohandi from Qatar, famous for pearl diving songs, Abdul Aziz from Kuwait, and we have also started inviting Nasser al-Kubaisi, younger brother of Fahad al-Kubaisi, Qatari singer of international fame. These singers will perform inside a hotel in Msheireb. In the past, we had invited very well-known singers from Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and other neighbouring countries.”

The organiser further said: “The management of Souq Waqif has been organising the spring festivals and other activities to promote tourism and encourage residents to visit the Souq. The concerned authorities have given the responsibility of organising the music events to Al Rayyan Radio and other parts of the festival are done by the engineering people. The festivals have so far been successful in attracting international tourists and local residents to Souq Waqif as it is organised during the spring school holidays.”