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**COMMUNITY**




# BirthStrikers

Meet the women who refuse to have children until climate change ends. **P4-5**

**REVIEW**

A perceptive study of personal awakening.

Page 10



**SHOWBIZ**

Jordan Peele reveals secrets of *Us*.

Page 11





**PRAYER TIME**

Fajr	4.30am
Shorooq (sunrise)	5.46am
Zuhr (noon)	11.44am
Asr (afternoon)	3.08pm
Maghreb (sunset)	5.44pm
Isha (night)	7.14pm

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

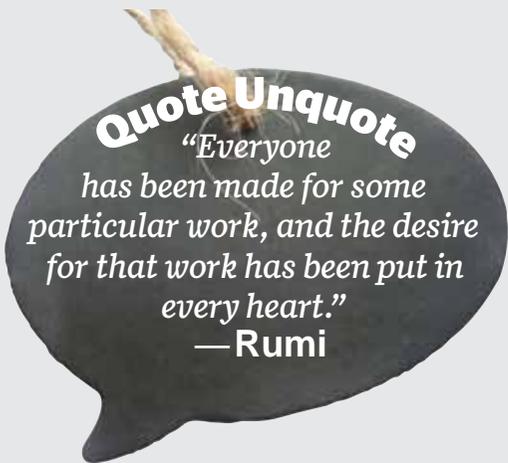


Emergency	999
Worldwide Emergency Number	112
Kahramaa - Electricity and Water	991
Local Directory	180
International Calls Enquires	150
Hamad International Airport	40106666
Labor Department	44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi	44588888
Qatar Airways	44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation	44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation	44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation	44593333
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre	44594050
Qatar News Agency	44450205
	44450333
Q-Post - General Postal Corporation	44464444

**Humanitarian Services Office**

(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)

Ministry of Interior	40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health	40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation	40253368, 40253365
Qatar Airways	40253374



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**Telephone:** 44466405  
**Fax:** 44350474



*Wonder Park*

**DIRECTION:** David Feiss, Robert Iscove, Clare Kilner

**CAST:** Sofia Mali, Jennifer Garner, Ken Hudson Campbell

**SYNOPSIS:** June, an optimistic, imaginative girl, discovers an incredible amusement park called Wonderland hidden in the woods. The park is full of fantastical rides and talking, funny

animals – only the park is in disarray. June soon discovers the park came from her imagination and she's the only one who can fix it, so she bands together with the animals to save this magical place and bring back the wonder in Wonderland.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza



*Badla*

**DIRECTION:** Sujay Ghosh

**CAST:** Amitabh Bachchan, Tapsee Pannu, Amrita Singh

**SYNOPSIS:** A young married entrepreneur finds herself in

a locked hotel room next to the body of a dead person. Hoping to find answers, she hires a prestigious lawyer to help her solve the mystery of what really happened.

**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

**The Mall Cinema (1):** *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 2:30pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 5pm; *Mere Pyare Prime Minister* (Hindi) 7:15pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 9:15pm; *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (2):** *Wonder Park* (2D) 2:15pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 4pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5:30pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 9:15pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 11:30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (3):** *Badla* (Hindi) 2:30pm; *Mere Pyare Prime Minister* (Hindi) 5pm; *Capharnaum* (Arabic) 7:15pm; *Greta* (2D) 9:30pm; *Ispade Rajavum Idhaya Raniyum* (Tamil) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (1):** *An*

*International Local Story* (Malayalam) 2:15pm; *Ispade Rajavum Idhaya Raniyum* (Tamil) 4:45pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7:30pm; *The Hole In The Ground* (2D) 9:45pm; *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (2):** *Badla* (Hindi) 2pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 4:15pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5:45pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 7:30pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 9:30pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 11:30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (3):** *Captain Marvel* (2D) 2:30pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 4:45pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 7:15pm; *Capharnaum* (Arabic) 9pm; *Ispade Rajavum*

*Idhaya Raniyum* (Tamil) 11:15pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):** *Wonder Park* (2D) 2:15pm; *Wonder Park* (3D) 4pm; *Wonder Park* (2D) 5:45pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 7:30pm; *Photograph* (Hindi) 9:30pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):** *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 2:15pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 4:45pm; *Captain Marvel* (2D) 7pm; *Badla* (Hindi) 9:15pm; *An International Local Story* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):** *Captain Marvel* (2D) 2:30pm; *Ispade Rajavum Idhaya Raniyum* (Tamil) 4:45pm; *Better Start Running* (2D) 7:30pm; *Capharnaum* (Arabic) 9:15pm; *The Hole In The Ground* (2D) 11:30pm.



MIA Director Dr Julia Gonnella and Rania Abdellatif, as part of the MIA ten-year anniversary celebrations.



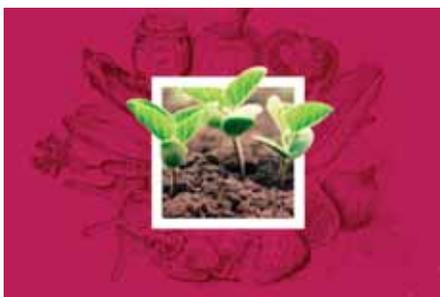
taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.



**EVENTS**

**MIA Park Bazaar 2019**

**WHERE:** Museum Of Islamic Art  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 12pm – 8pm  
MIA Bazaar will be having a vibrant mix of 350 stalls. MIA Park Bazaar is a modern version of the old souq tradition. The stalls are going to offer a wide range of gastronomies from all over the world. You can also browse and grab handcrafted artefacts, accessories, canvases, fashion wears, designer ornaments.



**Mehaseel Festival**

**WHERE:** Katara Cultural Village  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till March 31  
Mehaseel Souq will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 31st of March. It is a perfect market to get amazing local fresh produce.

**Dragon Boat Championships**

**WHERE:** Grand Hyatt Doha  
**WHEN:** March 23  
**TIME:** 7am – 5pm  
The 2019 Dragon Boat Corporate Cup Championship will take place on March 23 at the Grand Hyatt Doha. Come watch hundreds of recreational corporate dragon boat teams competing for the coveted gold cup.



**Artistic Gymnastic Classes**

**WHERE:** Qatar Academy Msheireb  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 3:15pm – 4:15pm  
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

**Masterclass of Authentic Indian Yoga**

**WHERE:** Ceremonial Court, Qatar Foundation  
**WHEN:** March 17  
**TIME:** 7pm – 9pm  
As part of Qatar-India 2019 Year of Culture celebrations, Qatar Museums and Qatar Foundation are pleased to inform that Indian Sports Centre, under the patronage of Embassy of India, is conducting a master class of authentic Indian Yoga. Class is open to adult students of all levels. Please wear comfortable and non-revealing clothes. Bring your own yoga mat. Admission is free. To register: [www.qf.org.qa/YOCyoga](http://www.qf.org.qa/YOCyoga)



**A R Rahman Concert**

**WHERE:** Khalifa Stadium  
**WHEN:** March 22  
**TIME:** 6pm – 11pm  
Music maestro A R Rahman is going to be performing on the 22nd of March at the Khalifa Stadium.



**Syria Matters Exhibition**

**WHERE:** Museum of Islamic Art  
**WHEN:** Ongoing till April 30  
**TIME:** 9am – 7pm  
Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha presents a major exhibition, co-curated by

**Ballet Lessons**

**WHERE:** Music and Arts Atelier  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 4pm – 8pm  
For more info e-mail at [registration@atelierqatar.com](mailto:registration@atelierqatar.com) or call on 33003839.



**Cycling: Losail Circuit Sports Club**

**WHERE:** Losail Circuit  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
**TIME:** 5pm  
Losail Circuit Sports Club, in association with Qatar Sports For All Federation, invites all cyclists, runners and walkers to train under the floodlights of Losail International Circuit every Wednesdays.



**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**

**WHEN:** Saturday – Wednesday  
**TIME:** 6pm  
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier.  
The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact [registration@atelierqatar.com](mailto:registration@atelierqatar.com)

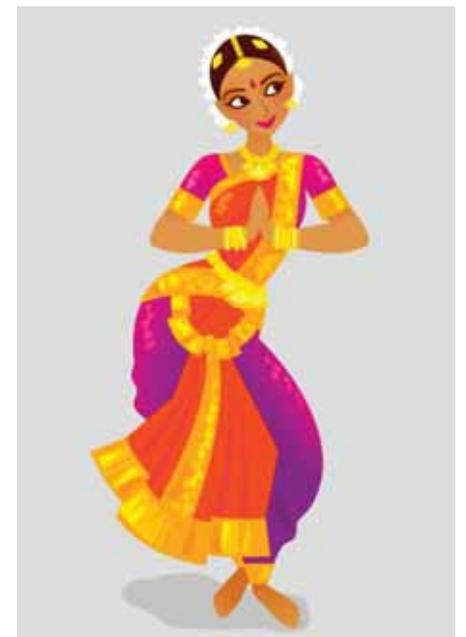


**After School Activities**

**WHERE:** Atelier  
**WHEN:** Ongoing  
Music and arts activities for students

**Hobby Classes**

**WHERE:** Mamangam Performing Art Centre  
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday  
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in contemporary, Bollywood, hip-hop and Indian classical dance forms, along with classes for music, art and crafts, karate and yoga. Additional services include dance education and choreography. For details, call 33897609.



**Dance and Instrument Classes**

**WHERE:** TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building  
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday  
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/ 31326749.





# Unique clarion call

A movement of women have decided not to procreate in response to the coming 'climate breakdown and civilisation collapse'. Will their protest be a catalyst for change, asks **Elle Hunt**

**A**s soon as Blythe Pepino got together with her partner Joshua two years ago, she felt "this overwhelming urge to create a family with him", she says. "I think it was the fifth day after having met him, I said: 'I've got to meet your parents! He was like: 'You're mad!'"

Then, late last year, she attended a lecture held by the direct action group Extinction Rebellion, which set out starkly the catastrophic reality of the changing climate. That galvanised Pepino, an activist and musician (she is the former singer of Vaults, now Mesadorm), to do research of her own and, eventually, to have a series of sad conversations with Joshua.

"I realised that even though I wanted to have a family at that point, I couldn't really bring myself to do it," she says. "I had to say to him: 'I don't know if I can do this, considering what we know - if there isn't a political will to fix this, we really don't stand much of a chance.'"

Pepino, who turned 33 this week, found that other women - especially those in climate-conscious circles - were struggling with the same question, but were "too afraid to talk about it" for fear of judgment or ridicule. The US congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gave voice to their concerns last month, pointing to the increasingly dire scientific consensus and widespread government inaction: "It does lead young people to have a legitimate question: is it OK still to have children?"

And so Pepino decided to publicly announce her decision - strategically making the personal political - by setting up BirthStrike, a voluntary organisation for women and men who have decided not to have children in response to the coming "climate breakdown and civilisation collapse". In doing so, she hopes to channel the grief she feels about her decision "into something more active and regenerative and hopeful".

In just two weeks, 140 people, mostly women in the UK, have declared their "decision not to bear children due to the severity of the ecological crisis", says Pepino. "But we have also had people get in touch to say: 'Thank you for speaking out about something that I didn't feel I could even talk to my family about,'" she adds. Many of these BirthStrikers are involved with Extinction Rebellion.

Pepino says that BirthStrike is distinct from the antinatalist movement (which says that having children is morally wrong because sentient life is so awful), and its aim is not to discourage people from having children, or to condemn those who have them already, but to communicate the urgency of the crisis. It is a "radical acknowledgement" of how the looming existential threat is already "altering the way we imagine our future". "We're not trying to solve it through BirthStrike," she says. "We're trying to get the information out there."



**It does lead young people to have a legitimate question: is it OK still to have children?**

- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US congresswoman



In fact, she says, population reduction has been shown to be an ineffective strategy. A 2017 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA explored various scenarios for global human population change by adjusting fertility and mortality rates. It found that even imposing one-child policies worldwide and “catastrophic mortality events” would not significantly reduce the global population by 2100. It proposes instead that “more immediate results for sustainability would emerge from policies and technologies that reverse rising consumption of natural resources”.

“Even with drastic, draconian, eugenic policies of population reduction – which are completely immoral,” says Pepino, “we wouldn’t save ourselves. We have to change the way we live.”

A different 2017 study did find that having one fewer child was the most effective way a person could cut their own carbon emissions – but there is damning evidence that the crisis is well past the point of being able to be mitigated by the choices of individuals.

Hannah Scott, 23, works for an environmental charity. She says that even climate activists are in denial about the gravity of the situation, with her own BirthStrike eliciting responses such as “maybe it won’t be so extreme and apocalyptic” and “life is about having children”. She believes it is already too late to claw back the damage done. “That’s why I am not having one – because I feel so desperately that it would be bringing a life into a future that does seem ever more desolate. Every time a friend tells me they’re pregnant, or planning on having children, I have to bite my tongue.”

BirthStrike, she says, “is about saying: ‘It is OK to make this choice, but it’s not OK to have to make this choice.’ We should never be in a situation where we are



**FOUNDER:** Blythe Pepino, founder of the BirthStrike movement.

genuinely scared to bring life into the world.”

BirthStrike is as much a support group as it is a political statement, says spokeswoman Alice Brown, a 25-year-old charitable campaigns manager from Bristol. As a former nanny and support worker, having children of her own had been on Brown’s “to-do list for life” until one of the girls she used to care for developed allergies which, Brown says, was as a result of pollution.

Alice Brown: ‘I’m just so terrified of what my child will be facing when they are my age.’

Her decision was cemented with last month’s report on the “catastrophic” impact of plummeting insect numbers, and the increasingly “panicked,

emergency language” of the scientific community. “We are hurtling towards disaster, and if I can bring awareness to the situation by sharing this personal choice that I’ve made, I’m willing to do it. It is sort of desperation. I don’t know if I’ll regret being so public about it one day.”

Brown is especially concerned about the potential toll her decision may have on her relationship, which she is reluctant to speak about beyond confirming that – were it not for the state of the planet – children would likely have been part of the conversation. She is keen to adopt, but worries that the option may be removed from her: she was arrested last year for civil disobedience for spraying

chalk paint on the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy during a protest with Extinction Rebellion. “I hate telling people that, it sounds so childish,” she says, but she worries that further direct action campaigns could land her with a criminal record.

“I’m just so terrified of what my child will be facing when they are my age,” she says. “It’s not just about the ideology – will they be born into a world where things are fair, where things are safer – it’s the practical side of it: will they actually be in survival mode?”

There are infinite unknowns about the future, Brown agrees. She is reading the US journalist David Wallace-Wells’s apocalyptic page-turner *The Uninhabitable Earth*,

which explores many of them – but none, she says, have persuaded her that it would be right to have a child of her own. “I understand many people may think it’s a strange response. Someone said to me the other day: ‘People still have children in war zones.’ I can only say that it is totally personal and probably no one – certainly not me – is qualified to decide what would make it worthwhile and what wouldn’t.”

But it was nonetheless a relief, she says, when Ocasio-Cortez said it was “legitimate” for millennials to consider not having children because of the state of the earth. “It makes me feel more confident and maybe more legitimate in what I’m talking about – that somebody who is in the public eye, who is taking the crisis as seriously as it should be taken, is saying the same thing.”

Yet Wallace-Wells, whose book begins “It is worse, much worse, than you think”, goes on to write about the birth of his daughter. In interviews, he has said that he wanted to have children “for reasons independent of climate ... Most people do. I don’t think this is an impulse we need to disavow before we have finished the final act of this story. I think it is a reason to fight.”

If calamity proves a catalyst for change, “the greatest story ever told ... may well have a happy ending”, he concludes in *The Uninhabitable Future*. The 10,000 young people in the UK alone who went on strike from school over climate last month and activists such as 16-year-old Greta Thunberg suggest his daughter’s generation may play a pivotal role.

Pepino, at least, takes a similarly optimistic view of BirthStrikers’ approach. It is, she says, “in a sense a very hopeful act. We’re not just making this decision, hiding it and giving it up. We’re politicising that decision – and hoping that will give us the chance to change our minds.”

– *The Guardian*

**“I’m just so terrified of what my child will be facing when they are my age. It’s not just about the ideology – will they be born into a world where things are fair, where things are safer – it’s the practical side of it: will they actually be in survival mode?”**

– Alice Brown,  
BirthStrike  
spokeswoman





## Embassy of Japan and QU organise 11th Annual Japanese Speech Contest



The embassy of Japan and Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the Japanese Teachers' Association in Qatar (JALTAQ), recently organised 11th Annual Japanese Speech Contest at Qatar University. Seventeen learners of the Japanese language in Qatar participated in three categories in the competition. Reem Baghdady bagged the first position, a round-trip ticket to Japan sponsored by Qatar Airways. Reem spoke about self-acceptance. Speaking on the occasion, Diasuke Yamamoto, Counsellor and the Deputy Head of Mission at embassy of Japan,

appreciated the participants, Qatar University and sponsors for supporting the annual event.

Ali al-Mohannadi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, along with Abdulrahman al-Hajiri, Ministry of Culture and Sports, and Mariam Ahmed, former President of the Japanese Club at Qatar University, were also felicitated on the occasion. Seiichi Otsuka, Ambassador of Japan, handed over the certificates of honour to them. Sheikha al-Dosari, a journalism student at Northwestern University, also attended the event.



## Embassy of Bangladesh organises interactive session

The Embassy of Bangladesh recently organised an interactive session with Bangladeshi students studying in different universities in Qatar at the Education Centre, Qatar Foundation. Bangladesh Student Association of Qatar (BASAQ) was also launched on the occasion. The interactive session was aimed at engaging the students of Bangladesh living in Qatar for

the benefits of Bangladesh and Qatar and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Around 100 Bangladeshi students from different universities across Qatar attended the interactive session.



## Marasi Ensemble and Jawqa to organise a concert

Qatar Music Academy's Marasi Ensemble and Jawqa, a member of Qatar Foundation, is all set to organise a concert 'Tarabiyat' on March 22 at 4:30pm at FBQ Museum. As part of its mission to preserve and promote Arab Musical Heritage, Marasi emphasises the authentic interpretations of maqam music and its compositional and improvisational

techniques that are unique to the non-Western musical culture.

The concert will highlight an extract of instrumental and vocal pieces from the Arab musical heritage.

The concert attendance is free of charge, only regular museum entrance fees apply.



## HOPE Qatar organises Annual Sports Day

HOPE Qatar Centre for Special Needs recently organised Annual Sports Day 'Leave No One Behind' at Awsaj Recreation Centre Sports Facilities, Qatar Foundation. Differently abled students participated in various sporting activities.

Machaille al-Naimi, President of Community Development of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, Research, and Community Development, was the guest of honour. Machaille declared the games open, which was followed by various demonstrations including dances, zumba, pound fitness, karate,

football, and basketball. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rajeev Thomas, Founder and Managing Director of HOPE Qatar, said that the annual sports day of HOPE has become an event that the students look forward to as it gives them the opportunity to break free from various challenges that hold them back from achieving their full potential. "It also is a way of showcasing to the general public that given the right opportunities, individuals with disabilities can do great things. This helps to dispel some of the social stigma attached to the differently abled individuals", he added.



## Doha College marks World Book Day

Doha College recently marks World Book Day. The students and faculty members of Doha College designed book covers, wrote book reviews and listened to stories told by visiting parents, who read to them in English, Arabic and French.

Kamahli Santamaria, prominent newsreader at Al Jazeera television network, also read a children's

book, authored by Kay Woodward, on the occasion.

The students and staff were dressed up as heroes or villains for the day. The faculty members of 'Foundation Stage' also put up a play based on the book *Room on the Broom*.

The event also featured a book fair, book donations, book swap and buddy readings.



**NETWORKING EVENT:** The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) - UK recently conducted a networking event for its members and students residing in Qatar at Oryx Rotana Hotel. Around 400 participants and students attended the event. The event also featured an interactive session on Risk Management, conducted by Paul Wilhelmij, and Cost Control, conducted by Ahmad Imthiyas.



## Texas A&M at Qatar hosts potential master's students for annual open house

Texas A&M University at Qatar recently welcomed potential master's students for its annual Graduate Studies Open House at Texas A&M Engineering Building Education City. The event aimed to answer questions for prospective students about Texas A&M at Qatar's master's degrees in chemical engineering. Attendees learned about Texas A&M at Qatar's graduate programme offerings, degree eligibility requirements and the resources offered including financial aid opportunities and flexible schedules. Potential graduate students interacted with current graduate students. Faculty and administrators gave information on the programme, as well as part-time employment options for full-time students through teaching and research assistantships. Hania Ayyash, Graduate Studies Manager, emphasised that Texas A&M at Qatar's flexible class schedules allow part-time studies for those students who are employed full time in industry or government.

"Several of our graduate students are employed full time in local industry and many students are employed by Texas A&M at Qatar as graduate assistants while they earn their master's degrees," Ayyash said. "We particularly proud of the fact that more than 50 percent of our master's

graduates continue into PhD programmes around the world." Razan Ahmed and Ahmed AlYazidi, both Masters students at Texas A&M, spoke on the occasion. The event also featured a panel discussion 'The Role of Graduate Education in a Knowledge-based Economy'. The participants of the panel discussion, included Mohamed al-Enazi, CAO of ORYX GTL; Dr Konstantinos Kakosimos, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M at Qatar; Dr Dhabia al-Mohannadi, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M at Qatar; Dr Ayman Bassil, Capacity Building Senior Manager at Qatar National Research Fund; and Wajdi Alnough, Research Associate at Texas A&M at Qatar. Dr Patrick Linke, Executive Director of Graduate Studies and Chair of the Chemical Engineering Programme at Texas A&M at Qatar, said, "The panel discussion clearly highlighted the need to continuously learn and be adaptable to address emerging challenges of an evolving economy. The importance of very solid foundations has become very obvious, particularly for engineers. Graduate education at master's and doctoral levels are a very important step towards building a solid foundation of knowledge and skills demanded by the challenge of the 21st century."



## Blue Falcons to host Francophonie Touch Tournament

As part of the Francophonie celebrations in Doha, Blue Falcons Rugby Club (BFRC) is all set to host the second French Touch Rugby Tournament at Doha Sports Park on March 15.

Speaking at the press conference Nicolas Boisard, President of BFRC, said, "It is important for our club to support the Francophonie celebrations in Qatar which comes along very well with the core values of rugby, respect, solidarity and friendship".

"Building up on last year successful first edition, we decided to enlarge the tournament from 16 to 24 teams, making it the biggest ever Touch tournament in Qatar. This was only possible thanks to the great support of many French and local companies, the French embassy and QTouch Media and Events", Boisard added. Jean-Christophe Barat, President of the Tournament, said, "Francophonie is the term used to describe the entire French Speaking Community. There are 200,000 French speaking people in Qatar, from various nationalities, and we want to involve as many of them as possible, that's why we expanded the tournament this year".

"Expanding team participation and renewing our

partnership with QTouch gives the tournament continuity and helps cement our ambition of making this event a recurring rendezvous for the French speaking community in Qatar".

Romain Quintane, Vice President, added, "This year we managed to get the support of more than 15 Qatari, French and international companies. Many will be represented with their own in-house teams which should make this year's tournament another great success of conviviality and sportsmanship."

Samuel Rico, Chief Executive Officer of QTouch, said, "It's a great honour to be given the opportunity to work with the French community and on a sport that we are all so passionate and love so much. It is very exciting for us to see the French using Touch-Rugby as a substance for community activities".

The all-day event will have the largest team participation of 24 teams. The format will include four groups divided according to their seeding.

The event is powered by IOTA, Maison De La France, Total and Trags. The event is scheduled to kick off at 8am till 6pm. HE Sheikh Ahmed Nooh al-Thani will also be attending the event.





**ARTWORK:** The calligraphic works of Abdul Kareem Kakkove.

# Expat calligrapher gifts his work to football star Almoez

By **Mudassir Raja**

**P**eople continue to find novel ways to express their feelings and love for others. Words have long been used to communicate feelings. With the passage of time, man has learnt the art of conveying feelings through innovative writing styles like calligraphy.

Abdul Kareem Kakkove, a 40-year-old calligrapher from Kerala in India, has conveyed his love for Qatar through different kinds of calligraphic artworks. He recently brought forth some creative art pieces praising Qatar's national football team and their historic victory in Asia Cup.

Two of his calligraphic works became an instant hit on social media the day Qatar won the Asia Cup final in UAE. People shared and appreciated the artistry of the calligrapher, who has been through a difficult and struggling journey to learn and master the art of calligraphy.

Most recently, the artist's expression of love for Qatar received a wholesome response from the team as well. Star player Almoez Ali accepted Abdul Kareem's artwork showing how the player scored the goal against Japan in the final with his bicycle kick. Almoez invited Abdul Kareem, who along with his children, met Qatar's hero and presented his artwork to him.

Talking to *Community*, the ecstatic calligrapher said, "It was a historic moment for me when Almoez accepted the gift from



**GROUP:** Almoez Ali, football player, right, along with Abdul Kareem, centre, and his family.

me. He was happy to meet me and my two children. My son Ahmed Kashif Kareem has become a huge fan of the player after watching his goal against Japan in the Asia Cup final. I presented him my artwork that he happily accepted and appreciated."

Talking about how he met the star player, the calligrapher said, "It is an interesting story. I watched the final match at my home. I did not go out to

**"I wanted to highlight the historic win and unflagging sportsmanship of Qatar in Asian Cup 2019"**

any fan zone to watch the final because I knew that Qatar would win and I wanted to create something special for the moment immediately. The moment I saw the goal by Almoez, I started working on my piece. I made the piece showing Almoez kicking the football into Qatar. The art piece went viral on social media and received a lot of appreciation.

"On the same night, I thought to create something different. I prepared a piece that featured the word Qatar in Arabic, looking as a player and bicycle kicking the ball. The creative piece became instantly popular as people shared it on their social media accounts.

"One of my friends Ibrahim

Orumanayoor, a photographer by profession, told me that Almoez had shared my art piece as a story on his Instagram. He also helped me in getting the phone number of the player. After much of efforts, I managed to talk to Almoez. He was very happy when I told him that I was the calligrapher who created the art piece. On my request, he asked me to come to a house in Al Gharafa, where he was visiting somebody. I reached there with my son Ahmed Kashif and daughter Aysha Ishaal.

"It was a super moment for us. He hugged me and thanked me. I presented him the especially created and framed art piece. He graciously accepted the gift."

When asked what his motivation behind bringing out the calligraphic pieces, Abdul Kareem said, "I try to convey human emotions through calligraphy. I capture the emotional moments. Further, I have love for Qatar where I have been living for eight years. When I saw no support for Qatar in the UAE stadium, I got emotional. I think it is unlucky to see politics affecting sports. It was also disheartening to see how the spectators treated the Qatari players. It further sparked my love for Qatar. I decided to share my love through my creativity.

"Further, I wanted to highlight the historic win and unflagging sportsmanship of Qatar. I also celebrated, like everybody else, the heroics of Almoez in the Asian Cup tournament as he became the leading scorer of the event. He also needed appreciation for the bicycle kick goal in the final under a lot of pressure."



# A perceptive study of personal awakening

By Justin Chang

In the opening shot of *The Heiresses*, a sharply detailed first feature from Paraguayan writer-director Marcelo Martinessi, the camera peers through a doorway into a shadowy dining room. Much later, it will stare meaningfully down a driveway that leads out into the brighter world beyond.

The contrast between these images is hardly accidental. Together they sum up the linear progression of the movie, which brings us in and out of a household that has fallen on hard times. Once proudly filled with the trappings of wealth, it is now just shelter and, it becomes clear, something of a prison.

Speaking of prison: One of the two mistresses of the household, Chiquita, or Chiqui (Margarita Irun), is sent to jail for a few months, thanks to a fraud conviction resulting from unpaid debts. Chiqui takes this development in stride, making it clear she knows how to take charge and adapt to difficult circumstances. The few glimpses we eventually see of her behind bars, where she quickly bonds with her fellow inmates, could easily have furnished their own movie, one rich in local insight into prison life and penal corruption.

But the narrative focus of *The Heiresses*, though it takes a while to reveal itself, is firmly on the other woman in the picture. Chiqui's longtime partner, Chela (Ana Brun), has little of her better half's confidence or practical smarts. She resents that they've had to sell their silver and other possessions – most of which, she sullenly points out, they inherited from her family – and treats the mere act of rising from bed as an imposition. From all the pains taken to keep her comfortable, even as her world slowly crumbles around her, you suspect that Chela will be more adversely affected by Chiqui's prison stint than Chiqui herself.

In one telling early scene, Chiqui teaches their new maid, Pati (Nilda Gonzalez), how to arrange the tray of coffee, diet soda and pills that Chela relies on every day. Despite significant differences

in geography and milieu, it's fascinating to consider this exchange alongside a more prominent recent standout of Latin American cinema, Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma*, which captured the dissolution of a 1970s Mexican middle-class home largely from a domestic worker's perspective. You might also sense echoes of *Summer Hours*, Olivier Assayas' masterful 2009 movie about a family inheritance and the stubborn feelings we can invest in something as deceptively simple as a piece of bric-a-brac.

*The Heiresses* has a different objective in mind and presents us with a separate magnet for our sympathies.

The movie, which won two awards at last year's Berlin International Film Festival (including an actress prize for Brun's exquisitely fine-grained performance), welds subtly pointed social commentary onto a straightforward but satisfying narrative of self-discovery. Martinessi dramatizes how Chela, until recently one of the idle rich in Paraguay's capital, Asuncion, learns to cope with her loss of status and encounters a new world of social and romantic possibility.

She stumbles onto this world after an imperious older neighbour, Pituca (a splendidly sour Maria Martins), asks her to drive her to a card game and insistently pays her for it. We've already seen Chela angrily reject the charity of her friends, but driving Pituca and her fellow players becomes a comfortable routine and a decent source of income.

It also threatens to become something more when she meets Angy (Ana Ivanova), the stunning – and stunningly self-assured – daughter of one of the players, whose conversations with Chela reveal her to be a much freer but possibly kindred spirit.

There are aspects of Chela's outer world and inner life that remain frustratingly and intriguingly beyond our grasp. We briefly see her painting and playing the piano, suggesting a life once steeped in the arts.

But if some questions remain unanswered, Brun's performance provides much of the clarity we need. What ultimately makes Chela's gradual transformation so persuasive and moving is that it seems to play out almost entirely in the



actress' face, in the widening of her eyes and the gravity of her silences.

Her quietly puzzled reactions to the world around her – as in the frequent shots of her waiting in someone else's foyer, framed between two absurdly large statues – tilt the movie amusingly toward satire. But they also awaken a deeper understanding, as if only after being divested of her comforts can Chela finally see them for the shackles they were. – *Los Angeles Times*/TNS



By Katie Walsh

With mislaid alliances and stealthy maneuvering, the Kiera Knightley vehicle *The Aftermath*, about an English woman's affair with the German man whose home she's occupying in post-war Hamburg, truly is a

## Post-WWII drama feels empty, cold

film that embodies the phrase "the war at home." But though it purports to be pleasurable, with taboo trysts unfolding in a palatial estate, this adaptation of Rhidian Brook's novel feels overly staid, often ridiculous, and can't bring the heat.

The setting of Allied-occupied Germany in the months immediately after the war is rich thematic territory, and it begs contemporary comparison. While the people of Hamburg are still digging bodies from the rubble caused by Allied bombing, the British are trying to restore rule and quell insurgent terrorism wrought by those who remain loyal to Hitler. Colonel Lewis Morgan (Jason Clarke) witnesses the desperation every day on the job, from the riots to the rescues to the work camps.

His work stokes his natural empathy. His wife, Rachael (Knightley), who has come to Germany to join him, remains rooted in the past, unable to process the loss of their son, who was killed in a bombing in London. She harbours hatred and fear of the Germans, so when the couple occupy the home of German architect Stefan Lubert (Alexander Skarsgård) and his daughter, Rachael is deeply upset.

But hate is closer to love than indifference, and her heated emotions turn to lust quicker than expected. Brook collaborated with Anna Waterhouse and Joe Shrapnel to adapt his novel, but the screenplay doesn't work, and James Kent's direction is both scattered and too obvious. Events occur

without adequate motivation established, and it doesn't help that none of the characters are sympathetic, with the exception of Lewis. Rachael is particularly egregious. We take in the story through her point of view, but she's grating – shrill, insecure, flighty. We know why she's struggling emotionally, but we're unable to take in the full scope before the affair is already underway.

Everything feels shortened, condensed or completely predictable.

There are many rich veins of inquiry beyond the affair, and while the film includes many of them, they aren't explored with as much nuance as they could be. What's most fascinating in *The Aftermath* is what war makes people into – strangers, lovers, terrorists. Often hate begets hate.

When it comes to the intimate affairs, Kent shoots the scenes lovingly. Knightley and Skarsgård are both incredibly beautiful, but their performances here are too reserved to sell torrid passion that's believable.

Clarke also does an incredible job making Lewis' emotional toil so real as he balances peacekeeping with frustration and fear, even as he neglects his wife's own emotional needs. And yet the focus of *The Aftermath* is in all the wrong places, spending time with characters in which we are unable to gain an emotional foothold. This misplaced attention makes for a drama that feels cold, and a political thriller that feels empty. – TNS



**RESPECTFUL:** Madhuri Dixit Nene says that she has immense respect for the late actress.

### Wasn't easy to step into Sridevi's shoes: Madhuri

Actress Madhuri Dixit Nene says it was tough and emotional for her to play a role which was to be originally essayed by Sridevi in *Kalank*.

Madhuri plays Bahaar Begum in Karan Johar's multi-starrer production *Kalank*. After Sridevi's demise last year, the role was offered to Madhuri.

At the film's teaser launch here on Tuesday, Madhuri was asked about how she felt on the sets of *Kalank* knowing that the character was supposed to be played by Sridevi.

She said: "Firstly, her demise was sad news for us and when I was approached for the role, it was not easy for me. I have immense respect for her. She was a good artiste and a good human being too. To step into the role, when you look into it as an actress, it's a different scenario as you add your own inputs to the character, but we used to remember her on sets as she was a part of the film.

"Once you start working, you have to move on and do your job. I did that, but missed her too."

Directed by Abhishek Verma, *Kalank*, featuring Sanjay Dutt, Varun Dhawan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Alia Bhatt and Sonakshi Sinha, is releasing on April 17. - IANS

### Hale to star as Katy Keene in *Riverdale* spinoff

Actress Lucy Hale has been cast in the titular role for the upcoming pilot "Katy Keene".

A *Riverdale* spinoff based on the Archie Comics character of the same name, "Katy Keene" follows the lives of four characters - including fashion legend-to-be Katy Keene - as they chase dreams in New York City, reports variety.com.

The musical dramedy chronicles the origins and struggles of four aspiring artists trying to make it on Broadway, on the runway and in the recording studio.

The character of Katy is described as a bold, big-hearted and independent twenty-something New Yorker, who aspires to be a fashion designer. When she is not working as a personal shopper at a luxury department store, she is navigating friendship and dating in the big city.

Hale is best known for playing Aria Montgomery in the teen drama *Pretty Little Liars* and was also the lead in the horror thriller *Truth or Dare*.

She joins previously announced cast members, who include Camille Hyde, Lucien Laviscount, Ashleigh Murray, Jonny Beauchamp and Julia Chan. - IANS



**NEW PROJECT:** Lucy Hale will appear in the musical dramedy that chronicles the origins and struggles of four aspiring artists.

# Peele reveals secrets of *Us*



**OSCAR WINNER:** Jordan Peele's *Us* is a follow-up to his *Get Out*, a movie that became a box-office sensation.

## By Mark Olsen

**A**USTIN, Texas — "You guys ready?" Jordan Peele asked this of the packed house at Austin's Paramount Theater ahead of Friday night's world premiere screening of *Us*, his new film as writer-producer-director and the opening night selection of the South By Southwest Film Festival.

The answer was both yes and no. Yes, in that the audience was at a fever pitch of excitement and anticipation before the screening began. *Us* is Peele's follow-up to *Get Out*, a movie that became a box-office sensation, an Oscar winner and a cultural phenomenon. The crowd in Austin featured many notable faces, including Donna Langley, chairman of Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg, attorney Nina Shaw and a hip selection of talent such as Leslye Headland, Amber Ruffin, Nick Kroll, Eiza González and Elijah Wood.

Peele introduced the cast of his film, also seated in the audience, ahead of the screening. When Oscar-winning star Lupita Nyong'o popped up from her seat, the house burst into a huge ovation, continuing for Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss and Tim Heidecker as well as young actors Shahadi Wright Joseph and Evan Alex.

Before the movie began, Peele added, "This movie is about a lot of things. I'm curious and excited to hear what you have to say after the film."

Frankly, there was no way for that audience to fully understand what was about to hit them. Terrifying,

entertaining and thrillingly ambitious, layering theme upon theme and twist upon twist, *Us* is a bold work of a brilliance set free, the kind of movie that a filmmaker gets to make when their previous title brings in more than \$255 million worldwide on a budget of \$4.5 million.

*Us* is the story of a family, the Wilsons, who go to their summer house in Santa Cruz for a getaway only to find themselves under siege by people who seem to be the evil shadow-twin versions of themselves. From there, the tension escalates, the themes deepen, and one shock follows another.

The movie's idea of those second-selves, *The Tethered*, dressed in red jumpsuits while brandishing large, sharpened scissors, will likely become part of the cultural conversation in much the same way that the notion of *The Sunken Place* from *Get Out* took hold.

In the Q&A after the film, Nyong'o spoke about collaborating with Peele on the follow-up to his groundbreaking debut as a filmmaker.

For *Get Out*, Peele became the first African American to win the Oscar for original screenplay and to be nominated as a writer, director and producer in the same year.

"Working with Jordan Peele, it terrified me; I won't lie," Nyong'o said. "He does such incredible things with story, and to think that I was going to be working with him next was just - I couldn't even compute it in my head."

Peele explained that the actors shot their different characters on different days, which could drastically change the vibes on set. The dual performances, by Nyong'o in particular, are astonishing.

Peele said the actors developed two distinct, fully formed characters, "And not just in a two-dimensional way, in a three-, four-dimensional way. I really got everybody's individual crazy out of them, and, for that, I'm forever proud."

Though they are not said in the movie, those second versions of the characters have names all their own, included in the end credits. Nyong'o plays the characters of both Adelaide Wilson and Red, while Duke plays Gabe Wilson and the invader Abraham.

"I never actually saw Abraham as a villain," said Duke. "[The approach to the character] was looking at Gabe from Abraham's point of view - it was just like, 'You have all the things that I want.'"

Peele was asked from the audience what he wanted people to take away from the film.

"It's a question I'm hesitant to answer," Peele said, "because I think my favourite thing is the idea that people will leave ready to have a conversation, with whoever they're with."

"On the broader strokes of things, this movie is about this country," Peele continued.

"And when I decided to write this movie, I was stricken with the fact that we are in a time where we fear the other, whether it is the mysterious invader that we think is going to come and kill us, take our jobs, or the faction that we don't live near that voted a different way than us. We're all about pointing the finger."

"And I wanted to suggest that maybe the monster we really need to look at has our face, maybe the evil is us." - *Los Angeles Times/TNS*



# May Queen Ball set to rock Doha next month

Nightingale of Goa, Lorna, and Forefront will perform at 19<sup>th</sup> Annual May Queen Ball

**T**he much awaited grand gala 19<sup>th</sup> Annual May Queen Ball organised by the Goan Welfare Association, Qatar (GWA) in collaboration with Orbit Events and Marketing is set to take place on April 25 at the Radisson Blu Doha from 7:30 pm onwards.

By public demand, Lorna, the Nightingale of Goa, will be back in Doha again to perform for May Queen Ball along with Forefront, Goa's number one and India's most celebrated live band from the western Indian state of Goa. Jam packed Lorna Cordeiro's fans crammed into Giwana Ballroom at Radisson Blu Doha last November to witness her performance during the event called Orbital Nite 2018, which was an astounding success.

There was a huge applause when Lorna entered the stage with the eager crowd enthusiastically screaming Lorna, Lorna. The diva glided across the stage flawlessly singing, wherein she thanked the Almighty for the gift of her voice. It was a standing ovation from the crowd with her *Aikat Mojo Tallo* which swept the crowd off their feet.

It was a golden opportunity for those who missed Lorna's performance last time to make it on April 25, for May Queen Ball. Fans of Lorna demanded to bring her back and people are eagerly awaiting to attend the show at Radisson Blu Doha.

The novelty of Lorna, who started her career as a jazz singer, is her intense mellifluous voice which along with popular Chris Perry compositions, have seen her performing for fans all over the world including Middle East, USA, UK, France, Portugal, Africa, New Zealand and Switzerland.

The highlight of the event will be crowning of the 19<sup>th</sup> May Queen by bollywood celebrities.

The annual May Queen Ball is the signature event of GWA that has grown from strength to strength over the years and the guests from Europe, United States, Canada, Africa, Gulf Countries and home country are expected in huge numbers to attend along with local guests. The 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of May Queen will be an exciting and fun filled blockbuster as popular bollywood celebrities will patronise the event. After successful 18 years of organisation, first time May Queen contest will be open to all from the age limit of 17 to 40 years and the marital status will not be mandatory. Simon D'Silva, president of Goan Welfare

Association has said that this is an opportunity for the ladies who always requested to be allowed to part-take in the contest. D'Silva, said 19<sup>th</sup> year onwards, it will be a new trend and new concept with more fun, excitement and more people can participate. This year the event has been preponed in April due to the Holy month of Ramadan that is beginning in the first week of May 2019, said Simon D'Silva. He also announced attractive prizes for the participants and winners like diamond, gold, airline tickets, wrist watches, five star hotel vouchers for over-night stays and dining, electronic items, valuable cosmetics and many more surprises in galore.

The Goan Welfare Association (GWA) has been the face and voice of Goans living in Qatar for the last 19 years.

Aby led by affectionate and multi-talented Simon D'Silva. Since inception, the association has rendered yeoman's service in nurturing Goan culture and spirit among the large number of Goan expatriates. On a larger note the association has always been in the forefront of reaching out to various causes, thus setting a shining example to all. It is therefore, not astonishing to see them host events with great success for nearly two decades. The association is known not only for meticulous planning but also perfect execution and the annual May Queen Ball has been a true example for this.

Forefront took off into the music world over two decades and from then onwards it was no looking back. The success story of Forefront lies in the music they play, with strong stage presence and a distinct ability in sensing the pulse of their audiences. Their extensive repertoire of music such as English retro, classic rock, bollywood, latest from billboard charts and Goan music is what they deliver, which makes every party a big success. The band is powered by six top musicians, namely Agatha Jilugo on lead vocals, Savio Fernandes on drums and vocals, Melvin Rosario on guitar and vocals, Brendan Noronha on keyboards, Band leader Seby Pinto on bass and vocals and frontman Dave Rodrigues on guitar and lead vocals.

Good music is essential for the success of any musical event and so is a good music director. Norman Cardozo has worked hard with determination and perseverance and won him the enviable tag of Music Director. A soft spoken,



**FOREFRONT:** From left, Band leader Seby Pinto, Savio Fernandes, Dave Rodrigues, Melvin Rosario, Brendan Noronha, and sitting at the centre is lead vocalist Agatha Jilugo.

rather who has trotted across the globe on professional assignments from the Gulf States to Europe, and far across the Pacific to Canada, USA, Africa, New Zealand and Geneva taking music to the world. Norman is the music director for Lorna who will be supported by Saxophone Maestro Joaquim De Souza. He performs frequently with the band Forefront and other leading bands in Goa. De Souza is the music director for the bollywood film, *Damad Ke Intazaar Main*. Joaquim's musical roots dig deep in his family. His uncle Manuel De Souza played the saxophone under reputed music director from R.D. Burman to A. R. Rehman.

Along with Forefront, teaming up with them, Goa's top host and ace compere Updesh Swar. He is a sensation in Goa and all over India including abroad with has a unique hold over the audience. Updesh's eloquent, witty compering is second to none. Even though he has compered at the event a number of times, each time he comes up with a new and unique style. May Queen Ball is one of the eagerly-awaited annual events in Doha and every year as it attracts full-house audience who

make it a memorable event. The glamorous May Queen contest will be conducted in great style and fanfare. The event is open to all nationalities and contestant's age limit is between 17 to 40 years. For

details, please call 55550491.

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**LEGEND:** Lorna Cordeiro, popularly known as the nightingale of Goa.