Community Nepal Engineers’ Association Qatar organises an event to mark its 57th Engineers’ Day.

Community Rashmi Agarwal, Indian expat, bags ‘Best NRI Woman Entrepreneur Award’ at WASME Excellence Awards 2019.

The lowdown What Oscar nominations do these six best picture contenders need in order to win? P4-5


Hollywood Cats is a disaster, but a slew of actors hold out dignity. Page 15
PRAYER TIME

Fajr
Shoroq (sunrise)
Zuhr (noon)
Asr (afternoon)
Maghreb (sunset)
Isha (night)
4.56am
6.20am
11.37am
2.35pm
4.55pm
6.25pm

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 991
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquiries 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406557
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44490000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44594050
Qatar News Agency 44450205, 44450333
Q-Post – General Postal Corporation 44464444
Humanitarian Services Office
Ministry of Interior 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health 40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

Driving Licence
DIRECTION: Jean Paul Lal
CAST: Prithviraj Sukumaran, Mia George, Suraj Venjaramoodu
SYNOPSIS: Kuruvila (Suraj Venjaramoodu), the vehicle inspector is a diehard fan of superstar Hareendran (Prithviraj). He makes it a point to watch the first-day first show of all the films starring Hareendran and even watch them multiple times. Kuruvila and Hareendran’s paths cross after the superstar finds out that his driving licence is missing, and tries to get a duplicate licence. How the following incidents change the dynamics between the superstar and his biggest fan forms the crux of the story.

THEATRE: Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

My Santa
DIRECTION: Sugheeth
CAST: Dileep, Siddique, Sunny Wayne
SYNOPSIS: The life and challenges of a young girl and a secret Santa who comes into the little one’s life on a Christmas eve to fulfil the dreams of the child.

THEATRE: The Mall

“Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.”
– Helen Keller

Quote Unquote

Community Editor
Kamran Rehmat
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**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.

**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.

**Metro Street Food**
**WHERE:** DECC Metro Station  
**WHEN:** January 2020 onwards  
**TIME:** 12:30pm
Street Food is the ideal venue for a leisure experience for the whole family offering over 20 dine-in options and 18-hole World Mini-Golf setup.

**Hobby Classes**
**WHERE:** Mamangam Performing Art Centre  
**WHEN:** Saturday – Friday  
**TIME:** 9am onwards
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 instrumentals. 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:** Tomorrow  
**TIME:** 12:30am
An exclusive getaway this New Year’s Eve to avoid the crowd. Join us in the Qatar 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

**Spring Festival 2019**
**WHERE:** Souq Waqif  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till January 4  
**TIME:** 4pm – 10pm
The third edition of the Spring Festival at features an array of cultural programmes and entertainment activities. Around 60 games and rides are open. Circus shows will be also staged.

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**Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change**
Oscar nominations

Judging from the early slates of winners and nominees for other awards, you could make a case for six movies. Each one needs things to break a certain way to bolster their chances, writes Glenn Whipp

Oscar voting begins the day after New Year’s, meaning academy members should be busy powering through movies and preparing their hangover remedies so they can be good to go on January 2. We’re pretty sure about the movies that will be nominated for best picture. But which film will go on to take the top prize at the Oscars? Judging from the early slates of winners and nominees for other awards, you could make a case for six movies. Each one needs things to break a certain way on Oscar nomination morning to bolster their chances in what remains a fairly fluid race.

Here are the six leading contenders, along with the nominations they hope to earn and the nominations they need to earn when the motion picture academy reveals its choices January 13.

Parasite
Optimal Oscar nominations morning: Eight nods (picture, director, supporting actor, original screenplay, cinematography, film editing, production design, international film)
Nomination it needs: Song Kang Ho for supporting actor.
Parasite earned a SAG Awards ensemble nomination, and Song has taken a couple of critics prizes, including an honour from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. If Song can land a supporting nod, it would indicate support from the acting branch voters, the academy’s largest bloc, and also boost the movie’s profile in a prominent category.
A solid overall nominations count would help too, meaning that Parasite could use recognition for its cinematography, production design and editing. Noms in all three would be ideal; two would be welcomed. A shutout would likely mean that Bong Joon Ho’s acclaimed film won’t be the first foreign-language movie to win best picture.

The Irishman
Optimal Oscar nominations morning: 11 nods (picture, director, lead actor, supporting actor, adapted screenplay, cinematography, costume design, film editing, production design, visual effects)
Nomination it needs: Robert De Niro for lead actor. De Niro failed to snag a nod at the Golden Globes and SAG Awards, leading to speculation that voters are latching onto Al Pacino’s showy turn as the belligerent Jimmy Hoffa and Joe Pesci’s subtle work playing mob boss Russell Bufalino at his expense.
Lead actor is the season’s most competitive category. De Niro, playing a passive character doing others’ bidding in The Irishman, will have to elbow his way through competition that includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Adam Driver, Joaquin Phoenix, Christian Bale and Antonio Banderas. Voters who watch The Irishman in a single sitting will appreciate the cumulative power of De Niro’s performance and feel the impact of its abject ending. But how many people are watching this 3½-hour movie straight through? We’ll have that answer soon enough.

Once Upon a Time … In Hollywood
Optimal Oscar nominations morning: Nine nods (picture, director, lead actor, supporting actor, original screenplay, cinematography, costume design, film editing, production design)
Nomination it needs: Leonardo DiCaprio for lead actor. DiCaprio faces the same problem as De Niro — too many noteworthy performances and just five slots to contain them. And, like De Niro, he has often found himself overshadowed by a castmate. Brad Pitt’s swaggering minimalist turn, which could easily be considered a co-lead, has found favour with critics groups, though DiCaprio did pick up noms from the SAG Awards voters and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.
Once Upon a Time could still prevail without DiCaprio along for the ride. But to have both its A-list leads nominated would help re-establish the credentials of a movie that premiered in the summer, ie, a lifetime ago in terms of awards season chronology.

1917
Optimal Oscar nominations morning: 10 (picture, director, adapted screenplay, cinematography, film editing, production design, score, sound editing, sound mixing, visual effects)
Nomination it needs: Sam Mendes and Krysty Wilson-Cairns for original screenplay.
A movie can win the best picture Oscar without earning any acting nominations. (The Lord of
the Rings: The Return of the King was the last one to do it.) A movie can win without a screenplay nod. (Remember when Titanic was king of the world?) But if it’s shut out in both areas, you can forget about writing that acceptance speech. You won’t need it.

Mendes’ immersive war movie 1917 features superb acting. But good as he is, George MacKay isn’t going to bump out De Niro or DiCaprio or any of the other actors from movies that arrived much earlier in the season. That leaves screenplay as the make-or-break category, and it’s on the bubble there as its streamlined storytelling might be a little shy on the word count for writers branch voters.

Marriage Story
Optimal Oscar nominations
morning: Eight (picture, director, lead actress, lead actor, supporting actress, original screenplay, film editing, score)
Nomination it needs: Noah Baumbach for director.
Baumbach should land a nomination for his original screenplay, but the director field will prove more challenging. Martin Scorsese (The Irishman), Quentin Tarantino (Once Upon a Time in Hollywood) and Bong are locks, leaving Baumbach and his partner, Greta Gerwig (Little Women), competing against Mendes, Pedro Almodóvar (Pain and Glory), Lulu Wang (The Farewell) and, if the Jojo Rabbit cult has any pull, Taika Waititi for the remaining two spots.

You don’t need to look far to find a best picture winner whose director didn’t earn a nomination. Snubbed filmmaker Peter Farrelly bounded up to the stage just 10 months ago to collect the Oscar for Green Book. But approval from the directors branch would allow Marriage Story backers to trump it as a cinematic achievement and not just a feat of writing and acting. In a competitive year, it’s an essential nomination.

Jojo Rabbit
Optimal Oscar nominations
morning: Six (picture, director, supporting actress, adapted screenplay, production design, costume design)
Nomination it needs: Waititi for director.
Like Green Book, Jojo Rabbit won the People’s Choice prize at Toronto, catapulting Waititi’s sentimental satire into the best picture race. The movie has divided critics and audiences, scoring a middling 58 on review aggregator Metacritic and grossing just over $20 million at the box office in a release that saw it play at nearly 1,000 locations. But those who love Jojo are all in (“a warm hug of a movie!”) likely to put it at the No. 1 spot on their best picture ballots. And Waititi has established a devoted following for directing films as diverse as Hunt for the Wilderpeople and Thor: Ragnarok. If he earns a nod for directing Jojo, the movie is back in play. And if he somehow earns an acting nod for playing Hitler, turn out the lights. The movie is going to win best picture.

— Los Angeles Times/TNS

Jojo Rabbit writer-director Taika Waititi is up for multiple Oscar nominations.
Nepal Engineers' Association Qatar (NEA) recently organised an event to mark its 57th Engineers' Day at Concorde Hotel. The event was chaired by Padam Narayan Sah, President of NEA Qatar. Narad Nath Baradwaj Wagley, Ambassador of Nepal, was the chief guest on the occasion. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Ahmed Jassim al-Jolo, President of Federation of Arab Engineers; Arjun Prasad Bhattarai, Co-ordinator of Advisory Committee NEA Qatar; Pradip Kumar Jha, Advisory Committee member of NEA Qatar; Bhuwan Prasad Bhattacharyya, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal; Prabin Bhattarai, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal, and Tulsi Koirala, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Nepal, along with various expats from Pakistan, Indian, Philippine and Bangladesh communities.

The event kicked off with the National Anthem of Qatar and Nepal, which was followed by an activity report of NEA Qatar, presented by Mohammad Nurain, General Secretary of NEA. A video presentation 'Visit Nepal 2020' was showcased on the occasion. The video featured snapshots of various adventure activities, including mountaineering, trekking, rafting, paragliding and mountain flight available in Nepal. Video also featured that Nepal is a popular destination for diversity in religion, ethnicity, geography, flora and fauna, culture, food, feast and festivals.

Safdar Imam, Second Vice President of NEA Qatar, welcomed the gathering. "On our 57th Engineer Day, the current working committee would like to remember our founders," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Arjun Prasad Bhattarai said that NEA Qatar Centre has been providing counseling to new engineers who find difficulties in adjusting to the new environment. He added that NEA Qatar has developed a professional network and remains successful in increasing its members.

Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador said, "It is a matter of pride for us as Nepali engineers are showing professionalism and competence in an international market." He urged all the engineers working in Qatar to utilise their experiences in Nepal wherever and whenever needed. He explained how the Government of Nepal is constructing international airports and also is upgrading domestic airports for bigger capacity and better services.

Padam Narayan Sah, Chairman of NEA Qatar, proposed a vote of thanks. Rustam Siddique, Shamsuddin Rahmi and Safdar Imam were felicitated with lifetime achievement awards on the occasion. Shambhu Narayan was also honoured on the occasion. Sofia Tamang along with other Nepali artistes performed at the event. The event was hosted by Mohammed Nurain.

--- Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam

CELEBRATION: The Punjab Music Group (PMG) recently organised an event and a funfair as part of Qatar National Day celebrations. Various artistes, including Shivapriya, Hassan Shah, Muhammad Arif, Tauseef Ahmed and Jamshaid Shamsuddin Bajwa performed at the event. Shaukat Ali Naz presented his poetry on the occasion. S M Bukhari, from Salco, and Jameel Shareef from Lahore Fish, were the guests of honour. Nazakat Ali Khan, Chief Organiser at PMG, welcomed the gathering.
ICAI Doha Chapter conducts interactive session

The Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in association with Galfar Al Misnad, recently conducted an interactive session for the benefit of the workers at the Labor City. Over 200 workers of various nationalities took part in the session. The members of ICAI explained the workers on how to safeguard their money. They were taught on how to bank, how to save and invest and remain vigilant. Information about pay card and how workers should keep private information confidential was also shared on the occasion. The workers were told that they should never click suspicious links within a message and in case of losing the pay card should immediately report to the person in charge. The participants were shown with examples how not to entertain any unsolicited messages that the fraudsters keep sending. Fake lottery messages and asking account details should not be entertained. The team also explained the importance of savings. They were told to use better methods to transfer money to their families. The team also encouraged the workers to utilise their time to upscale their skills like learning computer and new language.

IBS marks Qatar National Day

International British School (IBS) recently organised an event to mark Qatar National Day celebrations. Shaji Al, CEO of IBS, said, "It is a privilege to live in this beautiful country and we are extremely grateful to the people of this country." Dr Shamila Ahmed, Director of IBS, said, "We feel very safe and comfortable to live, to work and to study in this friendly country. We will serve this country with truth and loyalty and express our unconditional solidarity with the people of Qatar under all circumstances." Dr Harry, Principal of IBS, welcomed the gathering and said, "It is my home away from home." The event featured various cultural dance performances.

Unwind and experience ultimate spa indulgence at Souq Al Wakra Hotel

Designed to deliver an absolute state of well-being, The Spa at Souq Al Wakra Hotel is an invitation to leave day-to-day stress behind in an environment of authentic serenity. Although the hotel is already a haven of tranquility, guests may wish to take relaxation to a higher level and indulge further at the hotel spa.

Set along the coastline of the Arabian Gulf, this spa sanctuary is located at the luxury heritage hotel in the up-and-coming seaside district of Al Wakrah, which was historically known to be a fishing and pearl diving neighbourhood. The Spa has separate entrances and dedicated areas for men and women each with calming interiors and open courtyards to take soothing breaths before and after treatments. Highly personalised massage experiences, all tailored to meet the individual needs of every client, are provided throughout. The Spa has received several recognitions for its facilities and service excellence. In the recently concluded Chloa Spa and Wellness Awards Qatar, it bagged two prestigious awards, including Best Signature Treatment for the Vichy Shower Massage and Favourite Spa Products for the French brand Biologique Recherche that The Spa uses for its treatments.

With the distinctive Vichy Shower Massage, let water and light therapy stimulate and indulge all the senses. One can release their worries as mind, body and spirit become one in this innovative treatment. Lie down on a water bed with multiple shower heads attached to a horizontal bar. After setting the optimal temperature, the blissful journey begins with the application of mask and scrub, which heavenly soaks into the skin under the Vichy shower. A gentle silicone scrub follows, revealing a fresher and more luminous skin. To end these delightful procedures, water is cascaded over the entire body through the focused Vichy shower heads. The Signature Massage is a procedure combining the best strokes of aromatherapy and reflexology aimed at melting layers of tension and pain. It includes stretches to realign fibres of overused muscles, using lemongrass and lavender oils, leaving a refreshing and energising feeling.

After a day of exploring the Souq and other local areas, one can ease their aching muscles with the Volcanic Stone Massage. With the use of volcanic hot stones, this regimen incorporates a radiating facial with a blend of nutrient-rich essential oils, giving the skin a naturally brighter appearance. It also relaxes tight muscles and improves blood circulation, further promoting good health.

The Spa offers a selection of scrubs and facials as well. Perfect for stand-alone treatments or in preparation for a massage, the Salt and Oil Scrub is a body exfoliation which combines sea salts with essential oils, for a smoother and more supple skin. Meanwhile, the Hydrating Facial combat's dehydration, dryness and overall skin impurities. The use of cold apparatus locks in rejuvenating moisture that ensures a visible glow. Apart from the three deluxe treatment rooms and a Vichy shower, water bed, guests can enjoy the hydro pool, steam room, Jacuzzi, and fitness centre at The Spa.

WINTER CAMP: The KG Section of MES Indian School recently organised a winter camp. A total of 720 students participated in this camp. Various fun-filled activities, including aerobics, yoga, winter cap making and thumb printing were part of the camp. Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES, inaugurated the winter camp and said that the session is aimed at identifying and nurturing latent talents and potential of young kids which can be fine-tuned henceforth.
Photographer captures South Africa’s taxi sign language

The South African city of Johannesburg has its own sign language for flagging down taxis, with hand movements indicating different directions and destinations. A photographer has documented them and is showing the photos in their original locations. By Ralf E Krueger

If you’re not a local, good luck trying to grab a taxi in Johannesburg. There’s no designated spot for picking up passengers, but instead, any spot in the chaotic metropolis can become a pick-up point.

Traditionally, local transport in South Africa is provided by private collectives of taxi drivers and entrepreneurs, who often operate entire fleets of minibuses. While outsiders may be confused trying to figure out what’s going where, there are some rules to the chaos.

Patricia Kuehfuss, a photographer based in Germany, has documented this secretive language through art and is showing her images with her South African project partner Siya Fonds in Johannesburg’s famed Soweto Township. “It’s a guerrilla poster campaign,” says Kuehfuss. She has put up more than 1,000 posters in spots where it’s tolerated. In her view, the images, which won awards in London, should not trigger aesthetic debates in galleries or glossy magazines, but instead should be put where they will be understood immediately.

In a country with 11 official languages, the gestured language of flagging down taxis is an unofficial 12th, hence the name of the project: “How to get home: Bringing South Africa’s 12th language to the streets of Joburg.” The idea of aesthetically combining the gestures with everyday scenes came to Kuehfuss while she was photographing her partner’s fashion products. “Basically, the whole thing’s a product of chance,” she admits. “It was a creative game that took on a life of its own.”

Kuehfuss says that in Germany, she always has to convey lots of background with her images. In Johannesburg, it’s totally different.

However, not everyone in the South African city always gets what’s going on in the posters right away. “I didn’t recognise it at first,” admits attorney attorney Emily Yendi.

Others had an aha moment at first glance. “We use the gestures every day, we recognise them immediately,” says Pauline Lapesi. According to Kuehfuss’ website, many black South Africans have to travel up to 40 kilometres a day in order to get to work due to the after-effects of apartheid, and the gestures are a language understood mainly by the black community getting to and from Soweto.

Kuehfuss enjoyed the conversations she had with passers-by while she was putting up posters. “They can see their daily lives within it.”

The sign language necessary to survive in South Africa is something that its residents learn from childhood. “You grow up with it,” explains Rose Letsoalo.

Each neighbourhood has its own hand signals, which also differ depending on the direction that you’re travelling. A raised finger roughly translates as “downtown,” while three fingers mean you’re heading towards the rich suburb of Sandton. The Orange Farm district has a signal that, not surprisingly, resembles an orange. Hundreds of thousands of people travel this way every day.

“Why one taxi stops and the other keeps driving – at first I didn’t understand it at all,” recalls Kuehfuss. She happened to come across the hidden signs two years ago, while she was photographing a wedding. Her project partner taught her the hand symbols – and she came up with the idea of using them for a photography series.

Kuehfuss takes images of people during daily life in Soweto and integrates the sign language into the imagery. She also shows her work online, with an Instagram account called @howtogethome. Followers can keep up to date with the poster campaign – as well as learn a signal of the day.

– DPA
El Salvador lures visitors with coffee, culture and craters

By Andreas Drouve

Hector Aguirre can’t imagine his life without coffee. The 28-year-old has been drinking it since he was 2 years old. “Here we give babies bottles with coffee, not with milk,” he says.

Nowadays, Aguirre earns his living from coffee at the El Carmen Estate in the highlands of El Salvador on the edge of his hometown, Ataco.

He’s showing visitors to the hotel and coffee resort the warehouses, machines and assembly lines where the beans are processed. Women sit beneath neon lights, fully focused on separating the good beans from the bad ones. Aguirre then reveals the result: top-quality coffee.

Ataco, one of the most beautiful villages in El Salvador, is an eclectic mix of colourful contemporary murals, hibiscus bushes and pretty buildings, like the Immaculada Concepcion church.

Tourism is on the rise here, as it is everywhere in El Salvador, but at a manageable level. Handicraft shops, small galleries and the weaving workshop Casa de los Telares welcome the new guests.

Menjibar, 65, says machismo is a persistent problem in the country. The workshop was created by 10 women from the surrounding communities.

Strolling through the cobbled streets of Suchitoto, you will often come across images of the national bird of El Salvador, the turquoise-browed motmot, at house entrances. If there is an image of the bird outside the house, this means it is free from domestic violence.

In the capital, San Salvador, things are naturally more hectic. Vendors with trays of cigarettes and chewing gum fight for their daily livelihood in traffic. Shoemakers operate out of tiny parlours. The vendor stalls extend as far as the National Palace and the square in front of the cathedral, where Saint Oscar Romero is buried in the crypt.

The nearby church of El Rosario attracts visitors with its modern stained-glass windows.

Much of El Salvador has been shaped by volcanic eruptions. The ash created by the volcano Loma Caldera in around 600 AD preserved the Mayan village of Joya de Ceren until its serendipitous rediscovery in 1976. The inhabitants were able to escape, and people today are blessed with the best-preserved example of a pre-Hispanic village in Mesoamerica. Another Mayan treasure is Tazumal, which was inhabited for more than a millennium. During its excavation in the 1940s, US archaeologist Stanley Boggs decided to use concrete to restore and conserve parts of the ruins – a well-intentioned but irreversible move.

The museum that accompanies the ruins provides information about the worship and other religious rituals of the old times.

And of course, there are the volcanoes. Above the capital of San Salvador is a sleeping giant of the same name. Ascending the Santa Ana, the highest volcano in the country at 2,381 metres, is a bigger feat. A guided hike from Cerro Verde Park takes two hours. The gentle ascent leads through woods and bushes, over rocks, roots and boulders.

The view from the crater rim is spectacular. The colours of the steep walls range from pitch black to sulphur yellow, and the lake glows emerald green. Gases hiss from crevices as vapours waft above the water before the wind chases them into the clouds. After the ascent, you’ll look forward to resting back in the valley with a cup of strong highland coffee.

– DPA
Health Benefits
Of Laughter

Laughter is the basic human emotional response and when it comes to self-managed health and well-being, laughter is the best medicine.

- Reduces levels of stress hormones
- Controls high blood pressure
- Enhances memory and mood
- Improves cardiac health
- Releases of Endorphins - Body’s natural painkiller
- Increases oxygenation and blood flow in body
- Boost immune system
- Natural exercise for body muscles

Here are few surprising health benefits of laughter
How to wear knee-high boots this fall season

By Jess Cartner-Morley

Allow me to introduce you to some dear old friends of mine: these boots. Every week in these photos, I wear something from my own wardrobe mixed with clothes that are in the shops now, and this week I’m wearing knee-high Mulberry boots that I wore and wore years ago, and that then languished at the bottom of my wardrobe for several winters, during which I wore ankle boots. Until last winter, when I sat catwalk-side, ankle-boot clad, watching knee-high boots in fashion shows and realised I wanted to wear them again, because...fashion.

So here they are. Except they look different, because the rest of my clothes are different. I’m not wearing skinny jeans these days, so I can’t wear my knee boots over the top of those, which was definitely a thing last time around. This time, the boots go under a loose, mid-length skirt.

I know this because I saw it on the catwalk, like I said, but it’s a bit like I’ve remembered, in the mirror and wondering why I look a little... challenging, let’s say.

Challenging is good, though. Challenging is what new year is all about. This is the time of year to make some changes; maybe you will find a new job or go vegan. But for now, the out of office is on and there is brandy butter in the fridge that it would be silly to throw away, so in the meantime, boots are as good a place as any to start making changes.

This is what I’m telling myself, anyway, while looking in the mirror and wondering why I look a bit like I’ve remembered, in the middle of a party, that I left my handbag in the car and have pulled on a pair of gardening boots to go and get it.

Worn under a loose skirt, my knee boots look less slick and more relaxed than they did when they were meeting the hem of a pencil skirt or had jeans tucked into them. But we’re getting used to each other, again. Should add acquaintance be forgot, right? The new year starts here.

~ The Guardian

Aries
March 21 — April 19

There may be a rather confusing element to the day for you, Aries, in which you feel tempted to act but not all the pieces seem to be in place. It could be hard to make a decision about things since the facts seem to be quite clouded. You’re better off spending this day enjoying your friends or your favourite hobby rather than trying to make any major life decisions or commitments.

Cancer
June 21 — July 22

Be the star of your own movie today and be proud of the role you play, Taurus. You might find yourself adopting the personas of many different characters depending on your mood of the hour. There is a special gleam in your smile today that you should share openly with others. Don’t feel rushed to get anywhere. You have already arrived. Enjoy yourself in the company of those you love.

Libra
September 23 — October 22

You may find it hard to take a realistic approach to your emotions today, Scorpio. A sensitive issue is apt to be pulling on you in such a way that it’s leaving you feeling like you are way out in left field in terms of the way you relate to others. You might want to consider letting someone else take the lead for once and allow stability to form before the next decision is made.

Scorpio
October 23 — November 21

Take a break from your daily routine and get off the track today, Gemini. The world will turn with you for a day, so feel free to tune out for a while. Remember that whatever path you decide to take is the right path. Regret is a useless emotion - don’t even bother with it. Enjoy the present day and all the small joys that it has to offer. Communicate your dreams and bring things into balance.

Virgo
August 23 — September 22

Today is a day to forge ahead with ideas and dreams rather than commitments and answers. Question things and debate the facts. Whatever you do, have fun. This is the perfect day to go out and enjoy the fresh air with an outdoor activity, especially group activities. You can’t go wrong with joining up with friends.

Libra
September 23 — October 22

Today is a day to daydream as you walk down the street. Don’t bother with reality today if you don’t have to. You’re much better off keeping the tone light and playful.

Aquarius
January 20 — February 18

It may feel like something has suddenly clicked into place for you today in which you have found the missing piece of a puzzle you’ve been working on for a while, Capricorn. The answers may be subtle, but they are there. Fantasy and a playful attitude will lead you to them effortlessly. Spread your ideas out to the world today and adopt an attitude that encourages others to join in your daydreams.

Sagittarius
November 22 — December 21

Today is a great day for you in which you should enjoy a great deal of playful conversation with others, Pisces. Fantasy is likely to play a large role in the events of the day, and you may find yourself daydreaming as you walk down the street. Don’t bother with reality today if you don’t have to. You’re much better off keeping the tone light and playful.
Wordsearch

M H W M C D O U H P X U S M
D S U M C D U I N U C N O V O
U N U C L E E S E D H R V N F
L E N N O N N P L K C W I O K
D H C L E V G R C R I E L B M
G I E L G U D E O S V Y F S A
M E L H U G B O E E O E T A S
G E N L B N I I R T K L T L E
O B D R I P E F O E L S R G F
B W O E O N B Y M V A E A T I
B W T U S B G I Y A M W V H E
N S M I L L S E R S O G O U L
B B N U O Y T O R S W H L T D
T V B U F U F G A A F E T G O
R S T A E K T V B C R A W P

BARRYMORE  BROWN  CLEESE
GIELGUD  KNOX  MALKOVICH
MCENROE  OSBORNE  TRAVOLTA
BIRCH  CASSAVETES  DILLINGER
KEATS  LENNON  MASEFIELD
MILLS  STEINBECK  WESLEY

Codeword

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.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 squares. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 square contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 without repetition.

Adam

VOH, I HAVE A TON OF WORK TO GET DONE.
THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
IT IS, IT'S JUST.
THIS WEEK BETWEEN HOLIDAYS, IT'S ALWAYS, ROUGH.
BUT I'M A RESPONSIBLE PROFESSIONAL! I'LL RISE TO THE OCCASION AND HIT MY DEADLINES!
WHY IS IT SELF-DESTRUCTION WEEK ALREADY?
IT'S THE SEASON.

Pooch Cafe

CHECK IT OUT! I BOUGHT THIS WREATH FOR 50% OFF! WHAT A STEAL!
BUT NOW WE HAVE TO STORE IT FOR A WHOLE YEAR.
NO PROBLEM, I'LL JUST TOSST UNDER THE STAIRS AND TELL IT OUT A YEAR FROM NOW.

Garfield

THANK YOU FOR THE BOX OF DONUTS, JON
BOX OF WHAT?
PEARLS? YOU GAVE ME PEARLS FOR CHRISTMAS??

Bound And Gagged

CONGRATULATIONS!
IT'S A 3-OUNCE SNOW CONE.
WAITING
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Inferior supporter precedes superior (6,4)
2 Erupt suddenly on holiday abroad? (5,3)
3 Small county in which flowers are grown (4)
4 Egypt’s river would be nothing without Egypt’s capital (4)
5 Thai leader held by Japanese leader yields weapon (7)
6 Toleration for animal breaking cane (11)
7 Conductor seen in the morning behind a tree (7)
8 Attempt - to use a dagger (4)
9 Manchester footballers not united? (4)
10 Hen that’s red with black spots? (8)
11 Simpleton handed rude letters (10)

Down
1 Sound warning for a temptress? (5)
2 Toady - one who moves slowly (7)
3 Gas in mine one detected (4)
4 Look at these shopkeepers (6)
5 Thorough girl and boy turning up (8)
6 Sort of diet that is offensive (6)
7 Famous aristocrat entertains part-time soldiers (7)
8 A rodent, being shy, rolled up (5)
9 Governors, we hear, suffering from tedium (5)
10 River forming part of a modern European border (4)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Bollywood’s Class of 2020

With every New Year, the stakes become tougher for Bollywood newcomers. Can the class of 2020 manage to pass the box-office test with flying colours? **Ahana Bhaatacharya**

takes a look at the B-Town entrants who might create a buzz in 2020

It is time to take a look at the new talent that Bollywood will introduce over the next 12 months. The mix looks interesting, comprising outsiders as well as youngsters with filmi bloodline.

A quick stock of newcomers who made their debut in 2019 shows Ananya Panday has surely been the most impressive. Chunky Pandey’s daughter was liked for her performance in *Student Of The Year 2*, despite the film’s below-expectation show. In *Pati Patni Aur Woh*, she struck effortless chemistry with Kartik Aaryan. Others who garnered attention included Ananya’s SOTY 2 co-star Tara Sutaria, Amrish Puri’s grandson Vardhan Puri (whose debut film *Yeh Saali Aashiqui* failed to click), Vardhan’s co-star Shalini Pandey (in *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*), Sunny Deol’s son Karan Deol and Bhagyashree’s son Abhimanyu Dassani (*Maidaan*).

With every New Year, the stakes become tougher for Bollywood newcomers. Can the class of 2020 manage to pass the box-office test with flying colours?

Here taking a look at the B-Town entrants who might create a buzz in 2020.

**Manushi Chhillar**

Ever since Manushi earned the Miss Universe crown in 2017, the Indian audiences has been waiting to hear the news of her B-Town debut. It’s finally happening. Manushi is all set to make her Bollywood debut in 2020 opposite superstar Akshay Kumar. She plays Sanyogita in Chandraprakash Dwivedi’s period drama *Prithviraj*, which stars Akshay Kumar in the title role. The YRF flick is slated to hit theatres in Diwali.

**Isabelle Kaif**

Being Katrina Kaif’s sister can be an advantage, but there is also the drawback of expectation. Isabelle has done a brief role in a 2014 crossover film titled *Dr. Cabbie* before this, and has featured in cosmetics brand endorsements. She makes her Bollywood debut in Karan Butani’s movie *Kuutha*, a drama set against an Army backdrop and starring Salman Khan’s brother-in-law Aayush Sharma.

**Ahan Shetty**

Suneil Shetty’s daughter Athiya has already forayed Bollywood, and now it is the son’s turn. Ahan will make his debut in the Hindi remake of the 2018 Telugu film *RX 100*. The Milan Luthria directorial is titled *Tadap* and features Tara Sutaria opposite Ahan.

**Alaya F.**

Unconfirmed reports state Pooja Bedi’s daughter Alaya F. has signed a three-film deal even before her debut film releases, with producer Jay Shewakramani of Northern Lights Films. In her debut film, Alaya plays Saif Ali Khan’s daughter in his co-production, *Jaaneman*. The slice-of-life father-daughter story also stars Tabu.

**Ahaan Pandey**

Even though no official announcement has been made, the grapevine is abuzz that Chunky Pandey’s nephew and Ananya Panday’s cousin Ahaan Pandey will make his Bollywood debut in an action flick backed by Yash Raj Films. Reports claim that the youngster is preparing hard to make himself suitable for the industry, and is undergoing acting and dance training. Looks like YRF might make an announcement soon.

**Shalini Pandey**

Shalini impressed with her performance in Vijay Deverakonda’s Telugu superhit *Arjun Reddy* a couple of year back, and went on to feature in several Tamil and Telugu films including the critically acclaimed *Mahanati*. The 25-year-old is now all set to foray B-Town as Ranveer Singh’s heroine in the YRF comedy drama *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*.

**Keerthy Suresh**

National Award winner Keerthy will make her B-Town debut alongside Ajay Devgn in the biographical sports drama *Maidaan*. The Amit Sharma directorial is a biopic of football coach Syed Abdul Rahim, who changed the course of the game in India.

**Krystle D’souza**

Television actress Krystle D’Souza makes her Bollywood debut in the psychological suspense drama *Chehre*, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi. The film is directed by Kumi Jaffery. Krystle, 39, has been a popular face on TV thanks to her daily soaps such as *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*, *Begum Jaan*, *Kya Haan Aik Ladki* and *Belan Wali Bahu*. – **IANS**
Cats is a disaster, but a slew of actors hold out dignity

By Christi Carras

The felines of Cats are so focused on what "jellicles can and jellicles do," they never pause to wonder if jellicles should — and apparently neither did the actors who play them.

Tom Hooper's catatonic movie musical based on Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-running stage production spurred quite a few questions when it clawed its way into theaters over the weekend. Why do the cats have human hands? Why do the cockroaches have human faces? Why do only some cats wear human clothes? And perhaps the most burning question of all: Why, in Heaviside Layer's name, did so many global superstars and Oscar-winners sign on for this epic catastrophe? Only the Jellicle moon knows, as review cruel review rolls in, sparing no-one — not even Dreamgirls darling Jennifer Hudson.

Yet, despite Hooper and the visual-effects team's best efforts, a few in the film's star-studded litter have managed to land on their, uh, weirdly anthropomorphic feet. From Taylor Swift and Judi Dench to Jason Derulo and Rebel Wilson, here's a ranking of weepiest key changes (cough cough, not with overly dramatic pauses or moving musical performances — though it's impossible to make heads or tails of just about anything in Cats, one thing is absolutely certain: Ballerina Hayward is the breakout star. Plus, her ability to capture a near-constant state of fear and confusion as new girl in town Victoria makes her easily the most relatable.

But of course, it's Hayward's ballet skills that really steal the show, miraculously breaking through all the digital fur technology to reveal gorgeous, purr-fect lines. A principal dancer in the Royal Ballet company, Hayward's decades of classical training shine as she glides through the bumpy film with unmatched grace, establishing herself as a true triple threat.

Taylor Swift
If anyone has the ability to shake this off, it's Swift, whose showstopping musical number as the flirty Bombalurina appropriately plays much like the catwalk portion of a concert set — strutting downstage with mind-me backup dancers and engaging the audience with cringey call-outs. Her dance moves aren't quite as fluid as Hayward's, but they're certainly no more embarrassing than what we've seen from the Lover singer in music videos and at award shows. Plus, Swift gets some extra points in the dignity department for penning Victoria's new solo, Beautiful Ghosts, with Webber, which — despite being shut out of the Oscars shortlist — serves as a soft and sweet counterpart to Hudson's resounding rendition of Memory.

Jason Derulo
OK — hear meowt on this one. Yes, Derulo's casting might take you by surprise, but if you've been paying attention, you already knew he was all in. The digital fur technology stripped-down transformation feel somehow more degrading and wrong.

Jennifer Hudson
While her powerful, pitch-perfect vocals cannot be denied, the Oscar winner simply takes herself too seriously, and the whimsical, ridiculous tone of the film never quite grounds itself enough to match her perpetually downcast gaze and overcome sobs. Even her weepy rendition of the musical's anchor ballad comes off like a drunken karaoke performance that makes everyone in the room uncomfortable and concerned. No matter, she's sure to win back plenty of R-E-S-P-E-C-T when she graces screens as the legendary Aretha Franklin next year.

Rebel Wilson
Poor Wilson. Of all the crazy, from devouring dancing, humanoid cockroaches to spreading her furry cat legs in the air, Wilson's endless reel of shameless gags cannot be unseen. And that phrase could realistically apply to any and every bizarre moment of this movie, so the fact that it's being used here, and only here, is significant. At least with Wilson's character, that seemed to be the desired effect. — Los Angeles Times/TNS
Award winning Indian expat credits Qatar for her success

By Mudassir Raja

World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME), a global non-profit organisation headquartered at Noida, India, that has been spearheading the cause and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) worldwide since its inception in 1980, recently awarded Rashmi Agarwal, Founder and President of MAPS International, with 'Best NRI Woman Entrepreneur Award' at WASME Excellence Award. WASME enjoys consultative status with many UN agencies, including UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, UNIDO, Unesco, UNICITRAL, UNESCAP and ILO.

Rashmi received the award from Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, India. She also attended 23rd International Conference for SMEs (ICSME) on 'Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Goal through SME 4.0' by promoting SMEs as a guest speaker. The 23rd ICSME aimed to promote SME development initiatives and integrating it with the 2030 agenda of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN.

Rashmi is all praise for the support and co-operation she has been getting in Qatar for the work she has been doing. She is the first Indian woman living in Qatar to receive the award. Speaking to Community, Rashmi said, “I am thankful to WASME and their entire team for doing the honours. It is an honour both for me as an NRI and for Qatar because I am the first Indian woman from Qatar to receive this award.”

Rashmi, who has been living in Qatar for over 14 years with her family, attributed the award to Qatar indicating the kind of support and co-operation she has been receiving. “I formed my company MAPS International in Qatar with no resistance whatsoever. I started organising art exhibitions, seminars, and inviting international artists from different countries. I have also been organising international art festivals. My company’s pivotal role has been to provide a platform to budding and young artists from different countries living in Qatar. “For all my activities throughout these years, I have received unconditional support from organisations and institutions such as Katara, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums and the Ministry of Culture” — Rashmi Agarwal, Founder and President of MAPS International

The entrepreneur also appreciated the support she received from her family, the expatriate Indian community, and the Government of India. “A long journey is not one step. It cannot be achieved by one person alone. I am greatly indebted to all of my family for supporting me during my endeavours. The support and encouragement that I have got from my compatriots also means a lot to me.”

Rashmi feels more responsible after receiving the award. “The recognition is both an achievement and responsibility for me. It is responsibility because I have to live up to the higher expectations that people around me will have from me. The higher achievements come with greater responsibility. I cannot sit on my laurels. I have to raise the bar higher for myself in the future.”

For all my activities throughout these years, I have received unconditional support from organisations and institutions such as Katara, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums and the Ministry of Culture

— Rashmi Agarwal, Founder and President of MAPS International

Award winning Indian expat credits Qatar for her success

CEREMONY: Rashmi Agarwal receiving award from Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, India.


Photos supplied