Nostalgia reigns supreme as Bollywood blockbuster "Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!" celebrates a milestone. P4-5

**Silver jubilee**

Disappointing mash-up of two horror classics.

Trevor Noah all set to have Doha audiences in stitches tomorrow.
**PRAYER TIME**

- Fajr: 3:21am
- Shorooq (sunrise): 4:52am
- 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: 991
- Local Directory: 180
- International Calls Enquires: 150
- Hamad International Airport: 40106666
- Labor Department: 44508111, 44406537
- Mowasalat Taxi: 44588888
- Qatar Airways: 44496000
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 44392222, 44393333
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation: 44845555, 44845464
- Primary Health Care Corporation: 44593333, 44593363
- Qatar Assistive Technology Centre: 44594050
- Qatar News Agency: 44490205, 44490333
- Q-Post – General Postal Corporation: 44464444

**Humanitarian Services Office**

(For repatriation of bodies)
- Ministry of Interior: 40253371, 40253372, 40253369
- Ministry of Health: 40253370, 40253364
- Hamad Medical Corporation: 40253364, 40253365
- Qatar Airways: 40253374

**Quote**

“A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results.”

— Wade Boggs

**Community News**

**Super 30**

**DIRECTION:** Vikas Bahl  
**CAST:** Hritik Roshan, Mrunal Thakur, Nandish Singh  
**SYNOPSIS:** Brilliant mathematician Anand Kumar helps 30 smart but underprivileged students prepare for entrance exams for the Indian Institutes of Technology.

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

**Escape Plan: The Extractors**

**DIRECTION:** John Herzfeld  
**CAST:** Sylvester Stallone, Dave Bautista  
**SYNOPSIS:** After security expert Ray Breslin is hired to rescue the kidnapped daughter of a Hong Kong tech mogul from a formidable Latvian prison, Breslin’s love interest is also captured. Now he and his team, must pull off a deadly rescue mission to confront their sadistic foe and save the hostages, hidden in the depths of the prison complex, before time runs out.

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

**The Mall Cinema (1):**
- Super 30 (Hindi) 2pm
- Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 4:45pm
- Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 7pm
- Super 30 (Hindi) 8:45pm
- Super 30 (Hindi) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (2):**
- Rustum (Kannada) 2:30pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 4:45pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 7pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
- Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**The Mall Cinema (3):**
- Coconut: The Little Dragon 2 (2D) 2:15pm
- The Mall Cinema (2):
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 3:45pm
- Crawl (2D) 6pm
- Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 7:45pm
- Hamlet Faroun (Arabic) 9:30pm
- Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 11:30pm

**Landmark Cinema (1):**
- Coconut: The Little Dragon 2 (2D) 2:15pm

**Landmark Cinema (2):**
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 8:30pm
- Super 30 (Hindi) 11:15pm

**Landmark Cinema (3):**
- Super 30 (Hindi) 2pm
- Coconut: The Little Dragon 2 (2D) 4:45pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 6:30pm
- El Mamour (Arabic) 8:30pm
- Gurkha (Tamil) 11:15pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1):**
- Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 2:15pm
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 4:30pm
- Super 30 (Hindi) 6:15pm
- Shubha Rathri (Malayalam) 9pm
- Super 30 (Hindi) 11:15pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2):**
- Super 30 (Hindi) 2:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 5pm
- Hamlet Faroun (Arabic) 7:15pm
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (2D) 9:15pm
- We Have Always Lived In The Castle (2D) 11:30pm

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3):**
- Toy Story 4 (2D) 2:30pm
- Coconut: The Little Dragon 2 (2D) 4:30pm
- Step-Up: Year Of The Dance (2D) 6:15pm
- Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 8pm
- Crawl (2D) 9:45pm
- Escape Plan: The Extractors (2D) 11:30pm

**Community Editor**
Kamran Rehmat  
**e-mail:** community@gulf-times.com  
**Telephone:** 44464405  
**Fax:** 44390474
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.

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, of 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.

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.

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 33807609.

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

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.

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.
It is now 25 years to one of the biggest hits and an all-time classic, *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!* In those days, there were factors due to which films had, what was called, repeat value. In *Sholay*, the special effects and stereophonic sound as well as the film’s dialogue drew repeat footfalls; *Deewaar* because of Amitabh Bachchan’s fiery performance as well as dialogue. In the Rajesh Khanna starrer *Dushman*, one song, *Vaada tera vaada*, was enough the get the audience back again and again. There have been many such examples. In fact, this surging popularity of filmy dialogue prompted the music company, Polydor India, to start a new trend of releasing dialogue tracks on cassettes and in the case of *Sholay*, which had weak music, dialogue cassettes sold many times more than the music album!

All this glory of repeat audience was lost to piracy when the films were overnight copied on pirated video cassettes and released into the market on the very day of a film’s release. There was also no stopping as the piracy moved from video cassettes to cable networks and fresh films were beamed right into the households. However, the Rajshris had the advantage of an all-India distribution network as well as sub-offices in distant parts.

*Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!* was inspired from Rajshri Productions’ earlier small budget home production, *Nadiya Ke Paar* (1982), a rural love story. Though the film went generally unnoticed in the rest of the country, it was a major hit in parts of UP, especially Eastern UP and Bihar. *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!* was modernised to suit the prevailing tastes. Piracy did not affect *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!* The company made sure that each print of the film was in the possession of a company appointed security man and the print remained in his possession when not being screened. Also, by that time, the film’s accolades had reached a pinnacle and every film lover wanted to catch it at a cinema hall.

1980s and 90s films offered a varied fare. While Amitabh Bachchan films dominated till the mid-1980s, the field was also open to films with other stars. However, a new lot of actors made inroads in the 90s with Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and so on. The mainstay of *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!* was its music and the way it was used in the film. After all, it was not easy to find slots for 14 songs in a 210-minute film and, then, to justify them, writes Vinod Mirani.
There was criticism for the length of the film as well as the number of songs. A verdict of flop was passed even before the film could release! It belied all predictions and went on to become a blockbuster like no other film so far.

Anil Kapoor, Sunny Deol, Sanjay Dutt, Sunny Deol and Jackie Shroff continued to have their following. Among all these, it was in 1994 that Rajshris’ Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! released. It was like no other film seen so far. The film ran through three-and-a-half hours and contained as many as 14 songs! And, there was no solid script, so to say, to hold either the duration or the 14 songs. If at all the film had a story to tell, it was during the penultimate 40 minutes or so before it came up with a happy ending sending out a delighted and contented audience. (Most wanted to see the film again!)

The mainstay of Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! was its music and the way it was used in the film. After all, it was not easy to find slots for 14 songs in a film and, then, to justify them. Yet, the music set the tone for the film from the very onset with the title song Hum Aapke Hain Koun – a slow but melodiously soothing number. When it comes to the film fraternity, every other producer seems to know better than the one who made a film. So, there was criticism for the length of the film as well as the number of songs. A verdict of flop was passed even before the film could release! Going by various suggestions, the producers went on to reduce the length by one and a half songs from the 14 numbers. The film belied all predictions and went on to become a blockbuster like no other film so far. The deleted songs were added back and that did not deter the audience from coming again, and again.

Music played a very vital role in all Rajshri Productions yet, surprisingly, they never went after big named, established composers. When Rajshri Productions founder, Tarachand Barjatya, made his first film, Aartr in 1962, he assigned music composing to Roshan. But, thereafter, the production house signed budding composer duo, Laxmikant Pyarelal, for their next five films. Starting with Dosti, the music for all five films, Taqdeer, Jeevan Mrityu, Piya Ka Ghar and Uphaar, was hit, whatever the fate of the films. The Rajshris continued to work with new or lesser known composers and, for Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! they repeated Raam laxman, who gave the hit music for director Sooraj Barjatya’s debut directorial venture, Maine Pyar Kiya (1989). Now, that was a gutsy move since, till then, Raam laxman were known for composing music for mainly Marathi films! The result, the film boasted of a variety of songs, from melody to fun to the foot tapping kind. No song drove a viewer to leave the screen as (was the norm in those days with boring songs).

Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! was way different from the kind of films being made around the time. During its 210-minute duration and 14 songs, most of the film was about a family gathered to prepare and celebrate a forthcoming wedding in the family. Mostly, the screen was kept full of characters generally having fun, singing and dancing. The story comes with a twist in the proceedings only much later. But, what still made the film tick was its very Indian-ness, the values, traditions and spirit of sacrifice for the family; feelings lying deep down in all Indians, still.

Rajshri Productions, which also had its in-house distribution network, was always experimenting with their release strategy. Though a high-end production, Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! was given a limited screen with just a single screen to start with. As the film kept on generating more footfalls, the screens were increased. The film went onto celebrate 25 to 100 week run in almost all major cities.

At about Rs31 crore real-time box office collection figures, it was the biggest hit of its time (not adjusted for inflation etc. since the take home of that time is what matters). And, that was the era of lakh and, only a few films, if at all, crossed the Rs1 crore mark!
Smedley Toastmasters Club Doha (STCD) recently organised an installation meeting to elect its new office bearers. The new executive committee members, installed by Benoy Jacob, Area Director, include Asokan Karuvan Kandy, President; Suresh Lamsal, Vice President Education; Sujith N K, Vice President Membership; Rubena Tabish Khan, Vice President Public Relations; Rajiv Kumar, Secretary; Chris Mathew, Treasurer; and Mohit Jain Sergeant at Arms. Gopikrishnan M K, outgoing president, opened and Tabish Insaf Khan anchored the meeting. The meeting also recognised and awarded outstanding performers, achievers and contributors of the club. Raghavan Menon, District Director, was the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Raghavan Menon emphasised on the importance of being honest to the roles taken and discharge duties and responsibilities to the highest possible way. He congratulated the achievers and contributors. Asokan Karuvan Kandy expressed his gratitude for electing him as the president and mentioned that his priority this year will be the total development of each member. He urged all newly elected officers to perform their duties with enthusiasm and dedication to achieve the club’s goal.

The Westin Doha holds blood donation drive

The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa, in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation, recently organised a blood donation drive. The objective was to support this year’s ‘Be a Hero, Donate Blood’ campaign with the support of Take Care Committee of the hotel, stated a press release. For the third year in a row, associates from different departments of the hotel, in-house guests and volunteers have contributed in this humanitarian cause. The Westin Doha’s aim was to showcase proactive support for the health and well-being of the community; and to disseminate the culture of voluntary donation among society. Ammar Samad, Hotel Manager at The Westin Doha Hotel and Spa, said, “We are honoured to continuously be part of this campaign on an annual basis and to support Hamad Medical Corporation. As part of the hotel’s Corporate Social Responsibility, we help promoting the culture of this voluntary action and we also help the Blood Bank to increase its supply. We will certainly continue to support the cause every year.”
All-new Jeep Gladiator to have its European preview at Camp Jeep

A new Jeep Gladiator: most capable, uniquely functional and fun-to-drive pickup truck featuring authentic Jeep design to have its European preview at Camp Jeep, stated a press release.

European customers will have a first chance to get up close to the new Jeep Gladiator at the 2019 Camp Jeep – the annual get-together of all Jeep owners and enthusiasts and most important event in the Jeep Owners Group (J.O.G.) calendar – to be held in San Martino di Castrozza, in the heart of the Dolomite Region from 12 to 14 July.

The all-new Jeep Gladiator – builds on a rich heritage of tough, dependable Jeep trucks and offers an unmatched combination of authentic Jeep design, open-air freedom, clever functionality and versatility, advanced fuel-efficient powertrains, superior on- and off-road dynamics and advanced technological content in the areas of safety and connectivity.

A one-of-a-kind vehicle, the new Jeep Gladiator evolves the iconic Wrangler formula by adding increased levels of versatility, freedom and superior on-road driving dynamics to its unmatched all-terrain capability. Its unrivalled off-road prowess comes courtesy of the Command-Trac and Rock-Trac 4x4 systems, third-generation Dana 44 axles, Tru-Lock electric front- and rear-axle lockers, segment-exclusive sway-bar disconnect and 32-inch off-road tyres.

Built in Toledo, Ohio, the new Jeep Gladiator is offered in three different trim levels: Sport, Overland and Rubicon. It will arrive in Middle East showrooms in the first half of 2020, while its introduction in Europe will follow by end of next year.

Modern, authentic Jeep design
The all-new Jeep Gladiator boasts a rugged, distinguished design that is immediately recognisable with traditional Jeep design cues. The Jeep design team kept the legendary seven-slot grille seen on Wrangler but widened the grille slots for an additional air intake to assist with the towing capacity. The top of the keystone-shaped grille is gently swept back to enhance aerodynamics. Gladiator Overland and Rubicon models offer available LED headlamps and fog lamps that project crisp white lighting, adding to the Gladiator’s modern look.

Clever functionality and versatility were the focus while designing the Gladiator’s durable bed. Under-rail bed lighting, an optional covered external power source (230V) and strong integrated tie-downs, provide durability and versatility. The available Trail Rail Cargo Management System provides additional storage options to organise and secure cargo. An optional spray-in bed liner, bed divider and tonneau cover provide even more options to keep cargo secure while helping with durability. Gladiator Rubicon models are equipped with protective cab and cargo bed rock rails.

A four-bolt design at the top of the windshield’s frame allows for the windshield to fold down quickly and easily. A header bar connects the A-pillars and stays in place even when the windshield is folded down. This allows the rear-view mirror to remain in place even with the windshield folded. Lightweight, high-strength aluminium doors feature the Torx bolt size stamped directly onto the hinge to eliminate guessing which size bit is needed to remove the doors. A tool kit with the necessary Torx bits to remove the doors and lower the windshield is provided as standard equipment. Dozens of different door, top and windshield combinations allow for endless configuration possibilities.

Authentic interior design boasts functional features and technology
The new Jeep Gladiator’s interior combines authentic styling, versatility, comfort and intuitive features. Precision craftsmanship and high-quality materials are found throughout the cabin.

The heritage-inspired centre stack features a clean, sculpted form that complements the horizontal dashboard design and sports a different finish for each model choice. Functional features, including climate and volume control knobs, media charging and connectivity ports, and Engine Stop Start (ESS) control are all sculpted for quick recognition and are all easily located within reach of the front-seat occupants.

The centre stack houses the 7.0” or optional 8.4-inch touchscreen displays of the fourth-generation Uconnect™ system. The instrument cluster features a 3.5” or 7-inch thin-film transistor (TFT) information LED display. Rear seats use a unique design that can be locked in place to provide secure storage behind the seat back and can be folded flat to access cab-back storage and provide a load floor for larger items.

Audio upgrades include an optional subwoofer and portable wireless speaker located behind the rear seat which allows customers to take their music with them when reaching their destination. The new Jeep Gladiator offers the proven five-link coil suspension configuration. The springs have been tuned for an optimum balance between on-road handling while providing a comfortable ride around town, with or without cargo in the bed, and legendary off-road capability. Ride comfort, body-roll control, handling, payload and towing capability is significantly enhanced with assistance from shock tuning, hard parts, and body mount strategy.

Safety and security were paramount in the development of the new Jeep Gladiator, which offers an array of active and passive safety and security features including optional Blind-spot Monitoring and Rear Cross Path detection, forward-facing off-road camera, Forward collision warning plus and Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop Function; standard features comprise ParkView rear backup camera with dynamic grid lines and front and rear park assist, and electronic stability control (ESC) with electronic roll mitigation.

Fourth-generation Uconnect™ system delivers advanced technology
The new Jeep Gladiator offers two Uconnect™ systems – Uconnect™ 7-inch and 8.4-inch NÁV, delivering communication, entertainment and navigation features drivers and passengers desire, including a full-colour LED instrument cluster. The Uconnect™ 7.0 or 8.4 NÁV systems offers easy-to-use features, enhanced processing power, faster startup times, high-resolution screens with capacitive touch and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity for hands-free phone, navigation and voice texting.

Gladiator utilises the proven five-link coil suspension configuration. The springs have been tuned for an optimum balance between on-road handling while providing a comfortable ride around town, with or without cargo in the bed, and legendary off-road capability. Ride comfort, body-roll control, handling, payload and towing capability is significantly enhanced with assistance from shock tuning, hard parts, and body mount strategy.

Safety and security were paramount in the development of the new Jeep Gladiator, which offers an array of active and passive safety and security features including optional Blind-spot Monitoring and Rear Cross Path detection, forward-facing off-road camera, Forward collision warning plus and Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop Function; standard features comprise ParkView rear backup camera with dynamic grid lines and front and rear park assist, and electronic stability control (ESC) with electronic roll mitigation.

Fourth-generation Uconnect™ system delivers advanced technology
The new Jeep Gladiator offers two Uconnect™ systems – Uconnect™ 7-inch and 8.4-inch NÁV, delivering communication, entertainment and navigation features drivers and passengers desire, including a full-colour LED instrument cluster. The Uconnect™ 7.0 or 8.4 NÁV systems offers easy-to-use features, enhanced processing power, faster startup times, high-resolution screens with capacitive touch and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity for hands-free phone, navigation and voice texting.

Rugged body-on-frame design is the foundation for legendary Jeep truck utility and durability
The Jeep Gladiator uses a body-on-frame design and features a superbly engineered five-link suspension system, which enhances capability and provides composed on-road driving dynamics and passenger safety.
Aida's beloved Gerald has been gone 39 years, but the dress, craftsmanship and a time stamp, is still weightless and beautiful.

**WEDDING GOWN:** Edith Bonsonto’s night gown she wore on her wedding night. The gown, along with her wedding dress, were made from her late husband’s WWII parachute.

**WEDDING DRESS:** Edith Bonsonto’s right gown she wore on her wedding night. The dress, along with her wedding dress, were made from her late husband’s WWII parachute.

Aida promised she would. “I wrote to him every day without fail. Every day he had a letter from me. I never stopped writing to him,” Aida said.

She promised she would. “I wrote to him every day without fail. Every day he had a letter from me. I never stopped writing to him,” Aida said.

As Gerald, a medic and parachute jumper assigned to the 507th Parachute Infantry Division, returned from the Battle of Normandy, Aida worked in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.

Aida said Gerald told her the cost of the seamstress’ work was two packs of cigarettes. It was a different time, Aida said, and even though she only wore the nightgown on her wedding day, the machine-sewed the originally hand-stitched seams to add durability. She has also hand-washed the gown over the years.

Back then, the parachutes, said Jerry Bonsonto, Jr., “were thin and lightweight, designed to get the men down fast so they wouldn’t be targets in the air.”

Caroline Bonsonto said the parachute nightgown “looks delicate but is sturdy as steel.” Aida and Gerald went on to have four sons, one of which was working in a shoe factory, first piecing together athletic shoes then sewing aviation kit bags for the Army.

One day, while on the job, she received a call from her future mother-in-law, asking her to come quickly. Gerald had been shot in the chest while parachuting over Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which would become the first town liberated after the D-Day invasion.

A German sniper’s bullet grazed Gerald’s heart and lodged in his back, she said. She believed “my picture saved his life.”

Before he left for duty, she’d given Gerald a photo of herself that was taken at her brother’s wedding. He’d kept the picture, which had a metal, mirror-like backing, in his chest pocket. The picture was shredded by the bullet, but Aida kept it, and it is now buried with her husband.

For months, Gerald recovered in hospital in France, England and Italy. While in France, he asked a woman to make a nightgown for his bride out of parachute material. The long-sleeved, sansed gown even has her nickname, “Edith,” embroidered across the top left side.
Dress made from husband’s 2nd Airborne Museum

But the dress, both a work of fine and beautiful, writes Donna Vickroy.

whom, Vince, died a few years ago. Gerald worked as a truck driver and wore his Army boots until they disintegrated, Aida said.

“I wanted to have them bronzed,” something she did for her son, Joe, after he returned from serving in Vietnam, she said.

“But he insisted on wearing them every day, as a reminder of all he went through and why he went through it, for freedom.”

It also served as a tribute to his buddies who were killed in action, she said. Aida said Gerald “never talked about the war” and would get upset when war movies tried to evoke realism.

“He would say, ‘Shut it off. It’s not the real thing. You’ve got to be there to know what it’s really like,’” she said.

Aida said she is loaning the dress to the museum, instead of donating it, because she has several great-granddaughters who might decide they’d like to wear it on their wedding day.

For now, the dress will be displayed as a testament to a time when love and war intersected, creating a fashion statement.

– Chicago Tribune/TNS

MEMORIES: Edith Bonsonto’s late husband Gerald after joining the Army.

FAMILY UNION: Edith Bonsonto, holding her wedding photo, sits with her son Gerald and her daughter-in-law Caroline.
“Photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

The firebug, or Pyrrhocoris apterus, is a common insect of the family Pyrrhocoridae. This is a red and black coloured beautiful insect that lives in groups. The bright red colour warns birds not to eat the firebug as its gland that produces a nasty smelling substance.

Contrary to its Latin name, Pyrrhocoris apterus, that suggests that firebug is a “wingless fire bug”, the species does have wings although it is unable to fly. (In the South of Europe live relatives of the fire bugs that do fly.)

The firebug can usually be seen on Lime trees and on Mallows feeding on their seeds. The bug can be found throughout the year in clusters under these plants or walking over the ground.

I found a colony of firebugs, seen in tandem formation when mating, which can take from 12 hours up to 7 days!

– Text and photos by Mohamed Samad Imran, @Imran_ismarbaan

A colony of firebugs
Drinking Japanese matcha tea reduces anxiety: Study

A combination of stress and anxious behavior is a common occurrence in today’s fast-paced world. However, a new study published in the Journal of Functional Foods suggests that drinking Japanese matcha tea could be a solution to this issue.

The study, conducted by researchers from Kumamoto University in Japan, found that matcha, which has been used as a medicinal agent for many years, may be quite beneficial to the human body. Study lead author Yuki Kurauchi from Kumamoto University explained, “We hope that our research into matcha can lead to health benefits worldwide.”

According to the researchers, the tea’s calming effects are due to mechanisms that activate dopamine D1 receptors and serotonin 5-HT1A receptors, both of which are closely related to anxious behavior.

In addition, when the anxiolytic activity of different matcha extracts were evaluated, a stronger effect was found with the extract derived using 60 per cent ethanol in comparison to the extract derived from only hot water. Matcha is the finely ground powder of new leaves from shade-grown (90 per cent shade) Camellia sinensis green tea bushes. – IANS

LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE

ARIES
March 21 – April 19

Aries

A member of your household has perhaps been withholding some negative emotions for a long time. He or she may finally let loose with everything today. This could prove disconcerting. Aries, as you probably had no idea this was going on. Some honest talk is definitely in order. Try to show that you understand. All should be fine in the end.

CANCER
June 21 – July 22

Some hidden problems in your house could suddenly appear. Cancer. This could involve plumbing, electricity, or the walls. Repairs are definitely indicated. It’s best if you see to them right away rather than wait. The problem will only escalate if neglected. It’s probably better to call in professionals than to try to do it yourself. Things like this are a drag, but they happen.

LIBRA
September 23 – October 22

Secrets that someone close has been trying to keep hidden could come out today, Libra. This may or may not be something Earthshaking, but either way, some quick damage control might prevent them from becoming common knowledge. The people around you are more understanding than you know, so express how you feel. By tomorrow it should be old news. Take care of business and all will be well.

CAPRICORN
December 22 – January 19

A disagreement with a friend or family member could cause confusion and hurt feelings if it isn’t nipped in the bud. Communication is the key, Capricorn. Avert misunderstanding by explaining in detail exactly what it is you need or what you’re prepared to give. Don’t assume everyone knows this already. Do this in person if you can. Phone or e-mail might not be as effective.

TAURUS
April 20 – May 20

An unexpected and perhaps unwelcome call or e-mail from a co-worker might mean you have to work some extra hours, Taurus. This could be frustrating. You may feel that someone is taking unfair advantage of you. If you aren’t up to doing it, say no. This won’t affect your long-term standing with this person. Otherwise, grit your teeth, dig in, and think of it as a favour.

LEO
July 23 – August 22

Some strange communications could come your way today, Leo. Hang-ups or blank e-mails could have you wondering who the person is and what they want from you. This is probably due more to problems with phone lines or Internet connections than to anything else, so don’t waste time worrying. If you think you know who’s trying to reach you, wait until tomorrow and contact him or her.

SCORPIO
October 23 – November 21

Some strange news concerning friends who live far away could come to you secondhand today, Scorpio. Attempts to reach the people in question may prove fruitless, at least now. Withhold judgment about what you hear until you talk to your friends, as much of what is passed on to you is likely to be misinformation. Tomorrow you should have better luck reaching them.

GEMINI
May 21 – June 20

You may have been saving up for something you really wanted, Gemini, when an unexpected expense compels you to spend some of your savings. This could cause some gloom. Make sure you’ve exhausted all of your other options before digging into your nest egg. appearances could be deceiving. There could be other resources at your disposal that you didn’t immediately think of.

VIRGO
August 23 – September 22

Some rather unsettling insights into a friend’s thoughts and feelings could come to you today. Your intuition is keener than usual. Sagittarius, so trust your instincts about everyone, even strangers. Disconcerting though it may be, the experience will increase your understanding of others and enable you to deal with them in the right way. This could strengthen your relationships.

SAGITTARIUS
November 22 – December 21

Plans to get together with a close friend or a partner might go awry due to circumstances beyond your control. Pisces. Sudden events could necessitate being out of touch. You might have to face delays when you’re trying to make arrangements. Don’t give up – you will reach your goal but just a little later than you’d hoped. Accept things as they are and change your schedule. These things happen.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COCCYX</th>
<th>PARIETAL</th>
<th>VOMER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAXILLA</td>
<td>TIBIA</td>
<td>ILIUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STERNUM</td>
<td>FRONTAL</td>
<td>RIB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRANIAL</td>
<td>PATELLA</td>
<td>ZYGOMATIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METATARSAL</td>
<td>ULNA</td>
<td>LUMBAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TALUS</td>
<td>HUMERUS</td>
<td>SACRUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMUR</td>
<td>PELVIS</td>
<td>MANDIBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCIPITAL</td>
<td>VERTEBRA</td>
<td>SCPALA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMPORAL</td>
<td>HYOID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIBULA</td>
<td>RADIUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wordsearch

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDASTERNUMECWLB</th>
<th>YUPRNMMAILLXAM</th>
<th>AHMYBCEYHLBNSE</th>
<th>ELTEOETIOFFLLYRL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTUCRMPTEUUEEAH</td>
<td>CACPOUARBLSMTTR</td>
<td>IYDCARSHIIONBAD</td>
<td>XLEIIICFAVVOIBTP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGIEUASLMRMRMIEC</td>
<td>SNTUASEOFBUMBMR</td>
<td>SATEMPORALIYPHU</td>
<td>LIMANDIBLEAGBCYM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBIZYGOMATICCOE</td>
<td>BASULATIPICOIF</td>
<td>RIOMUINARCHAWDY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a grid. The grid is also divided into nine 3x3 squares. You are given a set of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 square contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDUOSKZ</th>
<th>TSEGUYH</th>
<th>TLNMA</th>
<th>FZQEDC</th>
<th>BMUSRP</th>
<th>XBOVRQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HJLKM</td>
<td>NOP</td>
<td>STVWX</td>
<td>YZ</td>
<td>ABD</td>
<td>EFG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adam

Adam, we got a letter from the Neighbourhood Committee. Oh, sure. They want you to take down your manmade tree. They're insisting on it. Sigh. Small-minded, bureaucractic, locked-in-step, shallow-brained, narrow-visioned, simple, visionless. How'd he take it? He's still in the 'policing spiral' phase.

Pooch Cafe

You should hire a sketch artist to do a drawing of the dancing cat. I work cheap. Okay, I'll do it for free. Okay, a little more... yes, that's it.

Garfield

Look at that. Oo.

Codie is digging a hole.

That can't be good for the rug.

Bound And Gagged

Zoo

The gorilla has a sore throat.
**Super Cryptic Clues**

Across
1. Scrap metal’s last to be removed in plane trip (5)
2. They’re a bit fed up, especially as they’ve been tricked (5)
3. Volunteer force’s excessive enthusiasm for island state (8)
4. Competent learner in Lincoln (4)
5. Barrymore produced pictures (4)
6. Mature pine lasting many years (3-4)
7. Stop getting involved in seduction (11)
8. Cold tea knocked back outside pub for entertainment (7)
9. Soothing ointment used in some herbal medicines (4)
10. Fly-by-night revealed by parent without hesitation (4)
11. Fruit it’s a crop to be gathered (8)
12. One is not well out of these arrangements (5)
13. Foundation and front of building unchanged (5)

Down
1. German woman beginning to detect criminal deception (5)
2. They are used for boring cocktails (7)
3. Very little time in year (4)
4. Drinks provided for men on board (8)
5. Fruit with large stone (5)
6. As leaders of law enforcement go in for peace (7)
7. Stick with musical animals (8)
8. A second reformation for clergymen (7)
9. Dreadful nuisance – I lost subtle shades (7)
10. Some Arab horses can’t stand (5)
11. Colleagues forming teams (5)
12. Dull river crossed by fish (4)

**Colouring**

**Answers**

**Wordsearch**

**Codeword**
Disappointing mash-up of two horror classics

By Chris Hewitt

Midsommar is an upsetting movie, and I mean that word in pretty much every way you can think of.

Writer/director Ari Aster's second horror feature, after Hereditary, ups its level of brutality and predictability, it is much every way you feel, maybe even the way you watch movies. It puts genuine grief and scary-movie ridiculousness right next to each other. It seems like it's forcing you to breathe a little differently. It puts you on edge, it's forcing you to breathe a little.

Meanwhile, the friends are high on mushrooms, people begin to disappear and everyone eats meat pies that may or may not have people in them. (That the movie never tells us is part of its atmosphere of unease.) Aster quickly has established himself as a master of creating discomfort. He has a sure command of cinematic techniques that stir up bad feelings: sending us off-killer by violating the "180-degree rule," which holds that a movie should not cut from one shot of people to another shot of those same people from the opposite vantage point. Doing the same with jarring edits between images crafts a perfect final shot that you'll miss if you blink.

Getting in our head with atonal music, then making fun of us for falling for it — in one scene, the soundtrack's unnerving drone is suddenly revealed to be a horrid tune being played by a trio of Swedish cultists.

I won't say much about the plot for a couple of reasons. First, if you're the sort of person who likes being taken on a ride by a movie, I wouldn't wreck that. And, second, because after two hours of masterfully creeping us out, Midsommar feels itself to be a disappointing mash-up of two horror classics, one from just a couple of years ago and one from the 1970s.

Anyone who spends much time reading or going to the movies or theatre knows it's really hard to begin a compelling story but that it's even harder to end it well. My theory is that Aster is a fantastic director who might profit from working with a writer who is not himself.

But the truth is that he's just two movies into his career, and it's probably only a matter of time before he figures out how to stick the landing.

— Star Tribune (Minneapolis)/TNS

Stuber: a cinematic car wreck

By Katie Walsh

There is absolutely no reason to catch a ride with the nasty, brutish and shill Stuber, a horror movie about our current American nightmare of late capitalist economics and unchecked law enforcement masquerading as an "action comedy." If that's not sobering enough, Stuber, written by Tripper Clancy and directed by Michael Dowse, is also deeply unfunny. It centres on the odd-couple pairing of Kumail Nanjiani and Dave Bautista, who try to cover up their complete lack of chemistry with increasingly deafening screams.

You know what's just a laugh riot? Consider that the hero of our film, the titular Stuber, Stu (Nanjiani), drives Uber on the side because he doesn't make enough at his low-wage gig at a big box sporting goods store while also trying to open a business with his best friend/crush (Betty Gilpin).

When he's kidnapped by an off-duty LAPD officer, Vic (Bautista), who is on a vengeance mission and conscripts Stu into the torture and murder of civilians. Ha. Ha. Ha. Those murderous off-duty LAPD officers sure are hilarious.

It's a busted, bumbling rip-off of Michael Mann's Collateral, but rather than a smooth assassin and a panicked cabbie, it's a rogue cop with impaired vision due to LASIK surgery and a motor-mouth sweetie behind the wheel of a leased Nissan Leaf. One can see the appeal of the concept in theory. But it's lost in the loud and messy execution.

In throwing together sensitive beta Stu and the testosterone-fuelled Vic, Stuber is trying to say something about the hot topic of toxic masculinity (aren't we all?), but it has its cake and eats it too. Stu might yell at Vic to talk about his feelings or being a better father, and yes, he does call out just how illegal everything Vic does that day, repeatedly. But for every one of these moments, there's a scene where Stu learns to "man up" by becoming violent himself, shedding his compassion, empathy and respect for human life. At the end of the day, the two men have apparently learned new ways of being men from each other. Vic becomes more sensitive, while Stu embraces his own power. But the half-hearted cultural commentary gets lost in the violent melee. What we see doesn't match their words.

If a film is going to be action-packed and violent, it should have the decency to at least present it well.

The cinematography and editing is completely incoherent and not compelling. Of all the offences Stuber commits (we've barely scratched the surface), the one that burns worst is the casting of Indonesian martial artist Iko Uwais, a master of the brutal fighting style silat, as the bad guy, and then failing to shoot any of the fight scenes with a single shred of cogency or clarity. If you cast Uwais, we want to see him fight, but the action scenes are so atrociously muddled it's impossible to follow.

Stu gives every story point, so even watching this grating and pointless film, filled with bone-headed plot twists, is utterly unwarranting. Save the Uber fare and stay far, far away. — TNS
Harder tackling success than failure: Chunky

By Simran Sethi

Fame is important for an actor. Some experience it early in their careers while others take years to get into the spotlight. Stardom, however, can be fickle – ask Chunky Panday. The actor has seen “success” as well as “failure” closely in his Bollywood career of over three decades.

“It was perhaps written in my destiny that I would rise and fall and rise. I have experienced success as well as failure in life. To be honest, I have no regrets. You can’t be on top all the time,” Chunky said about losing out in the race after a promising start to his career in late eighties with hits such as Aag Hi Aag, Tezaab and Khiladi.

Chunky’s debut film as a lead actor happened in 1987, in the Pahlaj Nihalani-produced hit, Aag Hi Aag. The film also starred veterans Dharmendra and Shatrughan Sinha, but Chunky won an instant fan base with his action hero turn.

The late eighties marked the era of multi-starrers and Chunky appeared in a series of films with other big stars, including Tezaab, Paap Ki Duniya and Gunahon Ka Faisla, but he managed to leave a mark with his spiced screen presence and handsome looks.

The initial success was, however, shortlived and the actor was soon resting under tropes. His 1993 release, David Dhawan’s Aunkhen, remains one of the biggest blockbuster of that era, but his co-star Govinda walked away with most of the applause.

With not many interesting roles coming his way, Chunky moved to the lucrative Bangladesh film industry for a while.

“When I returned from Bangladesh and started working here again after almost eight years, I realised people had forgotten me. There were children who did not even know my name. So, I decided to work in films that children would see, and do roles that would entertain them,” he says, explaining his decision to sign slapstick hits such as the Housefull films during this phase.

His role of Aakhi Pasta in the Housefull series won him new-generation fans in the 2010s. Does he miss stardom?

“Not really. I was lucky I had it. Many people do not even get a chance to experience stardom. I feel fortunate that I got great opportunities in life,” the actor says.

He then takes a philosophical stance, talking about failure. “One should experience failure. It is more difficult to deal with success than failure, because when you are dealing with failure very few people notice you. But when you are on the top, everyone has an eye on you,” he says.

After working in nearly 80 films, the 50-year-old says he is now trying to reinvent himself. He feels it is important for an artiste to change and grow with time.

“Change is the only constant in life. You should always be prepared to usher change within yourself. From the past couple of years, I am trying to do different types of roles and genres,” he says, adding: “With time, our audience has also evolved. Nowadays they want something different. So, I am exploring different areas of acting now.”

Chunky recently gave the short films genre a shot with Praveen Fernandez’s Tap Tap. He returns to more mainstream roles with Susho and Housefull 4 later this year. – IANS

Isahiguro (2017 Nobel Prize winner), Margaret Atwood, J G Ballard, Angela Carter, Iris Murdoch, Ben Okri, Fay Weldon, Martin Amis, John Berger, Raymond Carver, Doris Lessing and Martha Gelhorn. Granta magazine was founded by Cambridge university students in 1889 before being re-launched in 1979 by editor Bill Buford, who transformed it into one of the world’s most important literary periodicals.

“The material generated from 40 years of publishing Granta does so much more than simply showcase the history of our beloved literary quarterly: it also reveals how a plucky American, determined to shake things up by bringing new, edgy American writing to British readers, accidently ended up championing some of Britain’s – and indeed the world’s – most exciting writers,” Sigrid Rausing, Editor of Granta, said.

Granta initially re-launched in 1979 to promote American writing in Britain. It has launched the careers of some of Britain’s most significant contemporary writers, the British Library said. – IANS
Trevor Noah all set to have Doha audiences in stitches tomorrow

By Mudassir Raja

This summer is full of fun and entertainment in Qatar. Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) through Summer in Qatar campaign introduces a wide range of exciting indoor and outdoor experiences, along with entertainment programmes featuring local, regional and international artistes, entertainment, summer and sports camps as well as special promotions on inbound travel, hospitality and shopping.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Summer in Qatar campaign is Doha Comedy Festival that promises to bring top international comedians to Qatar this summer. It is time to laugh off the hot days as the multicultural audience gets a chance to taste international comedy.

Trevor Noah, a world-renowned South African comedian, is all set to have Doha audiences in stitches tomorrow (Friday) at Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC). Noah's show is a part of ongoing Doha Comedy Festival organised by the Social Studio, and supported by QNTC.

According to the organisers, the gates for the audience will open at 7pm and the show will start at 8pm and will last until 11pm. Noah is returning to Doha's stage after a sold-out performance in 2017.

The comedy festival also includes performances by other international comedians in August. Combining the east and west are: Omid Djalili, a British-Iranian comedian; Nemr, a Lebanese-American performer; and Qatar’s own Hamad al-Amari. The artistes will perform at QNCC on 15th of the next month.

The 35-year-old Trevor Noah is a South African comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor and television host.

He is known for hosting The Daily Show, an American satirical news programme on Comedy Central TV channel. Born in Johannesburg, Noah began his career as a comedian, presenter, and actor in South Africa in 2002 when he was only 18. He held several television hosting roles with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and was the runner-up in their fourth season of Strictly Come Dancing show in 2008.

From 2010 to 2011, he was the creator and host of Tonight with Trevor Noah on M-Net and DStv. His stand-up comedy career attained international success, leading to appearances on American late-night talk shows and British panel shows.

In 2014, Noah became the senior international correspondent for The Daily Show, and the following year, he succeeded long-time host Jon Stewart and is set to remain in the position until 2022.

Noah's autobiographical comedy book Born a Crime was published in 2016 and garnered critical acclaim. He was named one of The 35 Most Powerful People in New York Media by The Hollywood Reporter in 2017 and 2018. In 2018, Time magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Though Noah will perform in English and will share his jokes, comments and satire covering international social and political issues, the South African expatriate community is very excited to have one of their compatriots – a celebrity – coming to Doha.

Sharing his views on the upcoming show, Faizel Moosa, ambassador of South Africa to Qatar said: “Trevor Noah is a true son of the African soil. He represents what our founding father Nelson Mandela termed the ‘Rainbow Nation’. As you are aware that Noah’s show is sold out and South Africans in Doha are still looking for tickets to his show. It’s because Noah is now an international superstar and the whole world knows him and wants to hear his comedy and satire about real world politics. He makes us see the funny side and also at times how ridiculous and obscure real world politics are. This allows us to have a good laugh about ourselves.”

“Many South African community members in Doha have asked me if I am hosting him because they want to meet him and that’s how much South Africa reveres him.”

“My wife and I are looking forward to attending this comedy show of Noah and to meet him for the first time. He is a proud South African legend and amongst the best in the world.”

The 35-year-old is a South African comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor and television host. He is known for hosting The Daily Show, an American satirical news programme on Comedy Central TV channel.

Making Waves: Noah became the senior international correspondent for The Daily Show in 2014, and the following year, he succeeded long-time host Jon Stewart and is set to remain in the position until 2022.