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DECEMBER 25-31, 2011 | Issue 28

Read.

Season's Greetings



TROPICAL STORM

The fashion world has gone all tropical for the spring, with bright colours and flowers making an impact



DIVINE DUBROVNIK



LACKING SPIRIT

The new holiday film, *New Year's Eve*, relies too heavily on its all-star cast and not enough on a good script



AUDIBLE PARADISE

We profile rock legends Coldplay ahead of their highly-anticipated New Year's Eve show on the cornice of Abu Dhabi

2012

New Year, new you

How to stick to those New Year's resolutions that seem so hard to keep



Health | Fitness | Film reviews | Entertainment | Cars & gadgets | Community | Listings

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Letters

Email: letters@readme.ae

A selection of the letters we've received this week. Write in to have your say.

✉ Hi *Read.*, I've not been here very long, and I'm missing simple things from home. Besides the idea of getting used to driving on the opposite side of the road, I don't have an international driving licence. If there was an easy way to just transfer my UK licence to a UAE licence, I could really start making myself at home here.

Lindi Darley

ED: It's not too much trouble. Just bring along four passport-sized photos, a photocopy of your passport and residency visa, a no-objection letter from your employer plus a copy of their passport, an eye test form, and finally, of course, your own licence that you wish to convert.

✉ Hey *Read.*, I think I may have over-extended my hospitality. I live in a one-bedroom apartment and have six people set to visit me over the next few weeks, who all want to experience the excitement in

Dubai for New Year's Eve. I could deal with four guests, but six is too much, and I can't change my mind now as all flights are booked. Have you got any suggestions, or maybe some floor space in your office? Thanks.

Billy Dingley

ED: Don't panic; there are ways to survive the invasion. Unfortunately, not on our office floor. But have you considered renting a studio apartment for a month? You can get short-term leases for furnished apartments, quite possibly in the same building you are already in.

✉ Hi team, I'm sure you've been asked this a million times, but *Read.* is so good, I have to give it a go. I am quite happy with my job, but maybe you have a job for me? I would love to get involved, even during my spare time.

Sanaa Lathan

ED: We are always delighted to have input from our readers. From commenting on our web site, uploading pictures to Facebook, or even submitting articles for print. Whatever your ideas are, send them to editorial@readme.ae

Read. Poll

Was 2011 a good year for you?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- Can't be bothered

Cast your vote online at www.readme.ae

LAST READ. POLL RESULTS

What is the best part about living in Dubai?
World-class city **30%** Great lifestyle **33%** Ability to save money **11%** Good job opportunities **26%**

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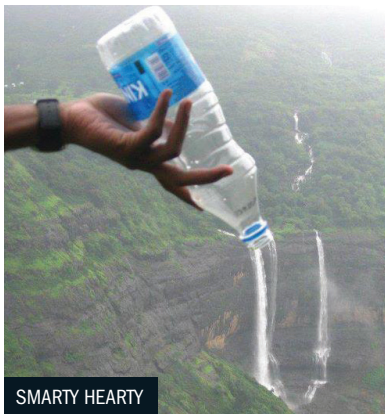
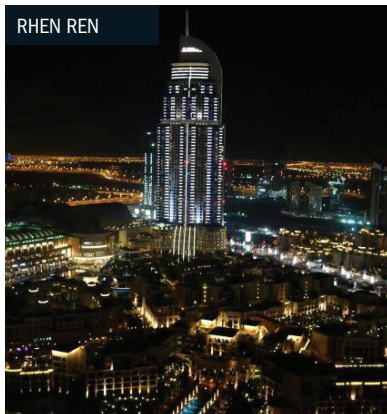
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Metro pics



Post your pictures (any subject) on the Facebook page of *Read.* The pictures with the most number of 'Likes' will be selected for publication and the most creative one will also be awarded a Digitally voucher worth Dh250. Post your pictures to www.facebook.com/readmeae

RHEN REN

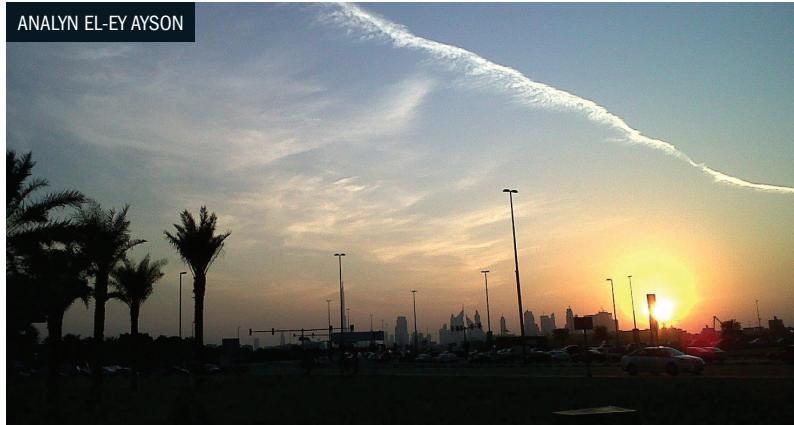


SMARTY HEARTY

SHARON MENDONCE



ANALYN EL-EY AYSON

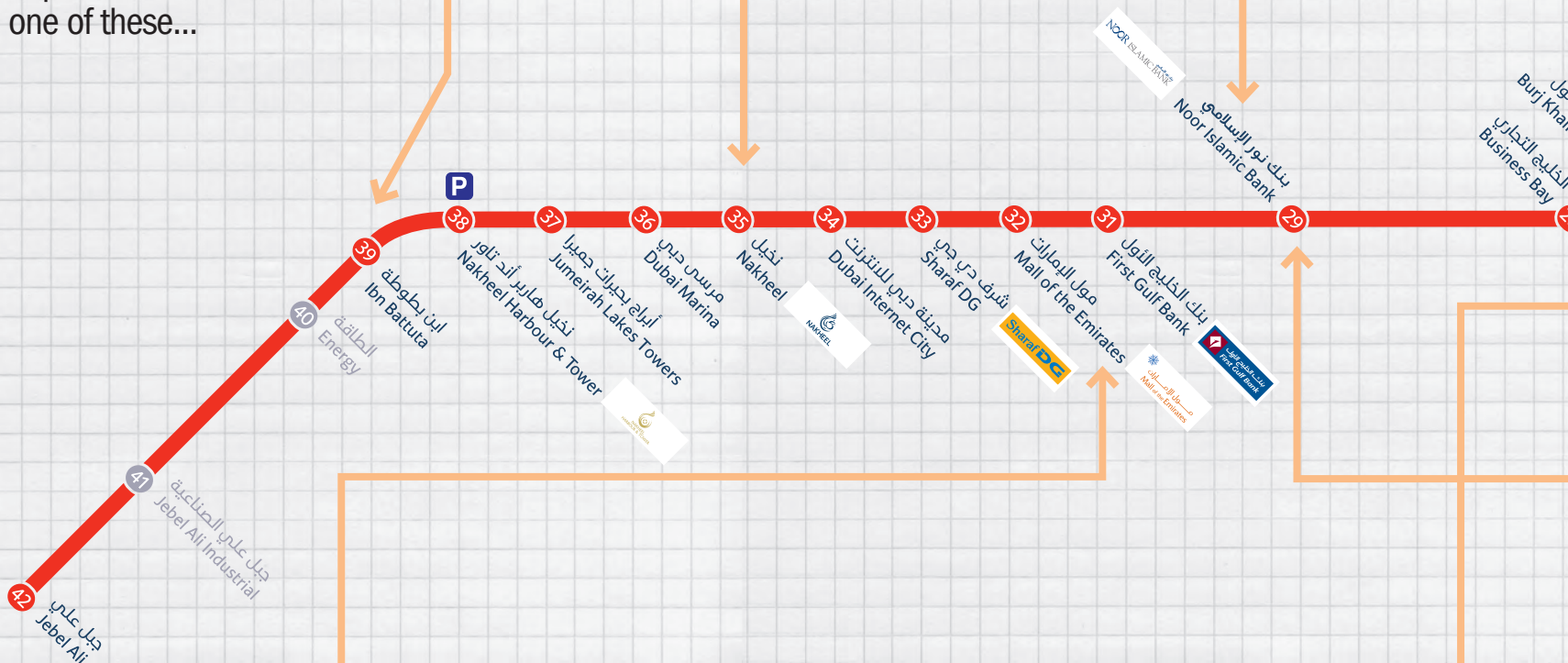


WILFRED M. BUSTAMANTE



Station by station guide

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Peter Pan

UNTIL DECEMBER 31

FIRST GROUP THEATRE, MADINAT JUMEIRAH

Why not take the family to see Peter, Tinkerbell, Wendy, Captain Hook and the Lost Boys light up the stage with a magical performance of Peter Pan at the Madinat Theatre? Showing until December 31, the show is suitable for children aged five and up, various timings and ticket prices.

Bye Bye 2011



DECEMBER 30, 8PM ONWARDS
CHI, THE LODGE, AL NASR
LEISURELAND, DUBAI

Rabbi Shargill is back in Dubai to entertain the crowds with his unique combination of Sufi and Pop style. He will be accompanied on the night by his high-pitch *Bulla Ki Jana* and *Tere Bin* and looks set to mesmerise the audience at this Indian music concert. Also in the lineup is Bollywood band AD Boyz, along with captivating music from Shibani Kashyap and rock music by DJ Hani. Bye Bye 2011 is presented by Tiger Media & Events and Suno Radio 1024 FM. Tickets Dh100 (Regular), limited offer on table bookings. Call 055 356 2451 to find out more.

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
EMAIL EDITORIAL@README.AE



Warrior Yoga

SUNDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
BUILDING 10, DUBAI MEDIA CITY

After all the festive fuss has died down, why not start the New Year by discovering your inner warrior? Warrior yoga is all about powerful and dynamic movements and has been a celeb favourite for quite some time. Classes are held three times a week from 7am-8am at Zen Yoga.

Mission: Impossible

TIMINGS VARY
GRAND MEGAPLEX

If you still haven't been to check out the latest *Mission: Impossible* blockbuster, make sure you



head to your nearest cinema to catch Dubai in all its glory on the big screen, jam-packed action scenes, and Tom Cruise hanging from the edge of the Burj Khalifa. Timings vary for all cinemas.



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Celebration of the Absent



UNTIL JANUARY 5,
2012
GREEN ART GALLERY,
JUMEIRAH

There is still time to take a break from the festivities and add a little culture to your week by visiting the latest exhibition from Syrian artist Ziad Dalloul. *Celebration of the Absent* is the painter's first solo exhibition in the UAE and has gone down a storm with art lovers and critics alike. Catch it before it finishes on January 5, open from 10am-7pm, call 04 346 9305 for more information.

The Burning Question

Q What are your New Year's resolutions or hopes for 2012?



Nadia Ferreira

HOUSEWIFE, JLT

My New Year's resolution was to move to Dubai from South Africa, which I have stuck to because I moved here two weeks ago. Aside from that, I would mainly just hope for health and happiness for all my family.

Lyn Jones

VISITING, JLT

I won't be making any New Year's resolutions for myself this year, but I would like to see good health for myself and my family, and also the health of the planet.



Zaryab Shaikh

RETAIL EXECUTIVE, AL FAHIDI

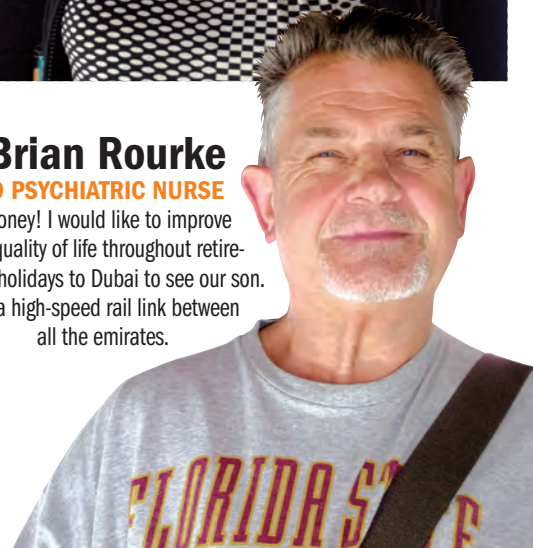
I don't exactly have any New Year's resolutions, except to keep my work and career strategy going well. I do, however, hope that in 2012, my husband can finally find a good job.



Brian Rourke

RETIRED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

I want to spend more money! I would like to improve myself and my wife's quality of life throughout retirement and have more holidays to Dubai to see our son. I would also like to see a high-speed rail link between all the emirates.



George Hearn

RETIRED, JLT

I can't think of any specific resolutions for myself, but I suppose good health is always something to hope for. I would very much like to see the world's economy improve in 2012.



Arafat Hussain

SERVICE, AL QUOZ

I don't think I have any resolutions for the new year. I am quite happy with everything and Dubai is a good place, so I don't think anything needs to change.



Susan Rourke

SOCIAL WORKER, VISITING

I don't really have any resolutions for myself this year, but I suppose I just want to carry on enjoying life and hopefully make the most of my well-earned retirement.



What's happening this week on **readme.ae?**

Make sure you check out our web site for these daily specials, which appear online every afternoon. 'Like' us on Facebook so that we can keep you up to date with our latest online features and fun.

Coming up this week



TODAY

Spanning multiple centuries, literature has been a pillar of society through all walks of life. Too often we see "Best-seller" attached to a seemingly new title, and although they may have sold more than a handful of copies, they aren't quite at the sales level as those in the 100-million club. Learn more about the real best-sellers today.



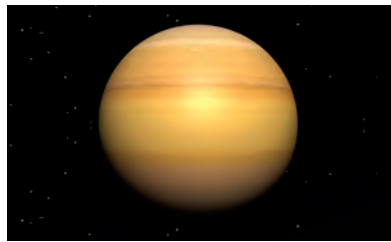
MONDAY

Santa Claus may have packed his sleigh and returned to the North Pole for another year, but where did he come from? Who created the man in the red suit? Jingle your bells with readme.ae



TUESDAY

Dubai has no shortage of iconic structures, between the Burj Al Arab, Burj Khalifa and the Palm Jumeirah. But other countries do, too. Check out the world's most famous engineering feats.



WEDNESDAY

On this day 400 years ago, Galileo first spotted Neptune, although he mistook it for a fixed star. What else happened on December 28 through the ages? Visit readme.ae to find out.



THURSDAY

Dubai seems to have a perfect balance between space and inhabitants, making it an ideal city to live in. Other cities suffer with overpopulation cramping comfort. Find out who's worst off today.



FRIDAY

Once again our Facebook page has been full of your opinions on our daily Burning Question. We find the best responses from our Facebook fans and bring you the answers that matter most to the people of Dubai.

Facebook chatter

Here's what you have been saying on the Read. Facebook page.

(Responses only edited for length)

Do you think an eight-match ban and Dh230,000 fine for a footballer's racial abuse is justified?

Such disciplinary crackdown imposed by the Football Association is JUSTIFIED so much so with the jostling or holding of a match official by a player or any other incidents which pertains to the PROPER conduct of the players.

—Clen Nicolas

I hope, its an injustice.. imposing ban and fine without hearing or petition on racism.. And It raises questions why EA reacted so severely despite any proof confinement

—Raj Anugula

Do you prefer shopping online or going to the shops, and why do you buy from the shops that you do?

For me, i preferred walking around the shops, coz i can have a touch and feel on the products which gives me more excitement to buy.

—Mitchie Flores Tagudin



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

I do not actually buy from a specific brand, but the quality of the stuff. So I prefer to look around and see the prices are good.

—Czar Johnlloyd Portugal

What are your thoughts on the future of North Korea, or on Kim Jong-il's reign as leader?

They should must continue with their nuclear program, because this hunger is today, but the program will remain, for about centuries..

—Salman Sam's

It's better not to escalate this incident and creat chaos. Opportunist will take advantage. What happened to Iraq, Afghan ? Is it peaceful now? Minding our own business policy is good rather than putting our nose in to other county's savournty.

—Francis Lawrence



KIM JONG-IL

If the son has been named as successor, the chances of the regime changing are slim. Am sure he knows as well as his father did how to line his pockets - he was brought up in a dictatorship, and I am sure, like many dictator's kids, only sees as far as his own wealth and well-being.

—Georgina Enzer-Hennawi

Sry no idea...!

—Fayaj Ahamed

The best in holiday shopping

BenQ



BenQ has introduced three new compact digital cameras—the AE100, AE110 and the AE200 point and shoots for this season.

Both the AE100 and the AE200 cameras feature a fluid diamond pattern design, and are equipped with a 14-megapixel and 16-megapixel sensor, respectively. Both have a F2.4 aperture lens which delivers better low-light photos, a 5x optical zoom, and a 2.7-inch LCD display. And both can record 720p HD videos. The AE110 features a 14-Megapixel camera, a 5x optical zoom, a 25-millimetre wide-angle lens, five-centimetre macro, and can record 720p HD videos.

The AE100 is priced at Dh350 and comes in red and silver, while the AE110, at Dh370, comes in black and silver. The AE200 costs Dh370 and is available in blue and grey.

Alexander McQueen

Alexander McQueen has released an array of scarves for men from its Cruise 2012 collection. Ideal for gifts, these scarves will look good day or night and are as versatile to wear as they are practical for keeping warm on a Dubai winter evening. Adorned with the Alexander McQueen signature skulls, each has its own style print, fabric and texture. The collection includes Pashmina scarves, skinny silk scarves, bandanas and triangle-shaped scarves. Available at the Alexander McQueen boutique in the Dubai Mall.



Swarovski



Swarovski is ending 2011 in style with the release of a stunning selection of jewellery and decorative objects. Every Christmas, Swarovski creates a festive ambiance with a collection of sparkling gifts and ornaments.

For 20 years, the Christmas Ornament, Annual Edition, has gracefully adorned Christmas trees and homes all over the world. To mark this special occasion and to continue this tradition, Swarovski has opted for a refined and modern star design that sparkles with an exceptional brilliance.

Eloga

Spirit comes with an attitude this festive season. Swiss company Eloga offers the Sunrise Spirit collection for men, which is a precious gift set that includes a speed-white ceramic watch, white onyx cufflinks and white marble stone bead rosary to match. A black version called Sunset Spirit is also available.





Panasonic

Panasonic has launched its new five-blade shower shaver for men from the Lamdash series. This new Panasonic shower shaver is waterproof and is considered a technological breakthrough, catering to those who desire high performance, ease and efficiency in shaving. It can be used in wet and dry conditions, with or without foam or even under the shower. Its features give a gentler experience, enhancing comfort and smoothness to the skin, post-shaving.

Reebok

Whether you're looking for a great festive gift, or to get fit for your New Year's resolution, Reebok has selected a range of sporting accessories that will guarantee you look your best and keep your cool when exercising. Available in purple and look-at-me Redastic, the price is also good-looking, with all the items combined coming in at under Dh500. Found at Reebok stores across the UAE.



Home Centre

Home Centre goes all out this season to bring Christmas cheer to Dubai with its extensive collection of interiors and homeware, as well as festive decorations and gifting options available across all its outlets in the region.

Designed to suit every style with a plethora of festive choices, the Home Centre Christmas décor ensemble includes wreaths, baubles and ornaments, sparkly lights, several varieties of pine trees as well as Christmas-inspired crockery and cookware plus an array of gifting options.

The Christmas features are priced between Dh5 and Dh525. And gift vouchers worth Dh200, Dh150 and Dh50 are also available at all Home Centre stores throughout the year.

Damas

Damas has unveiled its latest Farfasha Collection for the 2011/2012 season. Farfasha is a designer gold jewellery brand, which is available in seven themes with more than 160 designs, ranging from necklaces and bracelets to earrings and rings.

Special laser technology has been used in the manufacturing process for many of the pieces to enable lightweight pieces with finely crafted designs. The new collection incorporates gold with different designs and colours, making for interesting themes.



A night to remember

New Year's Eve should turn out to be a completely unforgettable experience, particularly with **Coldplay** providing the entertainment.



THREE OF THE FOUR BANDMATES AT THE Q AWARDS

What a year it's been for music lovers in the UAE. We've had Metallica, Guns and Roses and even living legend Paul McCartney. And now seven-time Grammy award-winning rock band Coldplay will usher in the New Year in style in Abu Dhabi, as well as kick-starting the emirate's hosting of the 2011/12 Volvo Ocean Race. The band are set to perform live on December 31 at a unique venue next to the purpose-built Volvo Ocean Race Destination Village on the Corniche breakwater. On the back of the band's latest album, *Mylo Xyloto*, which debuted at number one in 30 countries worldwide and smashed the record for the highest number of download sales in one week, Coldplay will no doubt put on one of Abu Dhabi's

best shows to date, rounding off what has been a stellar year for big-name concerts.

This is the second time that Coldplay have performed in the UAE, the first being in 2009, when Flash Entertainment set up the country's first seriously big rock show. It was a cold, wet and stormy night, but despite the poor weather conditions, Coldplay attracted 20,000 visitors—a sell-out crowd—as they prepared to wrap up the grueling worldwide tour for their fourth studio album. The weather didn't stop the fans as they arrived in droves and left two hours later still singing in the rain.

At the time, John Lickrish, Flash Entertainment's managing director, said, "This has been a night of firsts for Flash and the capital; Coldplay's first concert in the region; our first weekend of back-to-back major con-

certs; and the first time anyone has offset the carbon footprint of a music concert in the UAE."

Two years on, and the fans will be expecting something particularly special from Coldplay. Only a few weeks ago, the band performed at the finale of the UK's *X Factor*, literally lighting up the Wembley Arena. Each person in the 12,500-strong audience was given a wristband which lit up with different colours in time with the two songs the band performed—*Charlie Brown* seamlessly transitioned into the hit single, *Paradise*. It was one of the more inventive ways of making the audience a part of the show. Whether or not we'll be treated to something similar on New Year's Eve remains to be seen, but one can hope.

Even if we're not, though, it's almost guaranteed that the UAE crowds will go wild for Coldplay on the night. Indeed, it's amazing just how big Coldplay still are, even 11 years after having released their debut album, *Parachutes*. This album contained the breakthrough single, *Yellow*, which provided the band with

“The first single gained two million downloads in its first week.”

instant worldwide acclaim, and the album won them a Grammy.

Since then, Coldplay have seemed unstoppable, with every new album garnering them more fame, more awards and more critical acclaim. The second two albums, *A Rush of Blood to the Head* and *X&Y*, contained what are now considered to be

modern classics, with the likes of *In My Place* and *The Scientist*. The former album won the band two more Grammys, while the latter earned them two Brit Awards.

It could have ended there for Coldplay, but they showed no signs of slowing with the release of *Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends* in 2008. The album was a step in a new direction for the band, with less falsetto singing and more bluesy undertones, though the fans and critics still lapped it up; the first single gained two million downloads in its first week, and the second, *Viva La Vida*, became the band's first number one on the Billboard Hot 100 based on download sales alone.

Mylo Xyloto provides another different set of sounds, most of which consist of epic stadium rock. There are a couple of softer songs that hark back to the band's older days, but most of the new material seems to be geared towards doing what the band does best; putting on an unforgettable live show. And no doubt that's what we'll get on New Year's Eve. ●

LEAD SINGER CHRIS MARTIN PERFORMING



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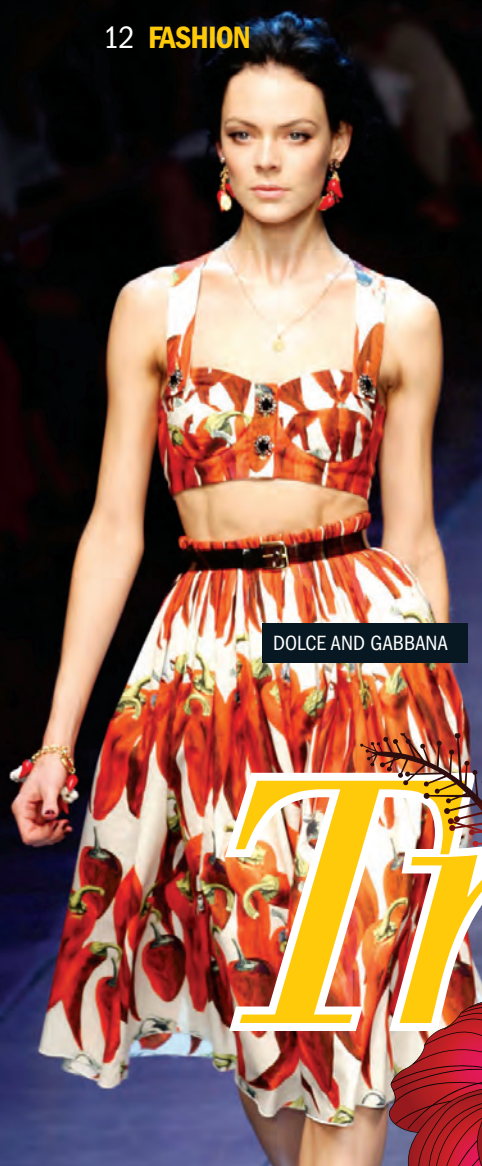
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DOLCE AND GABBANA



ROBERTO CAVALLI

Tribal

Polynesian Tiki prints add an exotic flavour to spring fashion. Pair a tropical-inspired sun dress with raffia wedges or flat espadrilles to get the look of the islands. Animal motifs step out for a formal summer soirée in a gown featuring leopard or animal prints.



NEW LOOK



SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

Jewellery

Accent the tropical motifs with sea life-themed charms and pendants, colourful seed beads and metal cuffs. Combine several brilliant colours in a bracelet or necklace for a layered look that evokes the enchanting rhythms found in South America.

Tropical traveller

Fashion gets the island appeal.

Jungle Queen

This season, designers are using bold, statement-making accessories that reference jungle tribes of the past, enticing the culture-curious, jet-setting woman of today. Top off your outfit with a chunky, colourful necklace and beaded earrings to get maximum glamour. Dressing bold can be as simple as pairing geometric shaped earrings with a vivid realist print.

As we say goodbye to 2011 and enter the New Year, we are greeted by fabulous new fashion trends. Designers such as Dolce and Gabbana and Roberto Cavalli have taken inspiration from the exotic flavours of the Amazon and combined tribal influences into their latest collections. Luckily for us, the high street stores have created fashionable, tropical-inspired pieces. New Look, Topshop and River Island all feature dresses, trousers and skirts in an array of tropical styles from bold to bright prints and patterns. The tropics stay on trend with tropical patterns. This Amazonian inspiration brings in lush jungle landscapes with tropical fruits on dresses, shirts and jackets. Don't worry about over-doing it with the prints, as matching is key this season. Opt for a full-bodied skirt with either a fruit or floral print and pair with a crop top and skinny belt to cinch in the waist. You will have the tropical paradise look in an instant.



MONSOON

Floral Bliss

Hawaiian florals are essential to achieve this exotic trend. Asian flowers, palm leaves and tropical fruit motifs are important prints to the carrying of this fun style. Choose bright punches of splashy citrus hues to create a vibrant colour palette, inspired by nature itself.



DOLCE AND GABBANA



NEW LOOK

Her



MONSOON

FASHION SCENE

A peek at fashion in 2040



Esmod Dubai, the French institute fully dedicated to fashion in the region, showed what the fashion world could become decades from now at its 'The Future' show held recently in Dubai.

The pageantry of 60 experimental creations from Esmod's 1st to 3rd year students served as the institute's main Christmas-season event. The showpieces covered themes such as 'nuclear power' and 'uniforms' and reflected the designers' take on what fashion could look like in the year 2040.

RIVER ISLAND



Woven shoes

Stay cool with a pair of canvas or woven shoes in tan or natural shades to balance out the bright prints of your shirt.

NEW LOOK

Hawaiian shirts get that la-isla-bonita look poolside with a striking printed top. Hawaiian print shirts are back. The all-over printed tops are a perfect bridge between a t-shirt and casual shirt this season. Opt for a jersey version with a collar for a modern, up-to-date alternative to the classic polo shirt. Remember, the bolder the print, the better.

RIVER ISLAND



Him

NEW LOOK

Finishing touches

Pair this shirt with denim shorts or chinos and a pair of shades. Stay on trend with a straw hat for that island look and beaded bracelets for a relaxed surfer style.

DOLCE AND GABBANA



Feeling tired alright

It is natural to experience fatigue at times, but for some people, there is no escaping a constant feeling of tiredness.



CHRONIC FATIGUE

Life in a city like Dubai can be tiring. With a fast-paced social life, busy job and a family to juggle, we can all feel exhausted from time to time.

However, for some people, tiredness is not just something that creeps up at the end of a hard day. For them, each day is blighted by the feeling of being constantly tired, for no apparent medical reason.

Known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), there is a certain level of controversy surrounding the condition. Causes and symptoms relating to CFS remain unknown and the disease is still relatively unclear to most, causing many to argue it is not a real medical condition.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) on the other hand, is

a condition that is widely accepted by the medical community. The two conditions present similar symptoms, which prompts discussion over whether the two can be linked, or whether they are two very different afflictions.

One of the main difficulties when dealing with both CFS and ME is that there is no test to prove that a patient has either condition. A doctor will usually diagnose CFS or ME based on the individual person's symptoms.

There are certain tests that can rule out other causes of the fatigue and any other symptoms. For example, blood tests can rule out anemia, an under-active thyroid gland, or liver and kidney problems. However there is no medical test that can pinpoint the cause of chronic fatigue.

The same goes for

CFS: THE FACTS

- CFS occurs four times more frequently in women than in men.
- The illness occurs most often in people in their 40s and 50s, but can affect any age.
- CFS is sometimes seen in members of the same family, which suggests there may be a genetic link. However, further research is needed to prove this.

the associated symptoms. The onset of symptoms can be fairly sudden (over a few days), or more gradual, worsening over many months. The most obvious symptom is persistent fatigue (tiredness). This is often felt to be both physical and mental fatigue, and is described by many sufferers as overwhelming, unlike any other type of fatigue.

If rest does not ease the fatigue and it is not linked to mental or physical exertion, muscle weakness, or depression, it provides the main clue that CFS or ME is present. Other symptoms can include cognitive difficulties such as poor concentration, poor short-term memory, reduced attention span, or feeling disorientated, although these symptoms are not

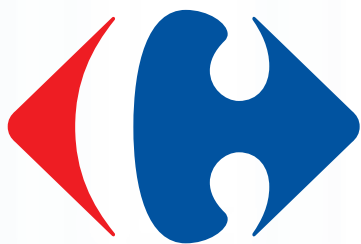
“CFS is described by many sufferers as overwhelming, unlike any other type of fatigue”

present in all sufferers. Unfortunately, there is no known cure for CFS and ME, although treatments may ease the symptom, such as painkillers for any associated muscle or joint pain, dietary regulation, treatment of any underlying depression, scheduled rest, relaxation techniques and expert advice on maintaining a regular sleep pattern. However, the most important thing, as with any condition, is to seek help. If you feel as though you are experiencing any signs of CFS or ME see your doctor immediately. Catching the condition early could turn a potential nightmare into sweet dreams. ●

RELAXATION TECHNIQUES CAN SOMETIMES HELP



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١٤٠ x ٧٠ سم، ٢٩,٧٥ درهم
TENDANCE'S printed towel 50x90cm
Also available in bath towel
70x140cm Dhs 29.75

1 9 Dhs .75

منشفة يد (تاندانس)،
٦٠ x ٤٠ سم
TENDANCE'S hand
towel 40x60cm

2 39 Dhs .75

منشفة استحمام (تاندانس)،
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The top

We count down the most impressive, most advanced, and most loved gadgets of the year.

10

Sony S-Series 13-inch laptop

The 13-inch laptops that Sony released this year were a big surprise, in that they ended up being the best-value mid-range laptops available anywhere. For less than \$1,000 (Dh3,650), you get a high-resolution screen, a powerful graphics chip and a fingerprint reader. Not bad for something weighing about 1.6 kilograms.



MacBook Air

This year, Apple revamped its ultra-thin laptop so that it now sports a new Intel processor, a backlit keyboard and solid-state storage. The 13-inch version is particularly impressive, being only 1.7 centimetres thick with a 1,440 by 900 resolution screen. It also weighs just 1.4 kilograms, meaning better performance with fewer trade-offs. What's more, it's a truly beautiful gadget.



6

Motorola Atrix 4G

This was one of the first Android-powered phones of 2011 that could really rival Apple's iPhone 4, despite it only running on Android 2.2. The dual-core processor is particularly speedy, and the quarter-HD screen is bright and colourful. And, of course, mobile internet browsing is a breeze thanks to 4G connectivity.



8 Sony PlayStation 3D display

With 3D technology still growing in popularity, Sony this year brought out a novel way to enjoy 3D gaming on the PlayStation 3. It's a 24-inch, 3D-capable monitor, which can work not only with the PlayStation, but also with any compatible 3D device. The best thing about this, though, is SimulView, a system which allows two players to play head to head but each see separate pictures on the same screen. It's the stuff of the future.



Nintendo 3DS

The best thing about Nintendo's foray into 3D gaming is that it eliminates the need for the goofy 3D glasses. The device makes use of motion sensors, augmented reality and front and rear-facing cameras to create a genuinely immersive 3D gaming experience, while the cameras also allow users to take 3D photos.

7

gadgets of 2011

5 iPhone 4S

Though it isn't quite the iPhone 5 that everyone was hoping for before its release, the iPhone 4S is nevertheless an extremely capable gadget. The new processor and camera are among the best to be found on any smartphone anywhere, and the phone's virtual helper, Siri, is in itself one of the most talked about gadgets of the year.



Blackberry Torch 9850

RIM's first all-touch phone was released to dubious reactions from Blackberry's core market, due in no small part to the lack of a physical keyboard. But the traditional Blackberry fans were won over with the superb capabilities of the touch keyboard, and the new Torch comes packed full of features. It might not be an iPhone beater, but it's a good touch-screen phone for anyone who likes Blackberries.



BYTES & PIECES

ALEXANDER MCNABB
DIRECTOR
SPOT ON! PR



A question of content

The battle for the hearts and minds of the tablet buying public is on. It's a three-horse race right now with a fourth, dark, horse about to join in. Firstly we have the company that invented the category, Apple. The iPad is a slick and brilliantly designed product, which integrates with other Apple products and is powered by the enormous repository of content on Apple's iTunes online store.

Next we have Google and the Android gang. Android is a Linux-based 'open source' OS that offers a common programming interface across devices. It's slick, supported by a wide range of vendors and has gained enormous market share—a

key way of attracting more apps, content and services to the Android Market online store. The one to fear—Amazon.com—is a tablet-pushing powerhouse, and is the winner when it comes to the breadth, depth and sheer variety of its offerings and the integration it offers. But the dark horse is Microsoft, poised to compete in the handset market with Nokia and on the tablet with a new tablet-friendly version of Windows. But Microsoft lacks the killer app—it doesn't have content tied to its offering.

The Kindle Fire isn't on sale officially anywhere outside the USA, and its content offerings are only open to those with a US credit card, so the Kindle Fire's available locally here in the UAE won't necessarily give you access to Amazon's amazing all-you-can-eat-and-drink-service. That apart, the tablet wars are a fascinating battle to watch—like all battles, it's safer here on the sidelines!

Samsung Galaxy S2

This was always going to be the iPhone killer of 2011, and it certainly showed Apple that its competitors had caught up. Lauded for its blistering speed, its beautiful, crisp display and its endless customisation options, the Galaxy S2 not only rivaled the iPhone 4, but bested it in a number of ways. And it's still standing strong in the face of competition from the iPhone 4S.



Kindle Fire

The Kindle Fire showed that Amazon was serious about retaining its position as king of the e-book market, and taking a sizable chunk of the portable media market as well. Aside from offering e-books like every other Kindle, this one delivers TV shows, movies, music and apps, which are all available in vast numbers from the Amazon web site. It might not be a full-on tablet PC, but at \$199 (Dh730), it's a real bargain.



iPad 2

More than 18 months after the first one was released, the iPad is still the daddy of the technological world. The second iteration is thinner, lighter and more powerful than the first, and with added features such as Garageband and Photobooth, the touch-screen wonder is probably the most desirable toy on the market today. Competition is heating up, yes, but the iPad's huge number of apps and its flexibility means that it's still well and truly on top.



FITNESS FOR REAL

RITA PUSKAS
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Power of the mind

To achieve a desired goal when working out not only takes dedication but also the right mind set. Our mind very often is underestimated when reaching our target.

Everyone should choose a programme they are interested in. Following fitness “fashion” might work for some but not everyone. Alteration between methods is also essential to prevent boredom with the same type of exercise. Boredom wipes enthusiasm away and when that happens, it is easy to injure oneself and go back to the starting point. A work-out session in our weekly program is

“Focus on the body and mind and keep problems for after the workout.”

probably the best way to ensure it will be regular and thus see results. However, nowadays, everyone seems short of time, so maybe a half-hour, quick work-out frequently is better than two hour sessions on an irregular basis.

Unrealistic goals should also be avoided as they will discourage the person. If accompanied with low self-esteem, they can have a deep personal effect which again should be avoided. When entering the gym, focus on the body and mind and keep problems for after the work-out. It should be the time we spend with ourselves, for ourselves. Try to keep the resting time between sets limited, this also keeps up the heart rate and time management is achievable.

Looking after our body is an investment and never a waste of time. Don't wait for the New Year; you can start any day—all we need is dedication and a well-suited programme. Good luck, everyone!

Going gyro for fitness



Wheels, pulleys and fluidity of movement could provide just the tonic you're after.

GYROTONIC

We all have that monotonous fitness routine that, after months of, well, routine, becomes obsolete. Repeatedly working the same core muscles and organs, you tend to reach a plateau. But what happens if you are injured and can't perform to the same levels?

Following years of intense study and self-exploration, former swimmer and gymnast Juliu Horvath created a special form of exercise in an effort to rehabilitate his own injuries. While a career-ending Achilles tendon tear and herniated disc meant he could no longer dance with the Houston Ballet, Horvath's ingenuity and love for yoga inspired him to create “Yoga for dancers”, which has evolved into Gyrotonic and Gyrokinesis. The exercises involved allow you to work on the entire body through seven natural elements of spinal movement: forward, backward, left side, right side, left twist, right twist and circular, as

well as all other joint articulation. This approach systematically and gently works the joints and muscles through rhythmic and undulating movements that stimulate the body's internal organs while different corresponding breathing patterns are integrated along with the movements.

“Fluidity is the key,” says Horvath. “Postures are not held for long periods of time. Instead, postures are smoothly and harmoniously connected through the use of breath, making exercises appear and feel more like a dance than like traditional yoga.”

A typical Gyrokinesis class begins with participants practicing self-massage and simple breathing patterns, something Horvath has named, “Awakening of the Senses”. Then the spine and pelvis are engaged through simple exercises; while seated

on low stools, participants mobilise the spine through a series of arching, bending and twisting movements.

“These same movement patterns are expanded to release the hip, knee, hamstring, quadriceps and so on, in all possible directions,” Horvath adds. “The corresponding breathing patterns executed during every movement stimulate the nervous system, open up the energy pathways and oxygenate the blood.”

The Gyrotonic Expansion System is always evolving. In 1991, Horvath introduced his specialised equipment line, which can now be found in studios and health clubs worldwide.

So what benefits are there? Well, Gyrotonic is very effective in helping to stretch and find release of the mid to upper back, countering the effects of poor posture and neck and shoulder discomfort, all of which can be the result of working long hours in front of a computer, or even too much time spent behind the wheel.

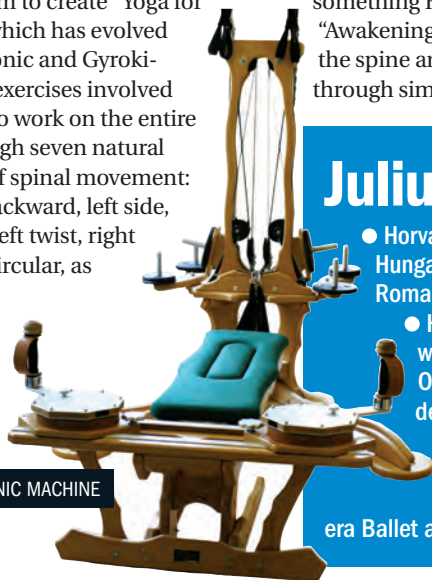
You will also find it creates a toned, strong abdominal core and lengthens tendons, ligaments, and muscles. Gyrotonic also works with the spiral lines of the body to create a uniform strength and tractions the spine with movements that use opposition.

The body can learn to create space in the joints and work with a full range of movement, so utilising the principle of tensegrity will leave you feeling rejuvenated, stretched and strong. ●

Juliu Horvath

- Horvath is an ethnic Hungarian who was born in Romania.
- He was a ballet dancer with the Romanian State Opera Ballet before defecting from Romania in 1970.
- Horvath danced with the New York Opera Ballet and the Houston Ballet.

A GYROTONIC MACHINE



Read. finds out if the sleek, sassy and stylish **Peugeot RCZ** is as pleasing to drive as it is to look at.

I'd been looking forward to driving the Peugeot RCZ for ages. Having seen a few zip-ping in and out of the traffic in Dubai, I really wanted to drive what looks from the outside to be a rather spicy French sports car.

The RCZ is without doubt one of the best looking cars on the market at the moment, with its double bubble roof, raised haunches and aggressive nose. It looks a million dollars, but luckily doesn't cost that. This is one seriously cool looking ride.

Originally unveiled as a concept at the 2007 Frankfurt motor show, the clamour from the public twisted Peugeot's arm and the manufacturer launched the virtually unchanged RCZ in 2009. The car has since gone on to become a major success for the French manufacturer, with more than 30,000 rolling off the production lines in the last three years.

But does it live up to its great looks? The answer is both yes and no. The chassis is excellent and it is a good match for the evergreen Audi TT. But unfortunately Peugeot's age-old problem of build quality still exists. Shut the door on the car and it sounds like two tin cans being hit

SPECS
(as tested)
Engine: 1.6-litre turbocharged
Power: 197hp@5,500 rpm
Torque: 279Nm@1,770 rpm
0-100km/h: 7.6 seconds
Top speed: 234 km/h (limited)
Price: Dh139,500



“The only way to drive this car is fast. The engine works best when it's hitting the top of the rev counter.”

together. Everything feels a little loose and creaky. I used to have an original 205 many years ago that I loved, but I was forever bolting bits back onto it. It seems that curse is still around.

That said, for the price, perhaps you shouldn't expect German build quality. Rolling out of the showroom for around Dh139,500, the RCZ comes in at around Dh10,000 cheaper than the TT, which is a fair bit of cash.

It's also not that far behind the base model TT in performance, hitting 100 km/h in just 7.6 seconds. That's around a second slower than the TT, but in the real world of road driving, it's nothing that's going to cause an issue. The RCZ also has that distinctive popping sound from the turbo-charger, which sounds great when you suddenly lift off the accelerator. In fact the only way to drive this car is fast. The engine works best when

it's hitting the top of the rev counter. The smooth interior is well laid out and easy to operate, although taller drivers may find the headroom a little lacking. That said, the seats are very comfortable and supportive. It's also quite dark inside, mainly due to the small windows and the black interior of the car I tested.

Behind the driver, there's almost no room in the back, although at the very back, the boot is actually fairly spacious for the shape of the car.

So if it weren't for the flimsy build quality, this would be perfect for a blast through the mountains. To look at it is stunning and the performance lives up to its curvaceous body. So if that's what pushes your buttons (as well as the keen price), then the Peugeot RCZ might just be the perfect answer for the age old question, “Something for the weekend, Sir?” ●

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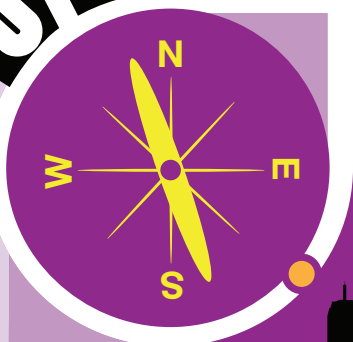
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New year, same old story

Gary Marshall's latest film, **New Year's Eve**, is yet another rom-com that boasts an all-star cast but with little or no plot.

The *Pretty Women* director appears to be flicking through the calendar for inspiration for his latest films. This latest ensemble follows a similar pattern to his last movie, *Valentine's Day*. Instead of creating a plot, the idea is to string together snippets of situations and hope that the large Hollywood cast will make up for the inadequate script.

New Year's Eve celebrates love, hope, forgiveness, second chances and fresh starts, in the intertwining stories told amidst the pulse and promise of New York City on the most dazzling night of the year. Despite a lack of script, the film appeals to young, adoring audiences that find themselves thrilled by the endless happily-ever-afters that rom-coms dish out each year.

The movie revolves around a New York tradition, the ceremonial ball drop in Times Square, that occurs with the ringing in of the New Year. Hilary Swank plays a cute, nervous city executive whose job is to make the famous event run smoothly.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays a cranky lady with a bucket list of life-affirming things that she wants to do that night; Zac Efron is a feisty young guy who helps her; Ashton Kutcher is the cynical dude who hates New Year; Katherine Heigl is a beautiful chef with a broken heart who in turn is pursued by rock star Jon Bon Jovi. Staying with the New York theme is actress Sarah Jessica Parker who plays a mum who is neurotic about her 15-year-old daughter (Abigail Breslin) roaming about unescorted in Times Square. Parker is a beneficiary of one of the romantic subplots

in which two characters who've spent the film in separate narratives turn out to have an unsuspected connection. Marshall's laugh-free script manages to knock all the clichés on the head, from the opening line of the narration which gushes about New

BON JOVI AND LEA MICHELLE





Did you know?

- Auld Lang Syne is sung at midnight to toast in the New Year. The song was composed by Robert Burns some time in the 1700s. The term means “old long ago” or “the good old days”.
- The modern ball that is dropped is made from Waterford Crystal and weighs over 1,000 pounds. The ball begins to drop at 11:59 and completes the journey exactly at midnight to ring in the New Year.
- The New Year has not always begun on January 1, and it doesn't begin on that date everywhere today. It begins on that date only for cultures that use a 365-day solar calendar. January 1 became the beginning of the New Year in 46 BC, when Julius Caesar developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than previous calendars had.

Year's Eve being the, “one night of the year when the entire world comes together”. Really, the entire world? The VIP cast list is endless with Glee's Lea Michele being trapped in a lift with Ashton Kutcher. A dying Robert De Niro wants to watch the fireworks but nurse Halle Berry won't let him. Pregnant Jessica Biel is trying to squeeze out the first baby of the New Year to win the hospital's cash prize and Josh Duhamel is stranded in the snow.

New Year's Eve is a cheesy, celebrity-packed flick that tugs at the heart-strings and offers fairy tale-like life lessons. A sweet performance from Abigail Breslin as SJP's daughter and some heart-toasting moments between Pfeiffer and Efron help a couple of the stories stand out from all the glitter and glitz. The film offers another lavish helping of clichés, cameos and implausibly interweaving love stories. Fine, if you're a fan of *Valentine's Day*, but Marshall's multi-star flick is all fireworks with no bang. ●



EFRON AND PFEIFFER BRIDGE THE AGE GAP

SILVER SCREEN

ANDY FORDHAM
GULF FILM



Mission: Possible

In 2010, studio executives descended on Dubai to film for the latest instalment of the *Mission: Impossible* series. 18 months later, dignitaries, VIPs and assorted guests were treated to the worldwide gala opening at the eighth Dubai International Film Festival. I was there! If audience reaction indicates the likely success of a movie then *MI4* (as it is better known) was destined for greatness. *MI4* delivered on all counts, but over-delivered on the Dubai scenes to amaze an eager audience and with the prediction of box office success ringing in the film studio executives' ears.

How it performs on the world stage, only time will tell, but *MI4* has smashed records in the UAE and GCC—the biggest-opening weekend of any movie; the biggest IMAX film ever screened

in the UAE. Add to that school holidays and the festive season, and we can expect to

“The stunts and scenery from the Burj Khalifa are first rate.”

see more records broken in the coming weeks. 217,000 customers in three days was a UAE record and has set a strong foundation to challenge *Avatar* which sits on top with 667,000 admissions for its full season run.

So why did *MI4* captivate the UAE audience? The stunts and scenery from the Burj Khalifa are first rate and this movie will put Dubai on the international stage, creating hype and awareness for potential tourists. If you have not seen it yet, then I would totally recommend it; and if you feel like splashing out, see it in IMAX—the Burj Khalifa scenes will leave you woozy at the knees.

Bollywood news

Italian Job Remake

Hindi film industry actor Abhishek Bachchan will play a central role in Abbas Mustan's official remake of *The Italian Job*, called *Players – Go for Gold*. The film is being described as the “biggest action extravaganza that Bollywood has to offer.” The film will be released on January 6, 2012. And the movie is packed with high-speed chase sequences and state-of-the-art special effects.



Don 2: The King is Back

Don 2: The King is Back is being launched as a video game with Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar joining hands with Ganeshshastra and Mango games, two leading gaming companies in India. Ganeshshastra has developed a game where players can get to play Shahrukh Khan's character in scenes similar to those enacted in the film. The game will be launched in March next year.



Kumar fights back

Akshay Kumar dislikes being typecast as an action or a comedy hero and says he is not in the race for the top spot. Akshay was crowned the Original Khiladi of Bollywood after he did a series of films like *Khiladi*, *Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi*, and *Main Khiladi Tu Anari*, among others. Once again, he is working on a Khiladi film, titled *Khiladi 786*, which is being co-produced by himself and Himesh Reshammiya.

Stick with it

Many of us will be making resolutions this New Year, but how can we make sure they last?

Open a savings account, exercise more or finally take up those Arabic lessons—it's that time of year when people are considering the changes they wish to make in their lives. However, the majority of New Year's resolutions fail within the first few weeks of January, largely because people set the bar too high, says Dubai life coach, Anna Wallenten.

"People get emotionally attached to the comfort of New Year's resolutions. They have ideas about making massive changes in their lives and pile pressure on themselves to

achieve their large-scale goals. At first this seems exciting, but a few weeks down the line, it becomes overwhelming," she explains.

At this point, many resolutions fade and then, what was once an inspiring resolution, becomes a point of guilt and self-blame. "Resolutions should be a way of making you feel better about yourself and your life, but they can turn out to be the opposite to that if they fail.

"This is the problem with making massive commitments to something that is difficult to achieve," she says. Instead, Wallenten advises setting smaller goals or working your way

QUITTING SMOKING IS A COMMON RESOLUTION



DIET AND EXERCISE REGIMES OFTEN BEGIN WELL BUT ONLY LAST FOR A FEW WEEKS



towards an ultimate resolution in stages. After all, there's a reason why we have to make a resolution to achieve something, rather than just incorporating it into our everyday lives.

"If you have a large aim you'd like to achieve then the best way to go about reaching it is to take small steps that you will be able to fulfil, rather than making big resolutions at the end of the road that seem insurmountable. Have part-goals to achieve within set time periods and then, at the end of those time periods, you can congratulate yourself on getting this far and reassess where you'd like to be in the next month or six months."

Mahmoud Abbas, who works as a sales representative in Dubai, has tried to give up smoking every January 1 for the past four years. "Each year I tell myself that this time it will work but then something comes along that makes it hard to resist and I let myself have just one, which turns into more, and by February, I am smoking again."

Most popular New Year's resolutions

- Give up a type of food, often chocolate or fast food
- Exercise more
- Quit smoking
- Save money
- Lose weight
- Learn something new
- Spend more time with family and friends
- Be more organised

Jessica Lovett, a Dubai PR consultant, has had a similar problem with maintaining her regular New Year's resolution to exercise more. "Last year, as in years before, I told myself I would go to the gym every day but I always know that realistically I won't keep it up. This year, I have determined to go three times a week, which I think I will be able to manage more easily."

Wallenten advises considering the reasons why a New Year's resolution always fails and changing your approach. "If you make the same resolve every year and it never works then think about the pattern in your life and where in that pattern you go wrong. Ask yourself how you make decisions and try to make changes where necessary," she says.

When it comes to choosing a reso-

HIGH HOPES FOR A HAPPY FAMILY



lution, Wallenten observes that most people tend to choose something they want to take or give up. "Most New Year's resolutions people make are about things they want to do; not who they want to be and who they are as human beings. That's actually the most important kind of New Year's resolution—who you want to be and what's holding you back from becoming that person." ●

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Treat for Indian music lovers

Galaxy of top performers to bid farewell to 2011 and usher in 2012 through an extravaganza of song and dance.

PREVIEW

Tiger Media & Events in association with Suno FM presents *Bye Bye 2011*, an Indian musical concert featuring a fusion of Sufi, Pop, Rock and Bollywood music at Chi, The Lodge, Al Nasr Leisureland, Dubai, on December 30, 2011, from 8pm onwards. The evening will feature top artistes from India, including Rabbi Shergill, Shibani Kashyap and AD Boyz, apart from DJs Hani and Asad Bashir.

Rabbi Shergill is an Indian musician well known for his debut album *Rabbi* and the chart-topper song of 2005, *Bulla Ki Jaana*. His music has been described variously as Rock Punjabi, with a bani style melody and Sufiana, and "semi-Sufi semi-folk music with a lot of Western arrangements".

Another show-stopper at *Bye Bye 2011* is DJ Hani who has been in the music industry for the past 7 years and has played in clubs in Dubai, In-



RABBI SHERGILL

dia, Yemen, Bahrain, Karachi, Muscat, and Egypt. DJ Hani creates his own music and remixes. Shibani Kashyap is a big name in the Bollywood film industry. Shibani will soon be seen acting in the new Faisal Saif directed movie *Main Osama*.

Shibani composed and sang her first film song *Sajna Aa Bhi Jaa* for the Hindi film *Waisa Bhi Hota Hai* in 2003. She has also sung songs for *Zinda* (2006) and *1971* (2007). She won the Best Female Pop Singer award for the album *Nazakat* at the 2005 Sang-eet Awards held in San Francisco.

Whoever said that success comes with time, age and maturity should meet the young new age musical jodi AD Boyz. Hailing from London, the duo Aditya and Diwakar Sharma have made a name for themselves in the Indian music and movie industry.

Tiger Media & Events is a leading event management and advertising agency with offices in Dubai and India.

Clockwork Prince Infernal Devices

by Cassandra Clare

BOOKS

In the dark and mystical underworld of Victorian London, troubled Tessa Gray has at last found safety with a group known as the Shadowhunters. But her apparent safety soon turns out to be more of a danger when rogue forces form a plot to try and have Tessa's protector, Charlotte, replaced as the head of the institute.

If Charlotte does lose her position, Tessa will be easy prey for Magister, who wants to use Tessa's special powers for his own dark means.

With the help of her two friends, Jem and Will, Tessa soon discovers that the Magister's war against the Shadowhunters is more of a personal battle, as he blames them for a tragedy many



years ago that shattered his life. To unravel the secrets of the past, the trio must embark on a journey across the country to uncover the real truth about Tessa's ancestry, a journey that is filled with love, horror, secrets and peril.

If you like this then you could try...

- *Silence (Hush, Hush saga)* by Becca Fitzpatrick
Patch and Nora's relationship has been filled with heart-wrenching tales of betrayal, loyalty and trust. Now, armed only with their faith in each other, they must battle to stop their love being shattered forever, a love that transcends both this world and another.

Christmas

★★★★★

Artist Michael Bublé
Label Reprise

ALBUMS

Michael Bublé's festive album has been number one on the Billboard 200 chart for four weeks, which could either mean that it's disappointingly generic and clichéd, pandering to the lowest common denominator, or that it's got something special about it.

The good news is that the latter is true. The traditional festive songs are well-chosen, and, as he does with everything else, Bublé has put his own distinctive spin on them, making them sound like they're new songs. Of course, though, they're not, meaning that the album is like an old woolly jumper that's received a little TLC—some stitching here, a patch there—and now fits better than ever.

Bublé's take on *Silent Night* is an absolute stunner, as is the cozy *Have*

Yourselves A Merry Little Christmas. Meanwhile, more upbeat tunes such as *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* ensure that the album stays lighthearted enough to ring in a jolly festive season. And the guest appearances by Shania Twain on *White Christmas* and the Puppini Sisters on *Jingle Bells* aren't bad, either.

For someone who likes to hear Christmas songs playing on their stereo in the build-up to the big day, this album is pretty much flawless. Indeed, the only thing that prevents it from getting five stars is the fact that Christmas songs aren't for everyone, so it probably won't receive universal acclaim.





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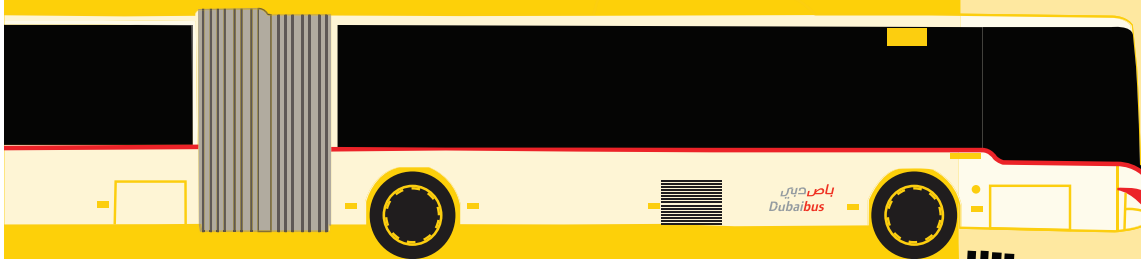
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Reviews in brief

A quick look at the week's biggest films.

Dream House ★★☆☆☆

(2011) Daniel Craig, Rachel Weisz, Naomi Watts

Some say that houses have memories. For one man, his home is the place he wants to forget. After moving into their seemingly idyllic new home, a family learns of a brutal crime against the former residents. It has the makings of a reasonable horror, but the unpolished script means this movie will be remembered for nothing more than uniting man and wife team Craig and Weisz.



Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

★★★★★ (2011) Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Jared Harris

The famous detective is back to blow your mind in the latest sequel to hit the silver screen. After a first half of explosions, the second half satisfies the more traditionalist cinemagoers for its chess game of life and death. Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick, Dr Watson, join forces to outwit their fiercest adversary, Professor Moriarty. Director Guy Ritchie has definitely managed to improve on his 2009 version.



Warrior ★★★★★

(2011) Tom Hardy, Nick Nolte, Joel Edgerton

Just when you thought we'd had our fill of boxing films, out comes a new contender. Two brothers face the fight of a lifetime within the brutal, high-stakes world of Mixed Martial Arts. When Brendan's (Edgerton) unlikely rise as an underdog sets him on a collision course with Tommy (Hardy), the two brothers must confront the forces that tore them apart, in the winner-takes-all battle of their lives.

Listings



MOVIE GUIDE

GRAND CINEPLEX - WAFI

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00

Arthur Christmas (3D) - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Cat in Boots - 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30

Cima Ali Baba - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45

Don 2 - 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00

Don 2 (3D) - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30

Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 12:20, 13:20, 15:00, 16:00, 17:40, 18:40, 20:20, 21:15, 23:00, 23:55

The Muppets - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30

My Week With Marilyn - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:35, 23:45

New Year's Eve - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00

Santa's Apprentice - 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Tall Dark Stranger - 19:40, 21:40, 23:40

Twilight: Breaking Dawn - 19:00, 21:25, 23:30

Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:40, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

GRAND MEGAPLEX - IBN BATTUTA

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:30, 12:20, 14:10, 16:00, 17:50, 19:40, 21:30, 23:20

Arthur Christmas (3D) - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Black Gold - 21:30, 00:00

Cat in Boots - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00

Cima Ali Baba - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:15, 23:45

Don 2 - 11:40, 12:00, 14:20, 15:00,

17:00, 18:00, 19:40, 21:00, 22:40, 00:00

Don 2 (3D) - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30

Immortals - 20:45, 23:55

Jack And Jill - 10:30, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20

Johnny English Reborn - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30

Ladies vs Ricky Bahl - 19:30, 22:30

Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 11:40, 12:20, 13:20, 14:20, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 17:40, 18:40, 19:40, 20:20, 21:15, 23:00, 23:55

Money Ball - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30

The Muppets - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 22:40, 23:45

My Week With Marilyn - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:35, 23:45

New Year's Eve - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00

Santa's Apprentice - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30

Tall Dark Stranger - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Twilight: Breaking Dawn - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:40, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

GRAND CINEMAS - FESTIVAL CITY

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00

Arthur Christmas (3D) - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Cat in Boots - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00

Cima Ali Baba - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Don 2 - 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00, 00:00

Don 2 (3D) - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30

Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 12:20, 13:20, 15:00, 16:00, 17:40, 18:40, 20:20, 21:15, 23:00, 23:55

The Muppets - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10

My Week With Marilyn - 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

New Year's Eve - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00

Santa's Apprentice - 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Tall Dark Stranger - 19:40, 21:40, 23:40

Twilight: Breaking Dawn - 10:00, 12:30, 15:00, 17:30

Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

GRAND CINECITY - AL GHURAIR

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00

Arthur Christmas (3D) - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Cima Ali Baba - 18:00, 20:00, 22:00, 00:00

Don 2 (3D) - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30

Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55

Rajjapattai - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 23:00

Twilight: Breaking Dawn - 23:40

Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

Won't Last a day Without You - 10:30, 13:30, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 23:55

GRAND METROPLEX - METROPOLITAN

Arthur Christmas - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50

Cat in Boots - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30

Don 2 - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30

Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55

The Muppets - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00

New Year's Eve - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00

Rajjapattai - 11:00, 14:00, 17:00,

THE READ. WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AT THE MOVIES.

SCHEDULE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS; HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT THEATRES CAN CHANGE SCHEDULES WITHOUT NOTICE

20:00, 23:00

Tall Dark Stranger - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

GRAND MERCATO

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Arthur Christmas (3D) - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Cima Ali Baba - 20:00, 22:00, 00:00
Don 2 - 18:00, 21:00, 00:00
Don 2 (3D) - 10:30, 13:30, 17:30, 19:30, 22:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 10:40, 13:20, 16:00, 18:40, 21:15, 23:55
The Muppets - 11:00, 13:15, 15:30
New Year's Eve - 10:00, 12:20, 14:40, 17:00, 19:20, 21:40, 00:00
Tall Dark Stranger - 10:50, 13:00, 15:10, 17:20, 19:30, 21:40, 23:50
Warrior - 11:30, 14:00, 16:30, 19:00, 21:30, 00:00

VOX CINEMAS - DEIRA CITY CENTRE

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00
Arthur Christmas - 11:15, 13:30
Cima Ali Baba - 19:00, 21:00, 00:00
Don 2 - 10:00, 13:00, 16:00, 19:00, 22:00
Don 2 (3D) - 10:45, 13:45, 16:45, 19:45, 22:45
Happy Feet 2 (3D) - 10:30, 12:45, 15:00, 17:15
Jack And Jill - 10:15, 14:45, 19:15, 23:45
Ladies vs Ricky Bahl - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Mission: Impossible 4 - 12:00, 14:45, 15:45, 17:30, 18:30, 20:15, 21:15, 23:00, 00:00
My Week With Marilyn - 11:45, 14:00, 16:15, 18:30, 20:45, 23:00
New Year's Eve - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Rajapattai - 11:30, 14:30, 17:30,



TALL DARK STRANGER

20:30, 23:30

X Large - 10:45, 13:00, 15:15, 17:30, 19:45, 22:00, 00:15

VOX CINEMAS - MOE

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Arthur Christmas - 10:45, 13:00, 15:15, 21:30
Arthur Christmas (3D) - 09:45, 12:00, 14:15, 16:30, 18:45
Cima Ali Baba - 19:15, 21:45, 00:15
Don 2 - 11:45, 14:45, 17:45, 20:45, 23:45
Don 2 (3D) - 13:00, 16:00, 19:00, 22:00
Jack And Jill - 00:30
The Muppets - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00
Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45, 22:30
My Week With Marilyn - 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:45, 19:00, 21:15, 23:30
New Year's Eve - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Rajapattai - 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Warrior - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45
Where Do We Go Now - 22:00
X Large - 19:45, 22:00, 00:15

VOX CINEMAS - MIRDIF CITY CENTRE

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 09:45, 11:45, 13:45, 15:45, 17:45
Arthur Christmas (3D) - 11:15, 13:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30
Don 2 (3D) - 11:45, 14:45, 17:45, 20:45, 23:45
Happy Feet 2 (3D) - 10:15, 12:30
Jack And Jill - 23:45
Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:30, 14:15, 17:00, 19:45, 22:30
The Muppets - 10:45, 13:00, 15:15
New Year's Eve - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, 23:30
Rajapattai - 17:30, 20:30, 23:30
Warrior - 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00, 23:45
X Large - 10:15, 12:30, 14:45, 17:00, 19:15, 21:30, 23:45

REEL CINEMAS - DUBAI MALL

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:10, 13:15, 15:20, 17:25, 19:30, 21:35, 23:40
Arthur Christmas - 12:20, 14:30, 16:40, 19:00, 21:10, 23:45
Arthur Christmas (3D) - 13:30, 15:40, 17:50, 20:00, 22:10, 00:20

Black Gold - 21:00, 00:10

Cima Ali Baba - 14:05, 16:40, 19:15, 21:50, 00:25
Don 2 - 15:30, 18:30, 21:30, 00:30
Don 2 (3D) - 14:45, 17:45, 20:45, 23:45
The Double - 21:00, 23:30
Happy Feet 2 - 12:20, 14:30, 16:40, 18:50
Jack And Jill - 20:00, 22:00, 00:05
Mission: Impossible 4 - 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30, 17:30, 18:00, 18:30, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 23:30, 00:05, 00:30
The Muppets - 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30
My Week With Marilyn - 11:15, 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, 00:45
New Year's Eve - 11:40, 14:10, 16:40, 19:00, 21:30, 00:10
Santa's Apprentice - 11:20, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00
Seeking Justice - 15:40, 17:55, 20:10, 22:25, 00:40
Tall Dark Stranger - 14:20, 16:50, 19:20, 21:50, 00:20
Warrior - 12:20, 15:20, 18:20, 21:20, 00:20
X Large - 14:30, 19:30, 22:00, 00:30

REEL CINEMAS - MARINA MALL

Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 - 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 17:30, 19:30, 21:30, 23:30
Arthur Christmas (3D) - 11:00, 13:10, 15:20, 17:30, 19:40, 21:50, 00:05
Mission: Impossible 4 - 12:20, 15:20, 18:20, 21:20, 00:20
The Muppets - 11:10, 13:40, 16:10, 18:30, 21:00, 23:40
New Year's Eve - 11:45, 14:15, 16:45, 19:15, 21:45, 00:15

TO FEATURE YOUR EVENT,
 EMAIL EDITORIAL@README.AE

YOU REVIEW

Your chance to share your views on the latest cinema releases

Ruth Madida
 Visual merchandiser
 Al Barsha



I've just been to see *The Muppets*, and I absolutely loved it. Sure, I did feel slightly apprehensive going into it, fearing that it would ruin one of my favourite childhood programmes and shamelessly cash in on nostalgia. Luckily, the fuzzy puppets are not just for kids.

In keeping with true Muppet fashion, the humans involved, albeit famous in their own right, were there more to make the larger-than-life puppet characters, Gonzo, Miss Piggy, and of course Kermit, shine even brighter than they did when I was young.

At worst, the movie is a brilliant way of remembering your younger years. But at best, I think this movie will create a whole new crop of Muppets fans and bridge generations. After all, how could you not love the squeaky creatures? This was my favourite movie of the year.

10/10

Want to be in Read.?

If you've been to see a recent movie, we want to hear your views. Email us your 150-word film review, along with your job title, location and a high-resolution photograph and you could be featured in our *You Review* section.



ARTHUR CHRISTMAS



What can Akhtaboot do for you as An Employer?

Words by Akhtaboot

In 2020, the MENA region will be faced with a daunting challenge of creating millions of jobs, more so with the absence of an effective platform that links job seekers with employers and vice versa. Recognizing this missing link between employers and job seekers, **Akhtaboot - the career network (www.akhtaboot.com)** stepped in to tackle the recruitment challenge in 4 distinct areas:

Fast and Effective Sorting and Filtering of CVs

Understanding the fact that “time is money”, Akhtaboot allows employers to narrow down applied candidates in a matter of seconds! Services provided to employers include posting employment opportunities onto specific job-function communities, efficient CV browsing through user-friendly filtration tools and other added-value recruitment solutions on a customized basis. In addition to that, Akhtaboot provides an efficient CV browsing platform with a Google-like free text search that actually searches within uploaded CVs.

Proprietary Technology to Attract Relevant Applicants

Akhtaboot is built upon a community-based model that groups job seekers according to

“**promoting jobs that truly suit the qualifications of job seekers**”

job function. This community model is the basis of Akhtaboot’s revolutionary “SmartJob Recommendations” feature. This smart service provides an added benefit for companies through promoting jobs that truly suit the qualifications of job seekers with specific information listed in their Akhtaboot profiles.

A True Career Network

Akhtaboot is the only career network in the GCC and Levant region utilizing Internet, social media, radio, newspaper, and magazine advertising for employer job vacancies. The ever-expanding career network understands the importance of the growing influence of social media on the recruitment process. Companies can utilize a number of social features on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to

share their posted jobs, thus giving their vacancies even more exposure all over the web.

The Largest Pool of Recent, Relevant and Qualified Candidates

With a user-friendly interface, great user experience, and a prominent brand within the MENA region, Akhtaboot has the fastest signup process in the industry for both employers and job seekers. Akhtaboot has also been included in the “Arabia Fast Growth 500” List, a project of AllWorld Network which

“**the fastest signup process in the industry for both employers and job seekers**”

highlights the ranking of the fastest growing companies in the Middle East and North Africa region, Turkey, and Pakistan.

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Post-it

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Part-time interviewers are required for a health care research company. Must hold medical degree. If interested email CV to martvest@gmail.com.

Filipina cleaners required. Tourist visa preferred. Email wanted.maids@gmail.com/call 0507536242.

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Indian male seeks job as a project supervisor in interior fitout works. 4 yrs experience in UAE. Own driving licence. Call 0507369172/email jomon1971@gmail.com.

Filipino male 27 seeks job in accounts/finance. 6 yrs working experience. Email jsbalbuena18@gmail.com.

Oriented candidate MNC, MBA seeks job. 4 yrs experience. With excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Call 0558554507.

ACCA Finalist looking for any suitable job in accounts, finance or audit department of any Bank, Company or Audit Firm. Excellent Communication skills. Good knowledge of MS Office. Contact: 0558292598 or 044202944. Email: m_ahsan.nazim@yahoo.com

Female, M.Com, MBA (Finance) seeks job as an account assistant. 4 yrs experience in India. Skilled in Tally, Peachtree, MS Office. Call 0556372751/email shejina78@gmail.com.

Bus driver seeks jobs. 6+ yrs experience in UAE. Call 0502512113.

ACCA Professional Level student having excellent communication skills and good in MS Word looking for any available job. Contact: 0558292598 or 044202944.

Male, B.Com seeks job. 2 yrs experience. Knowledgeable in Tally 9, MS Office. Holds a free zone visa. Call 0554741782.

Indian female, M.Sc chemistry seeks job in customer service/chemical/administration. On husband's visa. Call 0554185393/0501564595/email deepthi.kk66@yahoo.com.

Keralite seeks job. 5+ yrs experience in UAE. Skilled in electrical and plumbing work. Call 0559604177.

Graduate seeks part-time job in Deira Baniyas Square area between 1:30pm to 3:30pm. 12 yrs experience. Holds driving licence. Call 0504605575.

Indian male 26, B.E-CSE seeks job in IT. 2 yrs experience in ASP.NET, C sharp, SQL Server 2005 and hardware (assembling & troubleshooting). Call 0554193236/ friendly_hussain@yahoo.co.in.

P/T accountant seeks job. 15+ yrs experience. Skilled in accounting software. Trained by bank for WPS salary system. Call 0506840836.

Accountant seeks a job, M.com, B.Ed, 4 yrs experience in UAE. Good knowledge of Tally 9, MS Office. Able to do Finalization of Accounts, Bank Reconciliation, Accounts Receivables, Accounts Payables, WPS. Have valid UAE Driving Licence. Contact email: giluklsy@gmail.com/Call 0558031860.

Indian male, B.Com seeks job in accounting. 4 yrs experience in the Gulf. Skilled in Tally, Excel & SAP (FICO) UAE DL. Call 0501674869/sarfaraz_khan23@hotmail.com.

Sri Lankan male, diploma holder, seeks job as a graphic designer. 6 yrs experience. Visa expires on (07/01/2011). Call 0556255824/email saleethmohamed@gmail.com.

Male 29, B.Com/MBS seeks job. 5 yrs experience in accounting. Call 0557974708.

Female, Nurse B.Sc seeks job. 3 yrs experience in MICU /Medical Surgical ward and DOH License. Call 050558601387,050509224341.

Male with diploma seeks job. 1 yr experience in construction. Email siyad-khanpm@gmail.com. Call 0555612456.

Female 27, Fresh Degree holder of BS (Internet Science and Technology) seeks suitable job. Email: ayes86@hotmail.com/call 055 738 6334

AUTO

Nissan Sunny, 2005 model for sale. 1.6 full options, 86,000km. White colour, well maintained. For AED17,500. Call 0557992414.

KIA Optima, 2007 model. Black colour. 92,000km, midrange (#2). For 26000AED. Call 0508485149/ 0502530276.

BMW 750Li, 2006 model, silver, top of the range, 125,000km. Driven by doctor. In excellent condition. Call 0555016555.

Mercedes SLK350, 2005 model. "Designo" Sports coupe, 60,000km. No accidents, well maintained. AED89,000. Call 0566038557.

SERVICES

Babysitting and tutoring services available for all classes from KG1 to Grade 7. In Karama near Pizza Inn. Call 0558012027/email nancy2570@hotmail.com.

Video and photography services available. For any type of event, advertisement, web casts, weddings, birthdays, etc. Call 0561220363/email ISHANTELE-MEDIA@GMAIL.COM.

Baby sitting services available in Al Qusais ind. no 4. Call 0566408715.

Car lift services available. Starting from Al Rashidiya metro station to DIP2. Call 0501454969.

Baby sitting services available near Etisalat metro station. Call 0503172574.

Home tutoring lessons available in Arabic. For all students of all ages and adults. Experienced Indian teacher. Call 0509610865.

Interiors, painting, murals, tiling, designing services available. At reasonable rates and great results. Call 055 6547786.

Baby sitting and home tutoring services available for Indian students. From KG1 to GR 7. In Albaraha near Jesco super-market. Affordable fees. Call 0501217983.

PERSONAL

Freelance female writer. Available at any time. For more information please call: 0505250476.

ITEMS

HP Touch Pad Tablet 32GB available for sale. Includes WiFi, 3G and Adobe Player. Used for only one month. For 2000AED. Call 0559973192.

New Nokia E71 available for sale. Comes with accessories/bill. For 840AED only. Call 0507892882.

Michael Kors monogram tote bag available for sale. Brand new. Blue colour. For 700AED. Call 0502834604.

ACCOMMODATION

Bed space available for rent. For Filipinos only. Near United Hyper Market/ Abu Baker Siddique metro station. For 600AED/ including DEWA. Free Internet. Call 0502834604.

Rooms /spaces available for rent in a flat for immediate possession. Near City Restaurant. Call 0557791085/0559560692.

Sharing accommodation available for executive Keralite bachelor behind Al Maktoum Hospital, Dubai. Rent 600+Dewa. Call: 0506957820.

Shared accommodation available for rent in a 2 B/R apt. Executive North Indian bachelors only. In Al Rolla Street, Bur Dubai. Non smokers preferred. Free Internet. Call 043252291/0551566070.

Bed space available for rent. Indian working ladies only. Near Abu Hail metro station in Hor Al Anz. Call 0554715868/0553600923.

Three bed spaces available for rent in a luxury flat. In Kashmir Palace

Hotel opposite to G Mart, Karama. Call 0558521614.

Bed space available for rent. Keralite working ladies only. Near Khalid Bin Walid metro station, Bur Dubai. Call 0509747807.

Single furnished room available for rent. With attached balcony, bathroom and gym facilities. For couples only. DEWA/ Internet accessible. Only for 2,500AED. Call 050-6882950.

Semi -furnished room available for rent. Filipinos only. For 3000AED/free DEWA & Internet. In Bur Dubai. Near Al Fahidi metro station. Call 0509256188.

Single bed space available for rent. For Tamil Muslim Indians only. Near Al Nahda/ NMC medical hospital. Internet, swimming pool, gym accessible. For 500AED + DEWA. Call 0503448414/0502250695.

Bed space available for rent. South Indians only. Near Union metro station/ Al Ghurair Centre. For 550/- inclusive of internet, DEWA, Kitchen facility. Call 0559071202.

Shared accommodation available for rent. Females only. Near Dubai Grand Hotel/ New Sun Rise Supermarket. For 750AED including DEWA. Free Internet. Call 0555274523/042945172.

Bed space available for rent. Kabayans only. Near Karama metro station. For 400AED including DEWA. Free internet. Call 0509147409.

Semi -furnished shared room available for rent. With separate bathroom. Keralite couples only. Near Al Khail Gate. Call 0505254313.

MISCELLANEOUS

Safari vacation to Tanzania, visiting Ngorongoro/Tarangire/Manyara for 3-4 days. 2050AED per person only. Email tanzaniasafari@hotmail.com.

Technical services licence for sale. At 20,000AED. Valid till 23/10/12 and SPR paid. Call 0508700729 or email meerdx@gmail.com.

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RTA signs deal with UITP



MATTAR AL TAYER (CENTRE) SIGNING THE UITP AGREEMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF HANS RAT AND HILAL AL MURRI

International Association of Public Transport to set base Middle East centre at RTA premises in Dubai.

AGREEMENTS

The RTA has signed an agreement with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) whereby a Transport Centre of Excellence for the MENA region will be based in Dubai at the RTA premises, and a public transport conference and exhibition will be held biannually in Dubai for 10 years.

"The new initiative jointly launched by the RTA and UITP will make the UAE in general and Dubai, in particular, a transport hub for the MENA region. The agreement culminates the successful partnership between the RTA and UITP over the past years and the huge success made by Dubai and the RTA in hosting the 59th UITP Congress and Exhibition during the period from April 10 to 14, 2011," said Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, speaking in the presence of Hans Rat, Secretary General of the UITP, and Hilal Al Murri, CEO of Dubai World Trade Centre.

"Holding such conferences in Dubai is a testament to the distinctive profile and high repute enjoyed

by the emirate at the international level, and speaks volumes of the confidence pinned by the international organisations in the profile of Dubai, along with its ability to host and successfully organise international events," continued Al Tayer.

Elaborating on the Centre of Excellence, Al Tayer said, "The Centre of Excellence for Transport aims to boost public transport strategies in the MENA region, establish an information centre offering best-in-class transport practices, train transport specialists on the best practices of the industry, conduct transport researches and studies, and promote the cooperation and exchange of expertise among entities engaged in transport business inside and outside the region as well as universities. The Centre will also attend to disseminating the culture of public transport across the region, and assisting regional countries acquire successful experiments in mass transport in order to satisfy their needs in offering mobility services to the population.

"The MENA Public Transport Conference and Exhibition, which will be held biannually and last for

"The new initiative will make the UAE and Dubai, in particular, a transport hub for the MENA region."

three days, will exhibit the latest developments of the public transport industry, and offer creative solutions to increase the share of mass transit modes.

"The event will serve as a rendezvous for the business development in the region, coping with the future challenges of mobility and transport, and spreading the benefits drawn from practices and modern technologies in this field.

"The RTA attaches top priority to mass transportation and is seeking to upgrade it in terms of quality and efficiency. The RTA is keen on providing integrated public transport means comprising buses, marine transit modes and the Metro of high quality, and wide geographical cov-

erage spanning the whole emirate to serve about one million commuters per day in the emirate of Dubai," Al Tayer concluded.

The Secretary General of the UITP, Hans Rat, said, "For hundreds of large, rapidly urbanising cities in the world, Dubai is a leading example. It shows that with strong leadership and well-evaluated investments, it is possible to take up the challenge of combining continuous urban and economic growth with keeping a city livable and mobile. Keeping up with the fast changing demands for the mobility of citizens and the economy remains a challenge thought for all governments and local authorities in the world and in the MENA region, in particular."

Rat continued, "The launch of a permanent UITP and RTA Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Mobility, and its accompanying biannual MENA conference and exhibition, will make Dubai a reference place for professional research, exchange and field studies, as well as real-time applications for offering better mobility to the citizens and further improving a healthy environment to life."

RTA offers new UAE-wide services

IMPROVEMENTS

From its inception, the RTA has been pursuing a sound practical approach built on a vision driven by excellence and pioneering values in delivering services to a broad spectrum of community members at world-class standards. It has also committed itself to a mission, values, and strategic goals in dealing with community members, particularly public transport users and beneficiaries of RTA services at the local and federal levels.

Ahmed Hashim Bahrozian, CEO of the RTA Licensing Agency, stated that the Agency has completed the second stage of linking drivers and vehicles licensing services with the federal traffic system. Seven services were covered under this process, which included transferring vehicles within the UAE, exporting vehicles abroad, writing off or owning vehicles, issuing driver licences in lieu of lost or damaged one, modifying the details of a vehicle, and renewing the retention of number plates, he noted.

"From now on, RTA customers can process their transactions in other emirates and vice versa—an exercise which will save much time and effort. Before, customers needed to go

"From now on, RTA customers can process their transactions in other emirates and vice versa—an exercise which will save much time and effort."

to the other emirate that issued the driving licence or vehicle ownership card.

"This stage complements the initial stage which was dedicated to the renewal of vehicle registration and driving licence services, which has been accomplished. According to the statistics of the Licensing Agency, about 10,000 transactions have been processed since the link with the federal traffic system was established in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior.

"The drivers and vehicles licens-



AHMED HASHIM BAHROZIAN

ing system in the emirate of Dubai has seen a quality shift over the last two years, as illustrated by the launch of multiple initiatives as well as upgrading and diversifying the channels of delivering RTA services to customers highlighted by the debut of modern communication technologies and e-service offerings," continued Bahrozian.

"The project also contributed to realising a host of RTA strategic objectives as it assisted in recovering the RTA's due fines on vehicles registered in other emirates and

at the same time enabling other emirates recover their due fines on vehicles licensed by the RTA involved in offences made in other emirates. The project also enabled the collections of fines due to the police, alleviated the congestion of customer service centres, raised customers satisfaction and realised the required integration and coordination between various UAE licensing entities in the interest of the public and customers," said the CEO of the RTA Licensing Agency in a final comment.

RTA and Orient Tours in venture

COLLABORATIONS

Eisa Abdul Rahman Al Dosari, CEO of the Public Transport Agency at the RTA, reiterated the agency's continuous endeavours to open up joint communication channels with the tourist companies based in the UAE through engaging in joint ventures and reciprocal activities in the marine transport sector within the emirate of Dubai in order to boost the tourist drive and to keep pace with the developments made in this regard.

The above was revealed during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Public Transport Agency and Orient Tours LLC in an event held recently at the RTA's Head Office.

"In keeping with the current and future drive of the Dubai Government



to enhance the interaction between the public and private sectors, the RTA has opened communication channels and held meetings with developers from the private sector," said Al Dosari. "In this context, the Public Transport Agency invited Orient Tours LLC to sign the MoU to lay the ground for a joint work between the two parties where Orient Tours would promote the use of RTA marine trans-

"The RTA is always ready to coordinate efforts aimed at realising the vision of the Dubai Government."

sit services, comprising the water bus, water taxi and Ferry Dubai, among tourists arriving in Dubai from various parts of the globe.

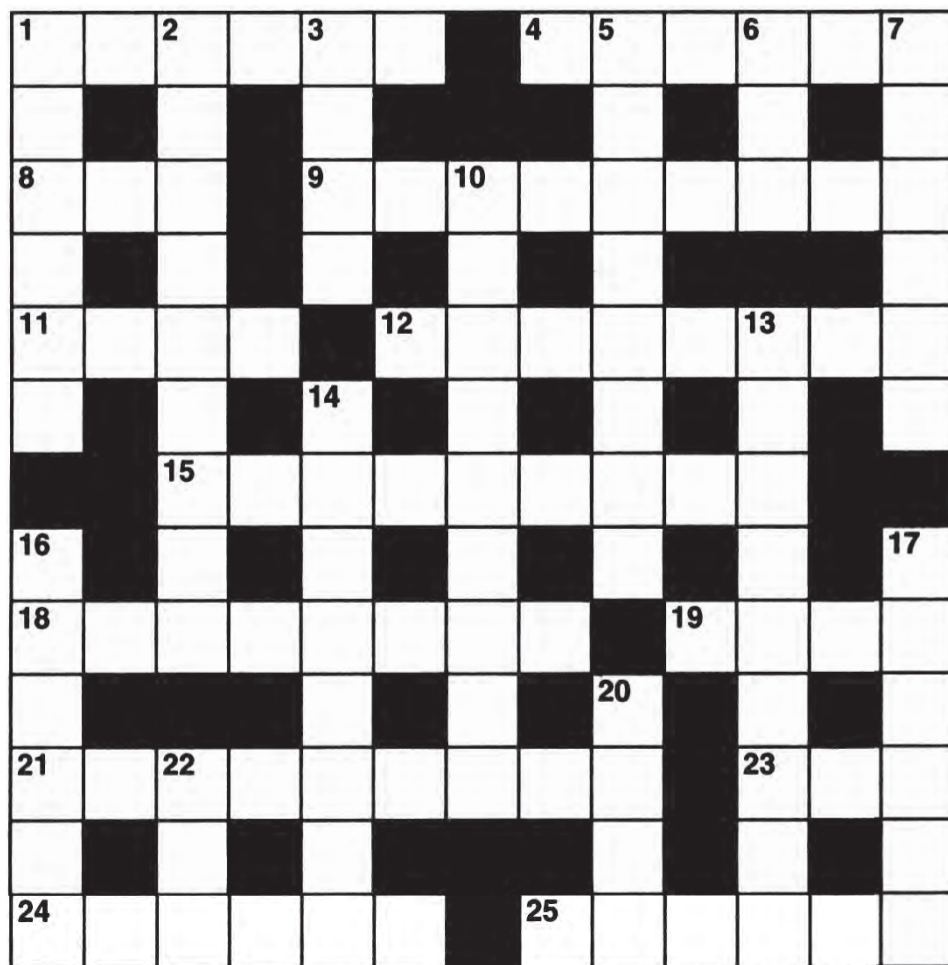
"The RTA is always ready to coordinate efforts aimed at realising the vision of the Dubai Government and raising the prominent profile of the emirate in terms of financial, service and tourist aspects through offering best-in-class services aligned with

the best global practices applicable in this regard, and establishing relationships with the tourist entities related to hotels and tourism," concluded Al Dosari.

For her part, Daniela Lorenz, CEO of Orient Tours, expressed her delight with the signing of this MoU with the RTA, considering it one of the key initiatives of the company operating in the tourist industry, which is one of the most prosperous sectors in Dubai. She stated that her company would be ready to cooperate with the Public Transport Agency not only in boosting tourist marine transport, but also in providing all the requisite means of prompting its clients to use other mass transit means such as public buses and the Dubai Metro in order to ease their mobility within the emirate.

Taking your time

Test your skills with our puzzles, try something new with a recipe and turn to us for advice. It's free!



Crossword

Across

1 Kind (6) 4 Hesitated (6) 8 One of the Dodecanese group (3) 9 Sprinkling (9) 11 River flowing through Uganda (4) 12 Garden nozzles (8) 15 Kindled (7,2) 18 Larger than standard (4-4) 19 Language closely related to Hindi (4) 21 Running a course at university (9) 23 French water (3) 24 Main item of trade (6) 25 Decorative tuft (6)

Down

1 Walking in stages (6) 2 Encroaches forcibly (7,2) 3 Squeezes (4) 5 Major Australian city (8) 6 Snow-runner (3) 7 Absorb (6) 10 Freelance photographers (9) 13 International traders (9) 14 Alluring lock of hair? (4,4) 16 Moves furtively (6) 17 Common to both (6) 20 Taj Mahal's whereabouts (4) 22 US espionage department (inits) (3)

ANSWERS



Recipe

Baba ganoush

This classic Arabic delicacy is quick, easy, and packed full of flavour.

Ingredients

1 aubergine, peeled and chopped
3 tbsp olive oil
¼ onion, chopped
1 crushed garlic clove
1 bunch fresh basil
splash of olive oil
2 slices ciabatta bread

Method

Preheat the oven to 225C/425F/Gas mark 7.

Heat the oil in an oven-proof frying pan over a gentle heat. Add the chopped aubergine and onion and fry for five minutes or so to

Serves

2

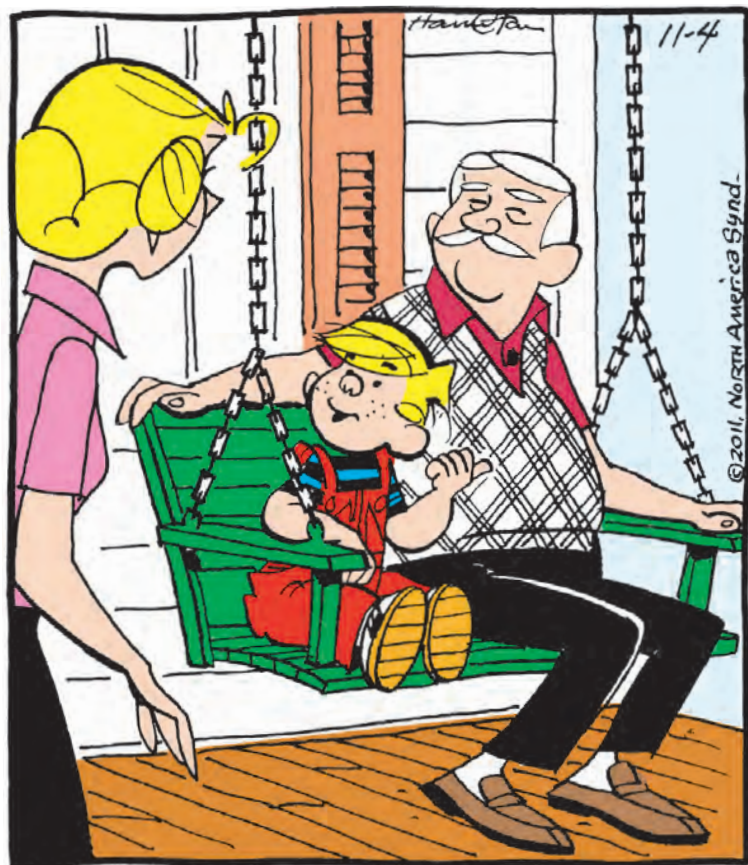
soften. Add the garlic and fry for another couple of minutes, then transfer the pan to the oven for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat a griddle pan on a low heat. Brush the ciabatta bread with oil on both sides and grill the bread on each side for one to two minutes, or until brown stripes appear.

Remove the aubergine from the oven and mix with the basil and a splash of oil in a food processor. Blend the mixture until it forms a rough paste and pour into a bowl. Serve the aubergine mixture with the griddled bread.

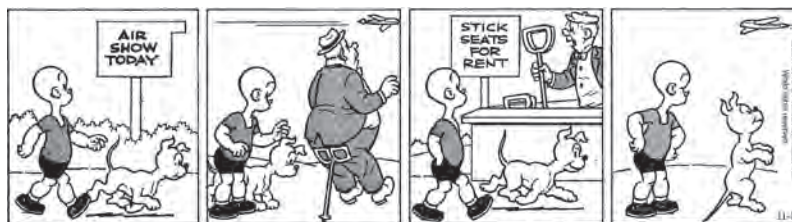


Dennis the menace



"GRAMPA HAS A GREAT MEMORY. HE EVEN REMEMBERS WHEN HE WAS A KID."

Henry



Ollie and Quentin



Spiderman



Here to help

At Read, we are happy to help with any advice you might need to live your life to the full. If you have a problem we can help with, email us at letters@readme.ae

Q I am going to be in Dubai for Christmas and the problem is that I really miss my family and wish I could go home instead. It makes me so sad that I can't be with them.

Read: This time of year can be hard for those who cannot be with their families, but luckily, as Dubai is such a multi-cultural city there will still be plenty to do to keep yourself busy. There are many festive activities going on around the malls and plenty of restaurants will be offering Christmas brunches which could prove to be a great way to spend the day with like-minded people.

Q My New Year's resolution to myself is to finally make some friends in Dubai. I have been here for three months and don't know anyone yet! Any suggestions?

Read: Why not join a club or

take up a new activity in the New Year? Not only does this give you a chance to try something you've always wanted to do, but it is an instant way to meet people with similar interests. Alternatively, there are plenty of forums and online groups for people looking to make friends in the city—just be sure that if you meet any online friends in person, you arrange to do so in a safe, public place.

Q I want to quit smoking in 2012 but, to be honest, the thought of not having my cigarettes scares me. What is the best way to give up?

Read: Different methods work for different people; it is simply a case of finding the best method for your needs. Nicotine patches and gum can provide a steady way to wean yourself off the cigarettes, while some prefer to give up completely cold-turkey. Whichever method you choose, you can be sure you are making the first step towards a much healthier, happier, smoke-free you—well done!

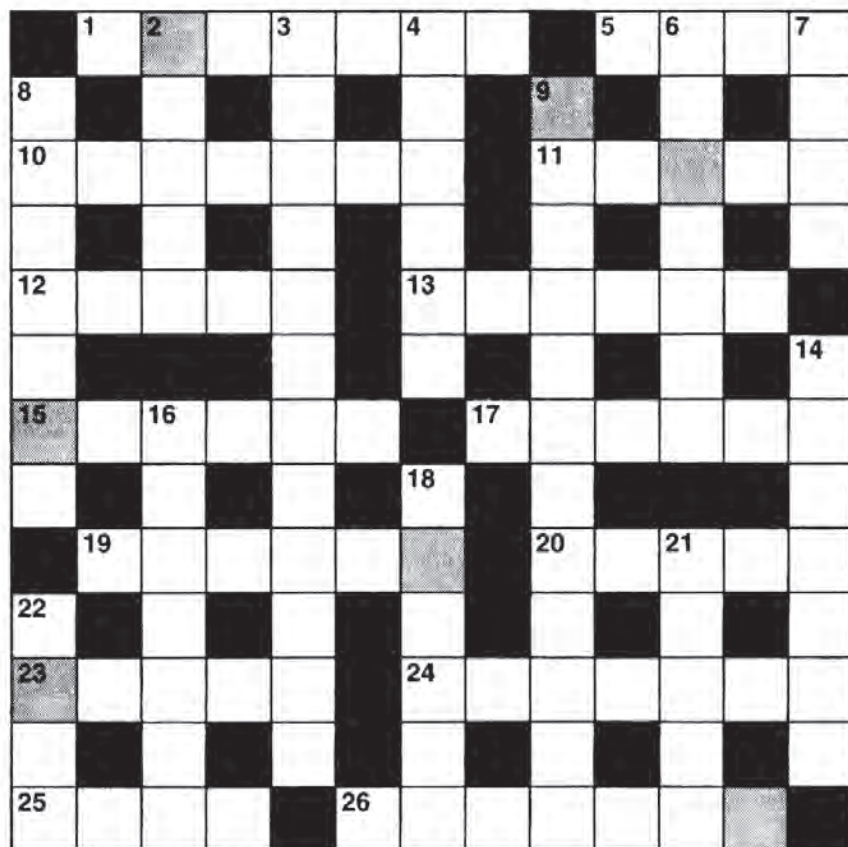
Who's this?

ANSWER ON PAGE 38



Puzzles

Crossword



Read down the shaded squares to reveal a famous actor called Jack, who won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *City Slickers*, in 1992

Across

1 Web Weavers (7) 5 Hooting birds of the night (4) 10 Carriage (7) 11 Pet name for a parrot (5) 12 Belgian city, centre of Walloon culture (5) 13 Music that combines two or more genres (6) 15 Notwithstanding (6) 17 Velvety (6) 19 John ___, Countryfile presenter (6) 20 ___ We Dance?, 1937 Astaire musical (5) 23 Circus comedian (5) 24 Sweet-smelling (7) 25 Hurl (4) 26 Powerful businessman (7)

Down

2 Position (5) 3 Showing incredulity (12) 4 Sanction (6) 6 Fortunate (4,3) 7 Simon ___, children's game (4) 8 Celestial (7) 9 Cutlery item with a saint on the handle (7,5) 14 Tour de France competitor (7) 16 Warren tunnels (7) 18 Variety of wool from a goat or a rabbit (6) 21 Concerning (5) 22 Style of jazz (4)

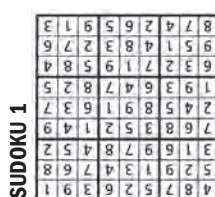
Sudoku 1

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

Sudoku 2

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

ANSWERS



WHO'S THIS? ANSWER - CHLOE KARDASHIAN

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What's in your stars?

The Read. astrologer tells you exactly what to expect over the next seven days.

ARIES

(MAR 21 - APR 20)

While you are keen to get on with things, try to curb your enthusiasm and impatience. Make sure you are careful not to push your luck with an authoritative figure, or that you don't make rash promises to an interesting new face you meet socially.



TAURUS

(APR 21 - MAY 21)

Don't try too hard in order to make a good first impression. With Neptune providing helpful backup in your sign, added reassurance and support could come from unexpected sources, especially if your budget is especially tight just now.



GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUN 21)

The quarter moon continues to provide a backdrop for the rest of this week. A busy schedule lies ahead and while it may be just the way you like to operate, make clear and sensible plans. A business relationship can also strengthen this week.



CANCER

(JUN 22 - JUL 23)

Pace yourself this week since life is likely to get very busy. Try to sort things out and clear some space. You may find a friend or loved one needs more support than expected, and while this may require a change of plans, make time, even if it's only a phone call.



LEO

(JUL 24 - AUG 23)

The quarter moon suggests it may be hard to resist proving your reputation as the Zodiac's most generous sign. While a certain amount of expenditure may be inevitable now, a little restraint may be in order, so be sensible and don't let it rain on your parade.



VIRGO

(AUG 24 - SEP 23)

With Mercury, your planetary ruler, finally moving forward again, your home, family and domestic concerns should take top priority. This isn't the time to try to call the shots but rather try and be as accommodating as possible to the needs of others.



LIBRA

(SEP 24 - OCT 23)

With Venus entering Aquarius, the pleasure zone of your solar chart, you'll want to ease off and mingle and not be chained to the office desk. This is play-time, but attempts to split your time and energy between work and social commitments may leave you tired.



SCORPIO

(OCT 24 - NOV 22)

The more insincere side of the seasonal build-up could leave you a little cold, so make a pact with yourself; you can't change the world, but you can change the way you react to it. Gain from the inner peace that this creates, then focus on what you love most.



SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 23 - DEC 21)

Your energy is freed of complexities, and plans of all kinds speed up. Financial opportunities may come your way now, so even if you're busy, be open to offers and hear what others have to say. Luck is on your side, so try to keep your options open.



CAPRICORN

(DEC 22 - JAN 20)

This can really be a turning point for you. The last few weeks have had so many strands but now you may finally start to find your feet. The hard work and good deeds you have put in during the past can come back to you positively now and in unexpected ways.



AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 - FEB 19)

With Venus entering Aquarius, where it will stay for the next few weeks, you'll be even more adorable than usual and able to open doors with just a smile. Try to avoid financial negotiations if you sense others are not putting all their cards on the table.



PISCES

(FEB 20 - MAR 20)

You are likely to be in an extravagant mood this week but try not to spend too much, too quickly. You are also likely to find yourself in demand and having to balance the demands of friends and loved ones, which may leave you feeling worse for wear.



This week's local weather

SUN

25th

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 16C
HUMIDITY 50%

MON

26th

SUNNY
HIGH 25C
LOW 19C
HUMIDITY 59%

TUE

27th

SUNNY
HIGH 23C
LOW 20C
HUMIDITY 54%

WED

28th

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 21C
HUMIDITY 47%

THU

29th

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 21C
HUMIDITY 48%

FRI

30th

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 21C
HUMIDITY 54%

SAT

31st

SUNNY
HIGH 24C
LOW 21C
HUMIDITY 50%

nfc

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Show yourself for a striking
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nokia.ae/n9

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