

HAT'S THE WAY TO GO



FASHION REPORT

By MELISSA NAZARETH
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A limited edition hat collection has been launched ahead of the horseracing season that begins tomorrow, October 30, inspired by prominent Bahraini themes, from pearls to oases and the desert.

The homegrown capsule entitled *Hat in the Box* features five distinctive designs: *Oasis*, *Desert Drama*, *Pearl Route*, *Woven Sands* and *Spice Route*, with each theme drawing inspiration from the colours, textures, heritage and character of the kingdom.

Each of the fascinators in the ensemble, conceived by Bahrain-based creative events company Out of the Box, has a unique story behind it, adding individuality and flair to race-day fashion.

"We wanted to celebrate the racing season in a way that was creative, stylish and a little different," Out of the Box founder and chief executive Sarva Velamuri told *GulfWeekly*.

"The idea was to give each hat its own personality, with a touch of local inspiration and a story to tell. After all, dressing up is part of the fun of a day at the races," she added.

The Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) is gearing up for the highly anticipated launch this weekend of its Golden Jubilee season in 2026-27, running until April next year. The new campaign features a schedule of 30 race meetings, headlined by the His Majesty the King's Cup Festival on March 4 and 5 and the His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's Cup Festival on

OF THE SEA: *Pearl Route* from the ensemble



January 28 and 29.

Bringing the vision to life is Indian expatriate and artist Joel Fernandes, who has also hand-painted equestrian-inspired ties, offering men their own stylish way to embrace the racing spirit.

Elaborating on the creative process, the creative entrepreneur noted that each theme has its own colour palette.

"You'll see earthy, sandy tones alongside richer colours, interesting textures

and decorative details. Some pieces are understated and elegant, while others are unapologetically bold," Sarva revealed.

Award-winning jockey Rosie Jessop modelled two of the designs for *GulfWeekly* – *Desert Drama* and *Oasis* – at REHC in Riffa. The British national, who is originally from Essex, has been in Bahrain since 2018 and has been riding at REHC for business magnate and globally successful trainer Fawzi Nass. She has ridden multiple winners at the club, including victory in the Bapco Cup in the 2022-23 season, and won at Ascot in the UK in 2015.

More recently, she played a key role as an overseeing trainer for the winning team at the 2025-26 HM The King's Cup.

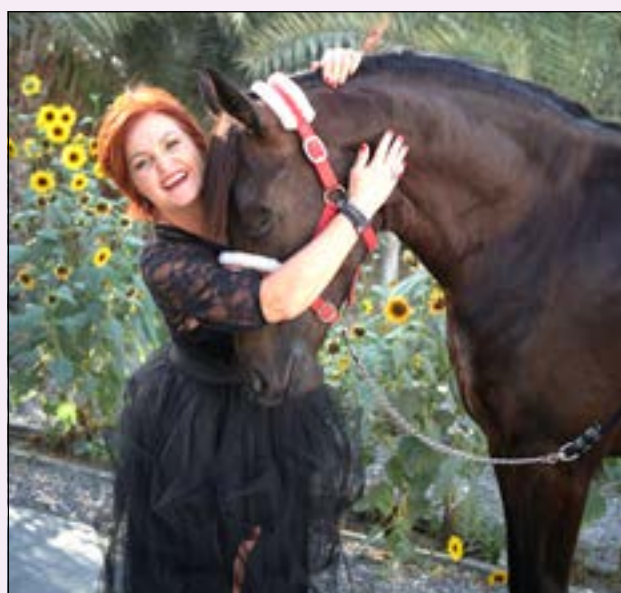
"I've always had a huge passion for horses and racing and was brought up around it. My very first ride in the UK was a winner and when I rode at my first meeting here in Bahrain, I also rode a winner on that same horse whom I partnered with again later in the season. We went on to win the Crown Prince's Cup," she recounted.

Rosie revealed that there has been an increase in female attendance at the races in the kingdom over the years.

"I love that racing has a



ICONIC: Rosie wearing the *Oasis* piece inspired by Bahrain's palms and unexpected pockets of green



CANDID: Elizabeth and horse strike a pose

fashion side to it as well and it's becoming more of a social event," she added.

Among the many female race enthusiasts in Bahrain is South African events director Elizabeth Botha. The trained equine assistant facilitator experienced her first horse race in the kingdom, where she has lived for the last 17 years. However, she has loved horses for as long as she can remember.

"My dad bought me my very own horse and she was called Miss Elly. It was one of the happiest moments of my childhood.

"A few years ago, a group of friends and I decided it was time to experience a race day

for ourselves, and we made a proper occasion of it. We dressed up, wore fabulous hats, and packed a picnic basket. It was such a fun day," she remarked.

"I believe style should reflect your personality. For me, it is about looking elegant while feeling comfortable and confident, rather than simply following every trend. This year, I have a very special piece of jewellery that I'm looking forward to wearing. My brother and sister-in-law gave me a beautiful silver snaffle-bit jewellery piece and it inspired me to create my own beaded bracelet, using the snaffle-bit," she added.



ARTISTIC SYNERGY
New exhibition
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FLAVOURFUL ADVENTURE
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LEISURE SCENE
Food, fun, etc.
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TEENAGE BONDS
New book release
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EARTHY: Rosie wearing the *Desert Drama* design from the collection

Creative energies collide



AZURE: Irina's painting inspired by her love for the ocean

Sanabis, who is exhibiting her piece *Silfira* ('silent fire'), illustrating the dual ideas of the 'flaming soul'.

"At its heart, *Silfira* is a visual ode to subtle power and radiant humility," the 29-year-old told *GulfWeekly*.

"It embodies the truth that genuine strength does not need to shout to be felt, nor does it need an audience to exist," added the Bahrain resident of 20 years.

Jeah's artistic journey began when she was just eight and those early years laid the foundation for her creative pursuits.

"Over time, I explored a wide spectrum of mediums, developing a strong affinity for mixed media. I work primarily with acrylics and oils, often blending structured geometric compositions with

fluid, tactile elements and frequently use palette knives and heavy impasto techniques to build rich textures that give each piece a physical presence," she explained.

Lending the display diversity is 54-year-old Hamed Al-Bosta, who will be presenting two works.

"My artworks are an abstract experiment using coloured adhesive tape as a medium – replacing traditional paints – to explore the theme of light. The pieces examine light from both inside and outside a space, considering how this element can influence us, transform our inner selves and shape the way we engage with our surroundings," he added.

"My late father, artist Abdulkarim Al-Bosta, was a pioneer of the visual arts

movement in Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf region. My late uncle, Abdulmonem Al-Bosta, was also among the first generation of artists, and my uncle Abdulilah is a visual artist and ceramicist.

"The environment in which I grew up played a profound role in shaping my artistic and cultural identity; from a young age, I would accompany my father to art exhibitions and various creative activities, all of which served as a source of inspiration and motivation for me to immerse myself in the world of art," recounted the creative talent.

Over the years, Bahrain has been home to a close-knit community of local and expatriate artists, who work together to spotlight the kingdom's talent both on the island and internationally.

Russian-Jordanian expatriate and engineer Irina Averinos from Jurdaab is among the many who have successfully showcased their works at exhibitions in Bahrain and beyond. The 67-year-old art educator has lived in the kingdom for more than 25 years and curated several displays.

"I will exhibit two seascape oil paintings from my previous collections: *Sea Breeze* and *Serenity*. Born by the sea and now living on an island, I love the ocean because it is always different, yet always beautiful. My passion is painting beauty and



FLAMING: *Silfira* by Jeah

spreading positivity through my art," she added.

Irina recently received the Peace Artist medal for her contribution to the international movement of artists for world peace.

Synergism: The Art of Collective Passion will run until November 5 at Harbour Gate.



TALENT: Jeah



ARTIST: Irina

ART REPORT
By MELISSA NAZARETH
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A total of 29 Bahrain-based artists across nationalities are showcasing their striking creations at Bahrain Financial Harbour.

Synergism: The Art of Collective Passion staged by Filipino Artists Bahrain, under the auspices of the Philippines Embassy, will bring alive a wide variety of mixed media works and artistic techniques.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, visitors can enjoy free art workshops tomorrow, October 30. The watercolour session by artist Gary Manalo and the charcoal and graphite class by creative talent Jie Refugio, both of whom are also exhibiting, are open to enthusiasts of all skill levels, with basic supplies provided.

Among the participants is Filipino expatriate and finance manager Jeah Valerio from



CREATIVE: Hamed with his art at the exhibition

BRAIN-BUSTERS

Quizmaster and Radio Bahrain host Shannon Crockett, who has been entertaining people across the island with his brain-teasing quiz night sessions, has offered to put *GulfWeekly* readers' general knowledge to the test. Join in the fun every Thursday with Shannon's seven brain-busters.



- 1) Washington Irving wrote a short story set around the time of Halloween. What is the name of the story?
- 2) A photo supposedly taken of which creature by surgeon Robert Wilson was published in the *Daily Mail* in April 1934?
- 3) In the short film *Michael Jackson: Thriller*, who was the famous narrator?
- 4) Which famous Halloween party game originated from a custom to establish who would get married first?
- 5) *Halloween* is a poem written by whom?
- 6) In the movie series

A Nightmare on Elm Street, what colours is Freddy Krueger's sweater?

- 7) What is the all-time most popular traditional Halloween costume for adults?

1. Sleepy Hollow
2. Loch Ness Monster
3. Vincent Price
4. Bobbing for Apples
5. Robert Burns
6. Red and green
7. Witch

ANSWERS

Charming Italian feast

NESTLED within The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, Primavera Osteria's Bella Italia Brunch is a masterclass in elegant, leisurely dining.

Stepping onto the sun-drenched outdoor terrace, guests are greeted by the uplifting beats of a DJ, setting a sophisticated yet vibrant rhythm for the afternoon.

Inside, the open kitchen concept offers a captivating spectacle of culinary artistry, where Chef Mirsha Moreno and her talented team channel pure passion into every single plate.

Speaking on her vision behind the menu, Chef Mirsha said: "It is a very rich menu with authentic Italian flavours, and very fulfilling. Italian cuisine is all about fresh ingredients. We work together with some of the local farms so we get the freshest ingredients for you, using fresh Bahraini products in all of our dishes."

She was also excited to share her must-try for all guests trying the brunch for the first time: "You should definitely try our homemade ricotta cheese. We make it from scratch, and it comes with a very nice olive oil complemented by our locally sourced tomatoes, that one is a must!"

The menu is based on a meticulously curated family-style feast brought directly



GOURMET REPORT
BY OLIVIA MIDDLETON
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to your table, where the hospitality is boundless, and guests are warmly encouraged to reorder more of whichever dishes steal their hearts.

The afternoon is guided by the exceptional hospitality of assistant restaurant manager Miguel Martinez, who took the time to personally explain the unique concept behind each course, adding a warm, bespoke touch to the dining experience.

To accompany the feast, the beverage menu features a handcrafted mocktail section. My favourite creation is the Perla de Primavera, a refreshing blend of freshly squeezed pineapple juice and a vibrant passion fruit



REFRESHING: Perla de Primavera ready to enjoy



TALENT: Chef Mirsha

puree. Bound together by a sweet, homemade reduction, the beverage is elevated by the clever addition of delicate peach caviar resting gracefully atop a dehydrated pineapple slice, offering a delightful burst of flavour with every sip.

The gastronomic journey commences with Pane e Spalmabili, a beautifully presented selection of artisanal sourdough, multi-grain, fragrant olive focaccia, crisp breadsticks, and delicate Sardinian crispy bread. Elevated by traditional accompaniments like rich romesco, marinated olives, sweet caponata, tangy lemon-dill yogurt, parmesan chunks, and a savoury sun-dried tomato spread, it is the tomato-ricotta that commands attention. Velvet-smooth with a whipped lightness, it is the perfect canvas for the deep, sun-ripened sweetness of the tomatoes.

Following closely is the Antipasti course, highlighted by the saffron arancini. Crisp and golden on the outside, a gentle break reveals a vibrant, aromatic interior. The richness of the saffron-infused rice merges flawlessly with a decadent, creamy centre, balanced by a bright drizzle of parsley-garlic mayonnaise.

For the Piatto Principale, the options strike an exquisite balance between rustic comfort and ocean freshness. The pizza bianca delivers a fragrant crunch, laced with cream sauce, rosemary, and seasonal mushrooms and topped with fresh rocket salad. Whilst the perfectly cooked Rigatoni provides a comforting alternative packed with prawns, garlic, and fresh basil. The seared seabass filet is a triumph of coastal Italian flavours,



JUICY: The veal striploin slow-cooked to melt in your mouth



INTENSE: The classic tiramisu infused with rich flavours



DELICATE: Seabass seared to perfection



AL FRESCO: The spread featuring saffron arancini, in front, laid out at a table on the terrace

featuring a crisp skin that gives way to tender, flaky white meat. It is paired with the punchy, briny notes of kalamata olives, bursting cherry tomatoes, capers, and sweet shallots, creating a perfect balance of Mediterranean textures.

Then arrives the afternoon's undisputed showstopper: Dal Carrello delle Carni - which translated means 'from the meat trolley'.

Rolled elegantly to your table, it features a medium slow-cooked veal striploin. Sliced tableside, the veal

boasts a beautifully seasoned herb crust, encapsulating tender, juicy meat. Dressed in a rich, velvety morel sauce and accompanied by a refined asparagus-potato ragout, it perfectly encapsulates the love and creativity woven into this menu.

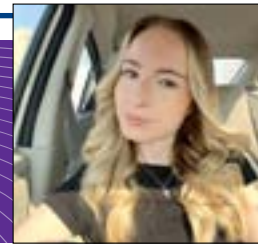
No Italian feast is complete without a dramatic finale, and the Dolci section delivers spectacularly. The classic tiramisu is prepared tableside, assembling layers of soft biscuits and luxurious cream right before your eyes. The flavours achieve a state of

perfection; a deeply aromatic, robust coffee infusion cuts beautifully through the cloud-like sweetness of the creamy mascarpone. It is the perfect end to an extraordinary culinary experience.

For those seeking the ultimate Friday indulgence wrapped in sophisticated Italian charm, Primavera Osteria's Bella Italia brunch is the finest ticket in town and takes place every Friday from 12.30pm to 4pm.

■ For enquiries or reservations, call 17586499 or WhatsApp 39770525.

Leisure Scene



**What's
on
guide**

By Julia Cassano

EMBRACE the vibrant spirit of Día de los Muertos with a festive Mexican-inspired dining experience filled with bold flavours and lively celebration at the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

Enjoy an unlimited selection of flavourful tacos and Mexican bites, accompanied by three beverages, while subtle spooky touches bring a playful seasonal atmosphere to the occasion.

Priced at BD30net per person, the offer runs Monday to Wednesday, 6pm to 10pm, at Cantina Kahlo.

You can also enjoy a freshly baked concha or Pan de Muerto as you celebrate Día de los Muertos at Cantina Kahlo. The offer is priced at BD11net including a comforting hot beverage and is available until November 7.

MEXICAN BITES AT RITZ-CARLTON

Make Sunday evening a celebration of Japanese flavours with an all-you-can-eat selection of hand-rolled uramaki and expertly crafted bites. From the ever-popular California roll to the bold flavours of Spicy Salmon, explore a tempting variety of creations thoughtfully selected from the à-la-carte menu.

Priced at BD18.500, it is available from 6pm to 9pm on Sunday at Thai Lounge.

Raise a glass to an evening of discovery as Vineyard Promenade returns with a market-style tasting experience celebrating a selection of grape varieties and labels. Set against the inviting surroundings of the fountain area between Thai

GORGEOUS: Garden and sea views at La Plage



Lounge and La Plage, the event invites guests to explore different flavours, sample new discoveries and find a favourite to enjoy at home.

It is available on November 5,

from 4pm to 10pm.

It costs BD10 for four tasting glasses, BD5 for each additional glass and BD19 per bottle.

For bookings or more information, call 17586401 or WhatsApp 39770525.



VARIETY: D

EXQUISITE FRENCH FLAVOURS

MAKE this week one to savour at InterContinental Bahrain, where exceptional dining, signature flavours and lively evenings come together in style

Discover the art of French dining at Legendz SteakHouse, where exquisite à-la-carte creations bring timeless flavours and culinary craftsmanship to the table. Savour rich foie gras, entrecôte paired with crisp mesclun salad, and classic steak frites, complemented by your choice of green olive tapenade butter or traditional Bordelaise sauce. It is available Monday to Friday, from 6pm to 10pm.

Start the week on a delicious note with Legendz SteakHouse's tempting buy-one-get-one offer on steaks. Order your favourite cut and enjoy a second steak of equal or lesser value, making Monday the perfect occasion for a steakhouse dinner worth sharing from 6pm to 10pm.

Midweek calls for a little glamour. Step into Red Night, an exciting weekly Ladies' Night in the heart of Manama, where style, confidence and vibrant energy take centre stage. Every Wednesday, a resident DJ sets the tone with an irresistible mix of commercial, house and lounge beats, creating the perfect atmosphere for an unforgettable night out. Ladies are invited to embrace the theme by adding a touch of red to their look, whether through a statement dress, bold lipstick, striking heels, or a favourite accessory.

Enjoy three complimentary beverages per lady, valid from 8pm to midnight.

Spice up your Thursday with a lively Mexican-inspired evening where bold flavours meet the smooth sounds of jazz. Gather your



CRUNCHY: Tasty selection of tapas

friends, tuck into a generous steak taco platter, and sip your way through a selection of refreshing beverages in an atmosphere made for good company and great times.

At BD20net per person, the package includes a steak taco platter to share and four selected beverages, available from 6pm onwards.

Ease into the weekend with Sabado, a vibrant social dining experience designed for great conversations, delicious bites, and expertly crafted cocktails. Explore a curated selection of chef-inspired tapas, perfectly paired with signature beverages.

For BD15net per person, enjoy two signature beverages alongside a chef's selection of tapas.

For more information or bookings, call 36967701.

HOLIDAY TREATS TO SAVOUR

CELEBRATE Halloween with a 'spooktacular' Friday Brunch at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, featuring seasonal flavours and a fantastic atmosphere.

Highlights include devilled eggs, blood orange and fennel salad, and pumpkin cheesecake, alongside a children's corner and live entertainment tomorrow, October 30, from 1pm to 4pm.

It costs BD35 including soft beverages and BD48 with a selected beverage package.

Children under six dine with the hotel's compliments, while those aged six to 12 receive 50 per cent off.

Enjoy a lavish afternoon at CUT by Wolfgang Puck, where flowing beverages, live beats and exceptional cuisine set the scene for a memorable brunch. With glasses



SPOOKY: Halloween bites at the hotel

12.30pm to 3.30pm and costs BD70 inclusive of free-flow beverages.

Set against beautiful beachfront views, Byblos invites guests to savour authentic Lebanese flavours and warm hospitality, with Oriental specialty chef Tony El Khoury introducing a fresh selection of dishes.

Enjoy the à la carte menu from Tuesday to Sunday, 6pm to midnight, with live music every Friday.

Enjoy an intimate evening surrounded by the sea and skyline with a private cabana experience. Choose from three packages

- Emerald, Sapphire and Diamond - each offering a gourmet menu and personalised touches for a special escape with someone close.

It is available daily from 7pm to midnight, with each experience lasting three hours. Prices range from BD175 to BD400. Unwind with a Night Spa experience featuring a relaxing 60-minute

aromatherapy massage before the softly lit indoor pool, beginning at 11pm. Enjoy a hour of private relaxation from midnight to 1am, complete with a chilled bottle and sweet treats.

The 120-minute experience is available Sunday to Wednesday for BD280 and on weekends for BD295.

For bookings and more information, contact 1711

ALL FOR PINKTOBER

FITNESS enthusiasts enjoyed a day of movement, mindfulness and connection by the waterfront as Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay recently hosted Pink Reset by The Sea at Byblos.

Exclusively for women, the session was held in collaboration with Reset Rituals Club and featured a power yoga segment, as well as educational talks, a self-screening demonstration, a lymphatic care workshop and meditation. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Think Pink: Bahrain Breast Cancer Society.



CALM: Meditating for a cause

Leisure Scene

Weekly Entertainment

SHERATON

Big into a selection of yummy tacos



SHERATON Bahrain Hotel introduces Fridays at Sheraton, a new weekly family experience where exceptional dining, engaging entertainment and quality time come together in a welcoming setting.

Showcasing two distinctive culinary experiences, guests can enjoy an international brunch at WILD alongside the rich flavours and signature grilled specialties of Golestan Persian Grill.

Beyond the dining experience, guests can spend the afternoon enjoying outdoor pool access, live entertainment, children's activities and relaxed social spaces designed for gathering with family and friends.

Thoughtfully curated for all ages, Fridays at Sheraton offers the perfect blend of great food and leisure,

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS



AMBIENCE: Outdoor pool area at Sheraton

creating a new Friday tradition in the heart of Manama.

It is available every Friday from November 6 and is held from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. It costs BD35net per person. Children aged six to 12 enjoy 50 per cent off.

As we wait to usher in cooler climes, head to Brasero Atlántico, Sheraton Bahrain Hotel's award-winning rooftop dining destination. Celebrated for its exceptional wood-fired cuisine, premium cuts and elevated social atmosphere, it offers panoramic views of Manama's skyline. The venue seamlessly combines sophisticated indoor dining with a stylish open-air



TRADITIONAL: Juicy grills at Golestan

terrace, creating an elegant setting for sunset gatherings, business entertaining and memorable evenings under the city lights. Combining bold flavours, curated beverages and attentive

service, Brasero Atlántico offers a distinctive rooftop experience that has become one of Bahrain's premier dining destinations. The outlet is open daily from noon to 2am.

Make every occasion memorable with Sheraton Cakes. Discover a selection of handcrafted artisan creations, thoughtfully made to elevate any celebration. Pre-order required 24 hours in advance.

For bookings or more information, call 17517715 or WhatsApp 38885482 (Brasero Atlántico), call 17533533 or WhatsApp 38885408 (WILD) and call 17533533 or WhatsApp 38885431 (Sheraton Cakes).



STUNNING: Well-lit interior with sea views at C-Salt

COUNTRY CLASSICS

HAWAR Resort by Mantis unveils a new Mediterranean-Italian gastronomic experience at C-Salt.

Overlooking the Arabian Gulf, the restaurant is inspired by the warmth and generosity of the Italian table, bringing together the country's classics as well as Mediterranean seafood and other dishes designed for sharing.

Those with a sweet tooth can enjoy a selection of desserts that celebrate Italy's culinary traditions.

The property will host Wellness by the Sea tonight, October 29, from 3pm to 6pm, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The wellness programme will feature guided breathwork, a gentle yoga flow, sound healing meditation, and post-session refreshments. Participation in the wellness activities is complimentary, with a contribution of BD25 covering round-trip boat transfers from Durrat Pavilion. Proceeds from the boat-transfer fees will be donated to support cancer-related charitable initiatives. Advance reservations are required.

For bookings or more information, call 32183610 or email reservations@hawarresort.com.



ENJOY: Wellness by the Sea at the resort

SURF AND TURF DELIGHTS



UNWIND: Relax by the pool

AQUA Vista Bahrain is turning weekends into an excuse to slow down, dine well and make the most of its waterfront setting, with a lineup of food, drinks and more.

For steak lovers, Maestro Lounge is serving up richly marbled wagyu steak, seared over an open flame and paired with fresh flavours from the sea. Prices start from BD28 per person, with the offer available daily from noon to 2am.

There is also a reason to linger over a drink, with 50 per cent off beverages at the lounge every day from noon until 2am.

Ladies can make it a night out at the lounge, with three complimentary drinks for women every evening from 5pm to 9pm.

Those looking to unwind can take to the

water for Aqua Vista's Floating Sound Journey, held in partnership with Svava Space. Participants will drift across the water as crystal singing bowls, healing frequencies and ambient soundscapes create a calming experience.

The sessions will take place October 31 from 7pm to 8.30pm.

For an easier start to the weekend, The Waterfront Restaurant is serving a breakfast buffet overlooking the sea. Breakfast is available on Fridays and Saturdays from 6.30am to 11am and costs BD10 per person.

Those in need of a proper break can swap the desk for a sun lounger with Aqua Vista's Pool Day Pass. Priced at BD9.900 per person, it includes pool access from 8am to 7pm and one complimentary drink.

For more information, contact 17177333.

MOVIE TIME

ENJOY some of the English language films being screened at Cineco Seef this weekend.



CLAYFACE (18+)

Clayface unravels one man's horrifying descent from rising Hollywood star to revenge-filled monster in a story that explores the loss of one's identity and humanity, corrosive love and the dark underbelly of scientific ambition.

Actors: Naomi Ackie, David Dencik, Tom Harries

Timings: 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm

TREASURE TREKKERS (PG)

Mip, a 12-year-old adopted monkey in a cat-and-rodent world, is transported by a magical map to Empathra. He embarks on a perilous quest to uncover his origins, discovers his empathy and restores compassion to the land.

Actors: Alan Cumming, Jack McBrayer, Tara Strong

Timings: 3pm, 7pm

MINIONS AND MONSTERS (PG)

This is the rambunctious, ridiculous and totally true story of how the Minions conquered Hollywood, became movie stars, lost everything, unleashed monsters onto the world and then banded together to try and save the planet from the mayhem they had just created.

Actors: Allison Janney, Christoph Waltz, Jeff Bridges

Timings: 11am

Pulse of Pop

AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC, TV, BOOKS AND MORE - BY RIMA ALHADDAD

IN THE WOODS: A scene from the film

A sister's search



ANIMATED epic fantasy film *Wildwood* is out now in theatres.

Starring Peyton Elizabeth Lee, the story follows Prue McKeel, a 13-year-old girl who must find the courage to rescue her abducted infant brother Mac.

She is joined by her classmate Curtis Mehlberg (Jacob Tremblay) as they travel to an enchanted forest, where they find a manor and learn about a coming war from Alexandra (Carey Mulligan), a mysterious woman who

tragically lost her son.

Based on the 2011 namesake novel by Colin Meloy and Carson Ellis, the film was produced by Laika stop-motion animation studio.

The studio's previous creations include *Coraline* (2009) and *ParaNorman* (2012).

With a theatrical runtime of 131 minutes, *Wildwood* is the longest stop-motion-animated film by run-time, and has been in development since 2011.

In an interview, studio chief executive and film director Travis

Knight spoke about the movie taking 16 years to be completed.

"There was so much spectacle. There were so many characters and locations. It was really, really challenging to pull off," he said.

"And in fact, it's only because of all the technological advancements we've been able to do on the five previous films that we were even able to take something of this scale on. It was all incredibly hard to do — and yet I think it's an extraordinary achievement," he added.

The art of friendship

A YOUNG Bahraini author's book about the complications of friendships and value of communication has hit the shelves.

Fatima Jaffer's *Character Unlocked* follows Mola, a seventh grader who utilises her programming skills to create a video game that turns her friends into personalised characters.

She hopes it will help solve her real-life problems and misunderstandings with them.

However, she discovers that it is important to understand people's needs rather than simply interacting with a digital version of them.

"The story combines mystery, friendship and challenges that young people can relate to," Fatima told *GulfWeekly*.

"I wrote it because I wanted to create a story that teenagers could enjoy and connect with, while also showing that young people can create and publish their own books," she added.

The new release marks the 14-year-old's fourth

book, as she wrote her debut story *World Ruler* at ten years old.

Her passion for her craft motivated her to pursue many courses and workshops from international educational platforms and institutions.

Fatima is a youth advisory board member at Write the World, a global non-profit organisation founded in 2012 at Harvard University, helping teenagers develop their writing, critical thinking and communication skills.

The creative talent is currently using her talent to mentor fellow creatives in Bahrain and create spaces for them to be bonded by their interests. She is involved in the Mail Club project at GFH Alia National School's School, which she attends, bringing students together through writing letters, stories and meaningful messages.

"Through the initiative, I'm aiming to create a way of communication between students that implements creativity while encouraging them to express themselves through writing," she added.

"I'm excited to develop the club further and see where it takes me and those who join it," she added.

Character Unlocked features striking character illustrations and artworks by Fatima, complementing the story and offering readers an interesting experience.

The book is available at select local bookstores.

■ For more information, follow @fatimajaafarhelal on Instagram.



TALENT: Fatima holding her book



CREATIVE: Character illustrations in the book

Doctor drama

THE third season of mockumentary sitcom *St Denis Medical* begins streaming on November 2 on OSN+.

It follows an underfunded and understaffed hospital where the doctors and nurses try their best to treat patients while maintaining their own sanity.

The new season will find the hospital's executive director Joyce Henderson (Wendi McLendon-Covey) campaigning for Best Hospital Administrator, while trauma surgeon Bruce Schweitz (Josh Lawson) goes through a bit of an identity crisis, and curmudgeonly emergency physician Ron Leonard (David Alan

Grier) struggles to adjust to the changes that have happened since his medical leave.

The upcoming episodes are set to welcome a number of guests, including professional skateboarder Tony Hawk, who will play Kyle, an amateur skateboarder returning to the hospital after yet another injury.

Known for the supermarket mockumentary sitcom *Superstore* (2015 to 2021), co-creator Justin Spitzer spoke about the process of putting the show together saying that while *St Denis Medical* is a comedy, there is also a lot of attention paid to character, conflict and realism.



ACTORS: Strong characters on the show

For his part, co-creator Eric Ledgin said: "It's not a drama, but we're not just a joke machine either. The thesis is that hospitals are funny places, and I think if you talk to healthcare workers, almost all of them would agree."

The television writer and producer has also worked on *Superstore*, as well

as *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (2005).

"Because it's a mockumentary, it would feel false if there weren't real moments of people being moved. You have the peaks and valleys of comedy and serious, happy and sad," he added, echoing his creative partner's sentiment.

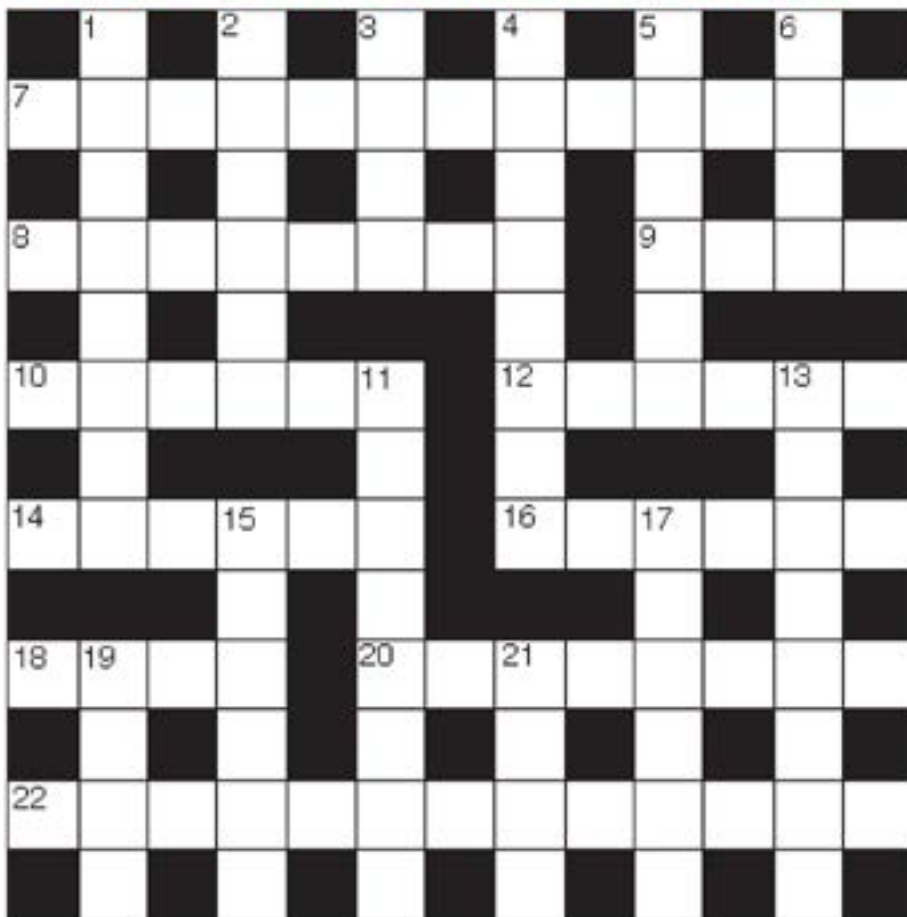
Time Out



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crossword break



Solutions in next week's issue.

ACROSS

7. Defencelessness (13)
8. Mercy (8)
9. Hypocrisy (4)
10. Incentive (6)
12. Naturist (6)
14. Neglect (6)
16. Wrap (6)
18. Burlesque (4)
20. Familiar (8)
22. Rebel (13)

DOWN

1. Construction (8)
2. Beast (6)
3. Press (4)
4. Suspension (8)
5. Serene (6)
6. Stupefy (4)
11. Former (8)
13. Lone (8)
15. Choice (6)
17. Excite (6)
19. Retain (4)
21. Labour (4)

who, what, where, when

WHO ... wrote, directed and appeared in the 1969 short film *Rhubarb*?
WHAT ... year is prominent on The Great Seal of the US State of Minnesota?
WHERE ... in Asia is the state of Uttaranchal?
WHEN ... did the Oakland Raiders first win the SuperBowl?
WHO ... played Ted Brautigan in the film *Hearts in Atlantis*?
WHAT ... Bob Dylan studio album features the song *Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands*?
WHERE ... is Ian McEwan's novel *The Comfort of Strangers* set?
WHEN ... did British Columbia join the Confederation of Canada?

just so

corporal



betrayal

si n de job

darn tough sudoku

So you think you're good enough at Sudoku to crack this baby? Remember, we were the first in the Gulf to bring you this bit of Japanese mayhem...so we don't kid around

Last week's sudoku

6	3	2	5	9	4	8	7	1
5	4	1	6	8	7	9	3	2
9	7	8	1	3	2	5	4	6
2	1	6	3	5	8	4	9	7
4	5	7	9	2	1	3	6	8
3	8	9	4	7	6	1	2	5
1	2	3	7	4	5	6	8	9
8	6	4	2	1	9	7	5	3
7	9	5	8	6	3	2	1	4

6	4	1	5	2	9	8	7	3
9	3	7	4	6	8	1	5	2
5	2	8	3	1	7	9	4	6
1	5	2	7	4	6	3	8	9
8	9	3	2	5	1	4	6	7
7	6	4	9	8	3	5	2	1
2	1	5	6	9	4	7	3	8
4	7	9	8	3	2	6	1	5
3	8	6	1	7	5	2	9	4

darn tough sudoku

2	9	1	3	5	7	4	6	8
8	4	7	1	6	2	9	3	5
3	5	6	8	4	9	2	7	1
7	3	4	6	2	1	5	8	9
6	1	5	4	9	8	3	2	7
9	2	8	7	3	5	1	4	6
5	7	3	2	1	6	8	9	4
4	6	9	5	8	3	7	1	2
1	8	2	9	7	4	6	5	3

Sudoku

9			1	6		8		3
	6		9				1	
7				5	8			
		4					5	6
		7		4		1	3	
5	1		7			2		
			4	2				5
	5				3		4	
3		9			5			7

Sudoku

6				1			8	9
4			8		3		2	
		3				4		
	1		3	2			4	
3		2	4		5	1		7
				6	1			
		8				9		
5				4	2			1
1	3			5				2

Last Week's Leisure Solutions

CROSSWORD BREAK:

Across: 1 Pass; 8 Unreadable; 9 Forebode; 10 Each; 12 Appear; 14 Skinny; 15 Remiss; 17 Pilfer; 18 Less; 19 Ill-treat; 21 Four-footed; 22 Even.

Down: 2 Atmosphere; 3 Sure; 4 Ardour; 5 Caress; 6 Material; 7 Mesh; 11 Conveyance; 13 Emissary; 16 Sailor; 17 Polite; 18 Left; 20 Rude.

JUST SO: Come to the fore, A case in point, The bottom of the barrel, All things being equal.
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN:

Wayne Grady; The Hours by Michael Cunningham; Warcham, Dorset; 1989; Virginia Woolf; You Don't Have To Say You Love Me; Egdon Heath; 2001.

Darn Tough Sudoku

	3			6			4	
		8	3					7
		2		9	8		5	
4					5	2		
		1	2					3
	1		8	3		5		
8					7	9		
	6			2			8	