

TIMING OUT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Gulf Today

Design: Ansar Saleem

HOT TRAIL

Natalie Portman uses her expertise to solve a mystery in 'Annihilation'

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A highlight from dUck Scarves collection.

Cover girls

Muhammad Yusuf writes about an event that will showcase modest fashion in Dubai



Vivy Yusof, dUck Scarves

The Islamic Fashion and Design Council (IFDC) has announced the first Pret-A-Cover™ Buyers Lane, (PAC-BL) modest fashion and design showcase and pop-up event to be held at City Walk, Dubai, Mar. 28 – April 2.

Supported by Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre (DIEDC), and working towards developing and promoting Dubai as the global capital of Islamic economy, the six-day public event will showcase over 30 leading designers and present the newest trends and collections in modest wear.

It will also feature the first-ever augmented 'technologically advanced' fashion show, being introduced by IFDC as the 'catwalk of the future'.

With additional attractions like exclusive shopping, meet and greet the designers behind fashion-forward modest wear design labels, and artists who complement the modest lifestyle, PAC-BL will have designers exhibiting across all categories, including haute couture, pret-a-porter, street wear, athletic wear, abayas, accessories, halal skin care, and much more.

The line-up of designers includes regional fashion visionary, founder of Toby and leading regional trailblazer in couture Hatem Alakeel, who will be unveiling a new luxury modest wear collection; Under-Rapt, the first global sustainable modest sports and athletic wear company who are pioneering a modest, sustainable, ethical and

fashionable sportswear brand; TalAbaya who design unique, bespoke European style luxury abayas; dUck Scarves, which are the brainchild of famous style icon and fashion influencer Vivy Yusof and Isabella Caposano, a rising star in Italy who will present a tailor-made couture line for the modest woman, among others.

Visitors will be able to shop the latest collections and preview trending global designs which are making modest wear a popular choice, with even the most discerning shopper.

"With Muslim consumers spending an estimated US\$272 billion on clothing and the industry projected to grow to US\$322 billion by 2018, we have a unique opportunity to develop the global market in a more cohesive manner and encourage more collaboration across borders in order to strengthen everyone's potential.

"A marker of success for events is the inherent benefit it brings not only to the industry players, but to the overall fashion and design industry, including the mainstream stakeholders, and we believe all will do extremely well by partaking in our global modest fashion and design scene at Pret-A-Cover™ Buyers Lane", said Alia Khan, IFDC Chairwoman.

PAC-BL will set new standards for the global fashion and design scene and is also the venue for the launch of Pullman hotel's "Artist Playground" galleries concept, in partnership with IFDC, which will see unique art galleries being built



Yasmin Sobeih, Under-Rapt



Mirka Talavaskova, TalAbaya

in their hotel lobbies. As part of the event, artists will be exhibiting their works at PAC-BL.

A media meet provided details and analysed the current status of the fashion industry in general and modest fashion in particular.

"Fashion and art are strong pillars of the Islamic economy", Khan said. "What has been done has not scratched the surface yet. The market has to be addressed in a more powerful way, through a revolutionary process".

She said that modest fashion has many iconic elements. Scarves and abayas are two of them. "Modesty is back in vogue!" she said.

She said catalogues had been done away with for the upcoming event. Instead, reformatted videos and projections providing a 360 degree immersion experience will be mounted, enabling audience to connect with fashion in a "more profound way".

"We have to bring control back to the designer", Khansaid. "And traffic to retailers. They are facing too much pressure: solutions have to be found for them to build their revenue streams".

Saeed Kharbush, Deputy CEO, Strategy & Planning, DIEDC, said that Dubai aims to be the capital of the global Islamic economy. "Modest fashion is part of this", he said. "It comes under lifestyle, which includes tourism and culture".

Noting that Islamic finance and halal industry are other components of the Islamic economy, he said many people are working in the Islamic fashion industry now. "This event is only a start for a series of events", he said.

Islamic fashion was established thirty years ago, while the halal industry is twenty years old. "We have to take Islamic fashion to the mainstream, global level", Kharbush said. "Major new brands should enter Islamic fashion".

Alakeel said that the industry has reached a stage where fashion shows have become obsolete. He called for a "celebration of tradition". Designers' work should be glorified, he added, emphasising that the fashion movement has taken a new direction.

"Videos should be displayed and pop ups should showcase designs", he said, while calling for new ideas and strategies. "Islamic wear is like any other fashion. It depends on the execution". He said every designer should have a message.

Vanessa Chinopoulou, Director, Marketing & Communications, Pullman Hotel, said that "each Pullman has an art area, surrounded by exquisite art". The hotel scouts for talent and supports local culture, she added.



Saeed Kharbush (left), Hatem Alakeel, Vanessa Chinopoulou and Alia Khan.



Dress from Hatem Alakeel's label.

TIME OUT

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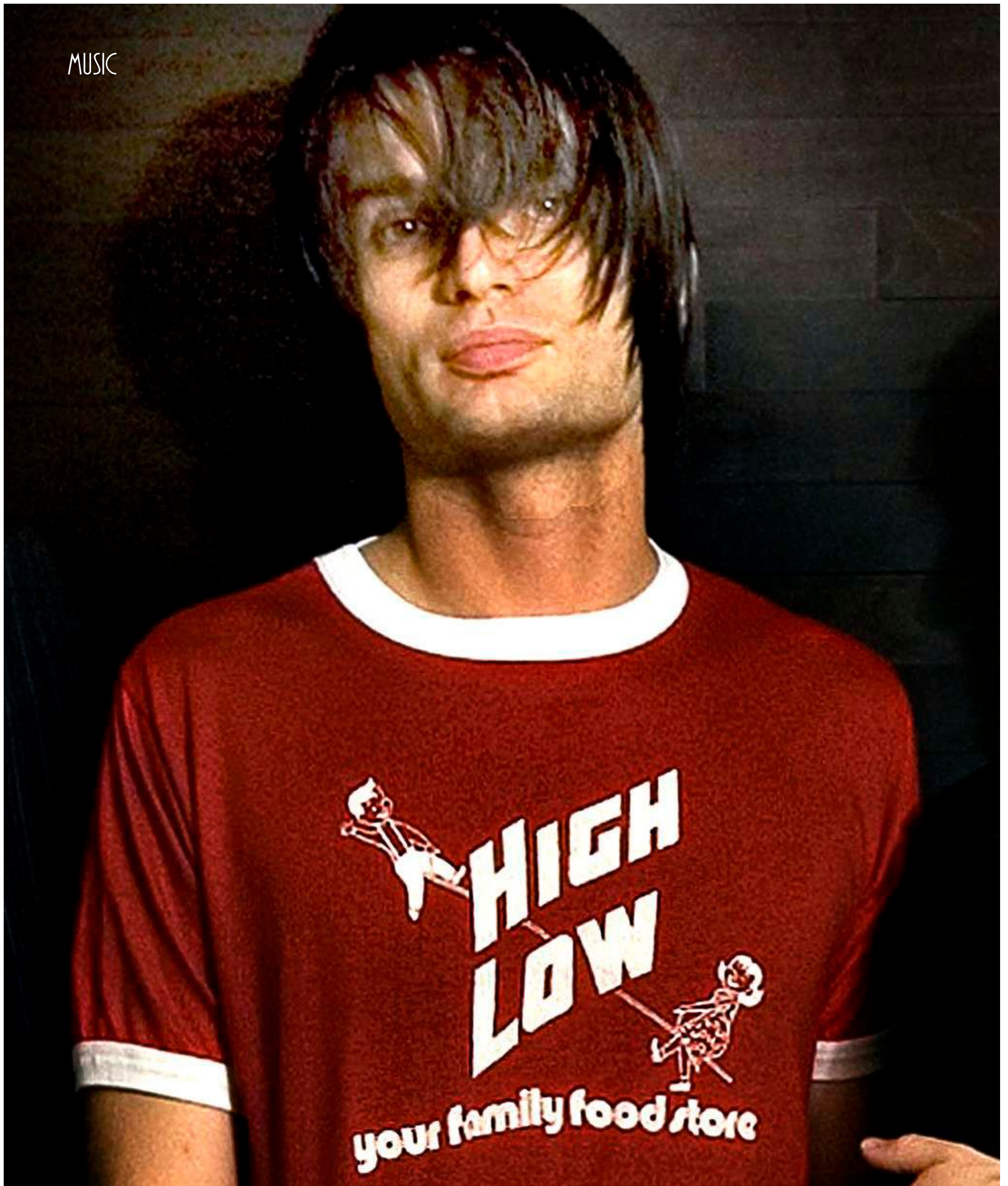
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MUSIC



HITTING IT OFF

The prospect of Jonny Greenwood—thenotoriously spotlight-averse Radiohead multi-instrumentalist and classical composer—in a tux at the Oscars is especially tantalising to “Phantom Thread” director Paul Thomas Anderson.

“He said, ‘Either you come and you’re dressed like an idiot, and that’d be brilliant. Or you come and you have to say something on stage, which would also be brilliant. So win-win for me,’” Greenwood said in a recent interview. “It’s a kind of abuse, really, the way he treats me.”

Just as Daniel Day-Lewis’ obsessive fashion designer Reynolds Woodcock and his muse Alma (Vicky Krieps) carve out their own twisted harmony in Anderson’s sublime comic romance, so too have Greenwood and Anderson found an idiosyncratic equilibrium. “Phantom Thread” is their fifth film together. Since 2007’s “There Will Be Blood,” Greenwood has scored all of Anderson’s films (2012’s “The Master,” 2014’s “Inherent Vice”), and in 2015’s “Junun,” Anderson documented Greenwood’s trip to India to play with Shye Ben Tzur and the Rajasthan Express.

What makes them such a good match?

“Like any good long-term

Academy Awards nomination. That, in itself, rights what many consider a grave wrong.

Greenwood’s shrieking, unearthly music for “There Will Be Blood” is widely considered among the best film scores of the last two decades. But it was ruled ineligible for the Oscars because it was based partly on preexisting music: Greenwood’s “Popcorn Superhet Receiver,” a harrowing, dissonant piece in which Greenwood instructed the string section to play with guitar picks.

“Phantom Thread” is a love story, albeit a warped one, and it called for a more traditional orchestral score full of warmth and romance. Those are qualities not only uncommon to Greenwood’s previous film work, but much of Radiohead’s fraught and restless catalog, too. When Greenwood sent Anderson more typically dark music for the first scene, Anderson pushed him to write something more romantic. On the finished score, the first sounds you hear are 32 strings at once.

“A lot of the music I’ve done for other films has been quite mournful or frightening,” Greenwood said speaking by phone from his home in Oxford. “I was a bit uptight about it and awkward about the fact that it’s all genuine. What I kept thinking about is that feeling you get when you go to see a concert and you hear an orchestra start. Everyone gets quiet and the orchestra starts playing and you hear what the strings sound like in real life. It’s amazing. It’s like nothing else.”

Greenwood spoke from a room that he said is filled with musical instruments, including the female Tanpura he brought back from India. He reckons he can play half of them. “It’s like my adolescent fantasy has become real,” he says. “It’s an obsession. It drives my wife crazy. She wants me to have healthy ones, other ones. What can I do?”

Writing in praise of his “There Will Be Blood” score, the New Yorker’s Alex Ross said Greenwood, who trained as a violist as a youth, is “better understood as a composer who has crossed over into rock.” His initial forays into classical began with arrangements for Radiohead songs but has steadily grown. In 2012, he released a joint album with one of his greatest mentors, the avant-garde Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

Greenwood has grown more comfortable in his second act, which—despite the magnitude of Radiohead’s achievement—is verging on overtaking his first.

What Greenwood returns to again and again is the thrill of a live orchestra—the complexity, the variation. He wrote the “Phantom Thread” score while traveling on Radiohead’s “A Moon Shaped Pool” tour. It’s an ideal time to write, he says, because of the large amounts of downtime and the ready access to pianos. He gives the pieces working titles like “San Antonio Slide” after the tour stops where they were composed.

Radiohead will find songs through constant reworking and experimentation, but Greenwood’s classical work is solitary, on paper, leading up to a handful of days recording with an orchestra: “And then, suddenly, it’s alive,” he says.

Anderson calls Greenwood “equal parts authentic musical genius and total faker.”

“He won’t push gently into something that doesn’t come naturally. He needs to find a legitimate way in to something rather than just juke-boxing. The music he came up with is just deeply felt—by him, clearly. I don’t know why some people can do it and others can’t, but he can access something inside him and get it to come out though his fingers into his instruments. It’s weird. He can even make Toca Band on his phone sound like something spectacular and moving.”

In “Phantom Thread,” lush swells of strings surround delicate keyboard melodies. Among the standouts is the radiant, aching “Alma,” one of the first themes Greenwood crafted. For inspiration, Greenwood tried to image what Woodcock would have listened to, settling on Glenn Gould’s Bach recordings. Separated by a large time difference, Anderson describes music from Greenwood piling up in his email overnight.

“I’ll get music in the morning, when I wake up, let him know I have it. But by the time I make it in to the office to place it against the film, he’s gone to bed,” says Anderson. “Usually by the next day there’s three new pieces in my inbox, each one more interesting than the last.”

Much is known about Greenwood’s musical passions but less about his taste in movies. “I like comedies, mostly,” he says. “Some Marx brothers, ‘Big Lebowski.’” Asked about scores he admires, the first titles that come to mind are predictably unpredictable: Laurence Rosenthal’s Haitian-inflected score to the 1967 Graham Greene adaptation “The Comedians,” with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, and trumpeter Don Ellis’s throttling big-band score to 1971’s “The French Connection.”

A few nights before the March 4 Academy Awards, the “Phantom Thread” score will be played live alongside a screening of the film, one of a series of such concerts. When Greenwood spoke last week, he was intrigued but noncommittal about attending the Oscars: “I don’t know yet but it would be nice to go because Paul’s going to be there,” he said.

But last Friday, Anderson confirmed in an email that his dream of seeing a formally attired Greenwood on the red carpet will indeed be realised.

“He’s coming!” wrote Anderson. “I have confirmation!”

Associated Press



Daniel Day-Lewis, (left) and director Paul Thomas Anderson on the set of “Phantom Thread.”

Opposite page: Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead

relationship, I’d say mutual respect and date nights,” says Anderson. “He has faith in me and he

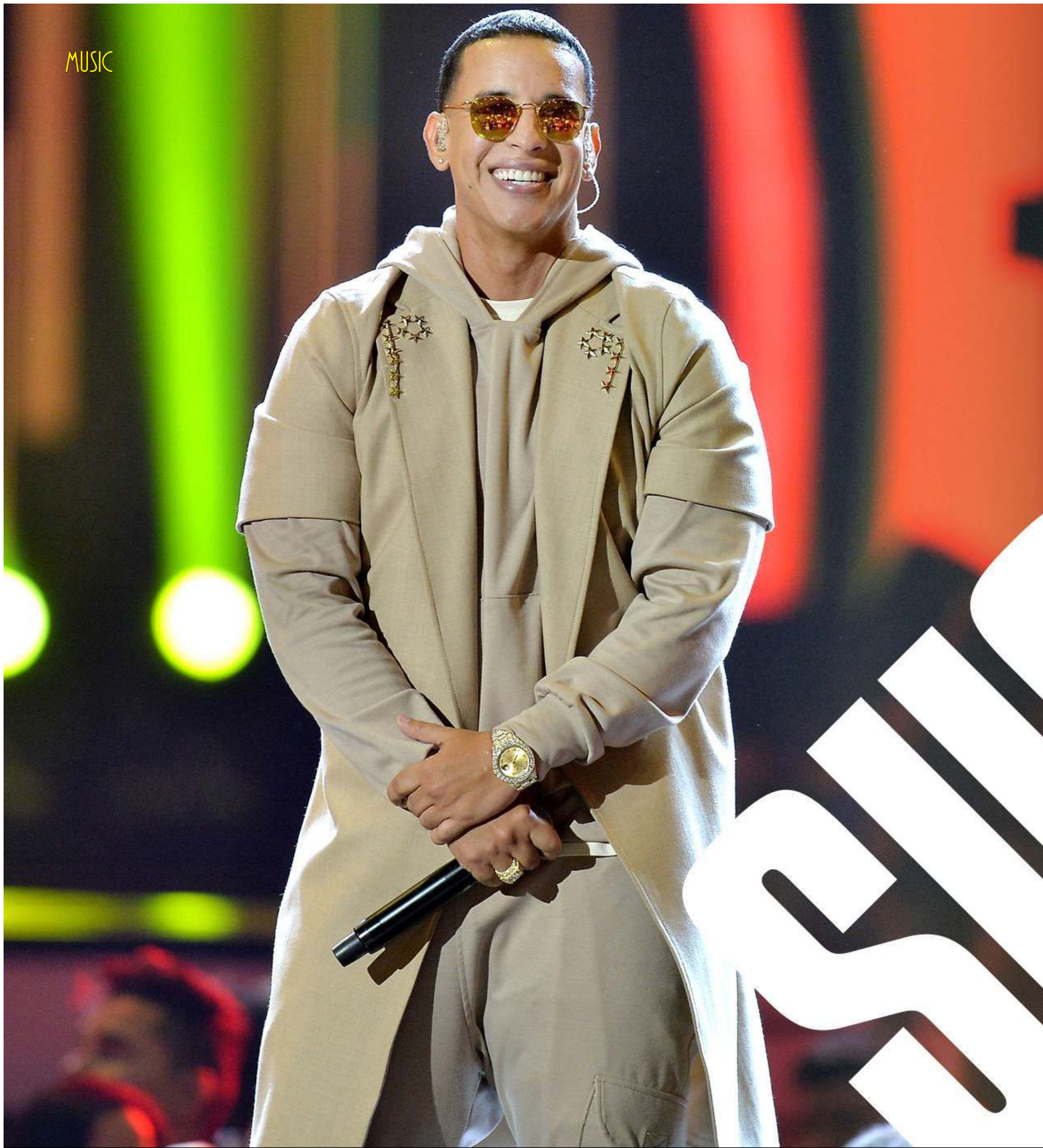
RADIOHEAD GUITARIST JONNY GREENWOOD DISCUSSES THE FILM ‘PHANTOM THREAD’ FOR WHICH HE IS NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR FOR ORIGINAL SCORE, GOING TO THE OSCARS AND HOW COMPOSING HAS BECOME HIS GREATEST ADDICTION. JAKE COYLE WRITES

likes making fun of me,” says Greenwood. “I think they’re the two prongs of the perfect relationship, really.”

“Phantom Thread” marks a new crescendo for their collaboration and for Greenwood as a composer. The film is up for six Oscars, including best score—Greenwood’s first

“I suppose I’m more confident that stuff I’ve got on paper will sound how I imagine it will sound. I used to have to guess a lot more,” says Greenwood. “There’s still an element of that. I’m just a bit less cautious about it and more excited... that’s not the word. What’s the word? Addicted, I suppose.”

MUSIC



CHARTING

DADDY YANKEE GETS THE WORLD DANCING AGAIN WITH 'DURA', SAYS LEILA MACOR

It's

another viral dancing sensation. And once again, it's from Daddy Yankee.

The Puerto Rican king of reggaeton who co-wrote "Despacito" has people around the world moving their hips with his latest song, "Dura."

Millions of people have clicked on online videos inspired by "Dura" as aspiring dancers around the world — from fresh-

based largely on how fans appropriate it. "Why have so many people — even babies — liked it?" he asked rhetorically. "Well, some things you can't explain. It's the magic of music, a magic that just happens and that you can't understand."

He has one theory. "Dura," he said, harks back to "the rhythm and nostalgia for music of the late 1980s and early 1990s, that essence of reggae that inspired reggaeton."

Daddy Yankee, whose real name is Ramon Luis Ayala, released "Dura" on January 18. The next day, Colombian model Andrea Valdiri posted a video on Instagram, barefoot in sweatpants and a loose white top, as she danced to "Dura" with her hands rubbing sensually around her body.

The video has been viewed nearly nine million times on her Instagram account and in Daddy Yankee's repost. It also set off a rush of new homemade interpretations of the song — posted under hashtag #DuraChallenge.

Daddy Yankee's original video has been seen nearly 200 million times on YouTube.

More recently, the 25-year-old Valdiri has been eclipsed as the #DuraChallenge star by a nonagenarian.

Rachel Phillipson, a 90-year-old New Yorker of Puerto Rican origin, follows a zumba instructor with impressive rhythm and coordination as Daddy Yankee sings in Spanish, "I like how you move that ram-pam-pam." The video has generated 5.5 million clicks.

"There are no excuses not to dance. The excuse is all in your mind," the zumba instructor, Rina Elena Martinez (@rina_25), said. The Venezuelan appears in the

video shot in a gym in Miami.

Daddy Yankee agreed. "The 90-year-old grandmother was phenomenal," he said, adding: "No doubt that video gives encouragement to the whole world."

Celebrities who have taken the #DuraChallenge include Venezuelan model Diosa Canales, Dominican reggaeton singer Natti Natasha and the Puerto Rican former Miss Universe Zuleyka Rivera, who also appeared in the "Despacito" video.

"Dura," which literally means "hard" but could also mean "hot" when it comes to appearance, is an ode to a beautiful woman.

"You're one tough mama," Daddy Yankee sings, with lines such as "If it's a crime to be so beautiful / I'll arrest you in my bed and put you in handcuffs."

Musically, the song returns to early reggaeton without the pop melodies that mega-stars such as Shakira, Enrique Iglesias or "Despacito" co-writer Luis Fonsi deployed to bring the genre to the anglo pop world.

In a retro video, Daddy Yankee and his cohorts dance around well-trodden streets covered with vibrant street art. Women, who so often take passive roles in highly sexual songs, assume the lead in showing their moves.

"We were inspired by the bright colours of the '90s and a bit of the era's fashion. I wanted to make this fun and to show that the song could empower women," Daddy Yankee said.

The video was directed by Carlos Perez, the Puerto Rican who shot "Despacito" and has worked with Ricky Martin and Marc Anthony.

"Despacito" also spawned spoofs and has made history as the most-watched video on YouTube with more than 4.8 billion views.

Helped by a remix featuring Justin Bieber, "Despacito" tied a record by spending 16 weeks on top of the benchmark Billboard singles chart in the United States — a major feat in a country where non-English songs rarely fare well.

"Dura" as of Feb. 16 was number 10 on Spotify's global singles chart and number one in several Latin American countries.

Agence France-Presse

COVER STORY



CAST MEMBERS TUVA NOVOTNY (LEFT), TESSA THOMPSON, GINA RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER JASON LEIGH AND NATALIE PORTMAN ARRIVE AT THE LOS ANGELES PREMIERE.

'Annihilation' is the sci-fi movie women have been waiting for

NEW frontiers



NATALIE PORTMAN (LEFT) AND ALEX GARLAND

Sci-fi blockbuster "Annihilation" has been praised for its stunning, ethereal look but it is a relatively banal image that marks it out as unusual: its all-female cast, marching into danger together.

While female-led comedies like "Mean Girls," "Bridesmaids" and "Pitch Perfect" are 10 a penny, an ensemble made entirely of capable, brave and smart women in an action movie is pretty much unprecedented.

In "Annihilation," men need not apply as a group of female scientists is recruited for a mission into "Area X," a sinister and mysterious portion of the US coastline surrounding a top-secret alien crash site.

Natalie Portman plays a biologist and former soldier who joins the expedition to find out what happened to her husband, a special forces operative mortally wounded while investigating the phenomenon.

"It's just unheard of — you never get the opportunity to work with incredible roles for five women," Oscar-winner Portman told reporters on the red carpet at the world premiere in Los Angeles last week.

"I mean it's rare to find one, and to find five together and to get the opportunity to work alongside my sisters and spend that time together, and watch each other and learn from each other... is just remarkable."

From British writer and director Alex Garland ("Ex Machina," "28 Days Later"), "Annihilation" is based on the acclaimed Southern Reach Trilogy by Jeff VanderMeer.

Garland's camera follows the women as they discover a beautiful but deadly world of mutated landscapes and creatures — dubbed "The Shimmer" — that threatens their sanity.

Set in lush, Florida marshland, the production recreated the subtropical environment in Britain with Windsor Great Park, once a private hunting ground for the royal family, as the swampy backdrop.

Joining Portman are Jennifer Jason Leigh ("Single White Female," "The Hateful Eight"), Gina Rodriguez ("Jane the Virgin," "Ferdinand"), Tessa Thompson ("Creed," "Thor: Ragnarok") and Tuva Novotny ("Eat Pray Love").

The 36-year-old Portman ("Black Swan," "Jackie") said one of the aspects of filming she most valued was downtime spent with her co-stars.

"Between takes, we would all sit in the tent together and have fun just talking and telling funny stories. That, to me, will always be the movie — the five of us in a tent together, just messing around," she said.

Portman's husband is played by Oscar Isaac, 38, who worked with Garland on the acclaimed 2015 sci-fi thriller "Ex Machina."

The actor has seen his stock rise sharply through his starring role in the new "Star Wars" trilogy, but finds himself taking a back seat here, lying unconscious in a hospital bed for much of the movie.

"Usually, you see a group of guys going in somewhere and have one female character, and this time the roles were reversed and I got to be the damsel in distress, and that was fun," he laughed.

Thompson, 34, pointed out that the three top-grossing films in North America last year — "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Wonder Woman" — were all anchored by female protagonists.

Leaving aside two "Star Wars" movies — "The Force Awakens" and "Rogue One" — such movies were few and far between in the preceding years and Thompson welcomed the apparent sign of progress.

"I feel tremendously proud, and in the course of it I've gotten to know these four incredible actors who happen to be women, artists, mothers, directors," she said.

"They are just phenomenal people so I'm so proud to get to call them friends now."

In the febrile atmosphere following Hollywood's sexual harassment and gender pay gap scandals, even a movie with an all-female lead cast including an African American and a Latina is not above censure.

Accordingly, "Annihilation" has come under fire for "whitewashing" after it emerged that the roles played by Portman and Leigh were written for women of Asian and Native American heritage in the original books.

The criticism comes despite a support cast that includes Japanese-born British actress Sonoya Mizuno and Britain's Benedict Wong, whose parents are from Hong Kong.

The movie hits US theatres on February 23 but, unusually, Paramount sold the international distribution rights — save for China and Canada — to Netflix, a move seen as an admission that the studio doesn't think it will sell overseas.

The decision came after poor test-screening results last summer that indicated the film might be "too intellectual" for the public at large, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Early reactions to the movie fly in the face of this assessment, with critics describing it as "transfixing," "beautiful" and a "new sci-fi classic."

"This is the type of sci-fi we always say we want to see," tweeted Ben Pearson, a senior writer at the Slash Film website.

"Bold, challenging, singular, visually dazzling. Would not be the least bit surprised to see it hailed as a masterpiece (and it might actually be one)."

Agence France-Presse

FILMS



CREATIVE SPELL

THE KOOKY CAVEMAN CHARACTERS THAT COME TO LIFE IN 'EARLY MAN' HAVE BEEN KICKING AROUND IN NICK PARK'S IMAGINATION FOR DECADES. SANDY COHEN WRITES



Actor Tom Hiddleston (left), director Nick Park, actors Maisie Williams, Eddie Redmayne at the world premiere.

Long before he created Wallace and Gromit, Park was taken with Ray Harryhausen's animated dinosaurs in the 1966 Raquel Welch movie "One Million Years BC." "I just couldn't believe real dinosaurs moving around with people," Park said, recalling the film he saw as an 11-year-old that would inspire his love of animation. "So I guess that sort of thing has been in the back of my mind for many years."

"Early Man" translates Park's vision into an epic claymation adventure about a tribe of colourful cave people who stake the future of their homeland on a soccer showdown, despite not knowing how to play. An ambitious young caveman, Dug, and his loyal pet warthog, Hognob, believe the plucky tribe can prevail.

"I've never seen a prehistoric underdog sports movie before," Park mused.

UK-based Aardman Studios tapped its largest production team yet — with nearly 40 animators and sets working at once — to make "Early Man," which uses stop-motion animation techniques essentially unchanged since Harryhausen's day.

It's a slow and painstaking process to bring clay characters to life.

"We've used some of the most advanced filmmaking techniques in post-production, together with stop-motion, which is as old as cinema itself," said animation director Merlin Crossingham.

Stop-motion animation (or "stop-frame," as Park calls it) creates the illusion of movement through a series of still images. For "Early Man," Aardman's team of artists built a cast of puppets based on Park's sketches that serve as the film's actors. Each seven-inch-tall silicone puppet has a jointed metal skeleton inside so it can move.

"They're like expensive action figures," Crossingham said.

The faces are made of modelling clay — except for the noses and eyes, which are hard plastic and serve as "grab points"

for animators while changing the puppet's expression. Mouldable brows and more than two dozen removable and interchangeable mouths allow for a variety of looks.

Animators pose the puppets for each frame — every movement, every gesture — with 24 frames in each second of film. Mouth movements are synced to pre-recorded vocal performances. (Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston and Maisie Williams lend their talents here.) For every shot, the puppets are bolted into place on exquisitely detailed sets that stand about two feet high.

Capturing just a few frames could be a full day's work.

"Getting about five seconds of finished film is a really good week," said animation director Will Becher.

Because the process is so time-consuming, artists make duplicates of every set and puppet so multiple animators can work on various shots simultaneously.

"The art department has to be really on their game keeping the continuity," Crossingham said. "Because of that, we use technical drawings for everything — the puppets, the locations. Everything is documented so that we can reproduce it, and that gives us flexibility in working."

To show the disparate team of animators just what they're looking for, Park, Crossingham and Becher act out each scene on video, highlighting comic timing and behavioral specifics. Park confessed that sometimes he can see reflections of himself in the characters' movements.

As director, he was involved with every aspect of "Early Man," from character and story development to finding just the right color for the soccer field's grass. Park also personally worked with the vocal performers, something he wasn't always comfortable doing.

"I used to find it quite nerve-racking working with actors, especially if they were quite famous actors," he said. "I find it much easier to manipulate a puppet or a clay character, because they do as they're told. And if they don't, you can

squish their head in or whatever you want. With actors, you have to be a little bit more tactful."

PARK VOICED HOGNOB HIMSELF

While the techniques of stop-motion animation haven't changed much since their inception, the technology around them has. The puppets are now made of a state-of-the-art plasticine material, and most sketches and renderings are done in the computer.

As for the film itself, Park said he tried to use as little digital intervention as possible: "It's always lovely to keep the sense of it's all been done in front of camera and not an effect." Background characters in stadium scenes were computer-generated, he said, while other scenes called for the puppets to be filmed against green screens.

Park may have been dreaming about "Early Man"-type characters since he was 11, but his first sketches for the film date back to 2010. Still, that's nearly eight years spent bringing these bobbling clay cave people to the screen. Park said imagining the audience's eventual reaction is what sustains him through the sometimes tedious work of stop-motion animation.

"For me, it's never really been a choice between stop-frame and any other medium," the four-time Oscar winner said. "I love the way it's so expressive — even going back to Gromit, he was born out of clay."

"It's the fact that the animator has to do the brow or whatever it is, just to tease out the character frame by frame. There's a certain quality to do with nuance and acute human observation," Park said. "It's often the very small things that really win the audience over, because they see somehow themselves or their friends in that character. I love the way you have a real puppet and you can light it with dramatic lighting, just like any movie. It just feels very real and very special."

Association Press

FILMS



In the real world

Willem Dafoe talks to *Fiachra Gibbons* about the making of 'The Florida Project', and how children live in poverty outside Disney World



Willem Dafoe, left, and Brooklynn Prince in a scene.

Opposite page: Writer-director Sean Baker (left) actors Brooklynn Prince and Willem Dafoe pose together to promote their film.

Willem Dafoe frankly doesn't give a damn if he misses out on a best supporting actor Oscar for a third time next month. "That is not what I do this for," said the dry, self-deprecating star, who was also nominated for Oliver Stone's "Platoon" in 1987 and for "Shadow of a Vampire" 13 years later.

Yet he will be sore if "The Florida Project", the break-out low-budget film about poor kids growing up in the shadow of Walt Disney World in Orlando, gets nothing.

Dafoe said he was "disappointed when (its director) Sean Baker didn't get some love because this is very much his film and he made a beautiful movie."

"I was hoping either the film or him or one of the other performers would get recognised but it didn't happen."

He was not alone. Critics swooned over the performances Baker drew from the three children he cast — one of whom he found in a supermarket — and first-timer Bria Vinaite, who he spotted on Instagram.

The subtly moving story Baker shot in a cheap motel along the

Kissimmee Strip leading to the theme park, using some of its homeless residents as extras, was a surprisingly heart-warming hit and topped many best-film-of-the-year lists.

Dafoe plays a world-weary janitor who tries to protect Vinaite's character, a tattooed single mother, from herself.

Living hand-to-mouth with her seven-year-old daughter (Brooklynn Prince) from hustling and charity handouts, the film is both a tender and unsparing portrait of families trapped in poverty at the gates of what Disney calls "The Happiest Place on Earth".

Baker and much of his cast lived in the hotel while working on the film, and Dafoe said the experience opened his eyes.

"Some of the residents had two or three jobs, they just couldn't earn enough to get out. They are paying the price of an apartment almost, and all they had was a single room. Some were just horribly addicted, some are caught in a weak social welfare system — there was a whole rainbow of experiences and you would not have seen that had you not been living with them.

"When you get to know the people and hear their stories, you have a different understanding (of poverty)," Dafoe added. "That helps root the story to make sure that the movie's not bullshit."

For many of the motel's residents, the filming was "like the circus had come to town", said the actor, who made his name with the ground-breaking New York theatre company, The Wooster Group.

"They might have been more excited, of course, if Brad Pitt or Jennifer Lawrence was there, but I was the best they could do," he joked.

Dafoe, 62, said the genius of the atmosphere Baker created on set with his partner and acting coach Samantha Quan meant that the actor found himself both being and playing the only responsible adult around.

"It was really like having children," he laughed. "We would wind them up and let them have fun. It was not what you would call a very 'professional' atmosphere."

"They really set up structures so the kids could play. And sometimes you would think, 'Oh man, this is too much!' I really loved those

kids, but my character has to rein them in, so you have this beautiful double thing where what was going on on set reflected my job in the movie, so you can invest in it even more deeply."

Dafoe said he signed up straight away for the project because he so loved Baker's previous film, "Tangerine", a bitter-sweet portrait of a transgender sex worker's eventful love life which he shot on an iPhone.

On paper, Bobby the janitor didn't look like much at all, Dafoe admitted, but "Sean wrote additional scenes, we improvised, there were all sorts of accidents. I was really surprised to see how it evolved."

"It is an unusual role because it does not have the hallmarks of a big juicy performance — there are no big scenes or transformations or anything wildly extreme. He is a simple guy who has a good heart. He represents us, the audience, the hope that things are going to work out and that you should try to make this world a better place in whatever humble way you can. I am very touched by that."

Agence France-Press



SERIOUS MATTER

Hollywood actress EMMA WATSON backed guidelines to tackle harassment and bullying in Britain's film and television industry as sex abuse scandals rip through the working world.

The British Film Industry (BFI) and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) said a 24/7 confidential helpline would be set up in April to support industry staff, and training provided to partners to handle allegations and cases.

"They are not just about protecting individuals but are also an important step in embracing a greater diversity of voices," said Watson, most famous for her role as a female wizard in the fantasy movie series 'Harry Potter'.

The move comes as a series of workplace sex scandals continues to dominate headlines, with British charity Oxfam under fire over sexual misconduct accusations in Haiti and Chad.



PRECIOUS BOND

James Bond is parting with his personal Aston Martin.

Actor DANIEL CRAIG, who has played the British spy known as 007 in four films, is auctioning for charity the limited-edition vehicle made for him by Aston Martin four years ago, Christie's auction house said on Thursday.

Aston Martin cars have appeared in Bond films over nearly 50 years, beginning with 1964's "Goldfinger" in which Sean Connery drove a silver Aston Martin DB5. The brand has appeared in all four Bond films starring Craig.

Craig's personal car is a 2014 Vanquish that Aston Martin produced just 100 examples of to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Craig's vehicle is, naturally, number 007.

"It was an homage, really, to his career," Becky MacGuire, director of Christie's' The Exceptional Sale, said in an interview.



TERRIFIC PARTY

Socialite PARIS HILTON celebrated her 37th birthday at a party in Manhattan with family, including sister Nicky Hilton Rothschild and aunt Kyle Richards, and friends like Paris Jackson.

Hilton posted photographs and videos from her bash, including a selfie of her and the 19-year-old model on Instagram, reports eonline.com.

"Paris and Paris," Hilton wrote.

Jackson's name was inspired by Hilton's.

In 2009, months after the death of Jackson's father Michael Jackson, Hilton said that her family members were close with the King of Pop and that her mother Kathy Hilton was one of his former school friends.

"So I grew up knowing Michael very well and when he had his daughter, he always loved the name Paris and grew up being an uncle to me," Hilton said.



ASTROSCAPE

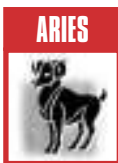


PISCES PARADIGM

YOUR FRIENDLY ASTROLOGER MEL

This is a quiet week not because there isn't a planetary shift but because

there are about four placements in the quiet and private sign of Pisces. There is a lot going on but it's not visible. You see the Ocean? But you don't see what lies beneath unless you go deeper and this week, life takes you deeper. Sometimes it's a mirage and sometimes it's a dream come true! Which one is it going to be for you? If you are not a dreamer then it can be a time that's uncomfortable and difficult to live through especially when logic takes a back seat. However, Pluto and Saturn will balance the scales gently and Jupiter will push for higher ground and bigger expansion. If you are ready to swim beneath, you'll find secrets to revel in or the dangers of deception. Let's find out more and what it holds in store for each sign.



ARIES
MAR 21
APR 20

While there is much happening overseas for you, these new placements in Pisces urge to take rest and retreat from the outer world or give more attention to your need for rest. Don't ignore the warning signs of a tired body and mind. Get your rest for both. You will need to balance the overseas extravaganza and action with the call for quiet. It can be challenging but giving time to both (give more to rest) will see a solution that allows you the best of both worlds. It is important to rest the mind for it is at the most intuitive and makes the wisest and spiritual decisions for the soul and to avoid the clutter and confusion.



TAURUS
APR 21
MAY 20

The placements in Pisces is about to bring a boost to your social life. You are ripe and ready to meet those kind and kindred souls who have the same goals and visions like you do about life, for people, for those vulnerable and helpless. So, this period is big on compassion and opportunities to meet the right people who can help your vision materialize. You have all the support so go ahead and socialize. You'll love it. No doubt, joint finances may obstruct what you need for your dreams, financially. But you need to balance both spheres and perhaps be a little moderate with your big dreams for now. You are also given a booster for relationships and for overseas.



GEMINI
MAY 21
JUN 20

This week, there is a quiet, kind of calm before the storm if you are being insensitive. It's a challenging phase for you professionally and publicly. You may need to be extra wary about your professional and public reputation. Things are not what they seem and you have to look deeper. However, obstruction from a relationship or significant partner may add fuel to the fire and here is where you need to balance both spheres of your life — giving time (make that extra for profession) to partner and profession.



CANCER
JUN 21
JUL 20

The Pisces placements this week continue to boost your identity and lay it all on the platter for you especially for matters related to overseas. This is the period to take off and make your dreams come true on distant shores. However, actions taken or urgently needed for work and health issues or even animal companions and colleagues stand in the way and you will need to work out a plan that allows you time for both matters as well as resolve the conflicts if you are to do full justice to both spheres of life. The call overseas is magical, but duty and service are to be attended to if you are to enjoy your trip.



LEO
JUL 21
AUG 20

The Pisces placements this week invite you to look deeply and intuitively into your intimate unions and your joint financial ventures. This is a deep period that may make you a little uncomfortable but one that nevertheless needs attention. This period could fill your eyes with stardust to see any reality and the financial dreams will be so appealing, but you will need to take a step back and allow the challenges presented by your own need for recreation, children, romance and the creativity within you make the decision about the reality of the finances involved. The dreams could well make you overstep your financial limit.



VIRGO
AUG 21
SEP 20

The Pisces placements this week is focused on your relationship sector and this could be the time for a new partnership that seeks long-term commitment and it can be business and/or personal. This seems too magical and even too good to be true, so you need to step back and keep a balance on reality as well or that which is too good to be true may just be so! This is also the period of deception and delusion and you will need to arm yourself with a few facts before you take on a partnership or break up one. The challenges posed by home and family demanding truth will help you make the right decision.



LIBRA
SEP 21
OCT 20

The Pisces placements are not very easy to deal with in your airy, fairy world of logic and love. You will need to look beneath the surface and understand that logic cannot be applied to all situations (certainly not for the Pisces period) and especially so for your work, health and other routines. This placement turns your focus to the deeper matters that revolve around health, work, colleagues and even animal companions. You need to approach these matters sensitively and compassionately in order to really progress or find the right solution. Challenges from the current environment, those around, your siblings and other communication and commutation matters engage most of your time, but you need to focus on work and health too – it's important. So, find a balance.



SCORPIO
OCT 21
NOV 20

The Pisces placements often work in your favour because you like privacy and secrecy. So, this phase will promote you especially in matters of romance, children, creativity and recreational matters. This is the time to relax and enjoy. New romance blossoms and passion overflows. You have a lot of planetary energy on your side to make things happen. However, your personal finances are calling for action and may restrict your need to go out and play or be extravagant, but it is indication that you may overspend. So, finding a balance is the right way to handle this gusty period of love and laughter, finances and personal expansion.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 21
DEC 20

The Pisces placements are going to bring a few challenges your way. You do not like secrecy or sneaky behaviour and this is what you may find, or you may buy into the illusions by others that aren't true. This is especially so with home and family matters. You are about to make changes despite feeling frustrated or angered over it. Your personal freedom feels compromised but the needs of home and family are now paramount. Considering other planetary placements, it is best to divide your time promoting or taking action for self and being with home and family. This will resolve the conflicts that are likely to arise from these two spheres of life.



CAPRICORN
DEC 21
JAN 20

The Pisces placements are supportive of you especially when it comes to your current environment, with those around, siblings, communication and commutation. This is an ideal period for short trips and for communication that requires deeper understanding and compassion. However, your need for rest and retreat may challenge your commitments to your current environment and with those around. You will need to get your sufficient rest as you are brimming over with heated inner passions that need release in the peace and quiet of your home or any other retreat centre and as well mingle with those around. This is will restore balance and peace.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21
FEB 20

The Pisces placements are indicating that you look at promoting your personal finances and values, beliefs as well as other possessions. You are drawn to the magic of the material realm but will need to rein in your extravagant urges or your imagination when it comes to social goals and groups. These are likely to overshoot your financial budget. You need to balance these two spheres and also take a deeper look at your financial situation despite the go-ahead given by the professional expansion which could personally set you back on the journey of life. Be wise with your finances.



PISCES
FEB 21
MAR 20

The Pisces placements calls for personal promotion and with four placements giving you an idealistic booster – there could be no stopping you from doing what you want or is there? Yes, there is for your own benefit. You need to face truth and reality and the professional and public life will stand in your personal way for your own good indicating that you need to balance both spheres of life and resolve the conflicts. Your needed action on the professional field draws you away from your dreams, desires and destination. So, while you give in to your world of dreams, take care of your profession as your reputation relies on it.

ASTRO TIP FOR THE WEEK

THE PISCES PLACEMENTS INDICATE THAT A COMPASSIONATE AND SENSITIVE APPROACH WHETHER IN THOUGHT, WORD OR DEED IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SITUATIONS THAT INVOLVE SELF OR OTHERS. IT'S A SUBTLE CALL FOR RETREAT AND SUBMISSION OR DEFENSELESSNESS. FOR IN THE LATTER IS TRUE VICTORY! HAVE A PEACEFUL AND PRIVATE WEEK AHEAD!

ZADIG&VOLTAIRE F/W 18

COOL
CONTRASTS

Black vs. white, mini vs. oversize, short vs. long, feminine vs. androgynous, raw vs. delicate, shine vs. matte, day vs. night. Bold contradictions, a confident look.

More than ever this season, the Zadig girl turns opposites into a style, a branded signature. She warms up a delicate lace tunic or a polka-dot tulle top with a studded black leather biker jacket so small that she seems to have worn it since she was a teen. She has a lasting affection for her pieces, keeping them like her mohair jumpers, which are patched and mended or held together with staples, as they really seem to have gone through a lot. Deconstructing all the better to reconstruct.

Her hand-me-down white Tee-shirt is a guiding thread in her wardrobe. Just like those that brandish slogans from women worldwide. «Love will rise above all»

She doesn't trouble herself with gender and makes unisex her own.

She has cut the sleeves off her boyfriend's jacket and slipped it on over a dress. She has also pinched his Prince of Wales check three-piece suit, his shearling-style checked biker jacket and his oversize coat. She dresses her leggy figure in biker trousers made of silk or black leather with quilted topstitching, teamed with a bomber jacket shortened to the max. With a snap of her fingers, she switches from a belted leather biker jumpsuit to a multicoloured velvet dress. A biker jumper is redesigned with diamanté. A military parka is reinterpreted in patent leather...

Embracing a host of opposites, a manifesto that pounds the pavement in boots crafted in acid yellow snakeskin or painted white leather.

In her arms, she clutches her Rider bag like a soft cushion, stuffed like the old Chesterfield in a recording studio. Boasting a studded patina finish, it follows her everywhere.

This is what the Zadig girl is like: strong and tender in one, independent, a rock girl in the true sense of the word, undoubtedly: «Nothing is real but the girl»





TRAVEL

Stop to remember

Switzerland offers some of the best scenic points, besides being friendly and hospitable, says Samantha Feuss

Mt. Pilatus rises above Switzerland.



Castle Bridge crosses the waters in Lucerne, Switzerland.



A cog train takes passengers up Mt. Pilatus in Switzerland.



A train ride offers incredible views in Switzerland.

Switzerland is a wonderful place to take the family on holiday. With majestic mountains, lovely lakes, and train rides that are visually stunning as you cruise through the country en route to your destination, you and yours are in for a treat as soon as you set foot in this friendly and hospitable country.

It's also an affordable option for Americans wanting to travel in Europe, with family friendly options such as the Swiss Pass to make saving money easier as you traverse. It offers unlimited travel on the Swiss Travel System, which includes trains, boats, buses, local urban transportation systems, and free entry to more than 450 museums. You also get free WiFi, and access to the Fast Baggage service, which provides same-day luggage delivery between 46 cities in Switzerland, according to the Switzerland Tourism Department.

One must-see spot in the country is Mount Pilatus, a 7,000-foot mountaintop that is accessible via train, aerial cable way, gondola and the world's steepest cogwheel rail. If you decide to take the "Golden Round Trip," you can view some of the best scenery in Switzerland in one day. From the boat tour beginning in Lake Lucerne, you ride in comfort either in the inside or outside of the boat on crystal-clear waters surrounded by mountains. Some passengers may choose to get off at one of several stops, such as restaurants or the Swiss Museum of Transport (the country's most popular museum).

Take the boat to Aspachstad (the aforementioned steepest cog in the world) and then to Pilatus Klum's peak, at nearly 7,000 feet above sea level, viewing amazing sights and scenery all along the way. The cog up to the top is both exhilarating and a little frightening — it is very, very steep, and those lovely views will make some hold onto their seats a little tighter. From the top, one can view more than 70 peaks and five lakes. You can also visit several restaurants, spend some time at one of Mount Pilatus' adventure parks, go tobogganing or head over to the rope park. These are in operation from May to November, weather permitting.

If you head back to Lucerne, stop by Chapel Bridge. It's the most photographed place in Switzerland, and for good reason. This old bridge and tower spans the river, the ceiling and beams of which have paintings dating back to the 1300s. Chapel Bridge has become somewhat of a symbol for Lucerne, and something you don't want to miss. If you want to indulge in a traditional Swiss meal, the Fondue House is just a few blocks away. Diners can enjoy traditional cheese fondue with a variety of foods to dip in it, as well as a chocolate fondue with fruit to dip for dessert. This was a cozy spot in a convenient location to experience a local favourite dish.

After coming down from the mountain, an interesting and very fun way to spend the day with the kids is at the Agrovision, where you can see how farmers raise animals and foodstuff. Children not only can pet the animals, but there are hands-on experiences to be had. In addition to animals, there is a playground, meeting

space for large groups, and an award-winning restaurant on site that serves only local and organic food (most of which is made on the premises).

It is amazing to see how they make bread in a giant, old-fashioned oven. A very passionate farmer explained to us that it is not only better living for the animals and people to grow and eat organic, but it ends up costing less money and is better for the environment. He had a lot to say about farming practices and farm-to-table living. I learned a lot, as did my 5-year-old son, who loved the bee exhibit and working hive, learning about the bees and what they do. He also enjoyed petting the animals, of course, and the playground was a huge hit and wonderful way to burn off any excess energy.

No trip to Switzerland would be complete without a visit to the Top Of Europe, otherwise known as Jungfrau. It boasts the highest railway station in Europe, the Jungfrauoch, as well as ski lifts, adventure activities, hiking, snow adventures, and an "Ice Palace."

Riding to the top of the Jungfrau (on a variety of transportation), you will be wowed by astonishing views, flora and fauna, and maybe even the gentle falling of snow (even in the summer). We were able to make snowballs in the freshly fallen (and still falling) snow while we visited this summer, although we were told this was unusual for that time of year. There are a variety of hiking trails that offer amazing views of not just the three mountains (Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau) but also Lake Thun and Lake Brienz below. The mountains were named after a legend of a young maiden (Jungfrau) being protected by the monk (or Monch) from the cruel ogre (or Eiger) who wished to ravish her.

As you make your way around the top, there is much to see and do inside as well. There is the Alpine Sensation, where you can "experience" life as it happened in the mountains over the years. Step outside (very carefully, it's slippery!) to the Sphinx, which has the best views in Europe: On a clear day, you can see as far as parts of France, Germany and Italy. Make sure to spend time in the Ice Palace — which is more like a winding cavern of ice sculptures, walls, floors, and ceiling also made of ice. I was told that since the body heat of all the tourists melts the ice, it shifts a little each year and needs constant maintenance.

If you just can't get enough of the views, check out the Sigriswil suspension bridge in Thun. Thun is a great place to spend time, with fantastic food, wine and historic landmarks. After spending the day touring the castles of Thun (make sure you ask for the kit that allows your child to become a knight — visit three castles, complete the assigned tasks like "jousting" from your wooden horse and some fancy shield work, and by Merlin's beard you have yourself a little knight!), head over for a unique walk. Suspended high above the air, you feel each step you take move the bridge, the wind causing it to sway. Not for the faint of heart, but if you can stomach it, the views are intense and quite literally breathtaking.

Tribune News Service



HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a viral infection affecting the liver. The virus causes both acute and chronic disease and most of the mortality is due to chronic infection with death resulting from liver cancer or end-stage liver failure. WHO estimates that about 257 million people are living with the infection. Hepatitis may be caused by a number of other viruses also. Hepatitis A and E viruses cause only an acute hepatitis while Hepatitis C and D viruses may be responsible for both acute and chronic hepatitis. A few other viruses may also cause hepatitis less commonly. Although the clinical picture, especially in the acute stage, appears very similar in the different types of viral hepatitis the viruses are all quite different from each other. Hepatitis A and E infections do not cause chronic hepatitis. Persistence of the virus with long-term liver problems occurs only after hepatitis B, C or D infection. Hepatitis D infection is only possible in a person already infected with hepatitis B virus.

Hepatitis B virus is transmitted through contaminated body fluids. Any procedure involving pricking of the skin or mucosa by a possibly contaminated needle or instrument could cause hepatitis B. Contaminated needles used by healthcare personnel and during dental procedures are potential sources but almost universal adoption of disposable needles and adequate attention to sterilization of dental and surgical instruments has

A few infected individuals develop a very severe form of hepatitis called fulminant hepatitis which has a very high mortality. The majority of adults who either do not develop significant acute illness or recover from the acute illness after acquiring the virus clear it from their body. In some the virus persists. In adults less than 5% of people without other preexisting major illnesses develop chronic infection. Out of those adults developing chronic infection, about 20 to 30% will have progressive liver disease resulting in cirrhosis and/or cancer. The balance 70 to 80% will have either no or mild disease but may act as carriers, capable of infecting other individuals. In children chronic infection develops much more commonly after acquiring the virus. If infection occurs before the age of 1 risk of chronic infection is 80 to 90% while if infection occurs between 1 year and 6 years of age this is 30 to 50%. Symptoms are usually nonspecific or absent in early stages of chronic hepatitis. Feeling rundown, undue fatigue, reduced appetite, mild abdominal discomfort and feverishness are some of these symptoms and the clue to the correct diagnosis is the elevated liver enzymes during screening for the cause of symptoms. In later stages as liver function deteriorates, symptoms of chronic liver failure such as jaundice, swelling of feet, distension of the abdomen by fluid and bleeding from engorged veins in the oesophagus appear. Liver cancer is a well known complication of

person is infected with the hepatitis B virus but does not give information on whether the infection is acute or chronic and regarding the activity of the disease. Other serological markers such as hepatitis B core antigen and antibody as well as hepatitis B e antigen and antibody along with liver function tests are needed to determine the activity of infection. To know the total viral load hepatitis B virus DNA is assayed. For a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis the criterion is persistence of HBsAg for 6 months or more.

There is no specific treatment available to treat acute hepatitis B. Supportive treatment to ameliorate symptoms and to try and keep the patient comfortable is given and over a few days to weeks most patients recover from the acute episode. The small percentage of patients going into fulminant hepatic failure need aggressive supportive treatment and in spite of this the mortality is high. Liver transplantation is life saving in this type of severe acute hepatitis. Chronic hepatitis B is not curable with any available treatment. However, anti-viral drugs active against the virus are quite beneficial in slowing progression of the disease, reducing development of liver cancer and in improving long-term survival. Previously, injectable interferon was part of standard treatment. However, currently oral drugs alone are recommended and they are fairly well tolerated and give satisfactory results. Cost is a factor requiring consideration when using these drugs but generic versions at a much lower cost are also available in many countries. Since these drugs are usually not effective in eliminating the virus from the body they need to be continued for life. Additionally, for people with liver failure treatment directed towards the biochemical and other changes is needed. Unfortunately no mechanical apparatus similar to a dialysis machine for kidney failure is available to treat liver failure. Liver transplantation is a viable alternative in such patients. Liver cancer is a dire long-term complication of hepatitis B with a very high mortality. Chemotherapy and local radiotherapy along with surgical resection of the cancerous portion of the liver are some of the options. Liver transplantation maybe quite useful in some of these patients.

Hepatitis B is preventable by vaccination. The vaccine was approved in 1981 and then replaced by the recombinant vaccine in 1986. The advantage of the recombinant vaccine is that it is a synthetic vaccine without any possibility of infection by the virus. It is currently recommended that all children receive the first dose of the vaccine within 24 hours of birth with follow-up doses as per schedule to complete the vaccination course. It is also recommended that all pregnant women be screened for HBsAg and if found positive further testing to confirm presence of virus is done. Children born of these pregnancies are advised hepatitis B immune globulin which is a serum rich in antibodies against hepatitis B virus along with the first dose of vaccine within 12 hours of birth. The otherwise very high risk for these children acquiring hepatitis B infection is reduced quite substantially by these measures. All children and adults up to 19 years of age are also advised hepatitis B vaccination if they have not already received it. For older individuals the vaccination is advised for all people such as healthcare staff who are at higher than normal risk for the infection.

Hepatitis B virus is transmitted through contaminated body fluids. Any procedure involving pricking of the skin or mucosa by a possibly contaminated needle or instrument could cause hepatitis B

made this source a much less common one. Other sources of contaminated needles such as by so-called recreational drug users sharing needles and unregulated tattoo technicians is an important potential source of infection.

Contaminated blood products are also capable of transmitting hepatitis B but strict screening procedures are generally effective in preventing infection by this route. Hepatitis B is also transmissible via sexual contact. A very important source of infection is the mother infecting the newborn around the time of birth.

Most people who acquire the virus have no acute symptoms. In a small percentage of those infected acute symptoms appear between 30 to 180 days after the virus gains access to the body. Fever, loss of appetite with aversion to food and smoking, discomfort in the upper abdomen especially on the right side, nausea, vomiting, passage of dark coloured urine and development of jaundice which is the yellowish discoloration of the sclera of the eye and of the skin are complaints common to all types of acute viral hepatitis. A percentage of people with acute hepatitis B also develop joint pains, skin rash and fever which is due to an immune reaction. Symptoms of acute hepatitis subside over a period of days to a few weeks. Most people recover from the acute

chronic hepatitis B usually occurring after many years of the infection. Disease is more severe with faster progression when there is co-infection with hepatitis C virus or with HIV.

Diagnosis of hepatitis B is made on the basis of investigations. Liver function tests are indicated in any patient suspected of having liver disease and these may show elevation of various parameters such as transaminase enzymes and bilirubin. Liver enzymes are likely to be very high during acute hepatitis but return to normal in a few weeks. In chronic hepatitis B infection, elevation of liver enzymes is related to activity of the disease. Carriers of the virus have very little liver damage and their liver enzymes remain normal or are only mildly elevated. People with active disease have moderate to severe elevation of these enzymes. In end-stage liver disease liver enzymes are often almost normal because very few liver cells are left to destroy. Other parameters of liver function will show increasing abnormalities as liver function deteriorates but it needs to be remembered that the liver has a very large spare capacity and conventional liver function tests may remain normal even with extensive liver damage. To determine the presence of hepatitis B virus the screening test is checking for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). A positive HBsAg test indicates that the

Dr Asheesh Mehta
Internal Medicine Specialist



INSTANT DATA

A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS IN JAPAN BUILDS A SECOND SKIN MESSAGE DISPLAY

Palmreading could take on a whole new meaning thanks to a new invention from Japan: an ultra-thin display and monitor that can be stuck directly to the body.

The band-aid-like device is just one millimetre thick and can monitor important health data as well as send and receive messages, including emojis.

Takao Someya, the University of Tokyo professor who developed the device, envisions it as a boon for medical professionals with bed-ridden or far-flung patients, as well as family living far from their relatives.

"With this, even in home-care settings, you can achieve seamless sharing of medical data with your home doctors, who then would be able to communicate back to their patients," he said.

Slapped onto the palm or back of a hand, it could flash reminders to patients to take their medicine, or even allow far-away grandchildren to communicate with their grandparents.

"Place displays on your skin, and you would feel as if it is part of your body. When you have messages sent to your hand, you would feel emotional closeness to the sender," Someya said.

"I think a grandfather who receives a message saying 'I love you' from his grandchild, they would feel the warmth, too."

The invention could prove particularly useful in Japan, with its rapidly ageing population, replacing the need for in-person checks by offering continuous, non-invasive monitoring of the sick and frail, Someya said.

The display consists of a 16-by-24 array of micro LEDs and stretchable wiring mounted on a rubber sheet.

It also incorporates a lightweight sensor composed of a breathable "nanomesh" electrode, and a wireless communication module.

"Because this device can stretch, we now can paste a display on things with complex shapes, like skin," Someya said.

It can be placed on the human body for a week without causing skin inflammation, and is light enough that users might eventually even forget they are wearing it.

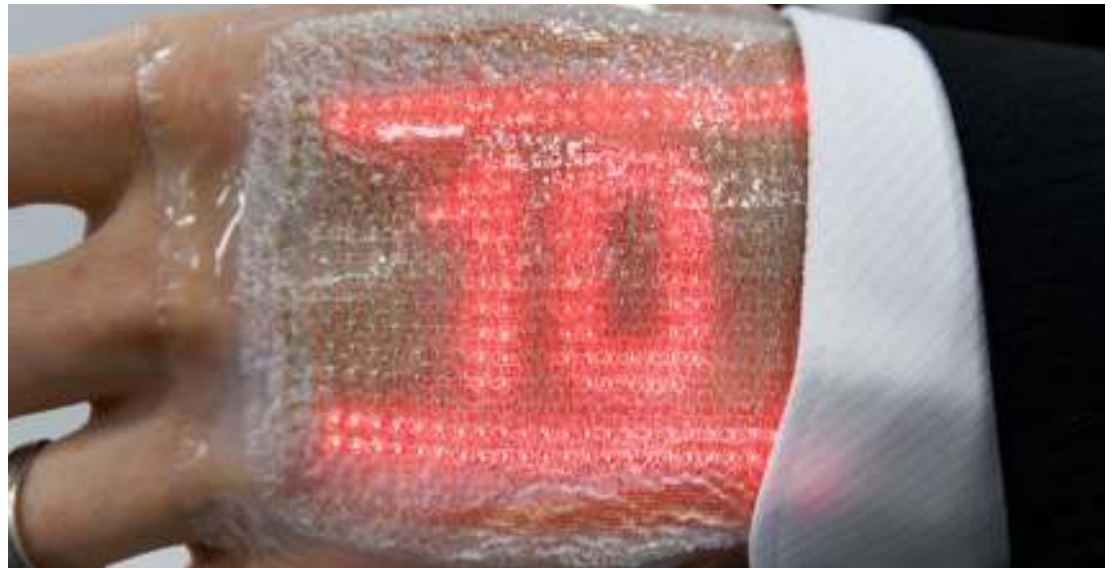
Along with medical applications, Someya hopes the device could eventually lead to wearable displays for joggers to monitor heart rates or check running routes.

He imagines labourers using the displays to consult manuals on their arms while working.

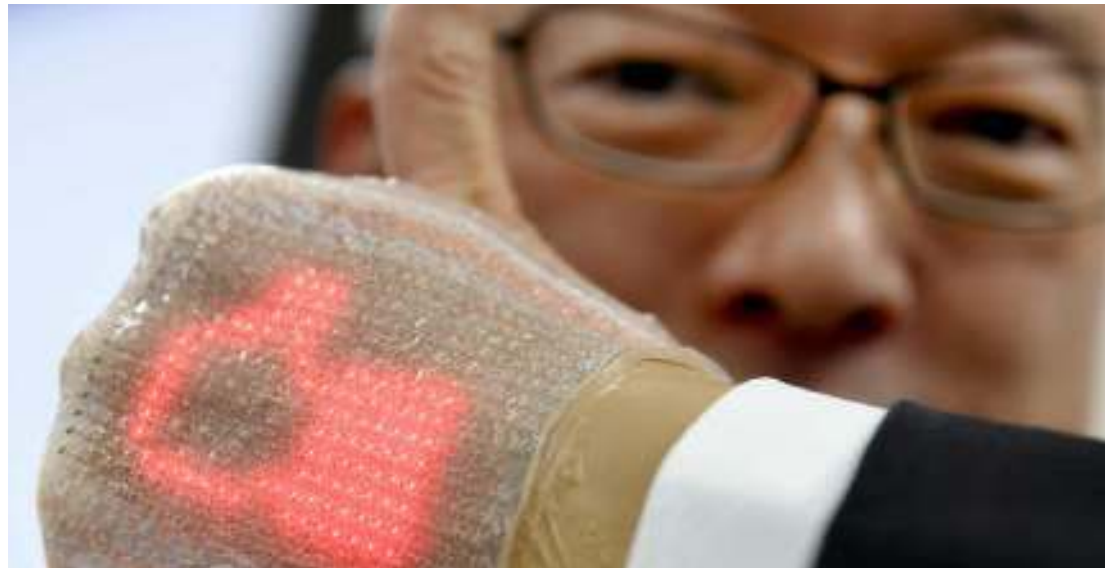
The device will be showcased at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Texas over the weekend.

Someya created the device in partnership with Japanese printing giant Dai Nippon Printing, which hopes to put it on the market within three years.

The device is a boon for medical professionals with bed-ridden or far-flung patients, as well as family living far from their relatives.



Ultra-thin elastic display equipped with a light emitting diode, newly developed by Professor Takao Someya of Tokyo University, in Tokyo.



The band-aid-like device is just one millimetre thick and can monitor important health data as well as send and receive messages, including emojis.



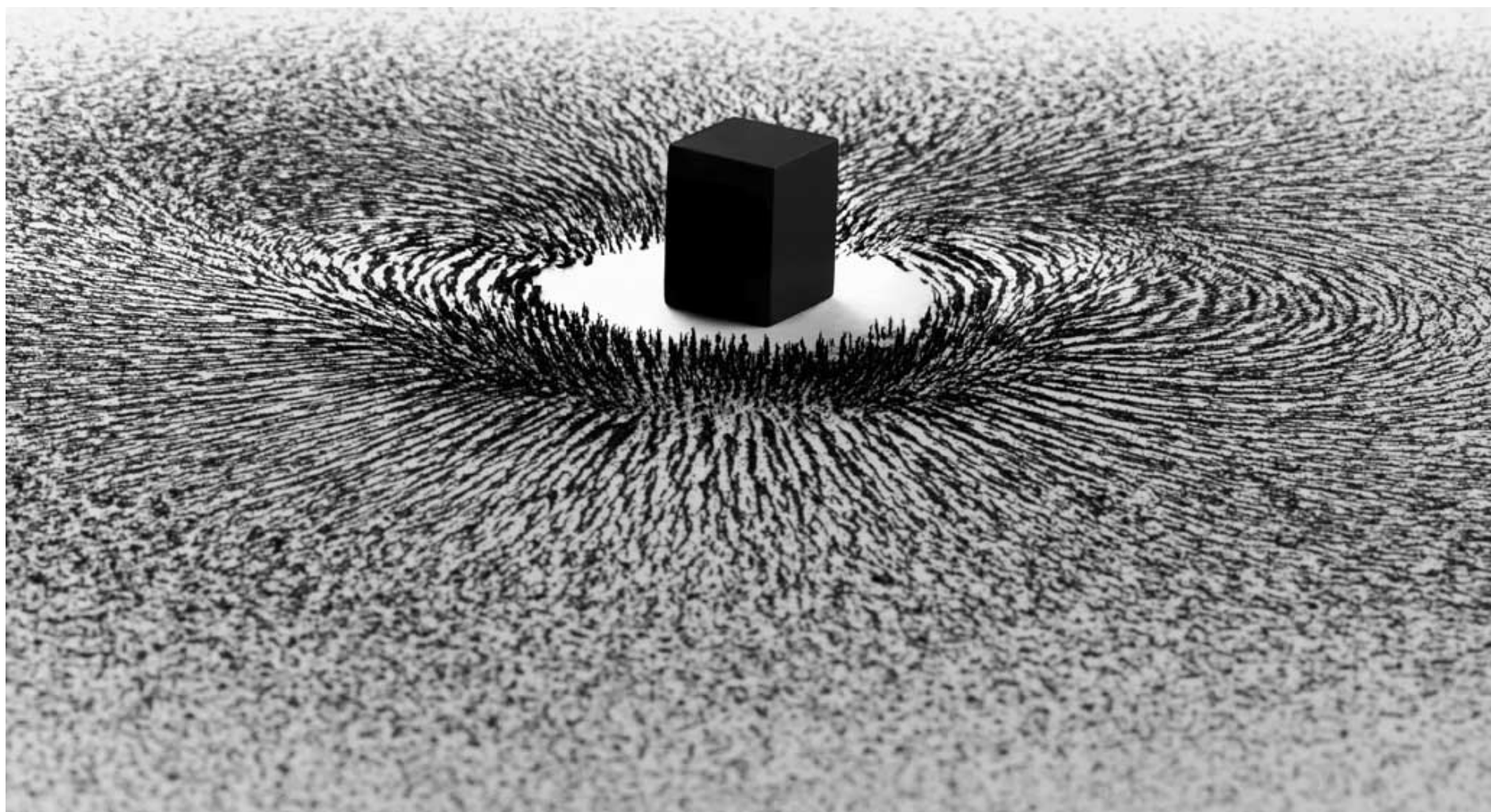
Agence France-Presse

One vision, many missions



Stephen Stapleton (left), with Ahmed Mater, Glenn D Lowry and Jay A Levenson

Muhammad Yusuf writes on a cultural body in Saudi Arabia which focuses on both local and global initiatives



Magnetism, art by Ahmed Mater.

Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, has announced its inaugural year engagements, including the first Saudi participation at the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, and support for a publishing initiative of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York and a New York Arab Art Festival.

Ahmed Mater, Director, Misk Art Institute, while declaring the ambitious schedule of international exhibitions, programmes and educational activities, said that the new Saudi cultural organisation would undertake these initiatives during its first full year of operations, this year. Stephen Stapleton, co-founder, Edge of Arabia, is Director, International Program.

Glenn Lowry, MoMA Director, and Jay A Levenson, Director of the Museum's International Program, welcomed Mater and other representatives of the Misk Art Institute to MoMA for the announcement.

As part of the event, Lowry and Mater revealed that the Misk Art Institute is supporting the publication of MoMA's upcoming volume, 'Modern Art in the Arab World: Primary Documents'. Other major initiatives of the Misk Art Institute during 2018 will include:

- * the selection of architects to design the Institute's headquarters facility in Riyadh, following an international competition,
- * bringing young Saudi artists to California for a "Create and Inspire" educational exchange programme
- * inaugurating a multi-venue, multidisciplinary New York Arab

Art Festival in October 2018

Lowry said: "It is a pleasure for us to welcome the Misk Art Institute as it inaugurates an ambitious roster of international programmes. This exciting new venture holds out the promise of a deepened and enriched artistic and scholarly exchange across traditions and cultures, in which MoMA is proud to play a role. We especially welcome the leadership of Ahmed Mater, himself an internationally recognised artist, as the Director of this important initiative".

Mater said that "we are grateful to Glenn Lowry, Jay Levenson and the leadership and staff of MoMA for their warm hospitality as we announce the vision and international programme of the Misk Art Institute, which includes our support of the publication 'Modern Art in the Arab World: Primary Documents'.

"When we talk about the Misk Art Institute – we are proposing and dreaming of an open platform, led by artists, from the ground up. The institute will comprise both spaces in Saudi Arabia and a series of projects regionally and internationally.

"These are foundations from which channels can be forged collaboratively with a new generation of artists, designers and thinkers – following processes and directions as novel as their creative output".

The first Saudi participation at the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia will be located in the Arsenale and will feature an exhibition commissioned by the Misk Art Institute under the theme of Un/Design.

A response to the theme of Freespace announced by the Biennale Architettura 2018, Un/Design will explore the possibility of loosening the formality of the design process. It will leave room for unexpected collisions that can result in exchange of and among elements in space. A jury is currently in the process of selecting a project to showcase the final design out of the 66 submissions received through an open call.

The New York Arab Art Festival, to be held over the course of two to four weeks in October 2018, will present a wealth of exhibitions, screenings, performances, educational programmes, public art commissions, lectures and artists' talks.

Partner institutions will co-produce exhibitions and programmes with the Misk Art Institute, or will host special projects under the festival's umbrella as part of their curatorial programmes.

To help identify and invest in the next generation of creative leaders and cultural innovators in the Gulf, the Misk Art Institute and the Crossway Foundation have established "Create and Inspire" as a competitive programme open to nationals and residents in Saudi Arabia.

An open call to participate will be issued in March, and in late fall 2018, a total of ten young artists will leave for California, where they will gain first-hand experience with leading tech companies, start-ups and artists' studios.

The inaugural programme will become the foundation for a reciprocal "Create and Inspire" trip for young US artists and innovators to Saudi Arabia in 2019. Further information about the Misk Art

Institute's international programme will be announced in the coming months.

Within Saudi Arabia, the Misk Art Institute has commissioned a new building to serve as its headquarters in Riyadh and has announced that Michele De Lucchi of aMDL, Skene Catling de la Pena and Factum Arte, have been selected as architects.

Designed to support and encourage artistic experimentation and collaboration, the building will have facilities that include exhibition galleries, a film theatre, spaces for meetings, education programmes and test sites for the convergence of art and technology.

The institute also plans to operate a community-focused art centre in Abha, the culturally rich capital of the Asir region of south western Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, aMDL, Skene Catling de la Pena and Factum Arte said: "Our team is honoured and delighted to have been selected to help conceive and design the new Misk Art Institute complex in Riyadh. The project will demonstrate the Misk Foundation's commitment to the creative arts in the Kingdom's cultural vision for the future of their society.

"For us it will be an opportunity to bring together many experiences and ideas that define architecture, art and its production. The emphasis will be on the sharing and communication of ideas and the vitality art can inject into society.

"Our intention is to work with the directors of Misk to develop a project rooted in the cultural history and natural environment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that will be recognised as one of the most progressive arts centres in the world.

"It will be a new type of artists' studio embedded within exhibition spaces and production workshops where new technologies and craft skills merge".

The Misk Art Institute is a new organisation operating under the auspices of the Misk Foundation, established by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as part of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision programme. It was created to encourage grassroots artistic production in Saudi Arabia and enable cultural diplomacy and exchange.

Focused on establishing itself as an artist-centered cultural innovator, the Misk Art Institute will have, besides its headquarters building in Riyadh, an artist residency focused centre in Abha, Asir region, and an international office in London.

The institute's programme will incorporate exhibitions and events, artist-led communications and an arts education programme aimed at training and investing in the career development of young artists.

Misk Art Institute also took part in the premiere of Saudi Arabia's first art book fair, Art Books Jeddah (Feb. 8–11). It coincided with the 5th edition of 21,39, a city-wide arts festival organised by the Saudi Art Council.

Art Books Jeddah 2018 was hosted by Athr as part of 21,39 and presented in partnership with The Crossway Foundation, Fully Booked and Bricklab.

Curated by Abdulrahman Gazzaz, Art Books Jeddah acts as the gathering point for those interested in publishing for the arts community in Jeddah and Saudi Arabia.



Mexican flavour

Linda Gassenheimer shares the recipe of a Mexican-inspired turkey and refried bean enchiladas dish that can be made in minutes



Enjoy this Mexican-inspired turkey and refried bean enchiladas dish that takes five minutes to make using a microwave oven. It's topped with a spicy tomato sauce.

Esquites, or fried corn, is a typical Mexican side dish. Using diced onion and green peppers found in the produce department and frozen corn kernels, it takes only minutes to prepare.

HELPFUL HINTS

Look for low-sodium tomato sauce. Any type of pasta or marinara sauce can be used.

Shredded, reduced-fat Mexican style cheese can be used instead of Monterey jack.

Canned low-fat and no-fat refried beans can be found in the ethnic section of the supermarket.

Frozen diced onion and green bell pepper can be used instead of fresh onion and pepper.

If you do not have a microwave, enchiladas can be cooked in the oven or under a broiler.

COUNTDOWN

Prepare enchilada.
Sauté the esquites.
Heat enchiladas in microwave oven.

SHOPPING LIST

To buy: 1 package 6-inch corn tortillas, 1/2 pound reduced-sodium, sliced turkey breast, 1 can non-fat refried beans, 1 small bottle low-sodium, tomato sauce, 1 small package shredded, reduced-fat Monterey jack cheese, 1 small bunch cilantro, 1 container diced onion, 1 container diced green bell pepper and 1 small package frozen corn kernels.

Staples: Canola oil, hot pepper sauce, salt and black peppercorns.

TURKEY AND REFRIED BEAN ENCHILADAS

INGREDIENTS

4 6-INCH CORN TORTILLAS
1/2 POUND REDUCED-SODIUM, SLICED TURKEY BREAST
1/2 CUP CANNED NON-FAT REFRIED BEANS
1/2 CUP CHOPPED FRESH CILANTRO
1 CUP BOTTLED LOW-SODIUM, TOMATO SAUCE
1/8 TEASPOON HOT PEPPER SAUCE
1/2 CUP SHREDDED, REDUCED-FAT MONTEREY JACK CHEESE

METHOD

Place tortillas on a counter top. Divide turkey slices among the four tortillas. Spread refried beans over the turkey and sprinkle cilantro on top. Roll up tortillas and place in a microwave-safe dish just big enough to hold them, seam side down. Mix tomato sauce and hot pepper sauce together and spoon over tortillas. Cover with another dish or plastic wrap and microwave on high for two minutes. Remove cover and sprinkle with Monterey jack cheese. Cover and microwave one minute. Divide between two plates.

Alternatively, enchiladas can be placed in an oven preheated to 400 degrees for 10 minutes to warm through or under a broiler for 5 minutes.

ESQUITES (FRIED CORN)

INGREDIENTS

2 TEASPOONS CANOLA OIL
1 CUP DICED ONION
1 CUP DICED GREEN BELL PEPPER
1 CUP FROZEN CORN KERNELS
SEVERAL DROPS HOT PEPPER SAUCE
SALT AND FRESHLY GROUND BLACK PEPPER

METHOD

Heat oil in a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, green peppers and corn. Sauté 5 to 6 minutes. Add, hot pepper sauce, salt and pepper to taste.
Yield 2 servings.

Tribune News Service

BAG OF 10 GENERAL



QUIZ MASTER
STANLEY DAVID
IS THE AUTHOR OF THE PENGUIN INDIA QUIZ BOOK

Whirligig, Bombardier and Minotaur are all types of insects belonging to which order, the largest order in number of species in the animal kingdom?

1 Amidst growing frustration with the existing healthcare systems in the United States, what did three major US companies, Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JP Morgan Chase, announce on Jan. 30 2018, which might trigger similar examples elsewhere?

2 A dramatic event in sports, that is bound to earn them a nomination for the Nobel Peace prize. North and South Korea marched under a united flag at the 2018 Winter Olympics opening ceremony in Pyeongchang in a symbolic break in tensions between the two nations over North Korea's nuclear program. In which event did they do this?

3 Whirligig, Bombardier and Minotaur are all types of insects belonging to which order, the largest order in number of species in the animal kingdom?

4 Which five-letter term, Greek for "unguent" denotes a complex of molten silicates with water and gases formed within the upper mantle of the earth?

5 It is an infection of the tissue adjacent to a nail, most often a fingernail. It's caused by injury or irritation, such as a hangnail, cuticle damage or continually wet hands. Treatments include hot water soaks and medication, such as antibiotics or antifungals. Pus may need to be drained. What is the medical term for it?

6 A galaxy, CR7, was reported to be three times brighter than the brightest distant galaxy known up to the time of its discovery. It's name is inspired by famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo. What is the actual name of that galaxy?

7 The noted designer Oscar de la Renta died in October 2014. In a tribute, a magazine wrote about how de la Renta overhauled the official uniform of a youth organisation's American chapter. This led to a new 'subdued' khaki colour scheme, fabric made of cotton and polyester, and olive khaki shorts and shirts. Which organisation?

8 The scientific name of this animal is *Tolypeutes tricinctus*. In local language it is called tatu-bola. It was chosen as the mascot for the World Cup, 2014. Which creature?

9 The United States Secret Service has used code names for the commander-in-chief, first ladies, children and other prominent figures. The names often are funny or clever, with references to the individual's background, hobbies or profession. What apt name was chosen for Donald Trump, in view of his business interests?

10 Recently, the Falcon Heavy rocket was launched. Built by Elon Musk's company SpaceX, the rocket was carrying what automobile as its payload?

ANSWERS

1. THEY DECIDED TO CREATE THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE COMPANIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES
2. WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM
3. BEETLES
4. MAGMA. IT IS EXPECTED TO EXIST ON OTHER TERRESTRIAL PLANETS AND SOME NATURAL SATELLITES
5. PARONYCHIA

6. COSMOS REDSHIFT 7
7. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
8. THE BRAZILIAN ARMADILLO. IT IS ONE OF ONLY TWO SPECIES OF ARMADILLO (THE OTHER IS THE SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO) THAT CAN ROLL INTO A BALL
9. MOGHUL
10. TESLA ROADSTER

FALCON HEAVY ROCKET





Nectar of education

Muhammad Yusuf reports on a nursery where love is as much part of the curriculum as lessons

“Enter to Learn, Leave to Achieve” is the motto of Rahiq Al Asal Nursery (RAAN), Sharjah. Guided by its Principal Namrata Pallan and encouraged by Assistant Manager Mohammed Yousuf Ilyas, with well qualified supporting staff, RAAN aims to provide children a lead start in life which will enable them to start full time school as confident, curious and independent learners.

Pallan is deeply into child education. She is a knowledgeable about child psychology as she is considerate about children’s needs. “You will remember nursery rhymes, but forget grade one lessons”, she says, noting the importance of early education.

RAAN accepts children aged one month to four years. It has four

classes, divided according to age group. Each class has a capacity of 8 – 10 children, leading to a total capacity of 100 children.

On the staff is Asra, who teaches age group three-and-a-half to four-and-a-half years and Yasmin, who teaches Arabic and Quran to age group two-four. Parents are guided on food habits of children, taught basics of sleep training and given hygiene lessons in child rearing.

Pallan speaks about her school and child education

* Is RAAN a mosaic where many nationalities come together to form a wonderful experience or is it an Indian thali where each savory retains its individuality but contributes to a holistic taste?

I would say RAAN is a mosaic with over 20 nationalities in its frame, coming together to form a

wonderful experience for children as well as the teachers alike.

* As RAAN’s ‘Principal Student’, what have the children taught you?

With over 20 nationalities contributing to the growth of RAAN, and as RAAN’s Principal student, I have learnt to be more patient and more welcoming to my acquaintances.

The kids trust you no matter who you are and which nationality you belong to. They just get attracted to the love you shower on them. Their smiles make my days brighter day after day!

* Could you give some details about RAAN’s educational field trips and visits from professionals?

RAAN’s educational field trips are planned as per the theme of the month. This helps the children to connect learning with the real



Namrata Pallan

world. These support the seven areas of learning in EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage).

For instance, our visit to a supermarket: kids usually, when out with parents, are tempted to touch things kept on shelves, which might result in damage to fragile products.

To avoid this, we begin with role play at our nursery to make children acquainted with the actual scenario and its consequences, rather than just saying ‘NO’.

We set up stalls for buying and selling products like fruits, vegetables, etc. The child then expresses what he or she would like to buy and why.

This personal development results in expressing reasonable thinking, right from a very young age. This is an example, to mention just one.

Our efforts and the child’s grasping capacity are put to test





Qualified staff is one of RAAN's strong points.

while on the field. Our success parameters include children holding hands and walking in groups, not running at the sight of a favourite toy, asking permission to use the restroom of the supermarket, etc.

For the children, it is excitement going out with friends, having fun; they naturally put forward their best behaviour, inculcated during role plays at the nursery.

At this point in time, the kids are unaware that they are under constant vigilance of the practitioner. The shortcomings, if any, are tried to be overcome at the nursery and also shared with parents, if need arises.

It goes similarly with visits from professionals like doctors, dentists, etc. It's always learning through play!

Ilyas talks about RAAN

*** WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION?**

Education, I feel, is mainly a social service which will help in the development of our own selves and the whole of society. The character moulding of a person mainly depends on his educational qualification. All of this starts from the foundation—childhood. That's why we are mainly into children's education.

*** WHAT SERVICES DOES THE NURSERY OFFER**

LEGOLAND DUBAI LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR JUNIOR REPORTERS

Four lucky children will have the chance to be part of the LEGOLAND Dubai Junior Reporter team, where they'll be invited to report from the theme park's events and launches

They say there's no substitute for experience, so what better way for a budding young journalist to prepare themselves for a successful future than with the job of a lifetime as a LEGOLAND Dubai Junior Reporter?

LEGOLAND Dubai, part of Dubai Parks and Resorts, the region's largest integrated theme park destination, has launched an exciting opportunity

THAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

We are a British EYFS Curriculum nursery, and the basic concept is making children learn things by making them do things practically, which will help them to learn in a more interesting and special way.

*** DO YOU HAVE A LOGO AND WHAT IS ITS MEANING AND MESSAGE?**

Yes, we do have a logo. Our nursery name means "Nectar Honey". Bees, as we know, get honey from nectar. Similarly, we provide the initial foundations of quality education to children.

*** CAN YOU SPEAK A FEW LINES ABOUT EDUCATION IN THE GULF, WITH REFERENCE TO SCHOOL EDUCATION?**

The education sector in the Gulf has developed a lot in recent times, and there are many top franchise schools here in UAE from different parts of the world.

*** WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS IN EDUCATION?**

Future plans are to make the children of Rahiq Al Asal Nursery so smart, that people will tell each other that this might be a product of RAAN! We also plan to open branches in all the seven Emirates of the UAE, so we can establish our quality education everywhere.

Photographs: Raju Chandra

for English and Arabic speaking children to become one of four official Junior Reporters! The role will allow children to report first-hand from all events at LEGOLAND Dubai — all while enjoying the 60 rides, attractions and building experiences spread across LEGOLAND Dubai and LEGOLAND® Water Park.

From Feb.7 to 28 children aged 6-12 will be able to enter by uploading a video in English or Arabic to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #ImAJuniorReporter, explaining why they should be one of the LEGOLAND Junior Reporters. Lucky hopefuls must also follow the LEGOLAND Dubai social media accounts, and tag them in the post. The winners will be announced on March 14 based on the most creative and engaging entries.



JUMPING WONDER

'DANDARA,' FEELING SALTY



While it's usually pretty easy to understand what a game will be about based on standard game genre classifications, sometimes a title comes around that completely bucks the trend. Such is the case with "Dandara," the new game from developer Long Hat House that could and perhaps likely should be described as a retro-inspired Metroidvania, yet manages not to feel like one.

While the familiar notions of room-to-room exploration and the gradual acquisition of abilities are all present and in good form, "Dandara" sidesteps the genre's typical gameplay by removing the basic ability for players to run or even walk.

As a result, the game feels less like a throwback adventure and more like an experimental new way to approach the genre — and that means it comes with a substantial learning curve.

By far the most outstanding component of "Dandara" is the game's limited moveset. Dandara herself can't run or walk, only jump — and even then, she can only jump in a straight line and can only land in specific areas of the environment. Aiming jumps can be accomplished either by using the mouse, by making swipes on a touch screen, or by using a controller's right analog stick, with the latter choice providing handy guides indicating current aim direction as well as the currently-targeted landing area.

Jumping is quick, and with a little bit of practice, players can whip around different environments with surprising speed. Much of this speed comes down to the game's jump aim assist, which is likely there to help ease players away from the need for constant precision. Unfortunately, the auto-aiming mechanic is also tied to the game's requirement for Dandara

to land within specially-marked areas, which means the game is often sending the hero toward landing zones that aren't within the player's own sights.

Coupled with environments that are sometimes designed to be navigated in just one direction, I often found myself jumping to places I wasn't aiming for and landing in places I didn't want to be. As a way to move around, this method certainly works, but it sometimes makes basic exploration feel more frustrating than it should be, particularly toward the beginning of the game. This feeling is exacerbated by the game's unusual lack of traditional gravity, where players often land on what was once a ceiling or wall only to have the camera perspective flip to accommodate the new position.

Aside from unusual methods of locomotion, Dandara does offer a fair amount of Metroidvania-styled content. Dandara herself can make use of a projectile attack that functions almost like a short-range shotgun blast, the likes of which can be aimed in the same manner as jumping. Destroying enemy creatures and objects around the environment will also drop Salt, the commodity that players will use to expand Dandara's own powers. Hidden areas and treasure chests scattered throughout the map offer up different items and abilities, the likes of which players will need in order to progress to the later stages of game, and numerous environment-based traps mean the player often has to move both quickly and carefully.

As far as presentation is concerned, Dandara is a sort of mixed bag. The graphics certainly call back to the 16-bit era of gaming, with both creatures and environments rendered in a fantastic pixel art style that makes me feel all warm and cozy inside.

Kevin Tucker/ Tribune News Service



Global call for coral reefs

BY MEENA S. JANARDHAN



Last week, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales announced a global call to action to save coral reefs from complete global collapse. His call marks the start of a global campaign designed by The Ocean Agency, for the International Year of the Reef – a multi government and NGO initiative led by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in collaboration with UN Environment Programme.

The Prince's announcement comes at a pivotal time for coral reefs. The last three years have seen the longest and most extensive coral die-off ever recorded and this impact from global climate change is predicted to worsen for at least the next two to three decades, threatening further destruction to reefs that are already suffering damage from overfishing and pollution.

The aim of the International Year of the Reef campaign is to draw attention to the crisis facing coral reefs and to secure the support necessary from governments, NGOs, businesses and the public. It aims to build on a new level of support for coral reef conservation and science, prompted by the recent global die-off, and help ensure 2018 becomes a turning point for coral reef conservation. It is intended to be a catalyst for action at a scale that has never been achieved before bringing together all sectors to work as a global community to find solutions to a global problem.

To support the campaign, the International Year of the Reef launched a unique library of imagery and resources which are freely available to download and use. It includes imagery collected for Google Street View and during filming for the Netflix Original Documentary Chasing Coral.

About the initiative

The ICRI is an informal partnership between nations and organizations. It strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. Although the Initiative is an informal group whose decisions are not binding on its members, its actions have been pivotal in continuing to highlight globally the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems to environmental sustainability, food security and social and cultural wellbeing.

The work of ICRI is regularly acknowledged in United Nations documents, highlighting the Initiative's important cooperation, collaboration and advocacy role within the international arena. The Initiative was founded in 1994 by eight governments: Australia, France, Japan, Jamaica, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and USA. ICRI now counts more than 60 members.

At the 31st General Meeting (November 2016 in Paris, France), the ICRI declared 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef and asked countries to:

- strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- promote partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on the management of coral reefs;
- identify and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices; and
- share information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management.

1997 was declared the first International Year of the Reef

(IYOR), in response to the increasing threats on coral reefs and associated ecosystems, such as mangroves and sea grasses around the world. IYOR was a global effort to increase awareness and understanding on the values and threats to coral reefs, and to support related conservation, research and management efforts. Over 225 organizations in 50 countries and territories participated, and over 700 articles in papers and magazines were generated, and hundreds of scientific surveys were undertaken.

Recognizing that, ten years later, there continued to be an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reefs and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the second International Year of the Reef, IYOR 2008.

Nations, organizations, and individuals around the world celebrated the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008): from international organizations to village children, to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and to motivate people to take action to protect them. A tremendous amount of material was produced in several languages during that year, including educational DVDs, posters, children's books, and much more. More than 630 events were organized in over 65 countries and territories around the world. IYOR 2008 has now come to an end, but the spirit lives on... To learn more about the IYOR 2008 accomplishment, download the IYOR Report.

Invaluable ecosystem
Tropical coral reefs cover a mere 0.1 per cent of the ocean but are among the most bio-

diverse ecosystems on the planet, supporting one quarter of all marine species. They occur in over 100 countries, including more than 80 developing countries, and sustain human society through a range of ecosystem services, such as livelihoods and food security from fisheries, revenue from tourism, erosion prevention and protection from extreme weather events through dissipation of wave energy and lessening inundation and damage during storms.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study found that coral reefs generate up to \$1.25 million per hectare from tourism, coastal protection, medical use and fisheries annually. Approximately 850 million people live within 100 km of and derive some benefits from coral reefs, with at least 275 million depending directly on reefs for livelihoods and sustenance. Reef-dependence, and consequently vulnerability to reef loss, is particularly high in small island states, in many countries in the coral triangle, and in coastal populations in developing countries.

Despite their importance, however, coral reefs are rapidly degrading. Overfishing, destructive fishing, unsustainable coastal development, nutrient and sediment loading, a range of land-based activities, warming temperatures due to climate change and ocean acidification are all placing extremely high pressure on the world's coral reefs, and action is needed now if we are to adequately protect them. In fact, in the last 30 years we have lost between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the world's live coral, and it is predicted that by mid-century we could lose functional coral reef ecosystems across most of the world.



HELLO YOUNG ARTISTS

Take out your crayons, colour pencils or paint boxes and start drawing and colouring. Your original drawings and illustrations are always welcome. A4 paper size is ideal. Please send in your drawings and paintings, along with your photograph. We will select the best ones and publish them! The address is: Young World, The Gulf Today, Post Box 30, Sharjah e-mail: gulftoday30@gmail.com

WUZZLES®

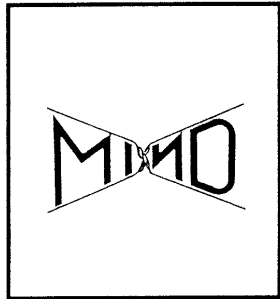
WORD PUZZLES BY **WOOD TOM**

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

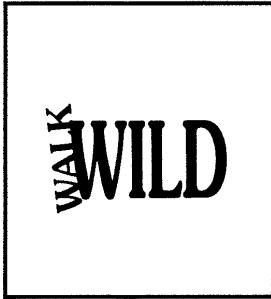
3 WUZZLES BOOKLETS

"The Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.00), "More of the Best of Wuzzles" (\$4.50), and "Wuzzles for Kids" (\$4.25) are available, postpaid, from Wuzzles, Box 1141, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

1.



2.



Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

Today's Answers:

2. Walk on the wild side
1. A twisted mind

Created by Tom Underwood
www.wuzzleking.com

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8-16

ANSWERS

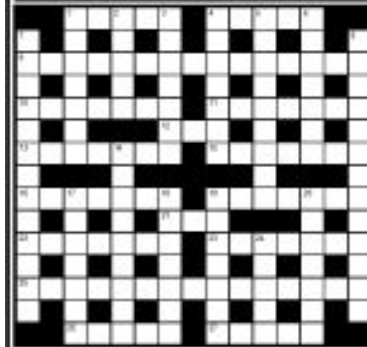
WUZZLES®

1. A twisted mind
2. Walk on the wild side

8-16

CROSSWORD

Ahamed Mohideen, K.A. ADMA Abu Dhabi



Down

- 1 Music instrument of the saxhorn family (7)
- 2 Dried fibrous part of the fruit, used as a washing sponge or strainer (5)
- 3 Source of oil used for forage, soil improvement and food (7)
- 4 Porch along the outside of a building (7)
- 5 Card game played by one person in computer (8)
- 6 Pear-shaped tropical fruit with green skin (7)
- 7 Accident is written by (8,5)
- 8 Annual rowing event on the Thames in Oxfordshire (13)
- 14 Public institution for the care of children who has lost parents (8)
- 17 City of Brazil famous for citrus fruits and silkworm cultivation (7)
- 18 Posing no difficulty; requiring little effort (7)
- 19 Clothing fabric in a plaid weave (7)
- 20 Place where arms are manufactured (7)
- 24 Someone who leads you to believe something that is not true (5)

Across

- 1 Collection of maps in book form (5)
- 4 Brightest asteroid (5)
- 9 British writer and author of Barchester Towers (7,8)
- 10 Period following the Bronze Age (4,3)
- 11 Basketball originated from (7)
- 12 Assist (3)
- 13 American president, his famous speech "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" (7)
- 15 Court-ordered support paid by one spouse to another after they are separated (7)
- 16 The obscuring of one celestial body by another (7)
- 19 Bomb detonated by a fuse and thrown by hand (7)
- 21 Tropical American cuckoo bird, black, with a long tail (3)
- 22 Large hemispherical copper percussion musical instrument with a drumhead (7)
- 23 Capital of Cyprus (7)
- 25 Heroine of Pride and Prejudice (8,6)
- 26 Automatic signal warning of danger (5)
- 27 Hotel intended primarily for those traveling (5)

Last week's solutions



CROSSWORD NO. 782

WINNING POSE



A Maltese waits in the benching area on Day One of competition at the Westminster Kennel Club 142nd Annual Dog Show in New York.

Agence France-Press

WORD SLEUTH • MASKED

L O M O T N A H P L J G E B K
Y W R U R E P N K N I J G S D
L O N E R A N G E R A B A N Z
X V S A D Q O R M S K M A I G
E C A Y M A W U O S E M T N Q
P N L S J R V N L H O H I A F
O H S A L F E H T W N B E M B
C R A U Y X V D T U O E S N Q
P N R R M K J A I R H F E O E
C S N O O C C A R P A B Z R Y
X V U N Z T R Q P O S D M I G

Batman Iron Man Raccoons The Flash
Catwoman Jason Robin The Mask
Darth Vader Lone Ranger Sauron Zorro
Green Hornet Owl Spider-Man

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Versatility meets comfort

Volkswagen's 2018 Golf SportWagen is a beautifully designed, nimble, fun-to-drive vehicle with lots of space, says Emma Jayne Williams



Since its introduction in 2015 replacing the Jetta wagon, the Volkswagen Golf SportWagen, billed as a “sportier alternative to compact SUVs,” has been a top choice for buyers who want a nimble, fun-to-drive vehicle with lots of space, versatility, comfort, and performance. The Golf SportWagen is also beautifully designed. The appearance is basically unchanged for 2018, with new LED taillights and daytime running lights on the base S trim, and automatic rain-sensing headlights, along with automatic rain-sensing wipers.

All Golf models have newly-designed LED Daytime Running Lights and striking LED taillights.

Inside, the SportWagen has a few mild changes, most noticeably a new standard 6.5-inch Composition Colour infotainment system, replacing the five-inch system on the S model. A new, larger MIB II touch-screen infotainment system is available on all trims up to eight inches. An added value change for 2018 is a new People First Warranty, a six-year, 72,000-mile warranty, replacing the previous three-year limited warranty. The

new warranty can be transferred to subsequent owners throughout its duration.

SportWagen is available in S, SE, and SEL trims, with pricing from \$21,685 for the S model with front-wheel drive and a five-speed manual transmission (six-speed automatic transmission adds \$1,100) to \$30,245 for an SEL with six-speed automatic. An S 4Motion with a six-speed manual transmission is \$23,935, with a six-speed automatic transmission it is \$25,035. The 4Motion system directs power to the front wheels until slip is detected, then sends as much as 50 per cent to the rear wheels.

Under the hood, the SportWagen has a 1.8-litre, 170-horsepower turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine. The EPA estimates front-drive SportWagens with a five-speed manual will achieve 25 mpg city / 35 highway. The SportWagen is internationally recognised as a Volkswagen, with the unmistakable DNA of the Golf, while displaying distinctive elements of its own – a “D” pillar, roof rails and a unique rear design.

For this review, I drove a Reflex

Silver Metallic SportWagen S with Titan Black textured cloth seating with contrast stitching. The interior is trimmed with brushed metallic on the door panels, glossy gray on the dash and center stack/console, and piano-black on the steering wheel, shifter knob (five-speed manual transmission), and parking brake handle. Knitted cloth covered the door panels and felted cloth lined the door pockets.

Eight exterior colours are offered, including captivating Night Blue Metallic, Elegant Silk Blue Metallic and brawny Tungsten Silver Metallic. Interiors come in Titan or Beige cloth for S and S 4Motion; Titan or Beige V-TEX Leatherette, or Quartz Gray/Titan Sport leatherette for SE and SEL, depending on model and/or exterior colour chosen.

The hood slopes down into the front fenders and has deep creases from the upper grille to the “A” pillars. The updated front grille freshens the front with upper and lower chrome trim.

In addition to new taillights there is a wide rear window and a

wide, low tailgate that integrates the license plate. Black roof rails add to versatility, with a place to haul bikes, sports equipment, skis, or luggage.

Load height of 24.8 inches and an opening of 40.6 inches make the SportWagen very functional for weekend adventures or daily hauling of kids to school and/or practice.

The SportWagen is 179.6 inches long and 70.8 inches wide, ensuring sporty proportions and aerodynamic performance. The front wheels sit forward, for a premium “cab backward” appearance. Styling and updated proportions help achieve a lower visual center of gravity and more-dynamic stance. Wheel size and style varies according to model – my S had 15-inch “Lyon” silver-painted aluminum-alloy wheels with 10 spokes, alternating thin and straight with thick and carved. Cargo volume is on par with compact SUVs, and passenger volume is increased due to the wagon body style. With the 60/40 rear seats up, cargo space is 30.4 cubic feet, increasing to 66.5 cubic feet with the seats fully folded.

Release levers in the cargo area are convenient for quick folding.

Front passengers have 41.2 inches of legroom, while rear passengers have 35.6 inches. Headroom is 38.6 inches for both rows, and total passenger volume is 94.3 cubic feet.

Controls are positioned for optimum ergonomics and usability, with the center stack angled toward the driver, a feature often seen in premium luxury or performance vehicles.

Seat position, shifter height, and spacing between the pedals are refined for maximum driver comfort. A leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter knob, along with white backlighting for the controls and soft-touch plastics highlight the upscale ambience of the interior. The MIB II infotainment system, the foundation for VW’s Car-Net connected vehicle services, is standard across the SportWagen line, and also offers one of the most comprehensive suites of connected vehicle services and features in the industry. Introduced in VWs in 2015, MIB was updated in 2016.

Tribune News Service



Talking Point

FIGURE IT OUT

The capital Pristina is covered in the blue and yellow colours of the Kosovan flag for a weekend of festivities, with Kosovo-born British pop star Rita Ora didn't disappoint her Kosovan fans as she put on an incredible concert on Saturday.

"It's been a long journey to get to this point and I think it's just a start of an ongoing incredible journey for our country," the 27-year-old told reporters after arriving back in her birthplace.

The singer's family left Kosovo in 1991 to escape the repression imposed by Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic after he stripped the Yugoslav province of its autonomy.

The songstress belted out her smash-hits to the enormous crowd while giving them quite an eyeful with her sheer leotard.

As she danced her heart out to her chart-topping tunes, Rita's gym-honed pins were on full display with her sheer tights with daring black thigh paneling to accentuate her slender figure and pert derriere.

Rita added height to her slim physique in elegant black boots while she paraded on stage while flanked by her band and back-up dancers.

The talented singer let her scanty outfit do all the talking, with only a glitzy statement ring for extra glamour.

Rita looked over the pop sensation as her signature blonde locks billowed along with her dance moves.



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