COVER STORY

There's probably a photographer hidden in each of us, looking out for a platform. Community invites you to grab your chance and send your contributions with contact details and complete description of the images to qatarcommunity@gmail.com — PHOTO ESSAY, Page 10

GULF TIMES
COMMUNITY

Moonwalk

50 years later, TV is still enamoured of the Apollo 11 adventure P4-5

REVIEW

Controversy-stirring remake is creepy fun.
Page 14

BACK PAGE

Exploring 'Unlimited Limits'.
Page 16
**Annabelle**

**DIRECTION:** Gary Dauberman  
**CAST:** Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson, McKenna Grace  
**SYNOPSIS:** While babysitting the daughter of Ed and Lorraine Warren, a teenager and her friend unknowingly awaken an evil spirit trapped in a doll. John Form (Ward Horton) thinks he’s found the perfect gift for his expectant wife, Mia (Annabelle Wallis): a vintage doll in a beautiful white dress. However, the couple’s delight doesn’t last long: One terrible night, devil worshippers invade their home and launch a violent attack against the couple. When the cultists try to summon a demon, they smear a bloody rune on the nursery wall and drip blood on Mia’s doll, thereby turning the former object of beauty into a conduit for ultimate evil.

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

**Top Story 4**

**DIRECTION:** Josh Cooley  
**CAST:** Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts  
**SYNOPSIS:** Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the gang embark on a road trip with Bonnie and a new toy named Forky. The adventurous journey turns into an unexpected reunion as Woody’s slight detour leads him to his long-lost friend Bo Peep. As Woody and Bo discuss the old days, they soon start to realise that they’re worlds apart when it comes to what they want from life as a toy.

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

**MF Husain: The Horses Of The Sun Exhibition**
**WHERE:** Mataf: Arab Museum of Modern Art
**WHEN:** Ongoing till July 31
**TIME:** 9am – 7pm
The exhibition presents Husain’s pluralist approach to the divine and cosmic aspects of being, articulated through the myths, symbols and narratives of the world’s religions and philosophies. M. F. Husain: Horses of the Sun bears witness to a recurrent motif in his art, a personal symbol of self-renewal and vitality.

**Summer Entertainment City**
**WHERE:** DECC
**WHEN:** Ongoing till July 13
**TIME:** 1pm – 11pm
The biggest indoor VR and Gaming zone, over 50+ new activities and 45 food options along with 114 retail shops, for the whole family under one roof. Entry fee QR15 per head.

**India to Qatar – Symbiosis of Cultures**
**WHERE:** FBQ Museum
**WHEN:** Ongoing till July 31
Under the context of cultural exchange, FBQ Museum brings together the treasures of the museum owned collection in order to promote mutual understanding, recognition and appreciation between Qatar and India. Composed of five main topics, including community, trade, arts, food and incense, the exhibition takes one on a journey to explore the rich and diverse Indian cultures, the long historic links between Qatar and India, and cultural similarities between Qatar and India.

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

**Career Guidance**
**WHERE:** Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
**WHEN:** Sunday – Thursday
**TIME:** 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 55448835.

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

**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

**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.

**Hobby Classes**
**WHERE:** Mamangam Performing Art Centre
**WHEN:** Wednesday – Monday
Mamangam Performing Art Centre, is a holistic performing arts institution and one 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, indian classical dance, music (Hindustani and Carnatic), arts and craft, karate, yoga, percussion (Chenda, Thimila, Elathalam and Madhalam), violin, harmonium, public speaking.

**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 66523871/3132649.
Many moons ago

A global audience of more than 500 million viewers tuned in for what was considered the greatest adventure in human history. The young sons of astronaut Neil Armstrong were in the living room of their Houston home, surrounded by friends and family, when their father descended from the lunar module onto the moon’s surface.

It was a moment of time when we all came together, achieved something monumental and experienced it together

— Amy Entelis, CNN

By Stephen Battaglio

Retired astronaut Wally Schirra spoke for the world with his commentary for CBS News during the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969: “Thank you, television, for letting us watch this one.”

A global audience of more than 500 million viewers tuned in for what was considered the greatest adventure in human history and the culmination of a national goal set by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to get a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

The young sons of astronaut Neil Armstrong were in the living room of their Houston home, surrounded by friends and family, when their father descended from the lunar module onto the moon’s surface.

“We saw it on our state-of-the-art 26-inch colour set,” Rick Armstrong said at a New York event to promote the Smithsonian Channel’s upcoming documentary The Day We Walked on the Moon, which premieres July 7.

Five decades later, viewers will be able to immerse themselves in the coverage again — or for the first time — in the weeks leading up to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. CNN, Discovery
Channel, National Geographic Channel, Smithsonian Channel and PBS are airing special programmes that feature rare footage of the voyage. TV news will offer coverage that feature rare footage of the PBS are airing special programmes Channel, Smithsonian Channel and National Geographic Channel, National Geographic aired its theatrically released film president for talent and content of the anniversary celebrations at the Kennedy Space Center near Orlando, Florida, and Apollo Mission Control Center in Houston. Orlando, Florida, and Apollo of the anniversary celebrations at the Kennedy Space Center near Orlando, Florida, and Apollo Mission Control Center in Houston. Entelis, executive vice president for talent and content for CNN – which aired its theatrically released film Apollo 11 on Sunday – believes the upcoming anniversary is a chance for viewers to see how a nation united at a time of deep divisiveness over the Vietnam War and social upheaval.

"It was a moment of time when we all came together, achieved something monumental and experienced it together," Entelis said. "In the very tumultuous time we're living in now, I think people are looking at our film and saying, "I'm nostalgic for a time when that was possible!"

Network television news was a major partner in promoting the space programme – as evidenced in Robert Stone's three-part documentary Chasing the Moon, which debuts July 8 on PBS stations. In the pre–cable era of the 1960s, when CBS, NBC and ABC dominated the TV landscape, a captive audience watched largely uncritical coverage of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's launches and missions.

One constant in the upcoming Apollo 11 commemorations is vintage video and audio of CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite, an overt booster of the space programme from the start. By the time Apollo 11 launched, he was the top-rated network anchor, surpassing long-time rivals Chet Huntley and David Brinkley on NBC. Cronkite's audience for the moon landing surpassed the combined total for NBC and ABC and solidified his status as the dominant figure in TV news for the next decade.

For viewers who want a pure Cronkite experience on the Apollo 11 anniversary, CBS is mining its archives to present real-time footage of his coverage of events at the times they occurred. The launch will be shown on July 16 at 9:32am Eastern on the CBS News streaming service CBSN. Cronkite's account of the moon landing and moonwalk will run on July 20 at 4:17pm and 10:56pm Eastern. Audio of the coverage will be carried on CBS News Radio.

Cronkite made himself an expert on the space programme and explained the technical aspects with precision. But he also felt free expressing his wonderment at what was happening. (Socolow said the re-creations fed into conspiracy theories that the moon landing was staged.)

While network television devoted dozens of consecutive hours to the Apollo 11 mission, there were long stretches with no live footage to show. News divisions used models and animation to depict much of what was happening. (Socolow said the re-creations fed into conspiracy theories that the moon landing was staged.)

Celebrity interviews and panels also filled the hours between the live shots of the launch and the black-and-white TV images, picked up by a 71/2-pound Westinghouse camera, that were beamed back to Earth from the moon.

CBS aired a segment with Orson Welles reminiscing about his War of the Worlds radio broadcast, which had panicked the country 31 years earlier with its tale of a Martian invasion. Welles told Mike Wallace that he would love to make a trip to the moon himself, but tipping the scale at 300 pounds made it unlikely. Over on ABC, jazz legend Duke Ellington introduced a new song called Moon Maiden.

CNN's Apollo 11, which was released in theatres in March, offers viewers an unfiltered view of the voyage. Outside of some audio of Cronkite, there are no anchors or reporters describing the voyage and its aftermath, which are depicted almost entirely by recently discovered 70-millimetre film shot by NASA during the mission to serve as a record. Apollo 11 director Todd Douglas Miller had heard rumours that such footage existed but believed much of it was related to the NASA-commissioned production of a 1970 documentary called Moonwalk, which was released in 35-millimetre. After searching for several months, Miller was contacted by an archivist about sealed cans of 70-millimetre film sitting in cold storage at the National Archives, some of which were labelled Apollo 11.

"It wasn't until we tested them that we knew we had something," Miller said. "The quality was the most stunning aspect of it." Miller also gave access to 11,000 hours of audio of NASA mission control that encapsulate the entire nine–day Apollo 11 mission; these recordings provide nearly all of the dialogue in the film.

Entelis has anecdotal evidence that Miller's approach will connect with younger viewers who have no knowledge or recollection of the moon landing.

"At one of the Sundance screenings, I was sitting next to a woman who looked to be 20 or 21 years old," Entelis said. "I struck up a conversation with her, and she said the movie was fantastic. She said, "I loved the fact that there was no narration, that nobody was telling me what to think or talking heads telling me how important this was. I sat there as if it was just me watching this mission 50 years ago."

Entelis asked whether the lack of additional information or data detracted from the film. "She said, "Nope, if I want to learn anything more about it, I'll just go to Google and find it."

– Los Angeles Times/TNS
Lanka Lions marks 36th anniversary

The Lanka Lions, one of Qatar’s oldest Sri Lankan community organisation, recently organised Lanka Lions Nite as part of its 36th anniversary at Radisson Blu Hotel. The event featured a performance by Misty, Sri Lankan musical band. The event was compered by Joanna Adams. The event also featured open dance for the members of the Lanka Lions. The event was attended by notable personalities from various business and community organisations. The club also honoured its sponsors with Appreciation Awards and recognised the members with Service Excellence Awards on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Ishan Mindika, President of The Lanka Lions, asked the gathering to observe a minute silence as a respect to the lost lives during terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka in April 2019. He also went on to thank the participants and the membership for their valuable contribution to the club.

BPS organises Hindi language workshop

Birla Public School (BPS) recently organised a workshop on ‘Hindi language and teaching’. Professor Shradha Panday, renowned author from India, was the resource person. The aim of the workshop was to develop professional competence of teachers and to provide better learning strategies for students. The teachers learned about how to make classes more interesting and interactive in the workshop.

Orientation programme was organised to have vivid discussions on various topics, including how to score high marks in Hindi Language in board exams, the pattern of question paper, problems faced while studying the language and how to develop critical writing skills. Different learning methods were discussed so that students could adopt them and understand the language easily.

New addition at Chemistry Department of PSSC

Abdul Razzaq, a veteran Chemistry teacher, has recently joined Pak Shamaa School and College. He has diverse experience of teaching students at Senior Level. Before joining PSSC, he had served Pakistan International School Doha Qatar for 32 years. He possesses an outstanding ability to bring about and maintain high academic standards and supervise students. M.A Shahid, President of the Management of PSSC, and Nabila Kaukab, Principal of PSSC, felicitated Razzaq for joining the Department of Chemistry at PSSC. Razzaq recently presented his career achievements to the faculty members and management at PSSC.
Embassy of India and ISC mark 5th International Day of Yoga

The Embassy of India and Indian Sports Centre (ISC), in association with Bharathi, recently marked 5th International Day of Yoga at Al Khor Community’s Al Waha Club. Nilangshu Dey, President of ISC, welcomed the participants and thanked all the residents of Al Khor for their support in celebrating the International Day of Yoga. The event kicked off with the screening of the message of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, highlighting about the importance of yoga. Speaking on the occasion, P Kumaran, Ambassador of India, highlighted about the benefits of Yoga to lead a healthy life and its importance in mitigating stressful lifestyle. He also pointed out that common yoga protocol has been decided for practising yoga for everyone’s benefit.

Jassim Muhammed Ashkanani, Head of Clubs of Al Khor community, was the chief guest on the occasion. The ambassador felicitated Jassim on the occasion. The yoga session kicked off with the demonstration of artistic yoga, which was followed by practice session by Ashish Gahlawat, yoga instructor.

KYC organises 10th Convention

Kirat Yaktum Chumlung-Qatar (KYC), one of the Nepali community organisations, recently organised its 10th Convention at White House Restaurant. The event was chaired by Rajendra Samyangkham. Shiba Kumar Bhujel, Nepali community leader, was the chief guest at the event. The event was attended by notable personalities, including Chanak Pokharel, Mohan Ram Chaudhary, Sabitri Sunuwar, Chhuten Sherpa, Kiran Parivar, Dilli Sher Khadka, Lati Limbu, Rajendra Sawa, Lok Bahadur Rai, Ganesh Thaklung Limbu, Kewal Pahim Limbu, Dambar Liwang Limbu and Som Baburung Limbu.

Shiba Kumar Bhujel inaugurated the event with the lighting of the candle, which was followed by the national anthem of Nepal. Harka Khajum, Vice Chairman of KYC, welcomed the gathering, which was followed by a dance performance. KYC also felicitated its members on the occasion. Bhogendra Aangkhewa, Treasurer of KYC, presented the financial and Sarup Tumbahamphe, General Secretary, the progress report on the occasion. KYC also elected its 25-member new working committee led by Rajendra Samyang Limbu.—Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam
Tips for saving on airfare and hotels this summer

George Hobica suggests that package prices often save money versus booking air and hotel separately

**USE CREDIT:** If you’re booking a flight on an airline to Europe that is cash-strapped, usually the ones with the lowest fares, only buy with a credit — not a debit card.

If the price of the cheapest one-way ticket is half the price of the cheapest round-trip ticket, then buy one-ways, and do so on different airlines if it’s cheaper (American outbound, United inbound for example). Here’s why: if you buy a $200 round-trip from LA to Vegas and need to change just the outbound flight you’re out the full $200 (those hated airline fees); if price is more important than destination. Instead of entering a specific destination airport, click on the ‘explore destinations’ link and it will show a price map on the travel dates you choose. The ‘date grid’ and ‘price graph’ features are useful for finding fares if you’re date-flexible and willing to fly whenever fares are cheapest. It also shows alternative nearby airports. It’s a bit ‘inside baseball’ and takes some exploring and patience but it’s a useful set of tools. That said, Priceline might have a fare to Italy or somewhere that is hundreds cheaper to book direct with the airline or hotel.

**SOLO TIP:** Travelling solo? Some top hotels have single-bedded rooms that are much cheaper than, but just as luxurious as, the larger ones. Search airlines if it’s cheaper (American, United, or other third-party apps such as Hopper and Hipmunk). How to tell? Do a sample search whenever fares are cheapest. It also shows alternative nearby airports. It’s a bit ‘inside baseball’ and takes some exploring and patience but it’s a useful set of tools. That said, Priceline might have a fare to Italy or somewhere that is hundreds less than on Google Flights. Online travel agencies buy seats in bulk and sell them either as part of air plus hotel packages or airfare-only.

**Hotels**

Travelling solo? Some top hotels, such as the delightful Lygon Arms, an old coaching inn in the English Cotswolds, and London’s adorable Draycott Hotel, have single-bedded rooms that are much cheaper than, but just as luxurious as, the larger ones, but you won’t find them for sale unless you specify one guest (booking sites always default to two guests, you may have noticed).

Don’t be afraid of booking hotels with websites you’ve never heard of. I booked a room at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston last year using one of these (I’ve forgotten the name...HotelWow? HotelNow?) and saved $250 compared to the hotel’s website (again, credit card only and finish your stay within 60 days of the charge appearing on your credit card statement; and call the hotel to make sure your room is booked). Lesson: it’s not always cheaper to book direct with the airline or hotel.

I always look at the hotel site and then compare on Trivago, because they list prices on some little-known vendors, that’s where I found the Fairmont deal, as well as on Priceline, Expedia and other online travel agencies. If I can’t find a deal online I’ll call the hotel’s reservations manager directly (not the 800 number) and try to finesse at least free parking or free breakfast. Sometimes there are special deals lurking in the hotel’s computer systems that you won’t find online. – TNS
A professional with a well-paying job at a global tech giant quit because of his love for jackfruit. Yes, you heard that right, as this is exactly what James Joseph from the Indian state of Kerala, India, did a few years ago.

Driven by a keen desire to promote jackfruit, Joseph left his job as Director as Executive Engagement at Microsoft India and set up his own company, Jackfruit365, in October 2013. Since then, the company’s operations have spread all over India as well as abroad, including Qatar. Jackfruit365 products are now sold in more than 5,000 shops. Jackfruit365 is described as “an initiative to create an organised market for Indian jackfruits”.

Joseph has over 20 years of manufacturing, sales and marketing experience in India, North America and Europe. In 2007, he returned to India from the UK and, in 2009, was allowed to work from home after he assured his employer of better productivity. During this period, he spent a few months writing his book, God’s Own Office - How one man worked for a global giant from a village in Kerala.

Drawn by the jackfruit trees in his backyard, he soon developed a keen interest in the fruit and how much of it was wasted. He said some 80% of the total quantum of jackfruits “was not at all utilised” though it remained a favourite among people, including non-resident Keralites whose love for the fruit remained intact. “I wanted to make it available for all and started the online sale of green jackfruit and ripened jackfruit,” he told Gulf Times.

Taking a cue from the good response his new venture received, Joseph later turned towards bringing out more products that would also enable consumers to gain from the health benefits of jackfruit. And this prompted him to launch dehydrated green jackfruit as “vegetable meat.”

He got the idea after being served dishes with mushrooms at a dinner party. “I thought of replacing mushrooms with green jackfruit,” he told Gulf Times.

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He got the idea after being served dishes with mushrooms at a dinner party. “I thought of replacing mushrooms with green jackfruit,” he explained. The idea was suggested by former Indian president A P J Abdul Kalam, Joseph said. “He wanted me to help people benefit from green jackfruit without changing their dietary habits.”

Green jackfruit, according to Joseph, is also an answer to hyperglycemia that leaves diabetics to suffer. He came to hear from a diabetic patient that eating jackfruit curry resulted in decreasing his sugar level.

“Green jackfruit is a rich source of dietary fibres and it ensures wellness. Besides, it has low carbohydrate content that helps users maintain a healthier cardiovascular system and regulate the blood glucose levels,” he explained.

Joseph also has the support of Eastern Condiments, a leading spice brand in India, in his endeavours. Besides being a successful entrepreneur, he has also become a familiar face in medical conferences across India and outside the country.

“Jackfruit is pectin-rich and this could help cancer patients beat chemotherapy ailments,” he said. In March 2018, jackfruit was declared the official fruit of Kerala. The announcement came in recognition to the efforts made by Joseph.

On his plans for Qatar, Joseph said that Indian ambassador, P Kumaran has offered to take steps to promote jackfruit in the country where lifestyle diseases are prevalent. “It will help residents in Qatar tap the potential of jackfruit and make it beat lifestyle diseases,” he said.
The inspiring landscape of Katara

Katara Cultural Village, also called the Valley of Cultures, is a unique place to visit for everyone, especially those fascinated by traditions, theatre, art and architecture.

The cultural village was constructed on reclaimed coastal land on the eastern coast between the Pearl-Qatar and West Bay to the north of Doha. The soft-opening took place in 2010 on the occasion of the Doha Cultural Capital of the Arab World year. The valley is conceptualised to replicate Qatari culture through conventional architecture and contains many activities. This project includes heritage centres, opera house, libraries, an amphitheatre, art galleries and other academic facilities – not to mention cafes, museum, business establishments, green areas and information centres.

The entire Katara complex is built with a fusion of oriental architectural and retro-romantic style, which is very different from most of Doha’s charming new cultural buildings.

Other than being a forum for scholars and artists, Katara aims in acknowledging and promoting cultural awareness in Qatar and raising the artistic energies through the administration of different organisations, societies and facilities. Build to epitomise Qatari traditional architecture and heritage, Katara’s landscape makes it a exquisite environment for cultural, creative, intellectual and artistic activities through carnivals, social events, symposiums, exhibitions, concerts and all other kinds of artistic ventures.

— Text and photos by Mohamed Samad Imran M
Music can boost academic performance of schoolkids

Students who take music courses score significantly better in exams than their non-musical peers, says a study. For the study published in The Journal of Educational Psychology, researchers examined over 100,000 students in public schools in British Columbia, Canada.

“Students who learned to play a musical instrument not only scored significantly higher but were about one academic year ahead of their non-music peers with regard to their English, Mathematics and Science skills, regardless of their socioeconomic background, ethnicity, and gender,” said Peter Gouvanias, Professor at the University of British Columbia.

The research team also found that predictive relationship between music education and academic achievement were more pronounced for those who took instrumental music rather than vocal music.

The findings suggest skills learned in instrumental music transfer very broadly to the students’ learning in school.

“A student has to learn to read music notation, develop eye-hand-mind co-ordination, develop keen listening skills, develop team skills for playing in an ensemble and develop discipline to practice… all these experiences play a role in enhancing the learner’s cognitive capacities, executive functions, motivation to learn in school, and self-efficacy,” said study co-author Martin Gohn, Assistant Professor at the varsity. — IANS
Wordsearch

BILLION  PRIME  GOOGOL
FIFTY    DOUBLE  THOUSAND
MILLION  FOUR    ELEVEN
DECIMAL  SIEVEN  HALF
FIVE     DOZEN   THREE
MULTIPLE FRACTION FACTOR
DIVISOR  SIXTY   HUNDRED
FORTY    EIGHT   ZERO

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) boxes. 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 box contains from 1 to 9, without repetition.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Emma’s possibly greeting British lady in India (8)
5 Spots back in kitchen cabinet (4)
8 Alter dance again? (5)
9 Drug supplied after pharmacist shortened dress (7)
11 Serious listener with cosy home (7)
12 Corruption hard work (5)
13 Look good with weapon (6)
15 Porn circulating in jail (6)
18 Less than fifty per cent from all-round (5)
20 A Scottish historian is clearly wrong (7)
23 Kangaroo, perhaps, or cad (7)
24 Say there’s nothing in immorality (5)
25 Whirling water concealed by breached dyke (4)
26 Engineer’s first in old bank for machine parts (8)

Down
1 Spread for Mrs Simpson (5)
2 Officer caught on a Mediterranean island (7)
3 Try to catch fish in the corner (5)
4 Prompt - and visible, by the sound of it (6)
6 Cockney’s mate in a distant country (5)
7 A football team always has weight (7)
10 Man seen in enchanted garden (5)
13 Moan making good thunderous sound (7)
14 Preserved copper colour (5)
16 Staying out when it’s very dark (7)
17 Build up a team, by the sound of it (6)
19 Doctor given pound beheaded old priest (5)
21 Don, for example - lead-free motorist (5)
22 We turned up with endless Irish pitchers (5)

Yesterday’s Solutions

Codeword

Answers

Wordsearch

GULF TIMES
COMMUNITY
By Justin Chang

Beneath all the nasty jolts and vicious bloodlettings in the new Child’s Play is almost enough material to furnish a mildly interesting episode of Black Mirror. A high-tech, ultra-gory reboot of the 1988 thriller that spawned a still-ongoing horror franchise, this new movie also turns on a creepy red-haired doll named Chucky, only this time he hasn’t been supernaturally possessed by the soul of a serial killer. He’s something altogether more banal, a defective robot manufactured by a powerful tech company, Kaslan, whose sleek Apple-like gadgets have all but overtaken every household.

There’s an unavoidable metaphor there, insofar as Child’s Play itself feels like something of a defective robot, though its many detractors have likened it to an example of brand betrayal. Several creative forces behind the original series, including writer-producer Don Mancini and actors Brad Dourif and Jennifer Tilly, have voiced their disapproval. Fans of the real-deal Chucky movies, with their cheerfully low-rent effects and bawdy, impish humour, may well regard this slick new offering as a desecration masquerading as an upgrade. Which is not to say that this Child’s Play is entirely without its brutish, haphazard pleasures.

Recasting the Chucky legend as an anti-technology satire is certainly a different if not exactly novel way into the material, updated here by Norwegian director Lars Klevberg and screenwriter Tyler Burton Smith. At the very least, the tech angle helps explain why an adolescent boy named Andy (Gabriel Bateman), who’s notably a few years older than his 1988 counterpart, would want to play with such a doll in the first place. Chucky – an early birthday gift from Andy’s mom, Karen (Aubrey Plaza) – hails from Kaslan’s implausibly popular Buddi line, which means he comes equipped with his own handy smartphone app and can do a lot more than just walk, talk and open his big blue eyes (sometimes much more).

Like a Cabbage Patch Kid reared by HAL 9000 and Alexa, Chucky can digitally manipulate any and all Kaslan electronics, from Internet connections to Roomba-style vacuum cleaners. He imitates behaviour – witnesses in real life and on TV. He speaks in the voice of Mark Hamill, who gives Chucky’s earnest, affectionate questions just the right dead-toned inflections. (Will you be my b-u-u-u-d-d-y?). He plays back audio clips of conversations you only thought were private. He’s your little brother and Big Brother rolled into one. And of course, he eventually kills and kills and kills, thanks to a fed-up Vietnamese brother and Big Brother rolled in one. He plays back audio clips of conversations you only thought were private. He’s your little brother and Big Brother rolled into one.

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There is one memorably grisly image, but I’d lose face if I gave it away; suffice to say that things get a little upchucky. Where the original doll caused an awful lot of damage with a hammer, a knife and an electroshock mower and a table saw. Shred-shred, scream-scream, yawn-yawn.

Chucky’s controversial development history aside, Child’s Play is the latest in an endless trend of vintage horror franchises getting a millennial-skewing retrofied (the best of which is probably last year’s surprisingly adept Halloween sequel). The effort here, however, feels especially futile. The first movie may have awakened every viewer’s inner pedophile 31 years ago, but devil dolls have long since saturated the contemporary horror lexicon, and not even Mancini’s Chucky corners the market anymore. Your appetite for this kind of homicidal puppet show might just as well be sated by Amblin’s Brahm’s: The Boy II, coming this summer. Even it’s creepy Howdy Doody-style automatons, is offering a family-friendly alternative.

Being an AI with faulty circuitry, Chucky 2.0 doesn’t have the hilarious vulgarity or the single-minded murderous glee – the soul, if you will – that made Dourif’s Chucky such an unnervingly human abomination. Still, he’s arguably less of a cipher than the sleepy-sardonic Karen, who doesn’t seem to be channelling Plaza’s signature contempt so much as receiving it.

Faring rather better is Brian Tyree Henry (If Beale Street Could Talk) as a police detective whose mom (an enjoyable Carlease Burke) conveniently lives down the hall from Andy and Chucky.

He pumps much-needed life into a movie that devolves into another rotce celebration of death. – Los Angeles Times/TNS

By Katie Walsh

Danny Boyle and Richard Curtis’ Yesterday requires its viewers to take quite a few leaps of faith. First, you have to buy the story that Jack (Himesh Patel), a struggling club musician and busker, is at that moment hit by a bus (thank goodness he’s wearing a helmet), totalising his teeth and his bike tire. But somehow, his memory of The Beatles remains magically intact.

He discovers the quirk when, as a get well gift, his pals get him a guitar. And because “a great guitar deserves a great song,” he plays a few bars of The Beatles’ Yesterday, absolutely flooring his friends, who wonder when and how he wrote the tune.

Jack’s the only person in the world who remembers the band (or so it seems). And so, through a series of jogs in the rain, a clutching of his forehead, he ultimately decides to capitalise on it, sending his career into overdrive.

His trajectory to the top is aided by Ed Sheeran, who is apparently now the world’s best songwriter (in this timeline, Oasis does not exist, but the Rolling Stones do), and his manager, Deborah (Kate McKinnon) hears Jack’s crooning and sees dollar signs.

Written by Jack Barth and Richard Curtis, the king of the British rom-com (Love Actually, Four Weddings and Funeral, About Time), Yesterday is a love story disguised as a high-concept music film. Jack has frustrated his best mate, Ellie (Lily James), and through The Beatles music and his journey to global superstardom and back, he learns what’s really important in life.

But with Curtinian flair, Jack of course can’t just tell Ellie, he needs to make a grand gesture that puts her in a high-pressure situation: How about the Wembley Stadium Jumbobron for a declaration of love?

Everything in the film is high: high concept, high pressure, high stakes, and it often feels bizarrely forced. Nothing makes any sense and is never explained.

No one has any memory of Coca-Cola or cigarettes for some reason, either. The script wobbles underneath its own weight, but Boyle directs from the issues with his feverish direction, characteristically throwing everything at the screen and bringing his signature sense of visual dynamism, filled with movement, light and colour. The songs? Great, of course. The story? Strange at best.

The characters and aesthetic? Aces.

Everyone on screen is just so likeable (even McKinnon, playing the villain), especially the earnest, open Patel, in a star-making performance. The characters and aesthetic? Aces.

Even if this modern fairy tale doesn’t hold up on close inspection, Boyle does his best to make sure the ride is enjoyable. – TNS
Please don’t bully my family or me: child actor Lexi

Avengers: Endgame child star Lexi Rabe, who played the on-screen daughter to Robert Downey Jr in the film, has urged people not to bully her family or her, reminding them she is all of 7 years old.

In a video message posted on her Instagram page, Lexi, who essayed Morgan Stark in the movie, says: “Hi, I'm Lexi Rabe. I’m only 7 years old. And I mess up sometimes, so my mom and dad give me tonnes of talking tos and timeouts, believe me.

And if I go anywhere and I'm acting a little silly or messed up or anything like that, I'm just 7 years old. Please don’t bully my family or me.

She ended her message by quoting the “love you 3,000” line from Avengers: Endgame.

Her mother Jessica also wrote an elaborate post asking bullies to keep away.

“I hate that we even have to post this. But yet again Lexi’s getting bullied. And this kind of thing makes celebrities never want to leave the house, never want to meet people. Please keep your opinions to your own self and Lexi can grow up in the free world.

“Shes a normal human being and she’s a child. We give her a talking and we give her timeouts but we don’t do that in public. Sometimes we are rushing from place to place stressed like everyone else to get to set on time or work or whatever and we see a little grumpy, I’m sorry if you see us this way it’s that life.’’

“If you ask us for an autograph, we always almost say yes. If we happen to be having a bad day that might put us right on the right! We are not perfect! These perfect children are not being given the freedoms and the rights that they should. If your child is so scared to be themselves in public and mess up a little then you’re over-parenting.

“We give our children plenty of rules and boundaries but then give them the freedom to mess up and learn from their own mistakes. They would not be on set an movies if they weren’t well behaved. Trust me they have no desire to hire kids like that. And there were plenty of children that productions can work with.

So if you see us in public and think you have the right to judge. Wait.

Number one, until you have children of your own, and number two we realise that we’re not perfect and we’re not claiming to be.

“Just try to realise the different strokes for different folks... what you do with your kids may work for you and what I do with my kids works well for me. My children love me and respect me even if they act out sometimes. Thank you.” – IANS
Exploring ‘Unlimited Limits’

Faisal al-Hajri, a talented Qatar artist, completes residency project with Fire Station

By Mudassir Raja

Art is all about giving meaning to feelings and concepts through different mediums of art, be it painting, sculpture, fiction, or poetry. Different artists have always tried to highlight new philosophies, ideas and concepts through different art mediums. Faisal al-Hajri is a talented Qatari artist. He recently completed his creative project titled ‘Unlimited Limits’ under the Fire Station Artists in Residence programme.

He has introduced novel concepts through his project and has made his artistic “declaration.”

The Fire Station Artist in Residence sits at the heart of Doha’s flourishing art community. It provides the perfect springboard for creativity, helping people take their passion to the next level.

The Fire Station offers nine-month programmes for artists who are resident in Qatar. During this time, they move into one of the studios, collaborate with fellow creative individuals and develop their own technique. They meet curators, and get access to all exhibitions and are encouraged to join lectures.

On the completion of his project, Community got in touch with Faisal and discussed his concepts and mediums he used for the residency project. Faisal, a conceptual artist, has a unique idea that was readily approved and appreciated by the Fire Station authorities.

“I have been practicing art throughout my life. One of my artist friends from Italy suggested that I attend a residency art project at Fire Station. I thought it’s nice to come out and share my ideas and arts with others. My project was clear enough. I wanted to invite the audience to a quiet place where they can investigate their lives and question who they really are. My project was accepted by the authorities here. The basic idea of my project was a question about what is limiting you in your life.”

The artist’s new concept deals with the idea about the limits and hurdles that stop people from exploring art and creative ventures in their lives.

“It is about what is limiting us from progressing in life in a healthy way with the rhythm of universe. I believe that nature and universe progress in a very rhythmic way. However, our fears make us [human beings] static. I had interactive sessions with people from all ages and backgrounds and asked them about what limits them in going creative or making progress in their lives.”

The interactive sessions with different people taught Faisal that there are certain fears that keep them away from creative ideas or making progress.

“I have learnt that people have fears, limitations, and worries. I have observed that the people are consumed with what they have now. They are very much attached with what they have. The people have the fear to lose their attachments. They are afraid of losing their family, friends or a job. They identify life with that.

In my project, I have tried to show that when you are detached from your materialistic attachments, you get to connect to a higher present moment – the creative energy. It gives you a better solution for the next moment. Every creative moment will take you to another creative moment. When you identify yourself with materialistic things, you get stuck.”

The conceptual artist used different materials and techniques to portray his concepts in different art forms. “I used different materials. I used painting, sculptures, and different mix media. I have made some book stands and called them ‘essential’. I have the small book stands into butterflies explaining that knowledge can really lift us to the next level. In one of my paintings, I discussed the idea that do we chose our family. I have brought out the concept of a universal family that is based on three values – love, peace and beauty. These are the values that will connect me with other people. Beauty is just the projection of the rhythm of nature.

“I have created nine art pieces in as many months in my studio. I created a beautiful cup with lots of spikes attached to its outside. Whenever we want to enjoy our cup of tea or coffee, there are some discomforts – fears – that spoil the moment. Every spike is like an attachment in our life. Another creative piece of mine is named One Million Stars. It talks about my vision that is to reach out to 10 million people with my art philosophy – just be detached from you belongings and be open to receive new ideas.

“My art is all about creating a dialogue with people. I want them to feel it. The real language of life is feelings.”

Faisal al-Hajri

“My art is all about creating a dialogue with people. I want them to feel it. The real language of life is feelings.”

— Faisal al-Hajri

Photos by Jayan Orma

ARTWORK: Faisal is a conceptual artist who uses different materials and techniques to portray his ideas concepts in different art forms and mediums.