Bollywood star Kangana Ranaut takes on the media with panache. **P4-5**

**REVIEW**
Tarnished gold lurking in the Hollywood hills.  

**Page 14**

**SHOWBIZ**
Casting directors play big part today.  

**Page 15**
Ardaas Karaan
DIRECTION: Gippy Grewal
CAST: Gippy Grewal, Gurpeet Ghuggi, Moher VJ
SYNOPSIS: Ardaas Karaan explores the generation gap faced by families. Three elderly men live in Canada with their families and realise that each generation has a different conflicting opinion about life.

The elderly men believe spending time with each other and communicating may help bridge their gap. But each time the family plans to spend time with each other they end up arguing.

One day, the elderly gentlemen come across Sehaj and Magic who are full of positivity and agree to help them understand their families but are given only a week to accomplish this.

Will Sehaj and Magic manage to find a common thread for the three differing generations to live together in harmony?

How will they use Ardaas (prayer) to convey their message about life?

THEATRE: Royal Plaza

The Kid
DIRECTION: Vincent DOnofrio
CAST: Chris Pratt, Leila George, Ethan Hawke, Dane DeHaan, Jake Schur
SYNOPSIS: A young boy, Rio (Jake Schur), is forced to go on the run across the American Southwest in a desperate attempt to save his sister (Leila George) from his villainous uncle (Chris Pratt). Along the way, he encounters Sheriff Pat Garrett (Ethan Hawke), on the hunt for the infamous outlaw Billy the Kid (Dane DeHaan). Rio finds himself increasingly entwined in the lives of these two legendary figures as the cat and mouse game of Billy the Kid’s final year of life plays out. Ultimately Rio is forced to choose which type of man he is going to become, the outlaw or the man of valour, and will use this self-realisation in a final act to save his family.

THEATRE: Royal Plaza

For movie timings and further details please scan the QR code above with your mobile phone camera or visit qatarcinemas.com

Quote Unquote
Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.
– Confucius
The Comedy of Tango
WHERE: Katara – the Cultural Village
WHEN: August 28
TIME: 8pm–9pm
With the support of Katara – the Cultural Village and embassy of Argentina in Doha, Tango Pasión Doha presents Los Guardiola – “The Comedy of Tango” on August 28. A show consisting of seven scenes is inspired by famous tangos. Dancers, mimes and actors, Marcelo Guardiola and Giorgia Marchiori, known artistically as Los Guardiola, will project the audience into the fantastic world of their danced pantomime where comedy and tragedy merge into the rhythm of tango.

Yoga Class
WHERE: Lululemon, Mall of Qatar
WHEN: Every Saturday
TIME: 8:30am – 9:30am
Join the complimentary in-store yoga classes. No registration or mat is required. The class runs on first come first served basis.

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

Career Guidance
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivitiy. For more information, 5544835.

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.

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

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop
WHERE: The ArtSpace
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/ 3132649.
There is a new controversy as Kangana Ranaut has decided to take the media head-on. Kangana has, by now, made a reputation for calling a spade a spade. Mainly, she has made a reputation not to take things lying down anymore. There have been earlier instances of differences between reporters and stars, even leading to violence. But, those involved big stars, mainly men. And, all that the targeted reporters could do was the run away from the scene!

The era of one-to-one interviews with stars or the personal interactions are long over. And the one thing I have observed is that in rare cases when a star consents for a personal interview nowadays, there are never any differences of opinion. For, the reporter assigned to interview is, for one, much in awe of the star he meets (first thing he does is request for a selfie, lest it may not happen after the interview!).

The other thing is that the interviewer is too keen to kind of develop a rapport with the star so as to always have an access to the star as well as to be recognised by the star the next time around! The fact is, the media can neither make nor break a career. It is a fallacy they indulge in that their stand or writing against a star will affect him or her professionally, writes Vinod Mirani

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One such example is that of Salman Khan. He was never kind to the media, ignored them and even misbehaved. He did not care for awards and, in return, the press was equally unkind to him. But the media could not even think of banning him. Because he was the happening thing and always newsworthy. Also, he was always involved in some controversy or the other. He was sort of bread and butter material for the media.

What happened between Kangana and some of the media guys was an argument during one of her press conferences to promote a film with her co-star Rajkummar Rao. She referred to one of the reporters from a news agency for writing uncomplimentary things about her on a social network. Now, a news agency guy is not known to indulge in such activities. Even their reports are meant to be non-controversial. Also, these sort of reporters often have a misgiving that a star’s career will be handicapped if one or two reporters or media houses ‘banned’ them. Especially, in the era when publications put their content on sale in the name of advertorial!

But what ensued was yelling at the star, of course, with support from a subordinate. A ban was declared on reporting on Kangana! Does one really believe it will work or find support? The biggest of media houses have tried this ban thing. This, here, was one small tiff.

And, however small, they become brave when one or two voices come in support.

Again, when a Sanjay Dutt or a Salman Khan or any other macho hero gets violent with a reporter or a photographer, there is no
One example is that of Salman Khan. He was never kind to the media, ignored them and even misbehaved. He did not care for awards and, in return, the press was equally unkind to him. But the media could not even think of banning him. Because he was the happening thing and always newsworthy.

Noise. As if, nothing happened. It was just a week back that Salman’s bodyguards had a scuffle with a photographer. But, when it comes to photographers and video cameramen, they are always overzealous about their job. They get too close for a star’s comfort and often poke their camera as well as the microphone in an actor’s face. These TV reporters are not quite prepared for the task. They ask standard one or two questions. A routine first question is “Kaisa lagta hai! Aapki film hit ho gayee, kaisa lagta hai (How do you feel, your film has been a hit, how do you feel)?” Similarly, when Salman Khan was granted bail after a few days in custody, a TV reporter asked Saleem Khan (Salman’s father): “Salman jail se wapas aa gaye hai, aapko kaisa lagta hai? Sir, ek byte dijiye (Salman has returned from jail, how do you feel about that. Sir, please give a byte)?” Saleem Khan was bored of such senseless questions and replied, tongue-in-cheek: “I am undergoing a dental treatment so can’t bite!”

This film journalism, feeding on the film stars and their actions, has never been privy to any kind of unity even when it came to valid cause if ever there was one. All have their own vested interests to serve. On the other hand, even stars seem to think they can get away with anything, which they do most of the time and never repent. But, there was one exception, Anupam Kher. For whatever reason (reasons are usually something written against the actor), Anupam slapped the journalist from a glossy gossip magazine. But it is said that he felt guilty about the incident. It dawned on him that somehow, somebody may slap him as well.

Sunny Deol’s reputation as a muscular hero was good enough for media guys not to cross paths with him. However, a trade magazine had written something about his father, Dharmendra, and Sunny thought it was derogatory. It was while shooting in Nashik for Narsimhu that the editor’s son, Komal Nahta and Sunny came face-to-face. Nahta’s standing by what his magazine had written angered Sunny who all but hit him. An ugly scene was averted as other journalists, also invited to cover the shooting, intervened and cooled Sunny down.

Then, there was a case of Vidhu Vinod Chopra who is not prone to getting any sort of negative media, especially when it comes to his film. It was at a party at Hotel Sea Rock in Bandra (filmmakers were known to throw a party at the drop of a hat in those days) that Chopra was seen running around tables chasing the film critic, Khalid Mohamed! Again, third party intervention stopped the situation from turning ugly.

Dharmendra may have been the pioneer of chasing journalists to vent his anger. There was not much of a media devoted to films in those days. Those which mattered were Filmfare, Star & Style, Screen and a few vernacular magazines. Dharmendra had an axe to grind with Devyani Chhabal, the queen of gossip writing and M S Krishna from Blitz weekly (though Blitz was not a film magazine, it ran a column, Off Camera, by M S Krishna, devoted to gossip). It was during a fund raising rally with stars participating that Dharmendra spotted Devyani and Krishna. While the former is said to have escaped safely, Krishna bore the brunt of Dharmendra’s anger. Soundly bashed up, he landed up in a hospital for some days! His pictures, bandaged up, appeared in the media.

All these stars and all these fights and assaults, and nobody had banned anybody yet. But a star did ban the media successfully. The star was Amitabh Bachchan. He decided very early in his career that he wanted nothing to do with the film media. And he was the one who was better off with the arrangement. By this time, some glossy gossip magazines had arrived on the scene but they never had access to Bachchan. Bachchan, meanwhile, merrily went on giving a hit after another hit! He finally softened his stand to the media only after his accident on the sets of Coolie and realising how the media had stood by him. As for Kangana, the irony is that, she has been continuously appearing on TV news as well as reality shows giving interviews or making appearances. Because, she is the newsmaker. She is now more in the media than ever before! — IANS
Fun-filled Bollywood, folk dance workshop held at ICC

Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) recently conducted ‘Bollywood & Folk Dance’ workshop at Asoka hall. The event was attended by 45 participants. The workshop was conducted by Bhavna Sagar Naik. The workshop was based more on dance fitness and fun kind of time and introduction to different dance styles.

The participants performed on the fun-filled and energetic songs and folk dances from different states and countries. Chogada tara, dolida, mera wala dance, rowdy baby, mangalyam (Banglore days), kombi palali, bailando, hit on the floor, and slow motion were the dances that featured on the evening. The participating students also learnt choreography on morari banke dance and put up a performance too. ICC will also be staging a couple of more workshops in the month of September followed by regular classes for in-depth learning of different dance forms.

The classes will be for adults and kids teaching them Bollywood, freestyle, folk and fitness dances with special morning batches for women. The workshop and the classes will be conducted by Bhavna Naik.

Rajesh Kamble, ICC Co-ordinating Officer and Counsellor of Consular & Community Affairs at the embassy of India, along with Manikandan AP, ICC President, and other ICC managing committee members felicitated Bhavna with an appreciation plaque.
Toastmasters District 116 - Qatar tops global ranking for 2018-19

Toastmasters International announced that Qatar would be an independent provisional district effective from July 1, 2018. It was a double-edged sword, coming with recognition of our potential as well as an increased magnitude of responsibility. Though unexpected and sudden, this fast forward of Qatar as a district was received by the fraternity with a clear conviction, vibrant vigour, and sanguine spirit to succeed. There was solidarity across all levels of leadership and a reinforced faith in our collective ability to act and accomplish.

“The annals of Qatar’s history bear testimony to how it faced and overcame challenges by converting them into strengths with creativity and determination. District 116 just took a leaf out that book and carried on the legacy of courage and conquest” Rajeswar said.

Each year, Toastmasters International recognises leading districts in the achievement of Distinguished District Program goals in growth and educational achievement that, as a result, bolsters the organisation’s reputation as the world leader in communication and leadership training. The programme is also a management tool for district leaders to focus on increasing membership, forming new clubs, and ensuring that clubs meet the needs of their members. The newly created Smedley Distinguished District Award is given to top-achieving districts and is the highest honour a district can receive.

Qatar is also placed second globally in the President’s 20-Plus Awards that celebrates those districts that successfully motivate their clubs to achieve and maintain charter strength.

Three districts with the highest percentage of active clubs with 20 or more paid members at year-end receive this award and Qatar stood at 90% which is commendable. As on date, Qatar has more than 1,800 members in 76 clubs, divided into four Divisions and 22 Areas.

“Toastmasters International 2019 Convention will be held during August 21–24, 2019 at Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. The convention is a ‘must-do’ for every serious toastmaster, to network and exchange ideas with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Everyone’s favourite is the grand finale of World Championship of Public Speaking, where we see the best of the best shine. It’s a jewel in the crown of our education program,” said Rajeswar.

“The continued increase in membership and clubs around the globe shows the importance of improving public speaking and communication skills in the digital age. We offer our members better tools and resources than ever before. As a result, our members develop and apply the skills learned in club meetings, to enhance their success personally and professionally” says Toastmasters CEO Daniel Rex.

Kerala Entrepreneurs Club hold workshop

Kerala Entrepreneurs Club, a group of entrepreneurs formed under the auspices of the Cultural Forum, recently organised an entrepreneurship workshop. Dr Taj Alva, Cultural Forum President, inaugurated the event.

The workshop was led by trainers Ruknuddin Abdullah, M F Shanavas and Rajai Melattur. Majedali, Kerala Entrepreneurs Club Convenor, welcomed the gathering and Mohamed Sharif Chirakkal delivered the vote of thanks.

Q Tec Electric Cricket World Cup prediction contest winners honoured

Q Tec Electric recently organised ‘Cricket World Cup Winner Prediction Contest’. The winners of the contest were namely, Mohamed A K, Mohamed Ismail, Shebin Kandoth (staff winners group), Kamal Moklasur, Osman Saab, and Golapna B Mandal (workers group).

The cash awards were distributed in a function held at the Q-Tec’s main office. Mathew Varughese, General Manager, presented the prizes to the staff winners. Among the workers, the prizes were distributed by Shafeeqe Arakkal, Asst Manager, Employee Welfare; Baburaj, Camp Boss; and Raghu Ananthan Nair, Stores In-charge.
Is Raleigh treating half its people like second-class citizens?

By Anna Johnson

When a 15-year-old boy was killed in a hit-and-run on a Southeast Raleigh street this year, Chalisa Williams thought about the kids in the apartment complex she manages.

She sees students and adults walk along Sunnybrook Road toward their schools and jobs every day. She asked a City Council member what it would take to get a sidewalk along the road near her apartment complex, and she was pointed to the city’s petition process.

But the more than 200 people who live in the affordable-housing complex wouldn’t get to vote on adding the sidewalk.

That’s because the city sends a ballot to property owners when deciding whether to install sidewalks on their street. Renters who live on the street have no vote.

It’s one of the ways, they say, the city ignores renters, who make up 53% of Raleigh’s residents.

“With them only reaching out to owners, in my opinion, that creates a barrier,” Williams said. “Everyone doesn’t have the opportunity nor desire to own a home. It diminishes citizen involvement, because if I am renting and not included in the community, that is an issue.”

Community Investment

When city leaders recently debated changing Raleigh’s sidewalk petition process, council member Nicole Stewart asked if renters could also be polled.

“This is a conversation we need to have,” Williams said. “Everyone doesn’t have the opportunity nor desire to own a home. It diminishes citizen involvement, because if I am renting and not included in the community, that is an issue.”

The city uses the Wake County courthouse to find property owners, said Gail Smith, clerk to the council.

“I don’t know how we would send (ballots) to renters because there is no (database) that tells us where to send them to,” she said.

Council member Kay Crowder said the conversation was worth having but asked how the city would track renters who move. There are NC State University students, she said, that sometimes move every semester, and some sidewalk projects take years to complete.

“I understand your point about the renters except, please consider this, some of the renters are there for a very short-term period,” said council member Dickie Thompson. “And the property owners are certainly more invested than people who stay in a neighbourhood say six months.”

Thompson’s comments caused an uproar among some renters.

“I think it is a common perception among many people of the people who serve on our council that, for whatever reason, renters don’t matter as much as homeowners and as much as long-time residents,” said Dustin Engelken, government affairs director of the Triangle Apartment Association. After the meeting, Stewart said she thought Thompson was making an argument about financial investment but that didn’t outweigh the other kinds of investments renters make in Raleigh.

“I think renters feel very invested in their community through their work, play, relationships and that adds value to the community,” she said.

City Manager Ruffin Hall agreed to see what other cities are doing and report back to the council.

Renters argue they are looking for affordable places to live in an increasing unaffordable city or want to live in apartment for a variety of reasons. They are just as involved and invested as homeowners, they say.

“That is an attitude that is prevalent across the city,” Engelken said. “That somehow ‘those people’ which can be taken a lot of different ways, but somehow those people don’t have a long-term interest, or are transient, or are outsiders. That they don’t belong, they don’t care of things.”

We Tripp said he rents because he is still early in his law career and has “six figures worth of student loan debt.”

He sees older residents argue on Facebook about renters and new apartments and said he knows most likely didn’t have the same level of student loan debt and bought their homes when prices were lower. That contributes to a misconception about renters, he said.

Wanda Gilbert-Coker, a community organizer on the city’s fair housing board, said Raleigh struggles to reach renters and consistently leaves them out.

When Hurricane Florence was believed to be heading toward Raleigh, the city told 26,000 residents in low-lying areas to seek higher ground. The city called or texted homeowners who got water bills and trash service but notified some renters through flyers delivered by the fire department to the property manager, Gilbert-Coker said.

What if those property managers had already left, she asked, or had no leasing office on site?

Williams, who is the recent chair of Central CAC and serves on the city’s fair housing board, also currently rents. She pointed to members of her family who have rented their home for more than 20 years.

It is not for the city to decide who is invested in the community and who isn’t, she said.

“Trent is a lot of barriers for renters,” Williams said. “They are people who are trying to accomplish their goals. There are people who rent like me. I am very invested in my community. I believe the idea that renters aren’t invested is a stereotype. And she still wants her sidewalk.” – The News & Observer (Raleigh) /TN
Trash to cash: A German start-up wants to solve our plastic problem

A large grey shipping container rumbles and rattles as the machinery inside goes to work, crunching detritus and piles of discarded gadgets. The smell of oil and a “labour of love” for Oliver Riedel, who believes that his project will change the way we look at plastic waste.

WASTX Plastic, as the project is called, has developed a way to turn unwanted plastic – around 250 kilograms of the stuff per day – into fuel.

“One kilo of plastic produces around one litre of fuel,” says Riedel, founder and managing director of the Biofabrik Group, based on the edge of the eastern German city of Dresden, which specialises in green technologies in the areas of energy, nutrition and waste management.

He’s optimistic about WASTX Plastic’s prospects. In fact, “We’re sitting on one of the biggest oil fields in the world,” he says.

Riedel’s vision is to have the system placed on littered beaches by local authorities or hotels, allowing locals and tourists alike to chuck their plastic rubbish into the souped-up skip and get money in return, paid into their accounts via an online payment service like PayPal. Fishermen could also make some extra cash by offering up the plastic collected in their nets. They could even have the machine on board their boats.

“Then people will maybe start to collect more plastic at the beach or at sea,” the 43-year-old businessman explains. The idea would not only help clean up plastic waste but also generate fuel that could be used for ships or electricity generators. “Because many islands that have a plastic waste problem also have an energy problem,” Riedel adds.

The process upon which Riedel has based his vision is in fact not new; during pyrolysis, plastics are turned into gas or liquid at a temperature of 500 degrees Celsius in a reactor that heats chopped-up pieces of plastic to temperatures of 500 degrees Celsius in a low-oxygen environment while substances such as sand and salt are filtered out.

The end result? A dark, viscous liquid resembling diesel drips out. “Royal jelly,” Riedel says with a grin. Crushed foil, discarded packaging with scraps of food inside, asphalted cardboard and fishing nets can all be turned into oil by the technology – waste that is difficult to recycle and is therefore often burned.

The need for solutions has never been greater. According to the “Plastikatlas,” developed by Germany’s Heinrich Boell Foundation, an environmental think tank, over 400 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year, between 1990 and 2015, a total of 8.3 billion tons of plastic were produced. Less than a tenth of that amount is recycled.

Riedel, a trained carpenter, sees himself as the visionary at the head of his 25-person team of scientists, technicians and engineers. He first had the idea of turning rubbish into fuel while travelling through Asia, where he saw mountains of trash. He spent a year travelling the world and looking at different systems that aim to solve the problem.

The technologies that he saw were mainly expensive and inefficient, he says. “We wanted small, decentralised systems that anyone could operate with a tablet PC, that are profitable and that meet German environmental standards.” He and his team spent six years developing the proposal and suffered many setbacks, says Riedel, whose company markets several green technologies, including solutions for waste oil and vegan fertiliser.

Roman Maletz, a researcher at the Institute for Waste Management and Circular Economy at the Dresden University of Technology, supports the movement to repurpose plastic waste as fuel. But he warns that past experience has shown that the idea is hard to implement in practice.

The process only makes economic sense when carried out on a large scale, he says. However, industrial-sized machines can often break down due to the mix of waste that they process.

“There is a price-competitive technology, it would already be much more established,” Maletz adds.

The process costs energy as well as money. For this reason, Maletz believes that the technology would be of greatest use to major energy firms that could integrate it into their existing systems.

German chemical giant BASF, for example, wants to turn plastic into syngas or oils with its “ChemCycling” project, with the goal of replacing fossil fuels used in parts of its operations. And an Austrian energy firm, OMV, has developed technology to extract crude oil from plastics.

In the past two years, Maletz says there has been progress in converting plastic back to its original components. “But a magic machine in which you put in plastic waste and get great oil in return in an energy-efficient way – I struggle to envision that,” he adds.

Biofabrik boss Riedel is optimistic, nonetheless. The first WASTX Plastic system is soon to go into operation at a packaging plant run by Schur Star Systems in Flensburg, over 600 kilometres north-west of Dresden near Germany’s border with Denmark. It claims to be able to process 1,000 kilograms of plastic waste per day.

Riedel is also in talks with local traders in 35 countries as he seeks to realise his vision of having the modules placed for use on ships. He says the company has inked contracts with partners in Australia, Japan, the United States, South Korea and Turkey.

His goal: to secure partnerships with merchants in the world’s 20 biggest industrial nations by the end of the year, with a motto that sounds too good to be true for some: “Trash to cash.” – DPA
Solving the case of the Great Dying

Earth’s greatest biological catastrophe, the Great Dying, came 252 million years ago. The Permian period ended, later followed by the Age of Dinosaurs. But why did it happen?

Ancient volcanoes in Siberia

Earlier studies have pointed to ash and toxins, spread worldwide by eruptions of the vast volcanic “Siberian traps,” as a main cause of the Great Dying.

New research found deposits of mercury, lifted into air by the Siberian volcanoes, were laid down in the oceans, part of the environmental destruction at the end of the Permian period.

Pangaea, the Permian world

One giant supercontinent of Pangaea was surrounded by a superocean, Panthalassa.

North had intense heat, swinging from wet to dry.

South was cold and dry, with ice caps.

Large mammal-like saber-tooth gorgonops were top predators.

Shrimp-like sea scorpions as long as a crocodile hunted small sea creatures.

What was lost in the Great Dying

90% of Earth’s species. 95% of ocean animal species. Nearly all the trees, as well as two-thirds of large land animal species.
Researchers have found that being able to walk outside for several blocks at a leisurely pace plays an important role in living a vibrant, healthy life and may also predict future mobility problems. The study, published in the Journal of American Geriatrics Society, shows that being able to walk at even a slow speed is essential for these benefits, but walking too slowly may foreshadow future problems that could prevent a person from being fully mobile.

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh in the US assessed ways to measure complex walking tasks to learn more about early, subtle changes in walking. It was found that slow walking speed under both usual-pace and complex conditions were associated with greater risk for developing mobility disability. Participants who reported having mobility disability were more likely to be female, have diabetes, be obese, have knee pain and experience breathing difficulty. They also had more symptoms of depression, researchers said.

Researchers analysed information from the Health Aging and Body Composition study which enrolled black and white adults in the US from 1997 to 1998. The 337 participants were 70 to 79 years old, and had no difficulty walking a quarter mile or climbing 10 steps without resting. During the course of the study, participants walked on several different paths and were given several different challenges to measure their walking speed and their ability to cope with mental and physical tasks at the same time.

Researchers then followed up with participants every six months to see if they had any difficulty walking one-quarter mile due to a health or physical problem. Participants reported mobility problems or disabilities every year at in-person visits. By the end of the eight-year follow-up, more than half of the participants had developed mobility disability, meaning they were unable to walk one-quarter mile. Almost 40 per cent had developed chronic mobility disability that lasted at least two years.

The researchers concluded that measuring your simple walking speed may be enough to learn whether you might be at risk for future mobility problems. - IANS
Wordsearch

BAGPIPES  PIBROCH  KILT
GAELIC  BRAE  SASSENACH
LOCH  HIGHLANDS  CROFT
BONNET  PLAID  KIRK
GLEN  CABER  SPORRAN
MIST  HOGMANAY  DIRK
BORDER  PORRIDGE  KYLE
HAGGIS  CATTLE  TARTAN
OATMEAL  ISLES  FIRTH
BOTHY  REEL  LAIRD
HEATHER  CLAYMORE  WHISKY

Codeword

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

Sudoku

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Bound And Gagged

Four years at the acting academy and he’s working as a giant carrot outside Lou’s vegetable stand.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1. Wan publican’s first drink (4)
3. Circus performers with fleece in a musical (8)
9. Take back religious education pamphlet (7)
10. Flower beheaded more quickly (5)
11. Five plus one for each adder (5)
12. Invisible nun wandering around diocese (6)
14. Tomfoolery? Not for leaders in Civil Service (6)
16. Prize required for astrophysicist (6)
19. River possibly making a U-bend (6)
21. Glendower’s land heard plaintive cries (5)
24. Frank almost gets sharp (5)
25. Evil ruler going under (7)
26. Singer turning into bear (8)
27. Small crudely built house is closed (4)

Down
1. South American rave-up in ruins (8)
2. Tulip may be illuminated (3,2)
4. Stop copper and solicitor (3,3)
5. Old friends, providing gems (5)
6. New part, new port (7)
7. Son’s beginning to anger father (6)
8. Material contained in half a brick (6)
13. I mention sound or vision (8)
15. Rough terrain for coach (7)
17. Quarreling or turning up on side (6)
18. Time to add salt and pepper? (6)
20. Raised collection when in distress (5)
22. Girl with head of hair like a leprechaun? (5)
23. Youngster devouring hot fish (4)

Answers

Wordsearch

Codeword

Today’s Solutions
Tarnished gold lurking in the Hollywood hills

By Michael Phillips

For filmmaker Quentin Tarantino, no truer love exists than one man’s love for the cinema. In his new film, Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood, the writer-director establishes a platonic bond nearly as strong between a fictional actor named Rick Dalton, known primarily for Westerns, and fictional stunt double Cliff Booth, who is also Dalton’s driver, assistant and handyman. The stunt man resides with his dog in a trailer behind a drive-in Van Nuys, Calif.; Dalton lives in Benedict Canyon, next door to director Roman Polanski and his pregnant wife, the actress Sharon Tate.

The year is 1969. Dalton’s glory days — he came to stardom on a TV series called Bounty Law — have fallen away to insecurity, alcohol and a general, multidirectional disdain for hipple culture and the so-called New Hollywood. Where does he fit in? Like so much in American culture, from All About Eve to Hamilton, this film is about egocentric power players and muscling your way into the room where it happens. At one point in Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood, Dalton is on the set of a show (he’s doing a guest shot in a vaguely humiliating bad-guy mustache). He strikes up an unexpected conversation with an 8-year-old girl (Julia Butters) also an actor, intent on honing her craft. Dalton’s reading a Zane Grey-type novel between scenes. What’s it about, she wonders? Well, he says, slowly, it’s about a man “coming to terms with becoming slightly more useles each day.”

In other words it’s Dalton’s own “coming to terms with becoming type novel between scenes. What’s intent on honing her craft. Humiliating bad-guy mustache.

Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood

In his new film, Quentin Tarantino’s enjoyment of period re-creation on a grand scale pays some wondrous dividends. At dusk, in one sweet, quick montage, famous neon signage all over Hollywood comes to life.

Quentin Tarantino’s enjoyment of period re-creation on a grand scale pays some wondrous dividends. At dusk, in one sweet, quick montage, famous neon signage all over Hollywood comes to life.

STAR-TURN Leonardo DiCaprio in Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood

Cielo Drive. Like a loser, more indulgent variation on E L Doctorow’s Ragtime, Tarantino’s script spins a leisurely fantasy set in a real time and place. Tarantino plundered real-world movies and TV shows (The Great Escape, Mannix) for background, and the background often slips into the foreground.

Margot Robbie, not exactly overtaxed in a largely non-verbal role, plays Tate, who is depicted by Tarantino as a mini-skirted goddess of sweetness and hope in a commodity universe. With her husband away making a movie in London, Tate slips into a theatre to watch herself in the Matt Helm spy spoof The Wrecking Crew. Tarantino is plainly nuts to both Tate and Robbie (and Robbie’s bare feet, but that’s another, well-chronicled story). But he’s also sweet on Tate’s comic talent. Watching Tate enjoy the movie theatre audience’s appreciation of her comic shtick, she becomes worthy in Tarantino’s eyes.

Similarly, it’s tough guy Booth, kicking the stuffing out of fledging action star Bruce Lee (Mike Moh) in one droll sequence, who represents the quintessence of Hollywood gold. He’s notorious for the probable murder of his wife and getting away with it. In a brief speculative flashback, set on a boat, the movie rips a page out of the mysterious—death-of—Natalie Wood ledger.) But that killer aura gives him an edge, in a city on the verge of an ultimate death trip.

Part trivia contest, part alternate universe fabile and part triumph of cinematic atmosphere, the movie owes a lot to Barbara Ling’s mouth-watering production design. Tarantino’s enjoyment of period re-creation on a grand scale pays some wondrous dividends. At dusk, in one sweet, quick montage, famous neon signage all over Hollywood comes to life.

The reported production budget was $90 million, making it second only to his Americanised spaghetti western Django Unchained for expense. I’d see Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood simply to listen to it again: Tarantino and company deploy radio commercials of the period just so, akin to the way American Graffiti made its AM radio soundscape as compelling as the characters. If not more so.

Tarantino’s preoccupations, limitations and strengths are all on display in Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood. At heart, he’s a movie-besotted pastiche artist, recycling the movies he fell for in his adolescence. He’s a thrill-seeking Peter Pan, with no interest in growing up. This is a boys’ club movie starring DiCaprio, who has worked out a shrewd set of character “tells” and details (a slight stammer, a glimmer of panic in the eyes when he’s imploding with self-loathing). Pitt, at 55 DiCaprio’s senior by 11 years, keeps things close to the chest, relaxing into a project requiring mainly what the studio publicists used to call “It.” And Pitt still has it, along with it’s frequent co-star, Abs.

Cleverly, Tarantino twirls the movie around the facts and eerie inhabitants of the Spahn ranch, and the strange, oddly non-credited denizens of the Manson family. Dakota Fanning makes a slightly convincingly Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme. Manson himself, like Roman Polanski, makes only a brief cameo. The movie can’t be bothered to fully characterize any of the females on screen, including Robbie’s Sharon Tate.

The real drawback. So is the climax, which goes whole hog with wishful dramatic thinking. Some will love it; I found it sort of cheap and more than a little exploitative. It’s “fun,” which tastes wrong.

On the other hand: I got a lot more out of Tarantino’s latest than several of his recent movies. The filmmaking, and Robert Richardson’s cinematography, is infinitely more fluid and expressive than the static aggrandisements of the 2015 Western The Hateful Eight.

A key inspiration for Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood comes from the Sergio Leone canon, notably Once Upon a Time in the West (1968). That film, a financial disappointment in its day but now considered a masterwork, wrote a mournful valentine to a movie genre as well as a transitional point in American history. Tarantino has something similar in mind here.

The real payoff in Hollywood is just that: Hollywood, and Tarantino’s sincere adoration of the actors and genres he so admires. His best film, I think, is Jackie Brown (1997) largely for the pleasure of seeing Pam Grier and Robert Forster go to town. Despite some wonderful actors, Hollywood is more about idealised memory than fully realised people. The movie’s best fleeting images are the ones that linger, such as Tarantino’s re-creations of Hollywood Boulevard and the Valley and the Hollywood hills, as they might have looked in the summer of 1969. Alfonso Cuaron accomplished a similar magic trick in the Mexico City street scenes of Roma. The results? More evocative than provocative. But evocative is not nothing.

— Chicago Tribune/TNS
Casting directors play big part today: Shabana

For Veronica Mars to live, LoVe had to die. The season 4 finale of Veronica Mars saw a shocking decision by showrunner Rob Thomas: reformed bad boy-turned-unfairly jacked Navy hero Logan (Jason Dohring) was killed by a bomb left in Veronica’s car by a serial killer (Patton Oswalt), barely minutes after they tied the knot. It’s the kind of twist that takes your breath away, but one that, as most of ‘Thomas’ decisions save the Kickstarter-funded 2014 movie, served the narrative, not the fans. Veronica was never meant to get a happy ending.

There’s the old Veronica-Logan quote. You know the one: “I thought our story was epic, you know. You and me. Spanning years and continents. Lives ruined and bloodshed. Epic.” We all recited it, cried over it. But it’s the last line that makes more sense now: “No-one writes songs about the ones that come easy.”

Our favourite angsty couple had become too happy. “Veronica does it best as the underdog,” Dohring told The Daily News.

Dohring, who also appeared in Thomas’ iZombie and a one-episode appearance in Party Down, said he had plenty of warning about Logan’s fate, long before they even sat down to read a script.

“I was trashed for about three days,” he joked. “But, as Rob said, we want to shed the teenage drama aspect of this show as we move forward.”

Dohring wouldn’t off a return to Neptune in some form — after all, Lily Kane (Amanda Seyfried) was dead from the pilot and she had a starring role in the first season — but for now, Logan is gone. The show will move on, if Huhi wants it to, but it will do so without him.

“We’re telling the story of Veronica, and watching her persevere no matter what. She’s always going to pull herself up, even after this,” Dohring told The News. “I think it gives people a lot of hope … she’s a superhero without superpowers.”

Veronica Mars was never your typical teenage TV show, in the best way. She was bland and sarcastic and her boyfriends were hot and troubled but Veronica was more than that. She was darker, sure — you would be, too, if you’d gone through half of the trauma she had by the time she got her high school diploma — but she was righteous, often too much so. It never felt fake, like Olivia Pope’s white hat; Veronica believed in fairness and justice.

“If it weird to want to marry someone because you respect her? Because you want her to be like her? Because you want children who will inherit her qualities?” Logan says in a voice mail. “I want to marry Veronica because she’s the toughest human being I’ve ever met. Blows that would destroy most people, she always picks herself back up.”

Logan’s death won’t ruin Veronica, but that doesn’t mean she didn’t love him. Of course she did. She always did, even when she wouldn’t say it out loud. But she’ll be okay, because she has no other choice.

“We’ve been getting calls from everywhere,” Veronica tells her therapist (played by Mary McDonnell) a year after the explosion. “Which is good, because I kind of want to be anywhere but here.”

We’ve heard this before: Veronica left town at the end of the original series, running away from Neptune and restarting her life at Stanford, then in New York. Maybe this one won’t be as permanent; I’m sure she’ll be back if Huhi wants her back, and Bell has repeatedly said she’ll come back until “everyone in Neptune is dead.” But if this is the end, it was the right one. Veronica Mars wasn’t about Veronica and Logan, or even Veronica and Duncan or Veronica and Piz or Veronica and Les. It wasn’t even about Veronica and Keith. It was about Veronica. Alone. — New York Daily News/TNS
Marshmello’s electrifying music set to enthral Doha today

By Mudassir Raja

Though the summer is hot and humid, the excitement and entertainment brought to the residents and visitors by Summer in Qatar campaign are cool and refreshing. Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) through Summer in Qatar campaign has introduced a wide range of exciting indoor and outdoor experiences, along with entertainment programmes featuring local, regional and international artists, edutainment, summer and sports camps as well as special promotions on inbound travel, hospitality and shopping.

One of the most anticipated and exciting aspect of the Summer in Qatar campaign is kaleidoscope of musical concerts with international singers to Doha. The latest concert is going to take place today (July 25) when the world renowned DJ and American electronic music producer Marshmello will perform live at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

The music show that is expected to be sold-out is being organised by the Social Studio, an event company, and sponsored by QNTC. The much-awaited concert is expected to start at 7pm and will last till 11pm.

Christopher Comstock, known professionally as Marshmello, first gained international recognition by releasing remixes of songs by American DJ duo Jack Ü and Russian-German DJ Zedd. He is best known for the songs Silence, Wolves, Friends, and Happier, all of which have been certified multi-platinum in several countries and appeared in the Top 30 of the Billboard Hot 100.

His debut studio album, Joytime, was released in January 2016, which included the lead single and Marshmello’s debut single Keep It Mello. Marshmello’s second song in 2016, a platinum-certified single titled Alone, was released in May via the Canadian record label Monstercat.

Having peaked on the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 60, it became his first single to be certified platinum in the US and Canada with over a million copies of certified units. That year, he released three subsequent singles. In 2017, after releasing singles such as Chasing Colors, Twinbow and Moving On, Marshmello collaborated with American R&B singer Khalid to release Silence as a single, which was certified platinum and multi-platinum in eight countries. Succeeding another single, one of his best-selling singles, a collaboration with American singer Selena Gomez, titled Wolves was released.

His second single of 2018, titled Friends, a collaboration with British singer Anne-Marie, was released.

Months later, his second studio album, Joytime II, was released with singles Tell Me and Check This Out. Marshmello’s highest-charting song on the Billboard Hot 100 and in the United Kingdom, titled Happier, a collaboration with British band Bastille, was released in August. He was named by Forbes in eighth place on their annual ranking of the world’s highest-paid DJs in 2017 as he earned $31 million in the twelve months prior June 2017.

Marshmello is best known for his white bucket mask he wears during shows.

His identity was not known initially, but was confirmed to be Chris Comstock in April 2017 by Forbes. As a YouTuber, Marshmello has published gaming and cooking videos for his series Gaming with Marshmello and Cooking with Marshmello.

The other upcoming music events by QNTC include, The Blue Man Show and Kadim Al Saher.

The Blue Man Show will take place at QNCC from August 14 to 17. The wildly popular theatrical phenomenon Blue Man Group will be visiting Doha for the first time as part of their latest world tour. According to the organisers, expect the unexpected, as Blue Man group will take the audience on a one-of-a-kind journey featuring new music, fresh stories, custom instruments and spectacular graphics.

Lovers of Arabic song are in for a real treat – Kadim Al Saher – one of the most successful singers in the history of the Arab world, will be taking Doha by storm along with his majestic orchestra on August 16 and 17. It is a chance that should not be missed to see the Caesar of Arabic Song perform his world-renowned hits, romantic ballads and classical songs.