

# TIME OUT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

The Gulf Today

## THE 60TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS

CANADIAN SINGER AND SONGWRITER ALESSIA CARA WINS BEST NEW ARTIST

DESIGN: ANSAR SALEEM

# Kiss this

NEW

JAPANESE CHERRY BLOSSOM  
STRAWBERRY KISS

100%  
VEGAN

THE BODY SHOP

f t i y The Body Shop UAE





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Leonardo da Vinci

# INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR LOCAL ADVOCATE

**Muhammad Yusuf has the details on an art promoter who has won a prestigious international award**

Zaahirah Muthy, Dubai-based art promoter, has been awarded the International Prize - Leonardo Da Vinci - Universal Artist Award - at Borghese Palace in Florence, Italy. The prestigious award was given to her for her "extraordinary contribution to the art scene" and for her "artistic merit and being a role model" who inspires other artists.

Muthy is an artist, activist and founder of ZeeArts, a Dubai artist platform, whose ultimate aim is to become the leading art consultancy organisation regionally and globally. It offers state of the art solutions including concept development, bespoke consultancy, collaborations with local artists, and framing and installation services. She is also curator, World Art Dubai, and manager, R Gallery.

A native of the island nation of Mauritius - she laughingly reminds us that it is the land of the dodo, an extinct, flightless bird that was endemic there - she holds many brushes. Besides delivering lectures and organising exhibitions,

ZeeArts has made a name for itself through its residency programme.

Celebrities from the world of art and culture graced the award event in the iconic and dazzling Borghese Palace, which is one of the most significant examples of Neo-Classical architecture of Florence, which is the capital city of Italy's Tuscany region.

The award is one of the most prestigious art awards awarded in Florence, home of the Renaissance. By connecting it to da Vinci (1452 - 1519), the Italian renaissance polymath, the organisers aim to encourage the artists honoured with the prize in his name. Simultaneously, they link the art practice of the honorees to the art icon.

Many historians and scholars consider da Vinci as the prime example of the 'Universal Genius' or the embodiment of the 'Renaissance Man' - an individual of unquenchable curiosity and feverishly inventive imagination.

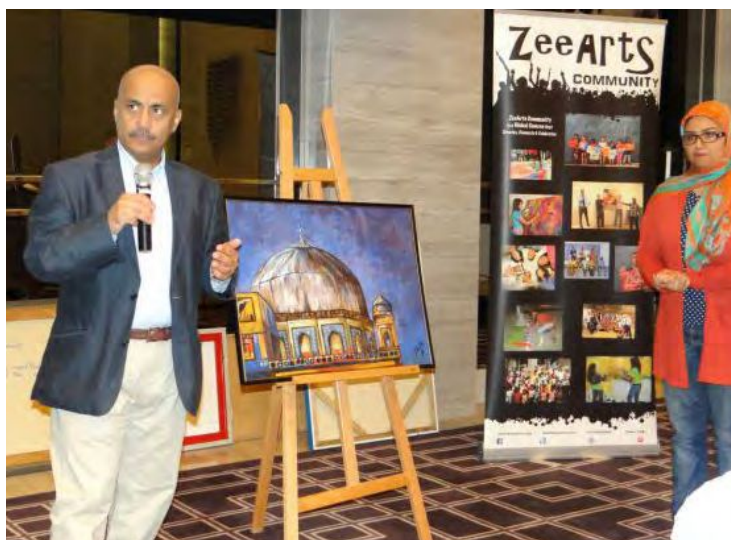
da Vinci is widely regarded as one of the most diversely talented individuals ever to have lived. "I would like to pay tribute to



Zaahirah Muthy being presented her award.



Salvatore Russo



Scene from a ZeeArts event.



The audience at the award ceremony.

Leonardo da Vinci for being a roaring inspiration, and thank Salvatore Russo, international curator and critic, for recognising my contribution and giving me this great accolade", says Muthy.

"I would like to dedicate this award to my family who always supported me, my followers on ZeeArts and my people in

Mauritius. It is such a prominent recognition to be part of an international award, particularly since I come from dodo land!"

Muthy says her life has turned different, since the recognition. "My social media links and my phonenumber have been buzzing with congrats messages from people across the world!" she says. "I seize

this opportunity to thank all my friends and fellow artists from all over the globe. I am very happy if I can make a little difference though the initiative of ZeeArts".

Russo is an expert in some of the most important movements and schools of thought of the 1990s. He is drawn towards the art of the past and also its avant-

garde version, and is a specialist in curating international events.

He envisages contemporary art as something which has an eye to the past, but at the same time adopts the most modern and current experimental languages, both in Italy and elsewhere.

# DESIGN SIGN

Muhammad Yusuf reports on the designers who have taken up home in what is a first for a Sharjah-based residency programme

Fikra, the Sharjah-based global and award-winning multi-disciplinary design body, has announced the selection of the first Designers-in-Residence at Fikra Campus that opened in December 2017.

Residents Adnan Arif and Kevin Zweerink have already begun conducting their research and are engaging with their subjects which they will explore for the next three months. Their work will conclude with an exhibition at the Fikra Campus.

Arif is a multi-disciplinary designer with a keen interest in semiotics and design futures. He is a graduate of Manchester School of Art where he specialised in Product Design. He has spent over a decade working in retail and branding, as well conceptualising and designing wristwatches, furniture, and digital lifestyle accessories.

The experience has shaped his personal view of material culture and influenced his practice, which is not confined only to the commercial world. His current

work investigates relationships with objects through the exploration of new tactile archetypes, and the cultural contexts surrounding them.

Zweerink is a multi-disciplinary designer and technologist. He has been an instructor in the Graphic Design department at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He was hosted as a guest critic at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and has participated in GDA Summer Sessions, Tokyo.

His experience in tech organisations at The New York

Times, Facebook and several studios, led him to form an independent practice dedicated to exploring alternative visions for technology in daily life and culture.

He works on digital projects with clients who "run against the grain of Silicon Valley capitalism" and explores the uses of developing technologies as a means of critique, education and expression.

Fikra aims to be a catalyst for sharing knowledge and encourages investigative and research-based approach to design.

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# SHOWING APPRECIATION

**FLEETWOOD MAC WAS HONOURED BY THE CHARITY MUSICARES, AND HELPS RAISE \$7 MILLION WITH A BENEFIT CONCERT IN NEW YORK CITY**



Harry Styles performs with Fleetwood Mac onstage

**R**ock'n' roll's dysfunctional family, Fleetwood Mac, joined with artists paying tribute to their work to raise \$7 million for down-on-their-luck musicians at a benefit in Radio City Music Hall on Jan. 26.

The annual Musicares fundraiser, held each year just before the Grammys, like the awards show was in New York for the first time in 15 years. Fleetwood Mac, made whole again recently when Christine McVie rejoined after a 15-year hiatus, have mellowed and grown more appreciative of their career since their drug-taking, partner-swapping heyday.

"Not very far below the level of dysfunction is what really exists and what we're feeling now more than ever in our career, which is love," said member Lindsey Buckingham.

The band capped the benefit with a five-song mini-set, including the sprawling, experimental "Tusk" and Buckingham's classic kiss-off, "Go Your Own Way." Before that, they listened to artists like Lorde, HAIM, OneRepublic and Miley Cyrus perform their songs.

Former President Bill Clinton was on hand, joined by wife Hillary in the audience, to honour the band whose song "Don't Stop" was the theme for Clinton's 1992 campaign. He said the song was played for him more than "Hail to the Chief."

"I owe them more than any of you do, and I wouldn't miss this for the world," he said.

Clinton and Fleetwood Mac have something else in common: They've both won two Grammys in their careers; Clinton's was for spoken-word recordings.

Stevie Nicks barely held back tears in recalling the 2017 musicares honoree, Tom Petty, who died last fall. Petty's daughter Adria was Fleetwood Mac's guest on the day. Nicks said she knew Petty was ill last year and should have cancelled the concert tour that ended a week before his death.

"My heart will never get over this," she said.

Nicks said she was turning 70 in a few months and marveled that Fleetwood Mac now has several generations of fans. "We have 90-year-old fans," she said. "They're still out there. They just can't make it to our shows."

As the voluble Nicks went on, McVie and drummer Mick Fleetwood danced a waltz behind her. "I should have been a teacher, don't you think?" Nicks said.

She said the band took particular pleasure in hearing younger artists interpret their work, since it brought her back to the time she wrote the words. It was special, too, she noted, since Fleetwood Mac's songs haven't been covered that much.

Lorde was a show-stopper, stalking the stage and tossing her jacket aside as she sang Nicks' "Silver Spring." Other women — the three sisters in HAIM ("Gypsy") and a sparkly-suited Cyrus ("Landslide") also tackled Nicks' compositions.

The Latin artist Juanes stuck with English for his cover of "Hold Me." Alison Krauss, joined by Jerry Douglas on dobro, did a slow and affecting take on McVie's "Songbird." Keith Urban had an energetic take on Buckingham's "Second Hand News."

Jared Leto, dressed all in white and backed by a choir, sang "Never Going Back Again" and remarked how his mother would constantly play the classic Mac album "Rumours" as he was growing up.

"I just want to say thank you to Fleetwood Mac for the inspiration, for the music, for changing my life and changing the lives of so many people here," Leto said.



Former US president Bill Clinton (right) greets members of the band Fleetwood Mac



Brandi Carlile performs



Danielle Haim, (left), Este Haim and Alana Haim arrive at the event

Agence France-Presse



Fleetwood Mac band members take a bow, (left), Stevie Nicks, John McVie, Christine McVie, Lindsey Buckingham and Mick Fleetwood



Juanes performs



Honorees Stevie Nicks, (left), Lindsey Buckingham, Christine McVie and John McVie of Fleetwood Mac



Imagine Dragons: Dan Reynolds (left), Ben McKee, Daniel Platzman and Daniel Wayne Sermon



Kimberly Schlapman, (left), and Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town perform

# IMPRESS

MUSIC

ELTON JOHN HAS DECIDED TO 'GO OUT WITH A BANG' ON HIS FINAL TOUR, SAYS SHAUN TANDON



JULY 18, 2014



December 21, 2005: Sir Elton John with his partner David Furnish.



November 19, 1988: Performing during the French Victoires de la Musique award



February 1, 1993: Elton John with Italian designer Gianni Versace

Elton John announced on Jan. 24 that he is retiring from touring, with the consummate showman saying he wants to devote himself to his children -- but after a final, massive swing around the world.

The 70-year-old British entertainer, revealing his plans at a gala New York event, said he planned to "go out with a bang" with a global tour that will open on Sept. 8 and last through 2021.

"It's the last time that I will be touring and travelling the world, because my priorities have changed in my life," John told several hundred journalists and guests after a mini-concert and virtual reality presentation of his career.

"I've had an amazing life, I've had an amazing career," he said, adding: "My priorities now are my children and my husband and my family."

John, who in the 1980s became

one of the first openly same-gender major celebrities, has two children with his husband, Canadian filmmaker and former advertising executive David Furnish.

The original "Rocket Man" said he had no health concerns, despite a scare with a bacterial infection that caused him to cancel South American dates last year. He said he would stay active, hoping to record more albums and write further musicals.

"I will be creative, hopefully, until the day I die," he said.

Sporting a floral coattail jacket with sequined lapels, John promised an extravagant affair for the "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour which will open in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Anticipating 300 shows around the world, the "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour could easily become one of the most profitable in music history.

"It's a way of going out with a bang. I don't want to go out with a whimper," he said.

John's theatrics have made him a top attraction in Las Vegas. His second residency, the technically lavish "The Million Dollar Piano," will close in May after more than 200 concerts.

The artist said he still relished pleasing crowds -- but, as a septuagenarian, he was more interested in taking his children to

# SIXTY END



October 20, 1971: A portrait of British singer

soccer practice than in travelling. "I never thought that I could love anything as much as I love my sons. There's not a word in the English dictionary that describes the love you have for a child," he said.

John made the announcement under the Roman-inspired dome and columns of Gotham Hall, a former bank turned event space in Midtown Manhattan, where guests were offered champagne and shrimp tempura hors d'oeuvres.



July 22, 1997: Archbishop Magio (right) shaking hands with British rock star Elton John standing next to Princess Diana during the requiem mass for Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace.



March 30, 1983

The self-described Luddite -- "I've never downloaded anything, not even porn," he quipped to laughs -- offered a virtual reality retrospective of his career on headsets offered to the audience.

The mini-biography starts in 1970 at West Hollywood's Troubadour club, where the little-known pianist, born Reginald Dwight, electrified the crowd. It then takes the viewer on stage with him at his legendary 1975 blowouts at Dodger Stadium

in Los Angeles. John, often known as Sir Elton after a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II, has generated decades of hits such as "I'm Still Standing," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

His style brought together the old-school rhythm-and-blues piano of early rock 'n' roll with Gospel influences as well as a solid grounding in classical music.

The artist has also earned a

fortune as a composer for musicals including blockbuster "The Lion King," "Billy Elliot" and the upcoming adaptation of "The Devil Wears Prada."

Forbes magazine in 2017 ranked him as the 26th highest-earning celebrity, earning \$60 million over the previous year.

After struggles in the past with addiction and depression, John's last studio album, "Wonderful Crazy Night," carried a palpable

sense of joy. Last year he put out a greatest hits collection dubbed "Diamonds."

John said he was open to one-off concerts after his tour but that they would likely only be in Britain.

But he has one firm red-line. He said he had instructed his eldest son Zachary, "When Daddy dies, promise me -- there won't be a hologram of me going around the world."

Agence France-Presse



January 24, 2018: Singer Elton John performs before announcing his final "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour in Manhattan, New York



# THE 60TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS SURPRISES AND SNUBS

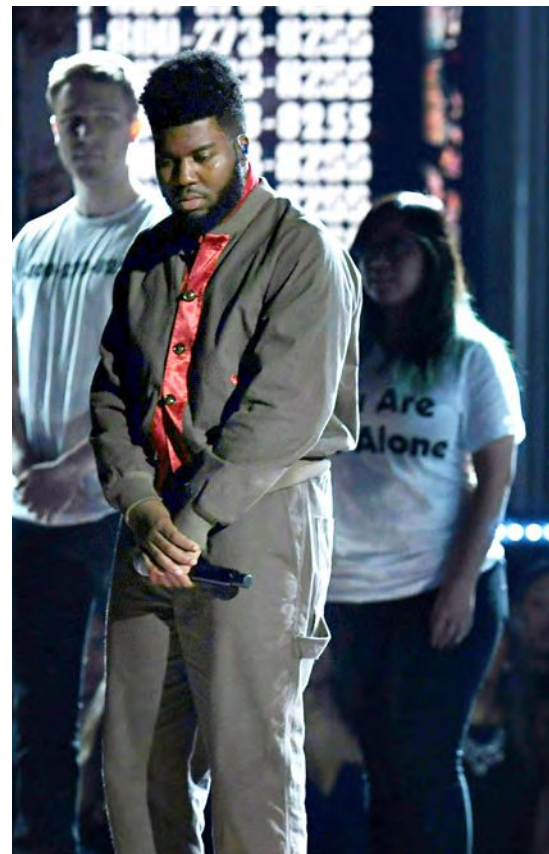
**BRUNO MARS OWNED THE GRAMMYS WITH HIS R&B-INSPIRED ALBUM '24K MAGIC,' WINNING ALL SIX AWARDS HE WAS NOMINATED FOR WHILE ALESSIA CARA WON FOR BEST NEW ARTIST, A CLOSELY WATCHED CATEGORY**



60th Annual Grammy Awards



Alessia Cara, winner of the Best New Artist award







ards — Show — New York, U.S., 28/01/2018 — Bruno Mars accepts the Grammy for record of the year for "24K Magic." REUTERS/Lucas Jackson



Khalid (left), Logic (centre) and Alessia Cara perform

Canada's Alessia Cara, who rose from making YouTube videos in her bedroom to becoming a socially conscious pop singer, won the Grammy for Best New Artist on Jan. 28 at Madison Square Garden in New York city.

The 21-year-old from suburban Toronto won the closely watched award in a field that included fellow young singer Khalid, with whom she collaborated on the suicide prevention song "1-800-273-8255."

"I've been pretend-winning grammys since I was a kid in my shower," Cara told the audience at Madison Square Garden in New York, thanking her fans.

"You are the reason I don't have to win Grammys in my shower any more."

She urged the industry not to forget the many "incredible artists making incredible music that need to be acknowledged, who don't always get acknowledged because of popularity contests and numbers games."

"I just wanted to encourage everyone to support real music and real artists because everyone deserves the same shot," Cara added.

## WINNERS IN TOP CATEGORIES

### BEST POP DUO/GROUP PERFORMANCE:

'FEEL IT STILL,' PORTUGAL. THE MAN

### BEST TRADITIONAL POP VOCAL ALBUM:

'TONY BENNETT CELEBRATES 90,' VARIOUS ARTISTS

### BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM: 'DIVIDE,' ED SHEERAN

### BEST ROCK ALBUM:

'A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING,' THE WAR ON DRUGS

### BEST ALTERNATIVE MUSIC ALBUM:

'SLEEP WELL BEAST,' THE NATIONAL

### BEST RAP SONG: 'HUMBLE.,' KENDRICK LAMAR

### BEST RAP PERFORMANCE: KENDRICK LAMAR

### BEST URBAN CONTEMPORARY ALBUM:

'STARBOY' - THE WEEKND

### BEST R&B ALBUM: '24K MAGIC,' BRUNO MARS

### BEST R&B PERFORMANCE: BRUNO MARS

### BEST R&B SONG: 'THAT'S WHAT I LIKE,' BRUNO MARS

### BEST DANCE/ELECTRONIC ALBUM: '3-D THE CATALOGUE'

### BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM: 'DREAMS AND DAGGERS,'

CECILE MCLORIN SALVANT

### BEST JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM:

'REBIRTH,' BILLY CHILDS

### BEST COMPILATION SOUNDTRACK FOR VISUAL MEDIA:

'LA LA LAND'

### BEST MUSIC VIDEO: "HUMBLE.," KENDRICK LAMAR

Cara, who has a rich voice with a touch of soul, first came to prominence as a teenager recording YouTube videos with humorous but startlingly accurate impersonations of famous singers including Amy Winehouse and Taylor Swift.

Since finding her own voice as a singer, she has spoken to young people struggling to fit in.

Her first single, "Here" — set to the same Isaac Hayes soul sample as English trip-hop band Portishead's 1995 hit "Glory Box" — describes her dread at spending time at a party full of marijuana and overly loud music.

"Scars to Your Beautiful," which also entered the top 10 on the US singles chart, focuses on body image as Cara sings of a young woman preoccupied by her appearance: "You should know you're beautiful just the way you are."

When she released her debut album, "Know-It-All," Cara said she wanted to avoid the "usual stupid comparisons" made about teen pop stars.

"I wanted to steer away from that and show people that I'm real," she said.

Bruno Mars took over the evening with his R&B-inspired album "24K Magic," winning all six awards he was nominated for at a show where hip-hop was expected to have a historical night.

Jay-Z, the leading nominee with eight, walked away empty handed — a year after his wife lost album of the year to Adele, causing fans and peers to criticize the Recording Academy for not properly rewarding Beyonce's bold "Lemonade" project.

And though Kendrick Lamar won five awards, he lost in the top categories, marking another year where rappers were restricted to wins in the rap categories, instead of earning coveted prizes like album of the year.

Mars picked up album of the year for "24K Magic," record of the year for the title track, and song of the year - shared with seven co-writers - for the No. 1 hit, "That's What I Like."

Jay-Z and Lamar could have become the first rapper to win song or record of the year, and the third rap-based act to win album of the year.

But Mars' win still marked some growth for the Academy: His is one of the few R&B albums to win the top prize. He dedicated his win to songwriters who have made history in R&B music, including Babyface, Teddy Riley, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

Lamar's wins included best rap album, best rap song, best rap performance, best rap/sung performance and best music video. He has a career total of 12 Grammys.

Lamar also won with his performance: He kicked off the Grammys with a powerful and poignant performance featuring video screens displaying a waving American flag behind him, as background dancers dressed as army soldiers marched and moved behind him. At one point, Lamar's background dancers, dressed in red, were shot down as he rapped lyrics, later coming back to life as fire burst to end the six-minute performance.

But the night's top performer was Kesha, who was passionate and striking onstage with the help of powerful women behind her, including the Resistance Revival Chorus, Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Bebe Rexha. Dressed in white, they won over the audience while singing Kesha's "Praying" and hugged at the song's end as some audience members cried, including Hailee Steinfeld.

Kesha, who earned her first pair of Grammy nominations this year, has been in a legal war with former producer and mentor Dr. Luke. Janelle Monae introduced the performance with strong words.

"We come in peace but we mean business. To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: Time's Up," Monae said. "It's not just going on in Hollywood. It's not just going on in Washington. It's here in our industry, too."

Before the performance, Maren Morris, Eric Church and Brothers Osborne performed an emotional rendition of Eric Clapton's "Tears In Heaven" — written after his son died — in honour of the 58 people who died at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas last year. The names of victims were displayed behind them as they performed.

Sting's performance was somewhat political as he sang his 1987 song, "Englishman in New York," which includes the lyrics, "Oh, I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York."

Chris Stapleton paid tribute to Tom Petty with Emmylou Harris and also won three awards, including best country album, best country song and best country solo performance.

"We always try to make great records ... and I guess this is a testament to that," Stapleton said.

Little Big Town, who beautifully sang their Taylor Swift-penned No. 1 hit "Better Man," won best country duo/group performance with the song.

Others who shined onstage included Lady Gaga, who won over the audience with a rousing performance of the songs "Joanne" and "Million Reasons"; Sam Smith gave a powerful performance of the song "Pray"; and Pink was a vocal powerhouse while she sang "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken."

Associated Press

COVER STORY



**IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT**  
**KENDRICK LAMAR  
WINS BIG AT THE  
GRAMMYS, TAKING  
FIVE AWARDS,**  
**SAYS SHAUN TANDON**



Rapper Kendrick Lamar took an early lead on Jan. 28 at the Grammy Awards, sweeping up five trophies, as retro funk star Bruno Mars and rap mogul Jay-Z remained in the running for top prizes.

The music industry also seized on its annual televised gala to rally on behalf of the growing women's movement against sexual harassment — Lady Gaga, whispering from her piano in between ballads, declared, "Time's up!"

The Grammys, taking place in New York after 15 years in Los Angeles, marked the first time that hip-hop has dominated the nominations after years of uneven recognition for the genre.

Lamar opened the televised show in Madison Square Garden with a fierce performance, spitting out his verses as he was joined by U2 frontman Bono amid a sea of camouflage-clad dancers who later fell to the ground as if struck by bullets.

The Los Angeles rapper took a strong lead, winning Best Rap Album for "DAMN." and Best Rap Song for "HUMBLE.," a playful take on the trappings of fame in which the 30-year-old portrays himself as Jesus in "The Last Supper."

Lamar had been a favourite two years ago to win Album of the Year or "To Pimp a Butterfly," an experimental album that offered a soundtrack to the Black Lives Matter movement. But he lost out to Taylor Swift.

"DAMN." has also won critical acclaim but turns to a more classic hip-hop sound.

Other major contenders included Mars, with "24K Magic," his latest return to fun-loving, old-school funk. The Hawaiian-born singer earned three awards in R&B categories before the main telecast.

But Jay-Z started the night in the lead with eight nominations as he basked in acclaim for "4:44," an introspective album in which he admits infidelity to his wife Beyoncé and explores institutional racism.

Jay-Z, who rose from a broken home in Brooklyn to become a multimillionaire businessman, was given an "industry icon" award at a gala earlier where he sounded contrite for boycotting the Grammys two decades earlier.

"I realise like, man, art is super subjective and everybody is doing their best and the Academy, they are human like we are," he told the gala, joined by his wife Beyoncé.

But Jay-Z was not being universally celebrated. On Grammy Day, he was taken to task in a tweet by President Donald Trump, who is widely despised in the US entertainment world, for comments he made in an interview to CNN.

"Jay for president," Lamar said in his acceptance speech.

Other contenders for Album of the Year were "Awaken, My Love!," the psychedelic, R&B-infused album by Childish Gambino, the rap alter ego of actor and comedian Donald Glover, and "Melodrama" by 21-year-old New Zealand pop prodigy Lorde, the only woman in the category.

Alessia Cara, who rose from making YouTube videos in her bedroom to becoming a socially conscious pop singer, won the closely watched award of Best New Artist.

The 22-year-old from suburban Toronto told the music industry's gala: "I've been pretend-winning Grammys since I was a kid in my shower."

"I just wanted to encourage everyone to support real music and real artists because everyone deserves the same shot," Cara added.

Cara has quickly found her voice as a singer with singles such as "Here," which describes the dread of forced emotions at a party, and "Scars to Your Beautiful," a call for healthy body image.

Amid the growing attention to gender discrimination in the entertainment industry following revelations of sexual misconduct by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, top stars — notably Lady Gaga — walked the red carpet wearing white roses in solidarity with abuse victims and in an appeal for equality.

Country music legend Reba McEntire, who branched across categories to win the Grammy for Best Roots Gospel Album, said that the white rose amounted to a message to "treat people kindly."

"I want to treat you like I want to be treated. And I think if we did that more often, a lot of these problems would be non-existent," she said.

The Grammys could reach another landmark after a year marked by Trump's attack on immigrants — with "Despacito," whose singer Luis Fonsi offered a racy rendition during the televised gala.

The viral dance hit that has broken the record for views on YouTube is in the running for both Record of the Year, which recognises best tune, and Song of the Year, which awards songwriters.

"Despacito" would be the first non-instrumental song that is not mostly in English to win in either category since the very first Grammys in 1959.



Agence France-Presse

# CHANGING COLOURS

Frankie Taggart writes on the double life of the 'Breaking Bad' villain Giancarlo Esposito



Foreground from left, Dylan O'Brien, Giancarlo Esposito and Rosa Salazar in a scene from 'Maze Runner: The Death Cure.'

There is a trick to being able to pass yourself off as a polite, community-spirited fast food entrepreneur by day while transforming into a brutal drug kingpin by night.

"I hide in plain sight," Gus Fring tells Walter White in the third season of AMC's iconic hit series "Breaking Bad," which celebrated the 10th anniversary of its first episode at the weekend.

This Mr. Chips-Scarface duality is something Giancarlo Esposito is increasingly getting used to as he juggles reprising his role as one of the most memorable villains in television history with being an action hero.

The 59-year-old American, currently filming the fourth season of "Breaking Bad" prequel show "Better Call Saul," also plays valiant resistance leader Jorge in the dystopian "Maze Runner" films.

"People everywhere I go stop me and they of course think that

I'm Gus, which is why I like to juxtapose characters like Gus with a character like Jorge, who is a lot more fun, a little looser, not as calculating," says Esposito.

The actor had already appeared in more than 40 movies before "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan called on his talents for a role Esposito says has been his making.

"It changed the nature of my career because people didn't see me that way and they didn't know that there was a depth to not only my acting work, but that I could be that menacing," he tells AFP.

"I'd certainly played menacing characters before but not to the extent of Gus Fring. It has created a new position in the acting world for Giancarlo Esposito."

Esposito -- whose big screen credits include "Ali" (2001), "The Usual Suspects" (1995) and a handful of Spike Lee films -- was wary at first about the idea of reprising a character whose arc

he considered complete. "I did Gus Fring from the end of season two in 'Breaking Bad' all the way through season four and that was enough, we got his story. So my concern was that we would do something different," he says.

"The difference is that we are now before 'Breaking Bad' and we are really starting to see what made Gus Fring who he is. For me that has been a wonderful exploration."

Esposito was Emmy-nominated for his nuanced turn as an unconventional bad guy who would dote on family and support charities -- but could order an assassination as easily as one of his fast food chain's chicken dinners.

"I didn't want Gus to be your typical bad guy. I wanted him to be human, and I think people really see that. Somewhere in season four I think people really got it," he says.

"When people really started rooting for Gus as opposed to

Walter White I thought, 'I have done my job.'"

That job now takes him back to the big screen for "Maze Runner: The Death Cure," the final chapter in the trilogy based on James Dashner's hellish bestsellers, which hits theaters on Friday.

Part of a wave of franchises based on dystopian young adult novels that gained popularity in the 2010s -- among them "The Hunger Games" and "Divergent" -- Wes Ball's "Maze Runner" films have been solid earners for Fox.

They tell the story of a group of photogenic teens -- lead by 26-year-old Dylan O'Brien (MTV's "Teen Wolf") -- fighting a totalitarian government that has been using them as guinea pigs in a bid to save civilization from a zombie-like pandemic.

The 2014 original, "The Maze Runner," made a cool \$350 million -- 10 times its budget -- at the box office, and while "The Scorch Trials" (2015) wasn't admired by

the critics, it took almost as much.

The final chapter -- delayed for nearly a year after O'Brien was badly injured in a vehicle accident during filming -- is poised to topple "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" in the North American box office.

While congenial enough, O'Brien lacks the charismatic screen presence of Jennifer Lawrence in the "Hunger Games" or Shailene Woodley from "Divergent."

But the franchise competes with both those series in terms of its sheer scale, each mind-boggling CGI-laden set piece bolder and more extravagant than the last.

"Certainly this third movie is the biggest of all of them, and the acting has to be quite strong not to feel like that overshadows the point of the movie," Esposito says.

"This character for me has been a joy to revisit. He loves life, and that's what I like about him."

Agence France-Press



Giancarlo Esposito



### POLITICAL PERFORMANCE

Star singer KENDRICK LAMAR gave a politically charged performance to kickstart the 60th Grammy Awards, as he took the stage in front of an American flag and with men dressed in military uniform.

Lamar, one of the leading nominees of the Grammys this year, performed “XXX”, his collaboration with U2. He was joined by Bono and the Edge on stage before comedian Dave Chappelle came in.

“I just want to remind the audience that the only thing more frightening than watching a black man be honest in America is being an honest black man in America,” Chappelle quipped, and later asked if the performance was “on cable”.

When Lamar returned to the stage, the screen behind read: “This is a satire by Kendrick Lamar.”



### SHARING GLORY

Star performer BRUNO MARS ensured he thanked his inner circle — his co-writers — when he took the stage with them to receive the Record of the Year honour at the 60th Grammy Awards ceremony.

In his acceptance speech, the hip-hop star thanked The Recording Academy as well as his co-writers including Christopher Brody Brown, James Fauntleroy, Philip Lawrence, Ray Charles McCullough II, Jeremy Reeves, Ray Romulus and Jonathan Yip, reported [online.com](http://online.com).

“I’ve known these guys for over a decade. All the music, the music business horror stories you see in the movies, we’ve been through all of it. And this is the first time on this album that we all came collectively as a group and put this song together and put the album together.”



### ROLE’S REQUIREMENT

Singer-turned-actress TONI BRAXTON has revealed she gained 7.7 kg for her role in “Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story.”

Braxton, 50, plays Antoinette Tuff, who persuaded a would-be gunman to not open fire on children in a suburban Atlanta elementary school, in the TV movie.

She says she had to transform her appearance in order to appear in the role, reports [femalefirst.co.uk](http://femalefirst.co.uk).

Recalling her own family’s reaction to the production, Braxton said: “They were shocked. It was a heavy role. I gained 17 lbs (7.7 kg) for it, I gained five back over the holiday... what do you call it when I... I spray-tanned?”

“I spray-tanned my body to make my skin a little darker — that’s the aesthetics I did for the role.”



# AQUARIUS ADVICE

YOUR FRIENDLY ASTROLOGER MEL

**T**here's two weeks ahead to settle in with the new planetary energies. They are Mars in Sagittarius, Saturn in Capricorn and Mercury in Aquarius. It's a good thing as well as none of the planets are in retrograde motion which means things flow smoothly and even if they don't, at least there won't be confusion, chaos and hesitancy. There'll only be change because there are three planets in the sign of Aquarius rising up again rules and restrictions that Saturn is beginning to impose strongly as well as the expansions from a Jupiter whose motives are not harmless as they used to be. Aquarius will also be advising us to tone down our arrogance and be noble, even if we wish to lord it over all. Whatever the stance we take, change is in the offing. So, off we go!

**ARIES**

MAR 21  
APR 20

This week's Aquarius planets plan a change for Aries by spicing up the social life and bringing the humanitarian out in you. It's time to mingle with those with those weird ideas which seek to encompass the brotherhood of man. However, you'll need to get a hold of your joint finances and your partner's agreement for those social goals you wish to donate to or work on. This could be a challenge and here is where Aquarius makes you wonder about your new joint financial venture or partner. It also advises making changes and taking it financially easy when it comes to social welfare and causes. On the whole, while there are professional and personal frictions, things are on the go and that's the best way for you.

**TAURUS**

APR 21  
MAY 20

The planets in Aquarius rattle your foundations seeking change for matters related to profession and public. You are in the limelight as is your reputation. So be careful how you portray yourself to the world. This may be a change in personal status made public or a change in the professional direction. Try not to be resisting and accept, even invite the change. This may prove to be a hectic and challenging communication and commutation period, businesswise as well as relationship, pushing you to question your relationship and partner in connection with your professional image. Change is the key.

**GEMINI**

MAY 21  
JUN 20

The Aquarius planets are in your favour during this phase. It is a good period to kick up your heels and head for distant shores that show more promise. This is a period that brings exciting adventures and welcoming changes. So get ready to travel or pursue a higher education. It is indeed a break from the rules and restrictions due to joint finances. However, this gladden-the-heart period is likely to face challenges from your work, health matters, colleagues, and even from animal companions. This means that expansion or overdoing things (especially with an ulterior motive or in secret) in this sphere of life needs honing.

**CANCER**

JUN 21  
JUL 20

The Aquarius planets this week and the next bring uncomfortable change in matters related to joint finances and the financial or intimate partner. These sudden changes and need for freedom and individuality question your current expansion in areas of romance and children; recreation and creative ventures. This means it's time to downsize the exuberant and extravagant activities as the joint resources are a sure indication that change is necessary. With a new relationship emerging that seeks long-lasting commitment and stability, this financial change may just be necessary.

**LEO**

JUL 21  
AUG 20

The Aquarius planets are an indication that your relationship and partner are now the focus. It advises making changes and taking a backseat for now or seeking equality. Your partner is suddenly seeking change and it is time for you reconcile that the relationship must encompass change and balance. This also poses challenges to your home and family life and may question the need for expansion and extravagance that you may currently incur with regard to this sphere of life. Between the partner and your home, changes need to be made for a balance to be struck. Work this out over the next two weeks.

**VIRGO**

AUG 21  
SEP 20

The planets in Aquarius this week work to make changes, sudden and in a way rebelliously, about your work, your health, animal companions, colleagues and even in your routines. Get ready for change and be accepting of it. This force rises up against the challenges from your current environment, those around, from siblings and other educational matters as well as short distance travel indicating that expanding in these areas or too much indulgence in these passionate quests are interfering with your health, work and even your animal companions, not to mention your colleagues. So change is needed so that adequate time is given to both spheres of life.

**LIBRA**

SEP 21  
OCT 20

The Aquarius planets indicate a favourable period for you and prove to be the ideal time for a change from your home and family life. This is a good period to relax and unwind especially with loved ones. This is also a period for romance. Love is in the air and it happens suddenly but take one step at a time — don't rush matters. This indulgence in change may impact your personal financial status and it is advised being moderate with one's finances is a good thing especially during this fun-loving phase.

**SCORPIO**

OCT 21  
NOV 20

Aquarius almost always has issues with Scorpio because these two signs have many lessons to teach each other. So when Aquarius is in full form as it is this week and the next, it challenges the motives and expansions of Scorpio especially in the personal sphere. Aquarius is making sudden changes to the home and family life of Scorpio. The focus is on home and there are many short journeys undertaken such as elders and youngsters visiting. It's going to be challenging and busy period that may exhaust you and your resources so it is best to take things easy and accept changes while watching your bank balance.

**SAGITTARIUS**

NOV 21  
DEC 20

Aquarius planets are friendly with you and these next two weeks will prove to be beneficial for short trips, communicating with those around, education, transportation and interaction with siblings. It is a time of exciting ideas that give rise to sudden changes. However, this fun period will face challenges from hidden sources that may interfere with your health, secret journeys overseas, secret expansions and the need for additional rest and retreat. You will need to accommodate both spheres so as to avoid conflict and emotional turmoil.

**CAPRICORN**

DEC 21  
JAN 20

The Sun, Mercury and Venus in Aquarius for these two weeks encourage you to make changes to your finances; to your beliefs, values and possessions. It asks you to seek freedom and individuality via the material realm. While this energy makes you hesitant, it also excites you to see beyond into all those possibilities. So, these two weeks are preparation or implementation for such matters. However, there are challenges from social groups and causes that may hamper your personal financial growth but it is time to bring balance to both spheres and accept that personal finances are essential especially when you have them on hand.

**AQUARIUS**

JAN 21  
FEB 20

Planets in your sign continue to boost you personally by showcasing your unique personality, your need for freedom and the need to bend the rules or change them. So, in a way, it is a peak period for you to come out into the spotlight and air yourself to the world about the changes that need to be made. However, this personal need to be set free is in direct conflict with the expansion related to profession, an expansion that causes you to question your values for it is most likely that there are motives and beneath-the-surface truths that are making you uncomfortable. Be wary of your reputation during this period and seek to make the change in a harmonious way for this period will test your patience and your humanitarian nature.

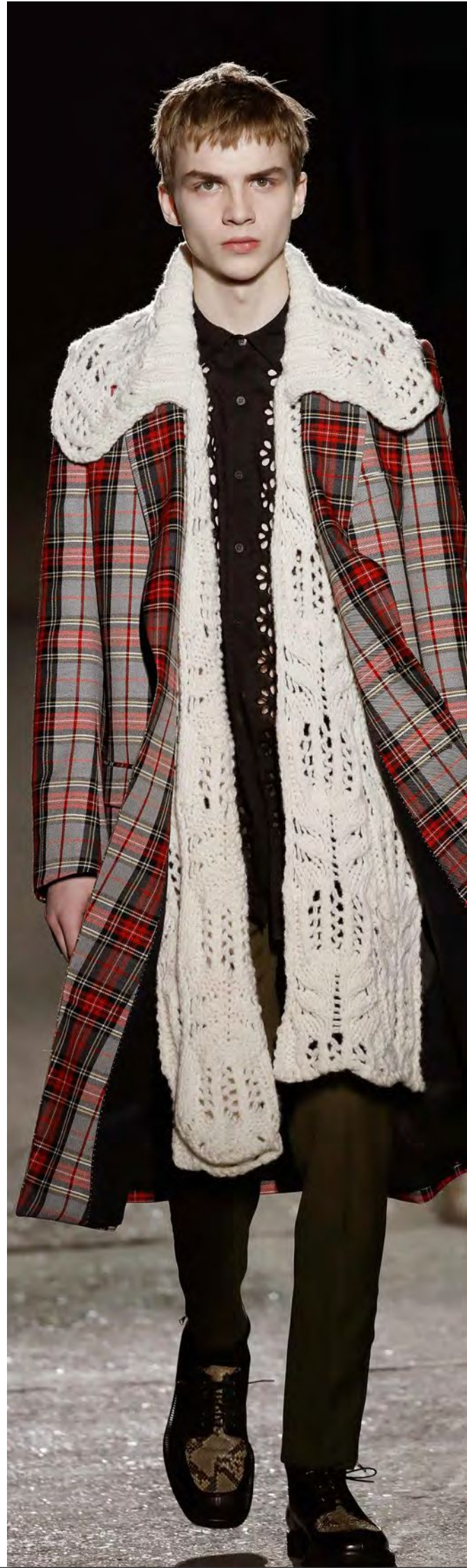
**PISCES**

FEB 21  
MAR 20

The Aquarius planets are indicative that these two weeks are to be periods of rest and retreat from the outer world. The need to reflect upon the self, secretive alliances and finances that now gain prominence in your seclusion as well as the additional need for rest and retreat are part of this phase. Let go and relax and take a break from the outer world. It's a closure for you to recharge your energies. It's a temporary end. However, this need for rest and retreat clashes with the expansion and travel plans related to overseas matters and both have to work to accommodate a balanced schedule that allows enough rest and retreat.

## ASTRO TIP FOR THE WEEK

THE AQUARIUS PLANETS ENCOURAGE CHANGE, FREEDOM, INDIVIDUALITY AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD SO APPLYING THESE PRINCIPLES IN THE SITUATIONS THAT YOU FACE DEPENDING ON YOUR ZODIAC SIGN WILL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST. GET READY TO CHANGE!







**DRIES VAN NOTEN  
COLLECTION FOR  
THE MEN'S FASHION  
WEEK FALL-WINTER  
2018-19 SHOW IN  
PARIS INCLUDED  
PRINTS AND FLORAL  
EMBROIDERY**

## **PRINTING FOR STYLE**

**D**ries Van Noten, the soft-spoken Belgian King of Prints, has a seat in the same elevated circle of the modern fashion pantheon as the flamboyant extrovert Galliano, even if he is not as well known.

The Belgian master's big idea for next winter is a marbling technique normally used for paper which he used with typically sparing elegance throughout his collection, but which he let run riot in a sub collection of shin-length parka coats.

Van Noten, who comes from a line of Antwerp tailors, went strong on tartan and Prince of Wales check for trousers and suits, and more strikingly still in Stewart tartan coats which he combined with fur and crocheted collars.

This was the Bay City Rollers rethought by one of the greatest designers on the planet, and his black and blue velvet bomber jackets with showers of copper floral embroidery are likely to push credit cards to their limit.

The cowboy shirt and jacket was also sleekly rehabilitated from the bottom drawer of fashion oblivion, and turned up memorably under a knee-length Crombie-style coat with snakeskin boots.

Fiachra Gibbons  
/Agence France-Presse

# Unusual experience

**Saudi Arabia seeks a place on the tourism map by promoting sites such as the Al Wahbah, some 360 kms northeast of Jeddah**

Saudi women walk through the Al Wahbah.



Gazing at a shimmering salt pan below, a group of first-time Saudi hikers descended craggy slopes into a volcanic crater, part of a hidden trove of natural wonders being promoted to kickstart tourism.

Saudi Arabia will soon begin issuing tourist visas, opening up one of the last frontiers of global tourism — a sector touted as the desert kingdom's "white oil" — as it steps up diversification efforts to wean itself off its crude oil dependence.

But the conservative country, notorious for sex segregation and its austere dress code, is seen as an unlikely destination for global tourists aside from Muslim pilgrims visiting holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

Now in the midst of historic social change, the kingdom is seeking a place on the global

tourism map by promoting sites such as the Al Wahbah crater, widely unheard of even within Saudi Arabia with the near absence of local tourism.

On a warm winter weekend, Amr Khalifa, a private tour operator, brought a group of first-time Saudi campers to hike to the bottom of the crater.

Clutching hiking poles, the hikers picked their way through the slippery, boulder-strewn path to the salt pan.

"I told my friends about Al Wahbah," said Jeddah-based corporate banker Mohamed Bahroon. "They had no clue."

The little-known crater, barely a four-hour drive from the western city of Jeddah, is a remnant of volcanic activity -- local folklore, however, has it as having been formed when two mountains were so passionately in love that one uprooted itself to unite with

the other, leaving a bowl-shaped depression in its place.

In recent months, authorities have built roads and markers to the site and erected picnic shelters around the rim of the crater.

"The key challenge is to make such tourism sites accessible," said Khalifa, adding that he only had one camping group at the site that weekend.

Tourism is one of the centrepieces of Vision 2030, the blueprint to prepare the biggest Arab economy for the post-oil era, which was conceived by powerful Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

In August the kingdom announced a multi-million dollar project to turn 50 islands and other pristine sites on the Red Sea into luxury resorts.

It also plans to develop historic sites such as the centuries-old Mada'in Saleh, home to sandstone tombs of the same civilisation which

built the Jordanian city of Petra.

The kingdom aims to nearly double the annual number of tourists it attracts to 30 million by 2030, with the sector projected to become one of its top revenue earners.

Tourism chief Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz told the media last month that preparations were afoot to launch electronic visas in the first quarter of 2018 to "all nationals whose countries allow their citizens to visit" the Gulf state.

"The kingdom is a very big treasure," Prince Sultan said, describing its stunning landscapes. "We're not just oil traders."

In an effort to change perceptions, Saudi Arabia has relaxed some of its most rigid rules -- lifting a cinema ban, allowing gender-mixed sporting events and announcing that women will be

allowed to drive from next June.

Rumours have swirled about plans to create exclusive resorts for foreign tourists, which, similar to many expat compounds in Riyadh, would have more relaxed norms.

"Given the sensitivities of opening up to large numbers of non-Muslim tourists, I'd expect the authorities to focus more on encouraging local and regional visitors in the first instance, while the tourist infrastructure is developed," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in the United States.

"And then cautiously start to market the kingdom to the wider world."

But global travel agencies such as Britain-based Steppes Travel are already planning to offer packaged tours.

"There is a lot of potential for Saudi tourism—we know this not least from the pent-up demand we have within our own database," Justin Wateridge, managing director of Steppes Travel, told the media.

"There is interest in those that know and understand Saudi Arabia and not much needs to change other than the issuing of tourist

visas. Travel breaks down barriers and prejudice."

Tourism is still a "new concept" for Saudi Arabia, said Khaled Batarfi, a Jeddah-based writer.

"Serving others in our tribal heritage is unacceptable, except your own guest," he wrote in the "Saudi Gazette" newspaper, calling for the need for professional training.

Back at Al Wahbah, that seems to be changing.

When the hiking group emerged from the crater, guide Khalifa swung open the boot of his SUV to remove tents, folding chairs, firewood and platters of meat to set up camp near the rim.

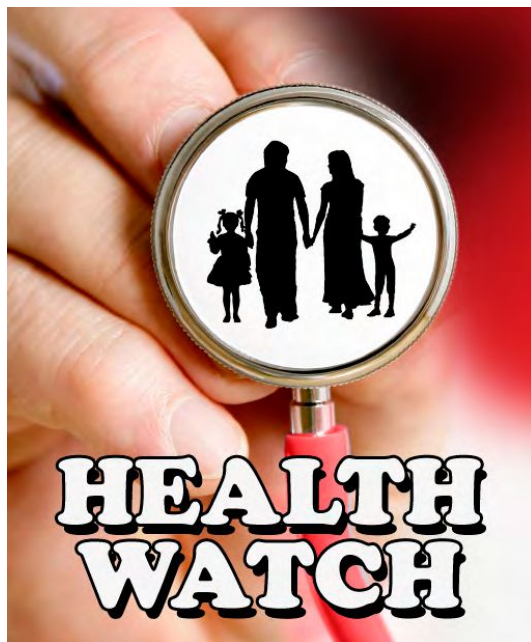
"When Saudis go camping they take their full house with them," he said as the group settled in for the chilly night.

"That needs to change."

Agence France-Presse

A Saudi guide (centre bottom) leads a group of foreign tourists through the Al Wahbah volcanic crater in the Al Wahbah desert.





# VITAMIN TOXICITY

**Vitamins are broadly divided into the water soluble and the fat soluble ones. Vitamins of the B group and vitamin C are water soluble while vitamins A, D, E and K are the fat soluble ones**

**V**itamins are widely used by a lot of people with some of the aims being prevention and treatment of vitamin deficiency, to feel energetic and to improve immunity so that infections are prevented and recovery from infections and other illnesses is swifter. Most of this usage is initiated without advice or recommendation from a doctor. Unfortunately, except for prevention and treatment of vitamin deficiency, most of the so-called benefits of vitamins are a myth. A working definition of vitamins is that they are organic chemicals which are required in minute quantities for normal metabolism and which we are not able to synthesize and so have to depend on from external sources. Purists will argue that the definition is not quite right for we are able to manufacture vitamin D by the action of sunlight on skin. However, for practical purposes the definition is acceptable. These are no doubt super chemicals but are only effective for particular metabolic processes in the body. Their deficiency can cause serious disease but taking vitamins except to treat or prevent deficiency serves no purpose. In spite of all scientific knowledge to the contrary, vitamins are widely perceived as having these quasi-magical properties in promoting good health and well being and huge amounts are consumed. Despite the generally good tolerance levels for most vitamins, toxicity from excess consumption does occur.

Vitamins are broadly divided into the water soluble and the fat soluble ones. Vitamins of the B group and vitamin C are water soluble while vitamins A, D, E and K are the fat soluble ones. As a general rule, accumulation of water soluble vitamins in our body enough to cause

toxicity symptoms is rare. Toxicity from water soluble vitamins does occur but requires heroic doses to be consumed. On the other hand, when fat soluble vitamins are taken in excess there is no simple way to eliminate excess amounts and toxicity occurs readily. Vitamin D deficiency is quite common and in the last few years this has received a great deal of medical as well as media attention. This has also led to much greater consumption of vitamin D supplements and sometimes has resulted in toxicity. The other fat soluble vitamins are also liable to accumulate in our body with potential for toxicity. Additionally, some vitamin preparations also contain iron and excess quantities of iron too are very difficult to eliminate from the body and such preparations may contribute to vitamin related toxicity. Reporting of cases is much more thorough in USA compared to most other countries and serves as a ready source of medical statistics and this also serves to give a very rough idea of the global status. In USA about 60,000 cases of vitamin toxicity occur

each year and so the problem is in no way a negligible one.

As is to be expected toxicity from vitamins is higher when the dose being consumed is much in excess of requirements. Guidelines are issued by health authorities in many countries as to how much of each vitamin is recommended for different categories of people such as adult men, adult women, pregnant women, children of different ages, etc. The ones issued by the Food and Drug Administration, USA are called the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) and are the ones most frequently referred to by medical personnel. The content of individual vitamins in many proprietary vitamin formulations is far in excess of the RDA, sometimes by more than a hundred times. This may be understandable when the vitamin preparation is used to treat an existing deficiency in which case quite high doses may be advised for short periods of time. However this is not appropriate when very high vitamin content is present in tablets being taken as a preventive or as a general health tonic.

The reputation for being totally safe enjoyed by water soluble vitamins for many years is now considered to be a little tarnished. Unusually high doses of some of these vitamins have been the cause of toxicity. Vitamin C supplements are often used in quite large doses with the aim of preventing colds, improving immunity and as an anti-oxidant. The theory that vitamin C prevents a cold has been refuted quite convincingly in a number of studies. It does not improve immunity and vitamin C supplements are also ineffective as anti-oxidants. In fact these may have detrimental effects on natural anti-oxidants of the body

symptoms including loss of appetite, fatigue, excessive thirst and excessive urination, dehydration, irritability, confusion, lack of concentration, muscle weakness, nausea, vomiting, rise in blood pressure and irregular heart beat. Calcium deposition may occur in tissues and kidney stones may also develop. In long-standing cases there is thinning of bones and kidney failure occurs. This is thus a disease difficult to recognize in earlier stages and once complications occur, difficult to treat satisfactorily. Wide adoption of screening tests including a serum calcium estimation is often the first clue to the correct diagnosis. Other tests including vitamin D blood levels and bone x-rays are indicated for confirmation of the diagnosis. The fundamental cause is excessive consumption of vitamin D preparations, most of the time being taken without medical supervision. Some underlying conditions such as kidney failure, tuberculosis and sarcoidosis increase the risk for vitamin D toxicity. Stoppage of all vitamin D supplements may suffice to correct the problem in mild cases. Corticosteroids are indicated in severe cases and biphosphonates which are used to prevent and treat osteoporosis may be advised in cases with severe bone changes.

Vitamin A toxicity may also occur, again usually a result of excess consumption of the vitamin. Most of the symptoms are nonspecific and a high index of suspicion is required to establish a diagnosis early. Symptoms include reduced appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, confusion, irritability, blurred vision, dry and cracked skin and jaundice due to liver damage which is one of the major complications of vitamin A excess. Osteoporosis and elevated serum calcium along with damage to the kidneys may also develop. Synthetic vitamin A is not safe during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects.

Vitamins E and K are the other fat soluble vitamins. Toxicity is less frequent with them but does occur on occasion. Vitamin E is often taken in very large doses for very long periods as an anti-oxidant, for skin problems, to reduce hazards of cancer treatment, etc. All these indications are highly speculative and not supported by well designed studies. High doses can be hazardous and the regular use of high dose vitamin E is largely indefensible. The main toxicity is a bleeding tendency. It also causes fatigue, muscular weakness, nausea and skin changes. With vitamin K, the natural forms usually do not cause toxicity even when taken as supplements. However, one of the synthetic forms called menadione is capable of causing toxicity. This form of vitamin K has been discontinued in most countries.

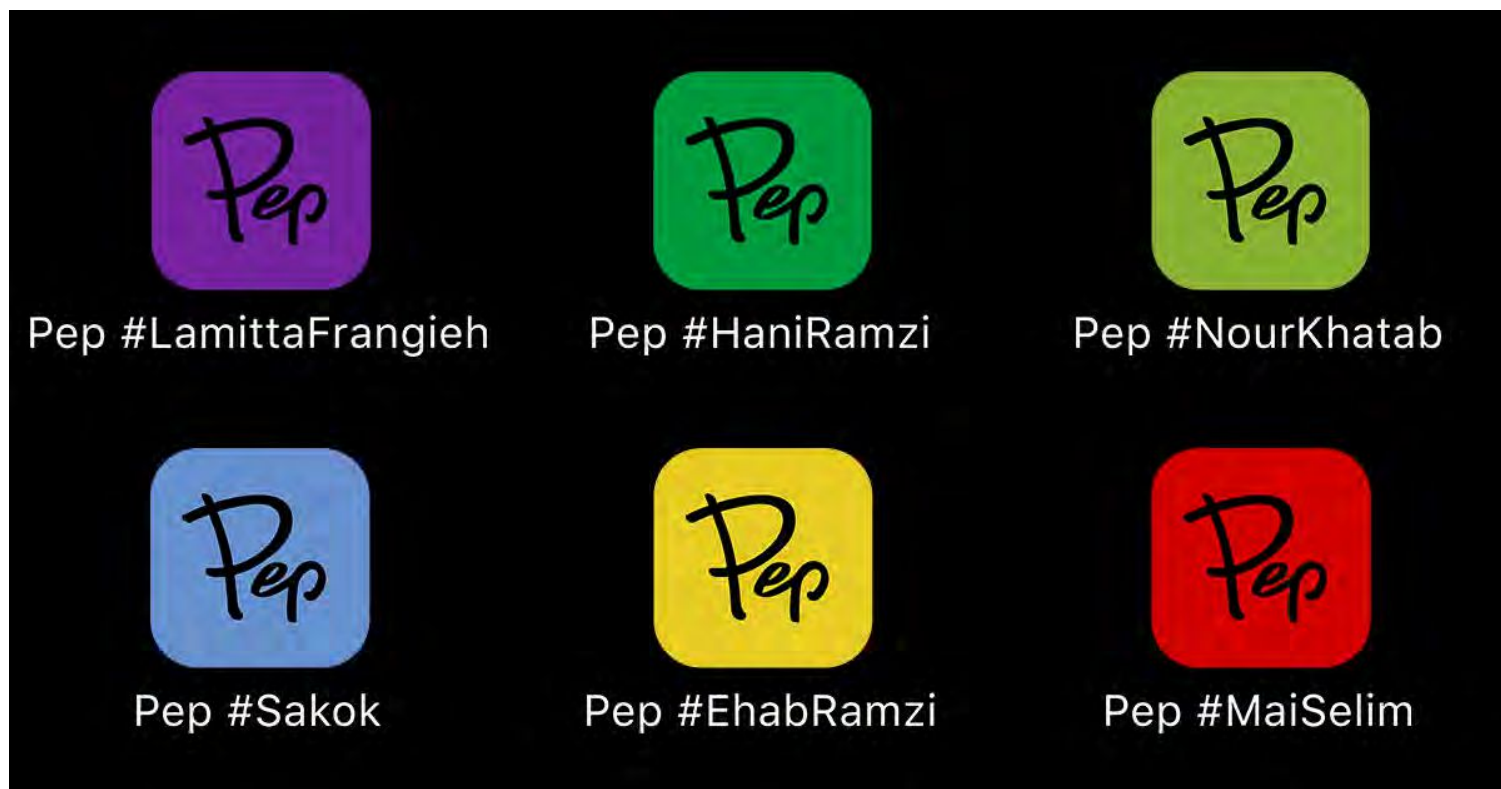
Thus, taking needless vitamins serves no purpose and sometimes causes toxicity. This is much rarer with the B group of vitamins and vitamin C. As discussed, vitamin D and A are the main culprits as far as vitamin excess and toxicity is concerned. It is also worth noting that most of the assumed benefits of vitamins, other than correcting deficiency symptoms, are unproven and imaginary. Vitamins from natural sources such as fruits, vegetables, etc never lead to excess and there is no better way of meeting one's requirements of vitamins.

Dr Asheesh Mehta  
Internal Medicine Specialist



# PEP-A CELEBRITY

NDIGITEC LAUNCHES PEP  
— A UNIQUE APP AND PLATFORM  
FOR CELEBRITIES TO SHARE  
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT WITH FANS



**N**Digitec, the leading UAE-based innovative creatives media production company, has taken its competencies to a completely new level with the launch of Pep-a celebrity app which offers a unique platform for celebrities to share exclusive content with their fans.

A subscription-based private App, Pep can be downloaded on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store — giving a chance for fans to feel closer to celebrities. With over 5,000 downloads during the first month after the launching in November 2017, the Pep App is becoming a raging sensation very fast.

With exclusive content shared by celebrities through the App, fans now have the opportunity to receive exclusive updates with just a click of a button.

The list of Pep celebrities is wide-ranging across different fields - be it newsmakers, who

continue to inspire, and a role model who has carved a niche with his or her accomplishments and success. In the pilot phase, the list comprises the who's who from various spectrums of life, including famous fitness trainer Sako Kouroumlian, multi-linguist and language teacher Ehab Ramzi, leading singer and actress Mai Selim, famous actor Hany Ramzy, business woman and fashion designer Lamitta Frangieh and famous actor Ahmad Zaher.

All in all, the App serves as a virtual treasure trove of celebrities willing to share their exclusive content and experiences with their fans.

Commenting on the launch of Pep, Ayman Ellissy, NDigitec Media & Celebrity Solution Managers said: "Pep is a revolutionary platform which is developed to change the way celebrities interact with their fans. This is a cool way for celebrities to share a private and

personalised bond — an app that plugs the gap between the two." While Sali Mousli the CRM manager said: "Thousands of fans are using the app, and now have access to celebrities like never before. The increasing number of subscribers is proof enough that the popularity and the number of celebrity engagement is set to surge in the weeks to come".

Each celebrity has his or her own Pep and users can get exclusive celebrity info and news through this one-of-a-kind private social application. This is what makes PEP different from other Celebrity applications, social pages or websites. In addition, they will have the chance to watch exclusive livestreams of celebrity life. Fans can now be their own reporters! PEP is the only place where the fans can ask questions that they always wanted to have the answers on, but never had the chance before.

Recently PEP was one of the

major sponsors of DIAFA 2018, at the Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai. DIAFA 2018 is the prestigious and unique event that honors distinguished International and Arab personalities, selected by a qualified committee, for their annual achievements and contributions towards communities and societies betterment.

#### LIST OF LAUNCHED PEP APPLICATIONS:

1. PEP #MAISELIM
2. PEP #EHABRAMZI
3. PEP #SAKOK
4. PEP #LAMITTAFRANGIEH
5. PEP #HANYRAMZY
6. PEP #AHMEDZAHER

Search for PEP on Apple Store / Google Play market or visit [www.pep.media](http://www.pep.media).

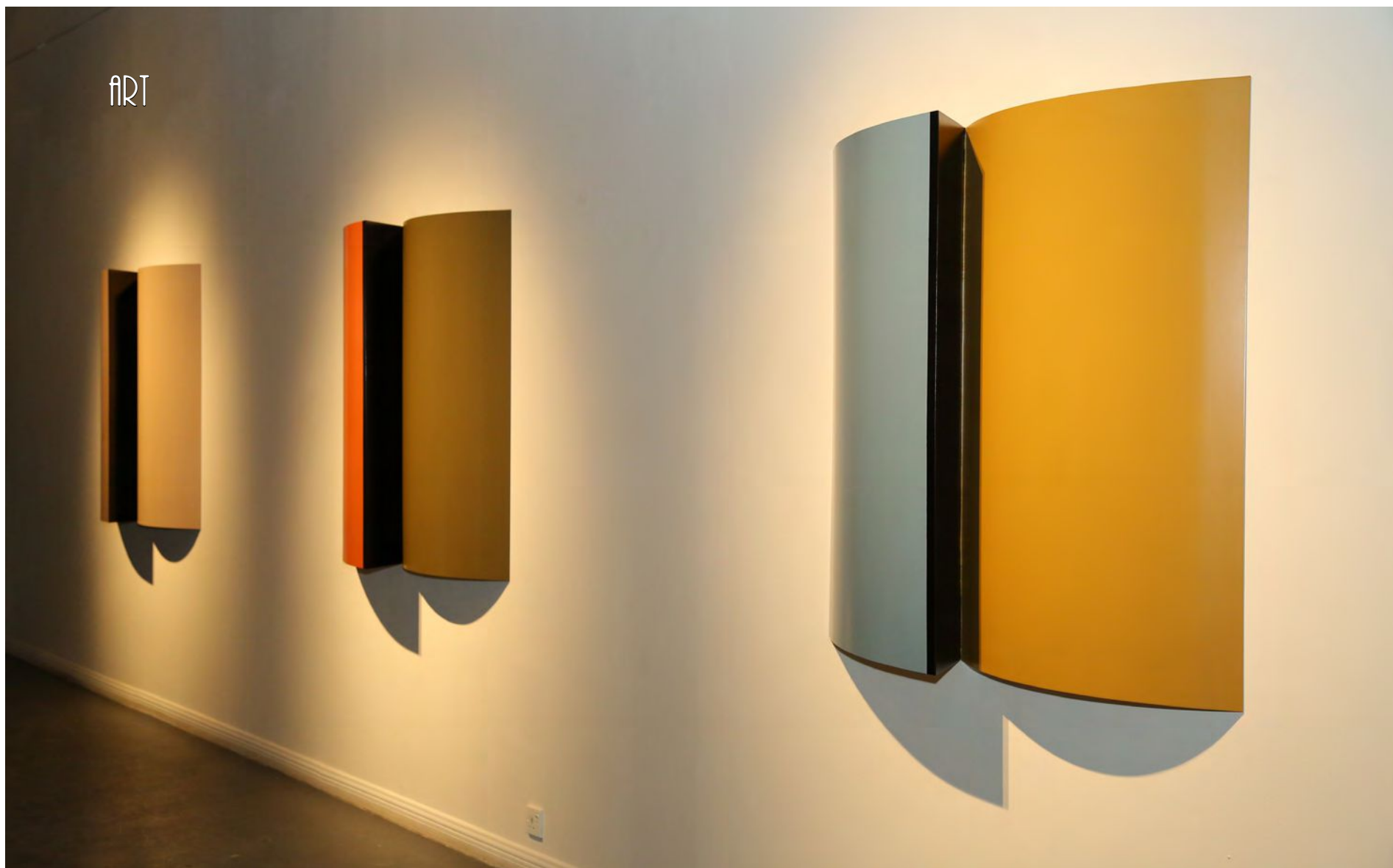
NDigitec (Namma Int'l Digitec FZ LLC) roots can be traced back to the early 90's when our company

CEO — Vatche Kavlakian started a Digitec as one of the pioneers in the field of IT integrated prepress services in the Middle East.

Over the years, NDigitec has expanded its competences in fields of digital printing, e-commerce, creative media production and fabrication of expo equipment. Today, NDigitec is one of the most sought after and respected contender in the world of prepress, premedia, fabrication and digital printing solutions all over the Middle East.

NDigitec services the needs of the entire graphic arts industry, media, and brand owners with over 60 services structured to meet the demands competently. With over 500 customers spread across 25 countries and with skilled teams working around the clock, it is well equipped to deliver on its promises to customers.

To know more about NDigitec, please visit [www.ndigitec.com](http://www.ndigitec.com)



Artworks line the wall at Hybrids show.

# HYBRID CONCEPTS, PUREBRED VISION

**Muhammad Yusuf writes about an artist whose skill holds together works which contain many ingredients**

**'H**ybrids, the solo exhibition of Bahraini artist Rashid Al Khalifa, has opened doors in Ayyam Gallery, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai (Jan. 20 – Mar. 10). The artwork is a selection of wall-mounted installations from six different series created from 2010 to 2017.

"The exhibition presents the concept of hybrids through an approach that reflects my personal reading of the rich origins of beauty, and how this opens doors for every artist to be more creative and innovative", Al Khalifa said.

He has presented twenty works, including paintings and sculptures, in which he uses industrial materials – some of them perhaps unusual, such as aluminum sheets cut and painted with industrial colours.

Over the past four decades, he has experimented with art, exploring its nature. He has wide and varied technical styles, including Realism, Impressionism, and Individualism. Currently he is mulling Abstraction and Colour Field.

Here he focuses on the aesthetics of what post-modernists call "re-contextualisation". Geometry, surface and colour are all part of his oeuvre. Al Khalifa's installations are 'hybrids' of painting and sculpture. He tests three-dimensionality,

using aluminum, stainless steel and other mediums.

The circle is the starting point of many of his works. It becomes a circular hole as in his 120 x 120 cm untitled work from the 'Into a Different Dimension' series. It is a perfectly circular hole in the middle of the convex square-shaped aluminium, the background being painted in blues of various shades. The reflective surface draws the viewer in, leading to interactive bonding.

In 'Shape of Time' series, he presents variations of the circle and the square. Sections are detached, highlighting fragile connections between shapes. The deconstruction forces the viewer to reassess his ideas of forms. Through the manipulation of geometric forms, the artist explores the relationship between artwork, viewer and architecture.

He was mobbed during the inaugural of the show and so the following interview was held amidst raucous noise and many claims on his attention. "If I were not an artist", Al Khalifa said, "I would have been an architect". He was referring to the profuse use of architectural motifs in his work.

"Architecture is closest to my heart", he added. "I spend a lot of time with architects and since it is part of design, some of my works are influenced by architecture".

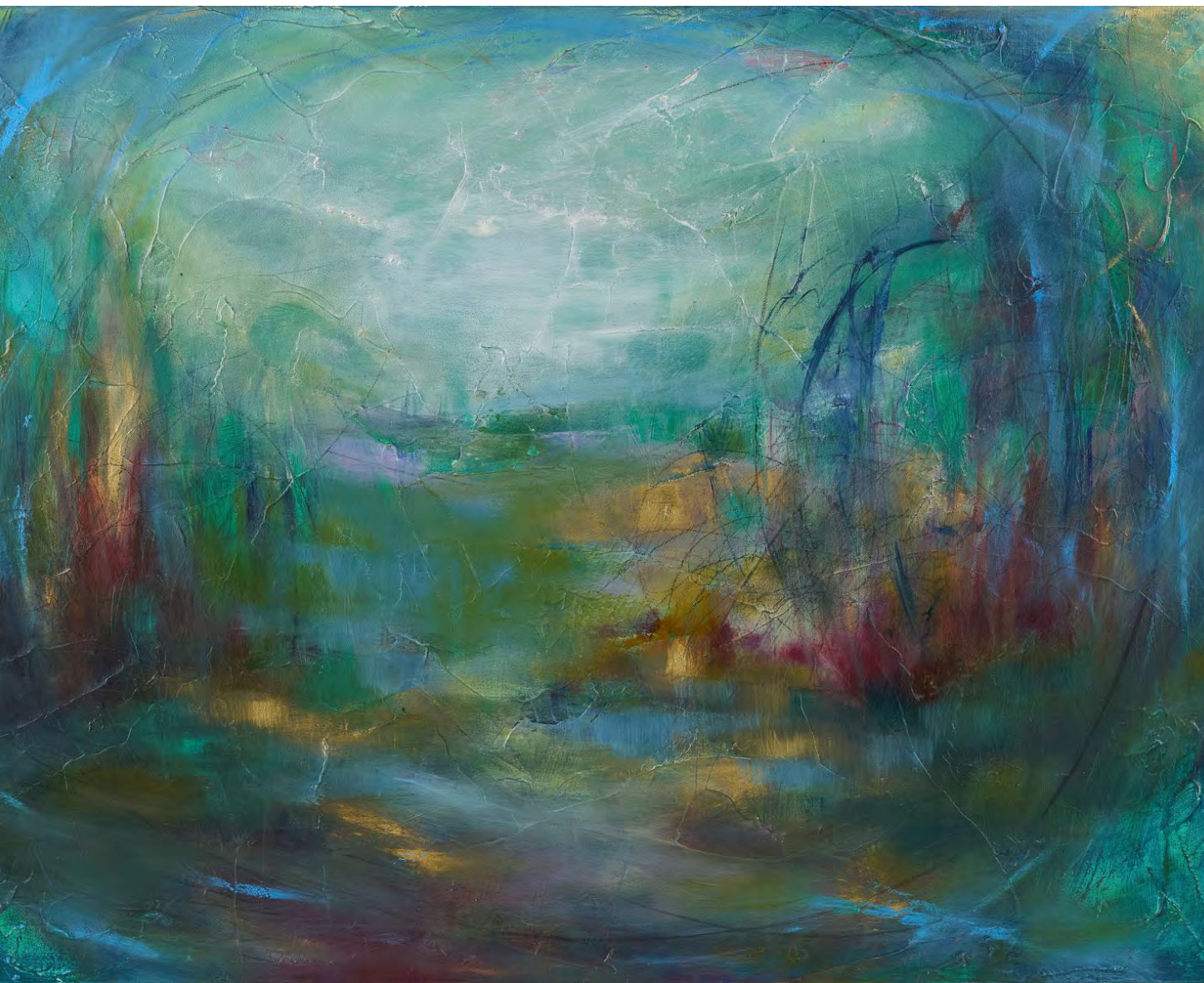
"The round shape (circle) has many meanings and can be

interpreted in many ways", he said. "Philosophically, it can lead to many avenues and theories. Perhaps art critics can explain and read my works further!" He noted that a circle can be seen as a symbol of the cosmos or universe. It could also stand for endless time, or the circle of time. And it can even be seen as the egg, the primary source of life.

He is not hesitant about using elements of science including physics, engineering or industrial lighting. Nature too is not absent in his world view, since flower petals have been engineered into some of the artwork.

He began his career in the late 1960s and has exhibited in Bahrain and also internationally. He presented his seminal quasi-kinetic works in a solo exhibition at the Middle East Institute in Washington DC, in 1982. In 2010, a large-scale retrospective exhibition entitled 'Convex: A New Perspective' was held at the Bahrain National Museum.

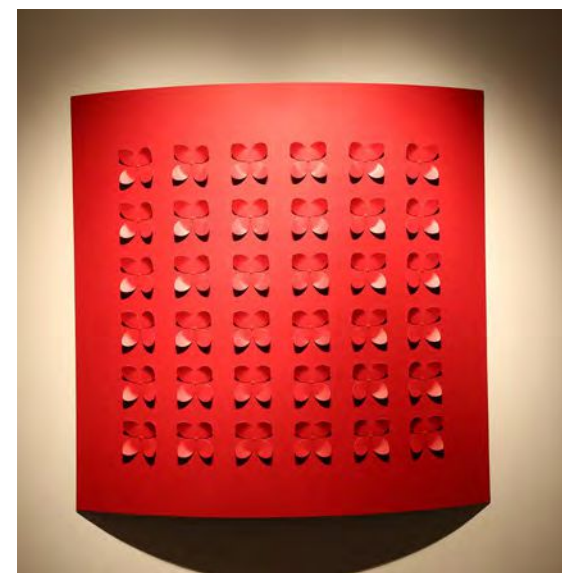
Solo exhibitions include Shuman Arts Organisation, Amman, Jordan (1997), De Caliet Gallery, Milan, Italy, and El Kato Kayyeh Gallery, Milan (1996). His work as also been featured in group exhibitions such as La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2017 and 2015), Third Mediterranean Biennale, Sakhnin Valley (2017), Bahrain Arts Society, Manama, Bahrain (2016), tRIO Bial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2015),



Areej Rajab, Untitled.



Rashid Al Khalifa explains his work.



Metal and petals - Hybrids exhibition.

Issoudin Museum, Issoudin, France (2015), Galerie Gmurzynska, Art Basel Miami Beach (2010) Bahrain National Museum, Manama (2002), Taipei Art Exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan (1999), Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE (1999), and Art America Exhibition, Miami, USA (1997). He was the first president of the Bahrain Arts Society and currently holds the title of Honorary President.

artist's newest works, offering an advancement and refinement of her work to date.

The exhibition explores the character of colour, including the fleeting nature of light, with which it is seen.

"I believe we live in a limitless world", Rajab says. "Nothing ends where we think it does; that is just the limitation of our sight,

"Everything and everyone around us are nothing but a highly fluid and ambiguous construction of beautiful lines and magical strokes, which tend to fade out as one moves outwards from their core", she opines. So life and the sight through which we assess it, are actually non-material. She could be echoing Tennyson's Ulysses: "All experience is an arch wherethro' /

movement and whose drip painting style is one of her inspirations. "I am an abstract expressionist", Rajab said. "And I consider Pollock my Muse".

Abstract expressionism is a term applied to the artists working (mostly) in New York who had different styles, which is neither especially abstract nor expressionist. California Abstract

carries the image of being rebellious, anarchic, highly idiosyncratic and nihilistic (refer Rajab). In practice, however, it involves careful planning, especially in the making of large sized pictures. Abstract art is also used to express ideas concerning the spiritual, the unconscious, and the mind.

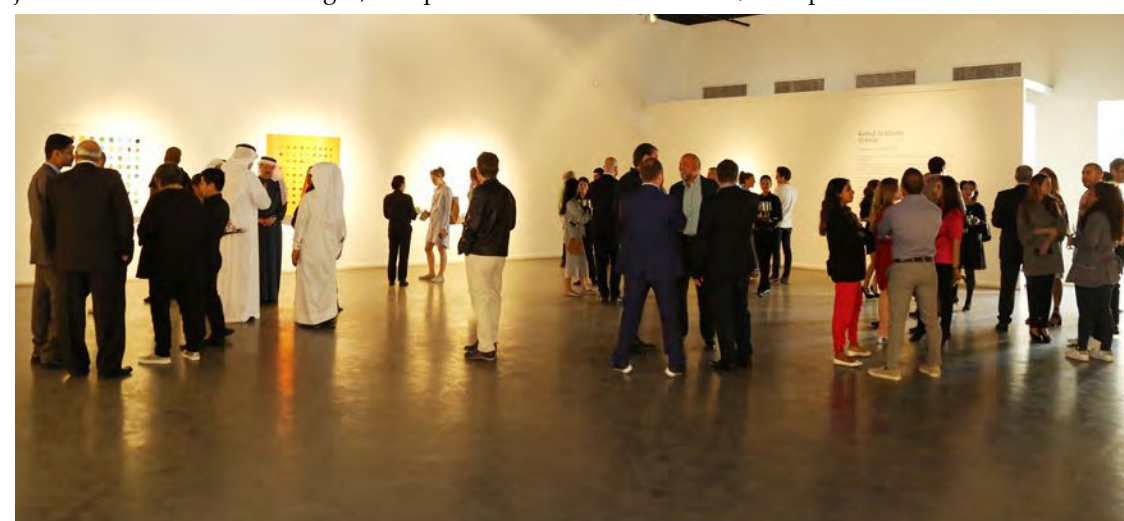
Rajab's works can be divided into two groups: spacescapes

Viewers at Hybrids inaugural.

## FLUID THINGS, FIRM LINKS

**Muhammad Yusuf reports on an artist whose works carry the message that objects could be different from what they seem**

Showcase Gallery, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, is hosting the works of Bahraini artist Areej Rajab (Jan. 10–Feb. 5). Titled 'Limitless', it comprises a series of paintings that represent the



an illusion".

She says that there is continuity to every object, animate or inanimate, and everything is linked to each other. Further, she believes that there is no such thing as "solid".

Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades/Forever and forever when I move".

Rajab keenly admires Jackson Pollock who was a major figure in the abstract expressionist

Expressionist Jay Meuser put it this way: "It is far better to capture the glorious spirit of the sea than to paint all of its tiny ripples".

Abstract expressionism is often thought of being spontaneous and

and urbanscapes. The former is a world of whirling, swirling lines, whose aggression is muted by fairy tale glittering colours. The latter consists of buildings chock a block, where solidity and claustrophobic effect is softened by the wash style.

She does not show people, for the reason that art is the place, she says, where she gets away from them! Her work - molecules to Milky Way - is worth a see, if not a buy. By the way, 'Limitless' fits the wallet of even people with limited means.

Mestaria, the company which organises the show, calls it a compelling one, where one can "truly lose himself in a world of colour and beauty". Mestaria supports Rajab's brand, arranges logistics and runs her website, among other services.



# Soup of the day

**Susan Selasky shares a recipe of chicken wonton soup that can warm your wintry nights, so let's try this out before the weather gets warmer**



It's soup season and, no surprise, January is National Soup Month. And so, that means soup for you. With all these cold weather snaps, everyone appears to be making, talking and cozying up to a bowl of warm broth. What I like most about soup is that it is filling and can be a meal in itself.

Today's soup is far from homemade and that's what makes it a beauty. This soup recipe is super quick and easy thanks to canned broth, and frozen chicken wontons. We all have favourite convenience foods and these frozen wontons are one of mine. And while I typically have homemade chicken or vegetable stock squirreled away in the freezer, I also keep canned broth at hand.

Several years ago, these Chicken Cilantro Mini Wonton's sold at Trader Joe's came into my life. And since then, they've been a staple not only for this soup but as an easy appetizer.

In today's soup, the wontons work two-fold — providing the chicken as well as the starch or noodle or pasta all wrapped in one tiny nice package. Add them to the soup straight from the freezer, and they need just a few minutes in the boiling broth.

The shiitake mushrooms are also another one of my favourites. As mushrooms go, shiitakes lend that meaty flavour to most dishes. They are best just slightly cooked or sauteed first as they are in this soup. To clean shiitakes, wipe with a damp paper towel and remove the stems. You can chop and use the stems to flavour stocks.

Carrots, snow peas and sliced baby bok choy is a good addition to this soup.

A few splashes of soy sauce give the soup additional depth of flavour and you can add a drizzle or two of srirachi or chili paste for

a spicy kick. When using soy sauce, I always use ones that are labelled less-sodium. How much less varies with the product. The amounts are usually listed in percentages and in comparison to their regular product. Be sure to check the label.

## QUICK AND EASY CHICKEN WONTON SOUP

**SERVES: 4 (GENEROUSLY)**  
**PREPARATION TIME: 10 MINUTES**  
**TOTAL TIME: 20 MINUTES**

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 PACKAGES (4 OUNCES EACH) SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS
- 2 TEASPOONS CANOLA OIL
- 6 1/2 CUPS FAT-FREE, LESS-SODIUM CHICKEN BROTH
- ABOUT 1/2 BAG (MORE IF DESIRED) CHICKEN CILANTRO MINI WONTONS (SUCH AS TRADER JOE'S)
- 2 TABLESPOONS LESS-SODIUM SOY SAUCE
- 1/2 TEASPOON TOASTED SESAME OIL OR HOT CHILI OIL, OR TO TASTE, OPTIONAL
- 2 CUPS COARSELY CHOPPED NAPA CABBAGE
- 3 GREEN ONIONS, WASHED, THINLY SLICED

### METHOD

Remove and discard the stems of the shiitakes. Wipe the shiitakes clean with a damp paper towel. Cut the shiitake caps into thin slices. In a medium saucepot, heat the canola oil. Add the shiitakes and saute until soft. Pour in the broth and bring to a boil. Add the wontons and cook about three minutes. Reduce the heat and stir in the soy sauce and sesame oil, if using; Napa cabbage and green onions. Simmer two minutes. Remove from heat and ladle into bowls.

Tribune News Service





## BAG OF 10 GENERAL



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

**According to Physicist Stephen Hawking, the emergence of what could be the “worst event in the history of our civilisation.” and may lead to the mass extinction of humans?**

- 1** The Canadian musical “Come from Away” debuted on Broadway this year. What inspiring tale of Canadian compassion is the show based on?
- 2** At many offices in Sweden, it’s mandatory for workers to take a “fika” break. Often, two fika breaks are taken in a day at around 9 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. What does a fika break entail?
- 3** What is a Moro reflex, and what does it entail?
- 4** Whose HQ is the George Bush Center for Intelligence?
- 5** A photo of the last northern white rhino in the world capable of breeding has won the heart’s of the internet amid claims he is ‘waiting for extinction’. The death of this male white rhino, will mark the extinction of the sub-species unless artificially assisted reproduction efforts are successful. It is named after which African country?
- 6** According to Physicist Stephen Hawking, the emergence of what could be the “worst event in the history of our civilisation.” and may lead to the mass extinction of humans?
- 7** Which snake, whose untreated bite is almost 100 per cent fatal, is the world’s fastest snake on land?
- 8** 3M has patented a colour known as Canary Yellow. This colour is used in which iconic product that 3M is very famous for?
- 9** Who broke the record for the most liked post on Instagram when they announced they were expecting twins?
- 10** According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2018 is the Year of the ---?

### ANSWERS

1. IT IS BASED ON THE GENEROSITY SHOWN BY CANADIANS TO PASSENGERS REROUTED AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACKS
2. A CAKE AND COFFEE BREAK. WHO CARES FOR CALORIES AT WORK, ANYWAY
3. THE MORO REFLEX IS AN INFANTILE REFLEX, NORMALLY PRESENT IN ALL INFANTS/NEWBORNS UP TO 3 OR 4 MONTHS OF AGE AS A RESPONSE TO A SUDDEN LOSS OF SUPPORT, WHEN THE INFANT FEELS AS IF IT IS FALLING. IT INVOLVES THREE DISTINCT COMPONENTS: SPREADING OUT THE ARMS; UNSPREADING THE ARMS AND CRYING (USUALLY). IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY UNLEARNED FEAR IN HUMAN NEWBORNS
4. CIA. IN 1999, BY THE ORDER OF CONGRESS, THE CIA HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND IN LANGLEY, VIRGINIA WAS RENAMED THE GEORGE BUSH CENTER FOR INTELLIGENCE
5. SUDAN

6. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
7. BLACK MAMBA. THE BLACK MAMBA IS ONE OF THE FASTEST AND DEADLIEST SNAKES IN THE WORLD. TWO DROPS OF ITS VENOM CAN KILL A PERSON
8. POST-IT NOTES. IT IS NOW ICONIC THAT CANARY YELLOW COLOUR WAS CHOSEN BY HAPPENSTANCE — A LAB NEXT DOOR ONLY HAD SCRAP YELLOW PAPER ON HAND
9. BEYONCE. THIS POST FROM BEYONCE SMASHED RECORDS WITH MORE THAN 11 MILLION LIKES: “WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OUR LOVE AND HAPPINESS. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TWO TIMES OVER”
10. 2018 IS THE CHINESE YEAR OF THE BROWN EARTH DOG. THIS LUNAR NEW YEAR STARTS FROM FEB. 16 AND ENDS ON FEB. 4, 2019

STEPHEN HAWKING





## CLASSIC EPIC

**ACTRESS EMILIA MCCARTHY OF 'ZOMBIES' TALKS WITH KIDS ABOUT AUDITIONS, PERFORMANCE JITTERS**

Actress Emilia McCarthy with Kidsday reporters, Matthew Franklin, (left), Aidan Klocek, Julianna Costelli and Isabella Fuertes.

**W**e met singer, actress and dancer Emilia McCarthy, who stars as Lacey in the new Disney Channel film "Zombies," when she was in Manhattan recently. You know her from Netflix original series "Hemlock Grove" and from the Nickelodeon TV show "Max and Shred" — she stars as Abby Ackerman.

### ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT "ZOMBIES" COMING OUT?

I am excited. I am just excited to see it — we put so much work into it, all the singing and dancing. I can't wait to see it all come together.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE ROLE SO FAR?**

I have to say "Zombies." It was the first time that I got to sing. I am used to singing in my shower, and this movie gave me the opportunity to sing in front of so many people. It gave me a chance to break out of my comfort zone and explore another side of me. In this musical I got to sing, dance and act.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF DANCE?**

I really like combination of hip-hop and jazz. It is a popular style right now. This is the first Disney movie that incorporates break dancing, hip-hop and stuff like that. It is really cool for Disney to do this.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE AN ACTRESS?**

I was around your age and I woke up one morning and thought, I want to be an actress. I told my mom and dad that this was my plan for my life, and I asked them to please help me. They got me an agent, and that agent got me auditions. The very first audition that I went to, I got the role, and it filmed in Arizona and Mexico for six weeks. It was a crazy experience. The actual experience of doing it inspired me to keep doing it.

**DID IT TAKE A LONG TIME TO GET INTO MAKEUP?**

I am very grateful I was not a zombie. All the zombies had to come on set about two hours before shooting to get into makeup. They had to spray on this white stuff so that they looked dead, like zombies. They had to wear green wigs. All my character had to wear was a ponytail, and she wore the same outfit every day because she was obsessed with cheerleading. Every outfit was a cheerleading outfit. It was super easy for me.

**DID YOU HAVE STRONG MOTIVATION FOR ACTING?**

Because I actually had the chance to do it, my motivation was to continue doing it. I wanted to continue having that experience.

**WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?**

Acting-wise, it is Michelle Williams. She is like a chameleon. In each role she is like a completely different person. That is kind of like a good role model for me as an actor. You want to become all these different characters.

**HAVE YOU EVER MISSED YOUR FAMILY BECAUSE YOU HAD TO TRAVEL FOR ACTING?**

No, because my family always comes with me. They don't give me a chance to miss them!

**IF YOU WEREN'T AN ACTRESS, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?**

I really like psychology. I am in school right now and I am taking psychology as my minor, and I think acting is kind of similar because it is the study toward human behaviour.

**HAVE YOU MADE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS WHILE ACTING?**

I have made a lot of close friends. It is fun when you film a movie \_ you kind of become a family because you are seeing each other every day. We are all working toward the same goal.

**WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED?**

It is one that I use when I am on auditions. It is: Expect the worst and hope for the best. With auditions it really works for me because I am always kind of expecting the worst. That helps me because then things don't seem as bad as I expected.

**DID YOU EVER AUDITION FOR SOMETHING AND NOT GET THE PART?**

Yes. It happened a lot. We all audition every day of the week, and maybe you will get one or maybe nothing at all. There are hundreds of auditions that you go to, and you can only get so many. There is a lot of rejection.

**HOW DO YOU LIKE TO CALM YOURSELF DOWN BEFORE A PERFORMANCE?**

I like to do some breathing exercises if I am really nervous.

Julianna Costelli, Matthew Franklin, Isabella Fuertes And Aidan Klocek/Tribune News Service



**BRING NEW STAR WARS GAMES INTO YOUR WORLD**

## THRILLING START



Lenovo has teamed with Disney Interactive and Lucasfilm to bring Star Wars into your living room. Through the magic of augmented reality (AR), "Star Wars: Jedi Challenges" is a new video game platform that offers three different games.

The heart of the experience is the smartphone-powered Lenovo Mirage AR headset, which you can slide your Android or iPhone into. There's also a hockey puck-sized tracking beacon you set on the floor, which acts as a stable base for the headset's sensors to detect the user's movement during gameplay.

And there's an authentic high-end replica Luke Skywalker lightsaber controller, acts as a controller and pointer, allowing players to navigate the user interface, with all controls, actions and commands activated with a simple two-button configuration. The Jedi Challenges games are downloaded onto your phone, and then projected into your room via the headset.

Jedi Battles launches with three games, including Lightsaber Duel, which features classic villains from the franchise like Darth Vader, Kylo Ren and Darth Maul. The lightsaber features haptics, so players will feel when the sabers touch in battle.

Everyone remembers the classic HoloChess game that Obi-Wan Kenobi and Luke played aboard the Millennium Falcon in Episode IV, and that now comes to life on any surface. And there's also a Strategic Combat game that allows fans to relive the Battle of Hoth and other epic ground force battles from the franchise. These battles come alive in your living room.

While the price is high (\$200), this platform will continue to offer new experiences for free over time. For example, in January, "The Last Jedi" will be integrated into these games in a variety of ways. One of the most memorable new characters from the new movie are the cute and tiny Porgs, and they'll come to life in AR.

In Lightsaber Duel, players can duel two elite Praetorian Guards featured in "The Last Jedi" at the same time. In addition to the new characters, this also increases the challenge with two characters fighting against you at once.

Strategic Combat offers three new levels set on Crait, a brand new planet introduced in the new movie. These levels will also introduce the First Order AT-M6 walker. And the game's Assault mode receives new enemies and levels, including the First Order Stormtrooper Executioner and Riot Control Stormtrooper.

Additional content will be added to these games over time, as well. But this is one of those awesome experiences that will blow everyone away that puts on the headset. AR is still in its early days, but Star Wars is a franchise that has embraced holography since the original film 40 years ago. So it's the perfect marriage of science fiction and gaming.

John Gaudiosi/Tribune News Service

# World Rowing first sporting body to protect World Heritage

BY MEENA S. JANARDHAN



Just before the next Winter Olympic Games begin in South Korea, the world's oldest international sports federation, World Rowing (FISA), became the first sporting body to pledge to protect World Heritage sites and their buffer zones. By ensuring its events and rowing activities under its control will not negatively impact on UNESCO World Heritage sites, World Rowing is setting a new standard in sustainable sports management and demonstrating the critical role that all sports organizations can play in safeguarding the world's most iconic places.

UNESCO World Heritage sites represent the world's most ecologically, geologically and culturally important places. Sport-related construction, infrastructure and waste can directly threaten the Outstanding Universal Value for their natural values and cause irreparable damage. Taking an on-going case, changes approved by the government of Bulgaria in December last year could see the ski area in Pirin National Park – a World Heritage site and Bulgaria's premier protected area – enlarged to 333km of runs and 113km of ski lifts. This would carve up Europe's best preserved home for wild mammals such as brown bears, wild boar and wolves.

While the rowing venues currently used for World Rowing events do not impact directly on World Heritage sites, World Rowing's pledge demonstrates the growing awareness of sports, businesses and financial institutions of the impacts they can have on our global shared heritage. World Rowing is the first sport to respond

to concerns raised by UNESCO of past negative impacts by other sports on World Heritage sites.

The World Rowing Federation, FISA (from the French, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron) is the governing body of the sport of rowing. It is empowered by its 153 member National Rowing Federations, the National Olympic Committees and the International Olympic Committee to govern the sport of rowing.

### NOT FOR SALE

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) points out that World Heritage sites are the pinnacle of Earth's most protected areas, contain some of the planet's most treasured species. Many are home to large populations of rare plants and animals, including almost a third of all remaining wild tigers, and 40 per cent of all African elephants.

According to a recent report released by the WWF titled 'Not For Sale', despite the protection given to World Heritage sites and their wildlife, poaching, illegal logging and illegal fishing occur in more than 25% of all natural and mixed World Heritage sites.

The Executive Summary of the report states that due to their immense value, World Heritage sites and many of the species they support are protected under the World Heritage Convention and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). The World Heritage Convention protects cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage sites that are internationally recognised for their outstanding universal value.

CITES regulates the international trade in a large number of wild animals and plants, which are referred to as CITES-listed species. Collectively, these two conventions are designed to protect the world's most biodiverse places and precious species, and are ratified by almost every country in the world.

Despite this protection, poaching, illegal logging and/or illegal fishing occur in over a quarter of all natural and mixed World Heritage sites. Poaching of vulnerable and endangered animal species, such as elephants, rhinos and tigers, has been reported in at least 43 World Heritage sites, and illegal logging of valuable plant species, such as rosewood and ebony, has been reported in 26 properties. Illegal fishing has been reported in 18 out of the current 39 marine and coastal properties. Illegal harvesting of CITES-listed species is a significant problem across the globe, and occurs in around 50 per cent of African, Asian and Latin American properties.

The Summary points out that continued illegal harvesting in World Heritage sites could lead to the extinction of species. Between 1970 and 2012, global wildlife populations declined by almost 60 per cent on average, and illegal harvesting of species was one of the main drivers for this decline. 10 World Heritage sites now function as the last bastion for many critically endangered species, and unless protected within World Heritage sites, these species will go extinct. Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia is the last refuge for around 60 critically endangered Javan rhinos, 11 and the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf

of California supports the world's 30 remaining vaquitas, the world's smallest porpoise.

Illegal harvesting of species in World Heritage sites also degrades vital social, economic and environmental benefits, and endangers the lives of nearby residents and rangers. 93 per cent of natural World Heritage sites support recreation and tourism, 91 per cent provide jobs and 66 per cent of properties are important for water quantity and/or quality. Many of these benefits are dependent on the presence of CITES-listed species in the properties. For example, Chitwan National Park in Nepal generates annual revenue in excess of \$1.2 million from wildlife tours alone, 14, 15 and more than 50 per cent of Belize's population, or 190,000 people, are supported by incomes generated through reef related tourism and fisheries.

The report warns that illegal harvesting of CITES-listed species significantly undermines properties' attractiveness to tourists, and can alter the natural ecosystem. The illegal timber trade is responsible for up to 90 per cent of deforestation in major tropical countries and it increases soil erosion and water pollution while reducing carbon sequestration. Over a two-year period, illegal rosewood trade has cost the people of Madagascar up to \$200 million in lost income, 18 and it is estimated that Africa loses \$25 million per year in tourism income due to elephant poaching. 19 Wildlife trafficking has also often endangered people's lives, and between 2009 and 2016 at least 595 rangers were killed in the line of duty, many of whom were protecting World Heritage sites.



### HOT RAP SONGS

ROCKSTAR  
POST MALONE FEATURING 21 SAVAGE

NO LIMIT  
G-EAZY FEATURING ASAP ROCKY & CARDI B

GUCCI GANG  
LIL PUMP

MOTORSPORT  
MIGOS, NICKI MINAJ & CARDI B

BODAK YELLOW (MONEY MOVES)  
CARDI B

LOVE.  
KENDRICK LAMAR FEATURING ZACARI

BARTIER  
CARDI B FEATURING 21 SAVAGE

GUMMO  
6IX9INE

I FALL APART  
POST MALONE

LET YOU DOWN  
NF

### HOT DANCE CLUB/ PLAY SONGS

X WITH U  
TOM BUDIN & LUCIANA

THINK (ABOUT IT)  
BARBARA TUCKER

AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH ENOUGH 2017  
DIANA ROSS

STARS  
KRISTINE W

LOVE LINE  
LEANN RIMES

TOO MUCH TO ASK  
NIALL HORAN

COPING  
TONI BRAXTON

SHINE YOUR LOVE  
SCOTTY BOY & LIZZIE CURIOUS

WOMAN  
KESHA FEATURING THE DAP-KINGS HORNS

COMPLICATED  
DIMITRI VEGAS & LIKE MIKE VS. DAVID  
GUETTA FEATURING KIIARA

## 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](mailto:gulftoday30@gmail.com)

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1. **TIME TI**

2. **cheaper cheaper  
cheaper cheaper  
cheaper cheaper  
cheaper cheaper  
cheaper cheaper**

3. The Weekly "Brain Breaker"

**STRIKE STRIKE STRIKE YOU'RE**

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

3.

Today's Answers are on Page 00

Created by Tom Underwood www.wuzzlesking.com ©North America Syndicate, 2017 8-13

**WUZZLES®**

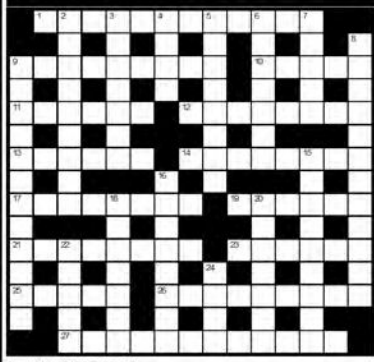
Answers

1. Time and a half  
2. Cheaper by the dozen  
3. Three strikes and you're out

8-13

### CROSSWORD

Ahamed Mohideen.K.A ADMA Abu Dhabi



**Down**

- Graphic record of hearing ability for various sound frequencies (9)
- Sour-tasting liquid used as food preservative (7)
- Space administration centre of USA (4)
- Acknowledgment of a personal error or fault. (3,5)
- British luxury ship, on its maiden voyage from England to New York City struck an iceberg (7)
- Pear-shaped musical instrument, having three strings and being played with a bow (5)
- Diplomat who is acceptable to the government to which he is sent (7,5)
- Response of body tissues to injury or irritation (12)
- Large pasta tubes stuffed with chopped meat and baked in tomato sauce (9)
- International intelligence agency permitting collaboration among intelligence agencies around the world (8)
- Rice cooked with broth and sprinkled with grated cheese (7)
- Plants having showy, variously colored flowers used in medicine (7)
- Person of wealth and prominence (5)
- Capital and largest city of the Ukraine (4)

**Across**

- Instrument for measuring small electric currents (12)
- Republic in southeastern Asia, Jakarta is the capital (9)
- Set of data arranged in rows and columns (5)
- Compressed mass of paper sheets, forming a matrix or mold for stereotype plates (6)
- Reddish-brown ruminant mammal resembling llama (8)
- First light of day (6)
- Sample of blood used for analysis and diagnosis. (8)
- Thin sheet of tissue that covers organs of animals (8)
- Punch made of sweetened milk mixed with eggs (6)
- Gray-white metallic element used in lamp filaments (8)
- Ingredient of the Mosaic incense, the operculum of some kind of strombus (6)
- Path taken by an artificial satellite or spacecraft around a celestial body (5)
- Ancient region on the coast of southwestern Palestine that was strategically located on a trade route between Syria and Egypt (9)
- Vitamin that maintains the resistance of cell and capillary walls to permeation (12)

**Last week's solutions**

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

CROSSWORD NO. 788

# ROYAL JOURNEY



Venetians row during the masquerade parade on the Grand Canal during the Carnival in Venice, Italy. Reuters

### SPORTS SLEUTH

SPORTS INVOLVING A BALL

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

Baseball      Cricket      Handball      Soccer  
 Basketball      Croquet      Hurling      Tennis  
 Bocce      Football      Lacrosse      Volleyball  
 Bowling      Golf      Pingpong

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# Total package

**Robert Duffer feels the 2018 Honda Accord Touring is the best midsize sedan on the market**



**T**he redesigned 2018 Honda Accord has won a slew of awards, including the 2018 North American Car of the Year, the industry's most impartial acknowledgment. Awards are like opinions, sure, and the 10th-generation Accord may not be good enough to stop the sales slide of midsize sedans to crossovers but it should once again overtake the Toyota Camry as the best-selling car in America.

It's lower, leaner, sharper, better equipped, quicker, more fuel efficient, more powerful, more spacious than the outgoing model and pretty much anything else in its class. The top of the line Touring trim could compete with premium

brands such as Buick, Infiniti and Honda's own Acura TLX. Sound crazy? For \$36,000, it's a deal.

And it looks good. Lower to the ground with a longer wheelbase and shorter ends, it has an attractive fastback style with a sloping roofline tapering into the rear. It's no German sportback; the Accord has a proper trunk, with 16.7 cubic feet leading the class. Four sets of golf clubs should fit, or three extra teens sneaking into the drive-in (as if).

The coupelike design keeps headroom tight for taller riders, and with the seat at its lowest position it feels as if you're getting in and out of a sport sedan.

Accord is no longer offered

with a 278-horsepower V-6 engine because the 252-horsepower 2-litre turbo four nearly the same engine as the Honda Civic Type R offered in Touring trim does more better. It's all about the torque, which, grossly simplified, gets you going, while horsepower keeps you going faster.

The outgoing V-6 Accord made 258 pound-feet, while the 2T4 with a 10-speed automatic pumps out 273 pound-feet of torque, most ever for an Accord.

It pops from a stop and drivers might notice a slight pull one way or another from the front-wheel drive system. Torque steer is nearly unavoidable with a car this potent. All that torque is available at just

1,500 rpm, so this Accord is ready for far more pressing challenges than just passing moves.

Combine its punch with a lower center of gravity and sharp handling, and the new Accord is downright fun. Yup, way more fun than the old V-6, and more fun than Camry's new V-6 in the XSE.

It gets better on the inside. The touchscreen, flanked with a tuning AND volume knob is mounted high in the dash, which takes away from the overall neat design. Chrome strips and soft-touch materials balance the woodlike trim to keep it classy, though. The customizable instrument cluster inch for inch the most valuable real estate in the cabin is what other automakers should

emulate. Audi sets the bar, but Honda has leapfrogged GM in setting the pace for mainstream makes.

With a toggle of the steering wheel control, the tachometer becomes a 7-inch space to roll through audio or phone commands, view nav directions, or check active fuel economy or trip meters. Nothing revolutionary here, but it's safe, smart, and easy, relegating the touch screen to a map display or device for the passenger to play with. The excellent head-up display furthers the premium-car feel. Auto awards are a dime a dozen. But the 2018 Honda Accord is the best midsize sedan on the market.

Tribune News Service

# talkings point

## NAKED TRUTH

**A**ctor Chloe Grace Moretz, who worked alongside Louis C.K. on his film "I Love You, Daddy" before accusations of sexual misconduct from five women surfaced against the comedian, says she is one of hundreds of thousands of women who has a story, but would like to focus on "the entire movement."

The film's premiere was abruptly cancelled in the wake of allegations against C.K., which Moretz has not responded to.

Speaking at the Sundance Film Festival, Moretz was asked about her personal experience and how she dealt with the scandal after working so closely with C.K., who wrote and directed "I Love You, Daddy" in addition to starring as her on-screen father.

Moretz, who has become one of the most outspoken voices in young Hollywood when it comes to politics, gender equality and activism, responded to the larger #MeToo movement, rather than speak specifically about C.K.

"I could single-in and talk about my experience, but I think it's more important to talk about the entire movement as a whole," Moretz told variety.com.

"I'm one of hundreds of thousands of women in so many different industries that has a story. You could ask anyone in this room and all of us could give you 10 stories, I'm sure," Moretz continued.

"I think it's just nice, the communication, and the fact that you asked this question at Sundance in a video suite, this never would have happened two years ago. So the fact that it's a conversation and it's a question is monumental, and I think that shouldn't be looked past or looked over. We have all been through a lot of stuff, but at least we are communicating and people are going to be held accountable."



**HOLLYWOOD & BOLLYWOOD at CINEMAS in U.A.E. & G.C.C.**

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 GERARD BUTLER PABLO SCHREIBER SHEA JACKSON, JR. CURTIS "50 CENT" JACKSON  
 NOW SHOWING

**Taraji P. Henson is Proud Mary**  
 Killing for the Man every Night and Day  
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**DAY OF THE DEAD BLOODLINE**  
 JOIN THE UNDYING WAR  
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