COVER STORY

Film critics Justin Chang and Kenneth Turan pick the best movies of 2019. P4-5

Glamour

Pakistani stars sizzle on memorable award night. Page 8-9

Back Page

‘Find your why’. A cancer survivor’s story. Page 16
**PRAYER TIME**

Fajr 3.20am
Shorooq (sunrise) 4.32am
Zuhr (noon) 11.41am
Asr (afternoon) 3.05pm
Maghreb (sunset) 6.29pm
Isha (night) 7.59pm

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

Emergency 999
Worldwide Emergency Number 112
Kahramaa – Electricity and Water 901
Local Directory 180
International Calls Enquires 150
Hamad International Airport 40106666
Labor Department 44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi 44588888
Qatar Airways 44460000
Hamad Medical Corporation 44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation 44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation 44593333, 44593363
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre 44590450
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 40253364, 40253365
Qatar Airways 40253374

**Q&A**

Kakshi: Amminipilla
**DIRECTION:** Dinjith Ayyathan
**CAST:** Asif Ali, Shibla, Ashwathy Manoharan, Ahmed Siddique, Srikant Murali, Basil Joseph, Nirmal Palazhi
**SYNOPSIS:** What would it be like when a man who has no opinion about anything in life is suddenly forced into a marriage by his family and a few months later he seeks divorce?
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

**Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion**
**DIRECTION:** Alexandre Astier, Louis Clichy
**CAST:** Christian Clavier, Guillaume Briat, Alex Lutz
**SYNOPSIS:** Asterix, Obelix and Miraculix set out to find a druid to whom Miraculix can pass the mystery of the potion onto. While the three seek a worthy successor, the evil Heretix works out a dark plan to get hold of the recipe.
**THEATRES:** Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza

**The Mall Cinema (1):**
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:30pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (2):**
Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:30pm
Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:15pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 6pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 8:30pm
El Mama (Arabic) 11pm

**The Mall Cinema (3):**
Oh! Baby (Telugu) 2pm
The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
Oh! Baby (Telugu) 8:45pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (1):**
Oh! Baby (Telugu) 2pm
Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
Oh! Baby (Telugu) 8:45pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (2):**
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:45pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (3):**
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
El Mama (Arabic) 8:45pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
El Mama (Arabic) 8:45pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**
Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 2:15pm
Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2D) 4:30pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 6:15pm
El Mama (Arabic) 8:45pm
O.P 160/18 Kakshi: Amminipilla (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):**
Kalavani 2 (Tamil) 2:15pm
Toy Story 4 (2D) 4:45pm
Oh! Baby (Telugu) 6:30pm
One Day: Justice Delivered (Hindi) 9:15pm
Raatchasi (Tamil) 11:30pm

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**Quote Unquote**

“We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do.”

– Mother Teresa

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Community Round & About
Compiled by Nausheen Shaikh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com, Events and timings subject to change.

**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.

**Summer Camp for Special Needs**
WHERE: Step by Step Centre for Special Needs
WHEN: Ongoing till August 1
TIME: 8:00am – 12:30pm
During this time, all therapists and teachers will be working together, running individual, peer and group sessions within classes. The children will continue learning age-appropriate concepts, work on social skills, life skills training, arts and crafts, music, and fun activities such as water play.

**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.

**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 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. Additional services include dance education, choreograph music videos and dance cover albums, choreograph dance musical projects, corporate workshops and events, choreograph events for schools, colleges, alumni meets and corporate and choreography events. For details, call 33897609.

**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

**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.
The big screen

Film critics Justin Chang and Kenneth Turan give the lowdown on the fare this year, rounding up with the list of their favourites

**Kenneth Turan**

The calendar may say we’re halfway through 2019, but in terms of the film year it doesn’t quite feel that way. Rather, the vibe is more like “Is that all there is?,” a lyric that Peggy Lee made famous. There’ve been good films, that’s for sure. But so much has been unsettling, from the agents’-writers imbroglio to the eternal concern about the threat streaming services pose to the theatrical experience, that despite some big numbers for select films a malaise seems to have settled over everything. Or is that just me?

**Justin Chang**: Not just you. That malaise has many different faces, which is why it’s hard to pin down. You could sense it in some of the grim box-office reporting from this summer alone, which has seen one overstretched blockbuster series after another (X-Men, Godzilla, Men in Black) fall short of commercial expectations — with the record-shattering Avengers: Endgame, of course, being the exception that proves the rule. Perhaps, some good will come of this if Hollywood learns (there’s a first time for everything) that audiences are not immune to franchise fatigue. But it’s an expensive lesson.

You could also feel the pinch at this year’s Sundance and Cannes film festivals, where we both saw many strong movies but emerged feeling perhaps less certain than ever that enough of them would find the wider audiences they deserve. The biggest crowd-pleasers at Sundance this year was the very enjoyable comedy Late Night, a smart entertainment written by and co-starring Mindy Kaling that touches on serious issues but never forgets to be really funny. The fact that theatregoers stayed away makes me worry that the middle has dropped out of the moviegoing market, that the mainstream adult audience for films like this has been neglected for so long they don’t recognise that something is for them even when it’s on a nearby theatrical screen.

But enough with the negativity, as they used to say. I have to admit that even the biggest of films provided palpable satisfactions this year. Yes, I am thinking of Captain Marvel, which I quite enjoyed, but most of all of Top Story 4, which had the brilliant notion of bringing back Bo Peep and Gabby Gabby, it beautifully integrated two smartly written and acted female characters into a flagship Pixar franchise that, over a quarter-century, has tended to put its (ahem) boy-toys front and centre. Toy Story 4 managed this rather more effectively than, say, Dark Phoenix, Men in Black: International, Disney’s live-action Aladdin remake and even the viciously entertaining John Wick — Chapter 3: Parabellum, all of which attempted to broaden their female audience with heartfelt gestures that seemed more pandering and performative than fully felt. Does anyone really feel “seen” or “empowered” (words that have themselves become trite from overuse) by the addition of tokenistic female characters and strained “you go, girl” shout-outs? As we’ve seen, meaningful change — and meaningful storytelling — happens when the industry foregrounds women in fresh roles and stories that haven’t been done to death.

The Brie Larson-starring Captain Marvel, which you cited, is an example. Lupita Nyong’o gives one of the year’s great performances in Jordan Peele’s Us, which itself is one of the few studio releases this year to offer a surfeit of intellectual and political ideas. And as usual, the independent realm has brought us no shortage of superb roles for women: If you haven’t yet seen Honor Swinton Byrne in The Souvenir, Mary Kay Place in Diane, Julianne Moore in Gloria Bell or Elisabeth Moss in Her Smell — well, there’s a knockout quadriple bill that awaits you.

**Turan**: Though it is a hoary lament, I continue to wish the studios would stop ghettoising their best films in the fall and that audiences would take more risks when they are on offer. I enjoyed The Sun Is Also a Star, a sweet-natured YA romance released by Warners and directed by independent veteran Ry Russo-Young, but moviegoers chose not to get involved.

As always, there were some really strong and compelling independent features like Julia Hart’s Fast Color, a superhero movie with the ability — and nerve — to do things differently, that audiences did not flock to. I’ve been worried for years that we are headed toward a two-tiered system where smaller films will not have theatrical releases, and the fact that High Flying Bird, Steven Soderbergh’s excellent basketball melodrama, debuted on Netflix made it something of a harbinger.

**Chang**: That Fast Color was the freshest and most original superhero picture released this year remains sadly lost on most
of the moviegoing public. And while I certainly hope they take the time to catch up with Hart's movie at home, it won't be the same experience it was in theatres, even if the Netflix allegiant would have us believe thatthese distinctions don't matter. Or — and I'm not unaware of the nuances of the argument — that one's access to theatres is dependent on a measure of economic privilege.

Of course it is. But is there a way to democratise this movie medium we love without, y'know, throwing aesthetics completely out the rapidly shrinking theatrical window? How are you supposed to fully appreciate one of the year’s great visual experiences, Bi Gan’s rapturous Long Day's Journey Into Night, with its staggeringly choreographed hour-long 3D tracking shot, if not in a theatre? Surely more people should have bought tickets to Claire Denis’ High Life and Pella Kagerman and Hugo Lilja’s Aniara, and Pella Kagerman and Jia Zhangke’s deeply moving gangster melodrama starring a never-better Zhao Tao.

Between Ash Is Purest White and Long Day's Journey Into Night, plus Zhang Yinou’s ravishing martial-arts drama Shadow and the late Hu Bo’s hauntingly bleak An Elephant Sitting Still, it’s worth noting that 2019 has brought with it an astonishing renaissance for Chinese art-house cinema. The sheer number of reductive headlines we hear about China at present — as a formidable economic and technological rival, as an oppressive regime, as a human-rights nightmare — is all the more reason to seek out and reflect on this vital, expansive work from some of the nation's great cinema artists. Speaking of headlines: What have been some of your favourite 2019 documentaries so far?

Turan: Documentaries, as always, have been a great source of joy and frustration this year. So many of them are so good, so dramatically satisfying, and so few of them perform at the box office. Just to mention some of the more recent: the operatic Pavarotti; The Spy Behind Home Plate, about catcher/spy Moe Berg; a theatrical reprise for Apollo 11 and its unexpected examination of the moon voyage; and The Edge of Democracy and its surprisingly compelling look at Brazil’s political turmoil.

And, of course, there is the documentary of the moment, Maiden, which relates the thrilling story of the first all-women crew to compete in the Whitbread Round the World yachtig race. Forget what you think about yachting, about sports or sexual politics. Just go to this film and make your day.

Chang: One of my favourite documentaries this year is one that ingeniously blurs the boundaries of the form, as its very title, Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese, bears out. This glorious tribute to that 1975 concert tour would be a treasure for its performance footage alone, but it’s the movie’s sense of mischief — its mock-doc inserts, its structural sleight-of-hand — that elevates it to a new level of Dylanesque showmanship. It also made quite a few people angry, which is wonderful.

Another standout is Black Mother, a visually and sensually overpowering 77-minute portrait of Jamaica from the director and cinematographer Khalik Allah. Shooting on 16-millimetre and 8-millimetre film, Khalik has made a fleeting, fragmentary poetic collage that is also strangely complete.

Speaking of headlines: What have been some of your favourite documentaries this year? Did you have a chance to experience them, but because

For all the oddball avenues explored in Peak TV, none have so successfully balanced the absurd with the tragic like Raphael Bob-Waksberg’s BoJack Horseman.

On the surface, the Netflix series is the story of a celebrity horse who walks upright, starred in a hit ‘80s sitcom and navigates a parallel, at times surreal version of Hollywood as drawn by illustrator Lisa Hanawalt that’s populated by a flawed mix of anthropomorphic animals and humans girded by puns like Fred Seagull, MSNBC Sea and the Chateau Marmoset. Looking deeper, however, it’s maybe the clearest, most human depiction of depression and addiction ever seen in a half-hour TV comedy that’s not afraid to set aside being funny.

This is the heartfelt and occasionally silly wheelhouse for Bob-Waksberg, who continues to combine both emotions in Someone Who Will Love You in All Your Damaged Glory, a collection of short stories and the 34-year-old’s first book.

Some stories, like Lunch With the Person Who Dumped You and the bulleted Lies We Told Each Other (a partial list), are tragic briefs threaded with bitingly that leave a mark, like a flicked jab in a boxing match. The punch hits hardest in Move Across the Country, which finds a rushed narrator fleeing their stubborn companion “the Sadness” only to discover its only to discover its return just as a new life has begun.

“When the Sadness smirks at you and says with a wry insistence that unravels you in an instant, “This is the real love story here, buddy, you and me,” Bob-Waksberg writes, and in a few short pages the story transitions to horror.

Longer stories, like the more elaborately drawn presidential theme park imagined in the first-person narrative of More of the You That You Already Are, conjure struggles for connection in grimy surreal alternative realities that recall the probing comic imaginings of George Saunders.

Mentioning a Man Booker Prize winner alongside the showrunner for a series about a depressed talking horse can seem like risky business, and while this book may be less likely for such shortlists, it’s easy to draw a dotted line from Saunders’ dystopian visions to the at times fantastic worlds Bob-Waksberg sets in motion.

Bob-Waxberg’s piece A Most Blessed and Auspicious Occasion rises from the many odd traditions one encounters in wedding planning to imagine a couple’s negotiating how best to satisfy friends, family and their budget in a pagan reality where Shrieking Choruses, Promise Eggs and goat sacrifices exist alongside. It’s an extension of the comic rule of following the absurd to its most extreme, and Bob-Waksberg follows it beautifully.

His story We Men of Science imagines a university professor charged with protecting a newly invented door to an opposite reality, and his inevitable explorations of alternative versions of himself and his loved ones yield increasingly strange yet affecting results. “This new universe I had discovered was exciting and terrifying and romantic, as anything that’s one tends to be all three,” Bob-Waksberg’s curious yet stubbornly unhappy narrator says as the boundaries of space and time begin to fray. “You walk through the Anti-Door and suddenly you’re a different person. Something is lost and something is gained.”

The book proves Bob-Waksberg can conjure many modern miseries beyond those of a talking horse, but not all his ventures pay off so well. Up-and-Comers struggles under the weight of combining a superhero origin story with a sort of Behind the Music document of young rock decadence, and The Average of All Possible Things fails to find much exceptional after establishing the middle-of-the-road nature of its central character, a lawyer rebounding from a bad office affair.

That said, for all its darkness, Someone Who Will Love You should be considered a lighter, amusing confection, one whose sweeter sides shine that much brighter with its balance of bitterness. In one of its strongest stories, You Want to Know What Plays Are Like?, Bob-Waksberg uses a character whose story is being partly retold by her playwright brother to mock the conventions of the theatre with the second person while offering a loving sort of appreciation for those conventions.

“You find yourself applauding for this broad burlesque puppet show of your life, as if you really found the whole thing to be a marvelous endeavor,” writes Bob-Waksberg, a playwright himself. “You will think about this night a lot in the months ahead, and the one thing you will ask yourself over and over is: Why did you clap?”

Sometimes, whether onstage or on the page, after seeing something you recognise with all its sadness and imperfections, that’s all you can do.

—— Los Angeles Times/ TNS
Growing indoor plants teaches patience

My plants remind me that my impatience is really a feeling of disempowerment, writes Mel Campbell

Two Shepard avocado seeds balance on toothpicks in glasses of water on my kitchen windowsill. They have been there since April, when I was seized by some primal urge (home ownership, perhaps?) and decided I wanted to grow my own.

I got so excited when I saw a taproot growing from the bottom of one seed. It was happening! I lost myself in fantasies of huge, glossy houseplants. But then ... nothing.

I'm not a patient person. As a child, I once cried on Christmas night because it wouldn't be Christmas again for another whole year. I rage against the grinding travesty of the NBN. I sigh heavily when it turns out I've chosen the slow-moving supermarket lane. At bus stops, the minutes drag by like aeons.

My avocado was no magic bean; rationally I knew it could take months to sprout. Yet I still managed to feel disappointed that the taproot hadn't immediately presaged a cavalcade of growth. Had the seedling failed? The other seed hadn't sprouted at all.

Still, that primal urge hadn't quite gone away. In mid-May, as the taproot blackened and the glass water grew cloudy, I took two branch cuttings from the apple tree in my backyard, snipping them just below a growth node, at a 45-degree angle. I stripped the bark from the bottom inch of the cutting, and splat on the raw wood, I'd read human saliva is a natural rooting hormone, and I liked the witchiness of giving something of myself to the cutting. But I dipped the moistened cuttings in commercial rooting hormone, just to be sure.

I planted the cuttings in a damp blend of vermiculite and potting mix, topped with an insulating layer of moss – also harvested from my back yard. I enclosed them in bells made from cut-down plastic bottles. You're meant to keep the cuttings out of direct sunlight, so I put them in my bathroom. I misted them occasionally with a spray bottle.

Then I waited.

My plants remind me that my impatience is really a feeling of disempowerment. Impatience can be an adaptive response to chaotic, anxious environments; my body feels the urgency of a world moving at eschatological speed, and wants to act. A fist grips my chest from the inside, sending my hands and teeth into an answering clench. My limbs fire with restraint: a leashed dog, a reined horse, a car revving in neutral. I look at my cuttings and pips, those stubbornly inert sticks and stones, thinking: come on! Come on!

This season isn't the best time to grow plants. But I don't have a choice: the boomer who owns my home is renovating, and in two months I'll have to leave my beautiful garden with its apple tree. The thought chills me with despair.

In Wurundjeri country where I live, it's the season of warring, the wombat. The slow-moving marsupials emerge to bask in the crisp sunlight that peels away the morning frosts. In the misty hills, the Wurundjeri feasted in winter on tender hearts of kombadik, tree ferns.

I bought a sad, mostly dead fern from the Bunnings discount trolley because it had a few furled fronds I hoped might grow. What I love about ferns is their resilience. But for weeks, this one remained stubbornly unchanged.

Then, it began. The smallest frond had unfurled, and a new frond was heaving the potting mix, a tiny green fist. It was giving me Rossetti's gift: its heart. I lifted the bell from an apple twig and joy bloomed in me like the swelling bud I saw. I rejoiced to see white roots uncurling, finger-like, from the avocado's taproot, and a stem bursting like newborn Athena from the seed's crown.

My plants remind me that my impatience is really a feeling of disempowerment – my inability to control the pace, and place, of my own life. My joy in them reminds me that good things can happen with time, and care. So I tend my leafless apple twigs, and imagine their roots unfurling slowly, slowly in the dark soil. Like the fern fronds and avocado roots. Like hope.

The Guardian
Pakistani stars sizzle on red carpet at Lux Style Awards

By Muhammad Asad Ullah

Performances at the Lux Style Awards (LSA) serve as dramatic punctuation in between ogling designer dresses and tuxedos, listening to nervous gratitude aimed at parents, spouses and project crew after a win, and the generally not so great scripted dialogue of presenters. As usual, music uplifts and 2019’s performances shouldn’t disappoint.

The recently held Lux Style Awards 2019 in Karachi, Pakistan, was all high and low and it marked an occasion where Pakistan is heading to grasp the importance of stardust all too well and is happy to put out there, spending millions and showcase what talent Pakistan Entertainment industry holds; a celebration of films, music, drama and fashion.

Meanwhile where the jury was out, the judges were in and LSA was besieged under controversies. LSA jury received backlash for snubbing some of the most prominent projects of 2018 and celebrities including actors, producers and influencers took over social media to express their concern without any curtailment.

The Lux Style Awards (LSA) collaborated with Frieha Altaf’s Catwalk for production, Nabila for Makeup and Farishteh Aslam of Talking Point for PR.

The Lux Style Awards 2019 was a finale of not so rehearsed scripts. The LSA you see on television is not the LSA on ground. From Yasir Hussain’s flawless act to Saba Qamar’s not-so-perfect stint with constantly repeating most of her script to get it right, and Ahmed Ali Butt’s witty sense of humour along with power packed performances — it was nice to see all coming together though.

It was a fantastic night of racy performances, some of them a lot of fun — Maya Ali’s performance witnessed that evening. However, the most “dhamaka” (steamy) performance belonged to Saba Qamar who set the stage on fire as she arrived to move on Mera Babu Chail Chabeela; all those jhatkas and thumkas! Maya and Saba both performed on the remixed songs of Pakistani veteran actress, Shabnam, as a tribute to her, who also received the Unilever Chairman’s Award.

Watching Meera shake a leg with all the energy of a diva was equally gorgeous. Meera’s 100-watt smile was enough to tell us how happy she is with her recent hit Baaji and now the LSA as her celebratory premise. Talking of performances, let’s just ignore what Momina Mustehsan did and let’s pretend that her dance performance never happened, although as an opening act it set the bar quite low for the night.

The award ceremony subtly touched upon the topic of cyber bullying as well. We couldn’t thank enough for subtlety – because an award show is an all masala and entertainment and if a certain issue is rubbed in the face or overdosed, people yawn and leave. Mehwish Hayat got on stage to express the bravery with which not only her but public figures have to face negative criticism, mockery, cyber bullying and hate.

The highlight of the event was Yasir Hussain proposing to his rumoured girlfriend Iqra Aziz, making their relationship official. He put a ring on her finger as the stunned actress smiled tearfully and the couple indulged in PDA. Where the rumour has it that the couple has been engaged before the show and it was just a re-enactment, too much intimacy followed by the proposal between the two is to be noticed!

Kids and families watch this show, for God’s sake!

Unfortunately, despite having so many stars in the house, there were flaws that left much to be desired throughout the evening. A poor script and weak direction made some segments very dull and they were unable to hold the audience’s attention.

While the show lacked the presence of some major stars of the Pakistani entertainment industry – Fawad Khan, Sajal Aly, and Adnan Siddiqui to name a few – Lux has patently raised the bar for acknowledging the fashion and entertainment of Pakistani industry. Well here’s Kudos to Frieha Altaf and her team for putting up glamorous show and a fabulous line-up of red-carpet appearances.
The list of Lux Style Awards 2019

And the winners are:

FILM
Best Film (Actor)
Ali Zafar for Teefa in Trouble (Winner, Viewer’s Choice)
Best Film (Actress)
Mehwish Hayat for Load Wedding (Winner, Viewer’s Choice)
Best Film (Actor) - Critic’s Choice
Fahad Mustafa for Load Wedding
Best Film (Actress) - Critic’s Choice
Sohai Ali Abro for Motorcycle Girl
Best Film (Jury)
Cake
Best Film Director (Jury)
Ahsan Rahim for Teefa in Trouble

TELEVISION
Best TV Actor
Feroze Khan for Khaani (Viewer’s Choice)
Best TV Actor (Critic’s Choice)
Noman Ijaz - Dar Si Jati Hai Sita (Jury)
Best TV Actress
Iqra Aziz for Suno Chanda (Viewer’s Choice)
Best TV Play
Suno Chanda (Viewer’s Choice)
Best TV Play Writer
Bee Gul - Dar Si Jati Hai Sita (Jury)
Best TV Play Director
Kashif Nisar for Dar si Jati Hai Sita (Jury)
Best Emerging Talent TV
Rida Bilal (Jury)

MUSIC
Best Original Sound Track
Rahat Fateh Ali Khan - Khaani (Viewer’s Choice)
Best Playback Singer - Film
Atif Aslam – Tham Lo (Viewer’s Choice)
Singer of the Year
Mohsin Abbas and Sohail Haider for Na Jaa (Viewer’s Choice)
Song of the Year
Khumariyaan – Ya Qurban (Viewer’s Choice)
Best Emerging Talent (Music)
Saakin - Saqi E Bawafa (Jury)

FASHION
Model of the Year (Female)
Sadaf Kanwal (Jury)
Model of the Year (Male)
Shahzad Noor (Jury)
Achievement in Fashion Design-Pret
Chapter 2 (Jury)
Achievement in Fashion Design - Luxury Pret
Sana Safinaz (Jury)
Achievement in Fashion Design-Menswear
Republic by Omer Farooq (Jury)
Best Fashion Photographer
Rizwan ul Haq (Jury)
Best Hair & Make-up Artist
Qasim Liaqat (Jury)
Best Emerging Talent in Fashion
(Mushk Kaleem) Jury
Achievement in Fashion Design- Bridal Couture
Kamran Rokni (Jury)

EASY PICKINGS: Omer Farooq, right, of Republic by Omer Farooq wins the Best Menswear Designer award.

PACKING A PUNCH: Iqra Aziz bags the Best TV Actor Female Award.

DUO: Sheheryar Munawar Siddiqui, left, and Maya Ali hosting the award ceremony.

TRIBUTE: Atif Aslam during his performance as a tribute to legendary Pakistani actress, Shabnam.

MEMORABLE AWARDS NIGHT

LEGENDARY: Veteran actress Shabnam receives the Unilever Chairman Award at LSA2019.
Katara Cultural Village, also known as Valley of cultures, is a centre to explore traditions, theatre, art and architecture. It is open to everyone, located between the Pearl-Qatar and West Bay. It was opened in 2010, and conceptualised to replicate Qatari culture through conventional architecture.

The facilities include heritage centres, opera house, libraries, amphitheatre, art galleries, academic facilities, cafes, restaurants, museum and outdoor greenery spaces. Katara is divided into different regions and the visitors can stroll around. The paths around the centres depict a feeling of narrow walkways and alleys, shaded by ribbons of cloth.

The amphitheatre overlooks the radiant blue sea. The Katara amphitheatre is an architectural beauty and created as a fusion of the Islamic design and classical Greek theatre concept. It has a seating capacity 5,000 persons.

There is a public beach that adorns the Katara as well. This is one of the most beautiful natural beaches of Qatar and covers nearly 2km. There are many adventurous beach activities, water sports and games for both children and adults. Sport activities include sailing, water skiing, parasailing, windsurfing, boat rides and banana rides. It is a place to enjoy at night time, for a stroll along the promenade, with its expansive views of Doha’s skyline, as well as a rich array of seaside food stalls and markets.

— Text by Keerthana Kandaraja, photos by Santhiya Kandaraja (@santhiya.09)
Playing video games can make you more creative: Study

Playing video games may not be as bad as we always thought and certain games that foster creative freedom can help in increasing creativity, researchers say.

In the experimental study published in the Creativity Research Journal, the researchers analysed 352 participants. They compared the effects of playing Minecraft, with or without instruction, to watching a TV show or playing a race car video game.

After 40 minutes of play or watching TV, the participants completed several creativity tasks. To measure creative production, they were asked to draw a creature from a world much different than Earth. More human-like creatures scored low for creativity and those less human-like scored high.

It was found that those given the freedom to play Minecraft – a game that allows players to explore unique worlds and create anything they can imagine – without instructions were the most creative while those instructed to be competitive games, said researchers. – IANS

Tauri: April 20 – May 20
Everyone has impulsively bought something without really thinking about it first. As far as you’re concerned, Taurus, it happens a little more often than it should. Have you looked at your closet full of the clothes you never wear? Why do you keep them? Is it reassuring? Don’t get caught up in fashion crazes. Try to be more careful with your money.

Cancer: June 21 – July 22
If you tend to be a little anxious about solitude, Cancer, it doesn’t necessarily mean you’re dependent on the people close to you. That isn’t the only contradictory thing about your behaviour. You tend to want to bring people together while keeping your distance. From now on, you should try to be a little clearer in your relationships.

Leo: July 23 – August 22
Sometimes it’s hard for you to believe something unless you see it firsthand, Leo. However, the period you’re in now may be pushing you to try and understand some of the mysteries on faith. Though you probably aren’t one to do this very often, you may be feeling some kind of mystical impulse that makes you think about the nature of your beliefs.

Virgo: August 23 – September 22
Love is in the air, Virgo! You may encounter some wonderful situations today. You’re ready to live these marvellously rich and emotional experiences to the fullest. Put your doubts and insecurities away for the time being. Have a great time!

Scorpio: October 23 – November 21
It’s time to get down to work, Scorpio. At the moment, you can’t depend solely on your natural creativity, spontaneity, imagination, and originality to get by. You need to demonstrate a certain amount of pragmatism and self-discipline to reach your goals. This will certainly seem more difficult than it really is. It’s time to have faith in attributes other than your intuition.

Sagittarius: November 22 – December 21
What do you want? It isn’t always easy to live with others, Sagittarius. You may ask too much of the people close to you and not be able to stand it when they don’t live up to your high expectations. Your idealism makes it hard for you to compromise. This attitude can cause conflict and make you hard to live with. Change it.

Aquarius: January 20 – February 18
Have been letting yourself go lately, Aquarius? Now it’s time to take better care of your body. This new initiative will make you feel happier and more ready to tackle life again. You may hesitate over whether or not you should try some of the alternative medicines that you hear about. This is only a small dilemma. Be glad you’ve finally decided to live a healthier lifestyle.

Pisces: February 19 – March 20
Have you recently lost some faith in the future, Pisces? Isn’t it time to do something about it, especially where your personal life is concerned? You could find the answers to these questions if you’d take a second look at the quality of your close relationships. Who knows? Love might give you back your enthusiasm for life.
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 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 each of the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Wordsearch

ASSAY  MEASURE  CHECK  STUDY  EXAMINE  OBSERVE

TEST  EXPERIMENT  WATCH  PROVE  WEIGH  INSPECT

RESEARCH  INVESTIGATE  REVIEW  AUDIT

Carmen is worried about one of the cats not coming home.
I’ll help with the ‘missing’ poster!

Adams

Hey, Adam.
Hey, Phil.
So... um... what’s that big column in your side yard?
It’s an unfinished tree made of wood which will one day support an epic treehouse.
So, it’s not an ugly pillar of junk, pieced together by a lunatic?
Puttyed, potatoed, Phil?

Pooch Cafe

Garfield

I’m not calling a plumber this time, Garfield

Bound And Gagged

Medieval Cookouts
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Drug found on Arctic trip (8)
6 Runner appearing in sports kit (3)
9 Fruit pip one ignored in drink (5)
10 No one takes part - it's disgusting (7)
11 Someone else embraced by Hera - not Hercules (7)
12 African province once concerned with delivery? (5)
13 Deep part of ocean or river surrounded by fish (6)
15 Record American event (6)
19 Animals seen initially by Dickensian villain (5)
21 Al has left one country for another (7)
23 About time faulty device is thrown out (7)
24 Fish for small girl (5)
25 Something to eat that provides constant energy (3)
26 Girl in part of France (8)

Down
2 Father's about to turn out OK (7)
3 European vet, we hear (5)
4 No rest, oddly, for singers (6)
5 Greek character opposed to Italian wine (7)
6 Lacking money for a drink of spirits (5)
7 Model and I do business (5)
8 One who's learned to park a vehicle in the street? (6)
10 Sure to have new crate at home (7)
12 Material, we hear, moved to and fro (6)
13 First-class sort of letter (7)
16 Possibly making Andrew stray (6)
18 Possibly making Andrew stray sharply (5)
19 Pete's stumbling and falling sharply (5)
20 The best part of Chinese literature (5)
22 Name of Russian who's ashamed to take part? (5)

Colouring

Answers

Yesterday's Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
Belgrade, a real-life film set with 5-star scenesters

If Belgrade were a film, it would be hard to pick a genre. In resurrected neighbourhoods and on one sparkling beachfront, the city’s characters are writing their own lines. And there’s popcorn included, writes Laura Lewandowski.

Arriving at Belgrade Airport, the first thing you notice is the smell. It’s coming from the toilets. In the stalls, women wearing stiletto heels and generous slicks of lipstick puff away, filling the place with a stuffy fog of smoke.

Other airports might greet tourists with a selection of green smoothies and vegan eateries. Not in the Serbian capital. Is this really the up-and-coming metropolis that travel bloggers claim it to be?

Belgrade, it is said, is now cool – a cheap and vibrant hub of culture like Berlin in the 90s, the hidden gem of the Balkans.

For those who haven’t yet been to the former Yugoslavia, a trip to Belgrade can be compared with a trip to the cinema: it’s less about what’s playing on screen and more about what’s on display, from La Dolce Vita with Balkan flair to historical drama. And the popcorn’s included, but more on that later.

First thing’s first: escape the dreariness of the airport. The taxi ride into the city centre feels like a journey into the past. The car passes massive concrete construction projects and seemingly endless rows of high-rise flats.

The architecture has a coldness, showcasing the best of late-20th-century brutalism. One example is the Genex Tower, or Western City Gate, made up of two conjoined skyscrapers that give off an air of a difficult past.

Belgrade has been repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt over the years. That’s left a little bit of everything that has touched the city in the past few centuries: neoclassical works of splendour, art-nouveau villas, remnants of the Ottoman Empire. Belgrade itself is like a film set.

And so it’s fitting that you can get popcorn on every street corner. Every hundred metres, there is a stall that looks like a period piece at an indie cinema.

Even the air-conditioning systems perched on the facades of buildings, the tangled messes of cables and the crumbling brickwork, are picturesque in their own way. It looks like a handyman simply gave up at some point – or ran out of money, which is more likely.

Belgrade’s mayor once declared the city “poor but sexy”. So, what does that make Belgrade?

Which brings us to the artificial peninsula of Ada, or Ada Ciganlija, to give its full name. Locals often recommend this place in response to queries about where Belgrade life can be experienced at its most authentic.

Here you can enjoy while sitting on the beach – an experience not necessarily associated with landlocked Serbia.

The peninsula is about a 10-minute taxi ride away from the city centre. A stroll around the lake passes by numerous stalls and restaurants. If there were a dress code, it would be oggling bottoms and trainers.

“It gets really hot in the summer, 35 degrees [Celsius], easily,” says Radovan Pesic. Together with his brother, he runs the seaside club Tropical Heat, named after the Canadian action series of the early 90s. “An absolute hit back then in Serbia,” says Pesic as he turns on the popcorn machine. The feeling of being stuck in the 90s grows a little stronger; they really must be onto something here.

“If I’m honest, a lot hasn’t changed,” Pesic says. He has been living on Ada for over 20 years now, although he was abroad for six of them in Russia, South Africa and on Cyprus.

But the city drew him back after a while, as it did with many others who had sought to get away after the war. “Belgrade has a unique pull,” he adds.

“More and more people want to put the city back on the world map,” Luksa Lazukic says as he toks on a cigarette. His voice is hoarse, his hair slicked back. The IT specialist hides his tired eyes behind XXL glasses.

“You don’t get into the scene so easily. But once you’re in, you discover another Belgrade under the surface,” Lazukic says in the upmarket 5A Soba restaurant.

Lots of people left the war-bom city for cultural hubs like New York. “Now they’re bringing the trends back,” he adds.

And alongside local businesses, there are entrepreneurs from the surrounding countries of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Montenegro, making Belgrade a melting pot for Balkan culture.

For those with deep pockets, Belgrade is a playground. But those with less cash to spare also come to the city. An international airport, affordable rent and inspiration on every corner make this one of the most sought-after locations for creatives in the world at the moment.

Dorcol, Belgrade’s oldest neighbourhood, gets compared to Williamsburg in Brooklyn, New York. Lazukic explains. “It used to be the most dangerous part, now it’s cool.”

Once you know that Belgrade is full of hidden hipster gems, you start seeing them everywhere: concept stores, vintage bazaars, co-working spaces. In the Beogradska market, 20-somethings work on laptops. The 1,000-square-metre market hall is home to designer shops, florists, craft breweries and vegan food stalls.

There’s no dreariness to be seen here. Have we stumbled into another film?

In a country where politics often descends into the absurd, many observers are writing their own scripts. “Politics is acting as if people were stupid,” singer Maja Louis says.

Her father, known simply as “Louis,” was a much-loved musician in the region. Now Maja Louis has made a name for herself. Again, Belgrade comes up as a comparative standard for Belgrade’s creative scene today. So is Belgrade really the must–see place for culture-hungry travellers going off the beaten track? In a lot of ways, yes. But the city doesn’t need to be told it’s cool; it already knows. “Twenty–four hours, Monday to Friday,” Louis says.

Perhaps Belgrade isn’t a melodrama, but a love film. Just not at first sight. – DPA
Parineeti Chopra has detailed an erratic three-week schedule on Instagram.

Parineeti Chopra has a busy work schedule coming up and the actress says she is “dying of nerves” because of it. Parineeti on Tuesday took to Instagram to share details of her erratic three-week schedule.

In her Instagram stories, she wrote: “Three weeks left for Jabariya Jodi to release. Three weeks to start shooting for Girl On The Train. Saina Nehwal training going on simultaneously because I finish Girl On The Train and start shoot immediately! Shifting my house this week.

“Jabariya Jodi promotions, Girl On The Train prep, ‘Saina’ prep, house shift—all in three weeks! Guys I’m dying of nerves.”

Parineeti will be seen in the official remake of Hollywood thriller The Girl on the Train starring Emily Blunt.

She currently awaits the release of Jabariya Jodi along with actor Sidharth Malhotra. The film is scheduled for release on August 2. Directed by Prashant Singh, Jabariya Jodi is based on ‘Pakadwa Vivaah’ (forced marriage), which was once rampant in Bihar. – IANS

BUSY: Parineeti Chopra has detailed an erratic three-week schedule on Instagram.

Parineeti ‘dying of nerves’ ahead of hectic schedule

The Lion King is a deep part of our culture: Favreau

Filmmaker Jon Favreau feels The Lion King has become a deep part of our culture and says he felt a tremendous responsibility while re-imagining the world of Disney’s classic with the use of technology.

“It’s such a beloved property. Disney has had tremendous success with the original animated version and then the Broadway musical. I knew that I had to be very careful with it. I felt a tremendous responsibility not to screw it up,” Favreau said in a statement.

“I wanted to demonstrate that we could be respectful of the source material while bringing it to life using mind-blowing techniques and technologies,” he added.

The Jungle Book fame director Favreau has re-imagined the world of Disney’s 1994 classic to bring alive a live-action film. He has stayed true to the classic story of Simba and used pioneering filmmaking techniques to bring the iconic characters to the big screen in a whole new way.

It was a trip to Africa that pointed him in the direction of The Lion King.

“I went on a safari to Africa six months prior to first talking to Disney about doing this film,” recalled Favreau.

“I remember when a wart hog ran by our safari vehicle, one of the people in our group started singing Hakuna matata. And then when we saw lions up on a rock, they all said, ‘Oh, look, it looks like Lion King!’ This story has become a frame of reference that everybody now knows and accepts.

“It pops up in music, on TV shows, in comedy routines, as part of sketches. It’s continually referenced. It’s such a deep part of our culture that it felt like there was a tremendous opportunity to build on that and to retell the story in a different medium.” – IANS

NEW SENSATION: Country music star Chris Young plays during the Losing Sleep tour at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Country star Young is now a headliner

Fans of country star Chris Young have seen him in front of big crowds before – opening for top-tier acts such as Rascal Flatts, Jason Aldean, Garth Brooks, Brad Paisley and George Strait at or the CMA Fest.

But these days, the audiences are bigger – and they’re all his: Young is one of country music’s newest headliners. He’s currently on his Raised on Country Tour.

“This is far and away my biggest tour, where I’m doing things my way and putting it together,” Young says. “It’s been insane. This is obviously something I’ve been building up to all these years. It’s overwhelming, but it’s very cool.”

In bringing his new tour to the stage, Young has been involved in everything from set design to the set list. He says the set accommodates the show’s various moods, from over-the-top to intimate and acoustic.

Young also promises to play new songs, new covers and include some surprises. His experience touring with country legends has helped shape his own show.

“It was just awesome to watch their shows and learn from them,” he says. “I liked what they did with their video content and thought I could work with that and make it work for me.”

He says he learned the most from Brooks. “That guy is one of the best performers of all time, not only the way he handles the crowd but the things he does stylistically in his show. Everybody should watch him, no matter what genre they’re in.”

The tour precedes a new album, the follow-up to Losing Sleep (2017). One of the songs on the upcoming album will be Raised on Country, which came about while Young was on the road with some songwriting buddies. He was looking for a song with a fun, anthem vibe, and Raised on Country fit the bill. He also says the song is autobiographical.

The album will also include Drowning, a song he wrote with Corey Crowder and Josh Hoge about a friend who died a few years ago in a car accident.

“I hadn’t written a song that discussed anything like that before,” Young says. “I was talking with one of the co-writers about it being sad and heavy, but let’s write this and see what we get.”

“We played it at (the Grand Ole) Opry, and everybody said, ‘What’s this?’ It’s the first time I broke down singing and couldn’t get through to the end of it. It’s a really special song, and a lot of people reached out about it, telling stories of people they’d lost.”

Anyone seeking insight into what direction he’s going with the album only needs to look at those two singles. Young says, “It’ll definitely be a country record, and people will be surprised.”

The title of the album likely will be Raised on Country. It’ll be his eighth album (including a 2016 Christmas album).

Young has come a long way since winning TV’s Nashville Star in 2006 – a feat that doesn’t exactly come with the same allure as winning, say, an early season of American Idol. But it ultimately paid off big.

“Most people don’t even remember I was on Nashville Star,” he says. “I had a friend who told me to audition!”

He followed that TV win with a 2006 self-titled debut album that included Drinkin’ Me Lonely and You’re Gonna Love Me. He racked up much bigger hits after that.

Since then, he describes his career as a crazy ride.

“I’ve always been a slow grower,” Young says. “I look back at where I started, when everybody was in a van and trailer driving around. Now I’m on a huge amphitheatre tour with moving parts.” – St. Louis Post-Dispatch/TNS
‘Find your why’

Cancer-survivor Sondra Hope says everyone needs to have a reason to fight odds in life

By Mudassir Raja

We must embrace pain and burn it as fuel for our journey. This is the philosophy of life being practised by Sondra Hope, a Doha-based South African expatriate and a cancer-survivor.

Earlier an IT professional, after being diagnosed with cancer for the third time, Sondra became nutrition and wellness coach as well as a fitness trainer in an attempt to start taking control of her health, especially after her daughter was born. She specialises in personal, sports and child nutrition. She is the founder of HopeFit, which specialises in online and personal training and nutrition coaching. She had groomed herself to be an exciting motivational speaker. She is also a professional photographer and dabbles in painting and fine art.

“I was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was 24 in 2009, and now have my fourth cancer recurrence. I will be on treatment indefinitely to slow down any disease spread,” shared the resolute-looking Sondra with Community.

Suffering from cancer at a very young age was shocking for her but what really made her change course of her life was when her daughter was born in 2012. “In 2010, I got cancer recurrence. After the treatment, we wanted to start the family. The doctors told me that being under treatment for cancer; I will not be able to have a child. The doctors were not even hopeful even after I got pregnant. On August 21, 2012, my little girl was born, totally healthy. And, in December 2012, I was re-diagnosed with cancer. The doctors said it was bad and was basically spreading everywhere. I was in UAE and I went back to South Africa to get family support. I remained under treatment there till March 2015 when I came to join my husband in Qatar. The doctors in South Africa had told me that there was nothing much that they could do medically for me. They told me that I had 12 to 18 months left."

“That was the day when my life changed. I came back from the doctor and was sitting in my room making my daughter go to sleep. While looking at her, I realised I would die for her. Then, a thought came to my mind that if you are willing to die why are you not willing to carry on? That was the moment that changed everything for me.”

Sondra started studying nutrition and wellness. She started to try and control her life. “I have a very strong belief in our control over our bodies and life, by controlling our attitude and mind. When we are in a situation where we are out of control, we start despairing. But that is not true for me. I took my anger of not being able to do something and put it into focusing on those things that I can control. Psychologically, it also makes me feel better that I am doing something. If you do nothing, you get more depressed. Unfortunately, a lot of people do that.”

For Sondra, the biggest key to her success so far was the realisation of the importance of your attitude and to find your “why”. She said: “Why do I do what I do and why do I fight? We as people are okay with disappointing ourselves. But, we are less likely to want to disappoint other people and want other people’s perception about us to change. Finding your ‘why’ and the reason to carry on is a huge key to success. I can just say that I have had enough of treatment but the difference is when I wake and see my daughter sleeping there, it changes everything for me. I remind myself that tomorrow morning I am going to fight it for her. She is my ‘why’.”

Sondra became a motivational force for others after she realised how other cancer patients listen to her and tell her that she is a very strong person. “I tell them that what are my choices – die or fight? It’s not even about choices I have. I exist but I am living instead of existing and that is the difference. I am actually living more than those people who are totally healthy. “I have also realised that I need to reach out to other people to make them understand that you have the power to be able to not just exist but to actually live.”

The cancer-survivor in her fight also gives very high credit to her husband and Qatar. “When it comes to support, it is my husband – Geoff Hope. He is the humour in my situations. We believe that if you cannot beat it, humour it. “From a medical care point of view, if I tell you the truth, Qatar basically gave me life. The expensive cancer medicines that I always need, I am getting them through my healthcare. Qatar has given my daughter her mom.”

– Sondra Hope