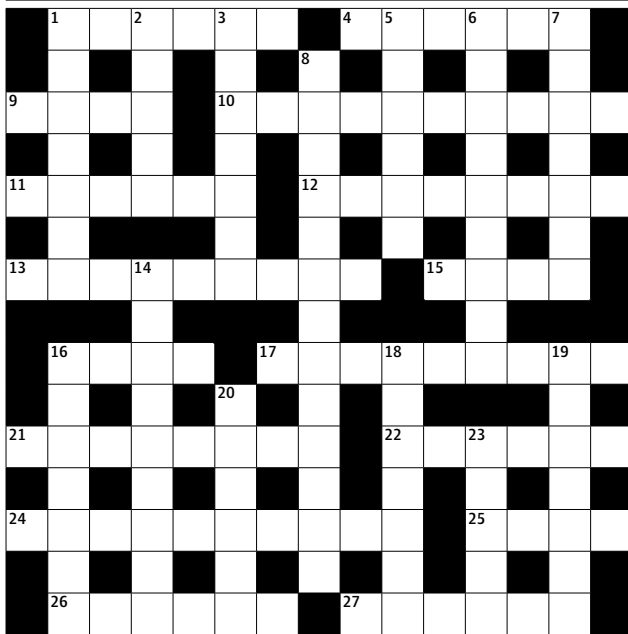


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,864 set by Paul

Across

- 1** Plant some borders, no different (6)
4 Cuckoo out to preserve bird (6)
9 Lady singing, good range (4)
10 Not entirely cool, getting bowled in third awkward delivery (10)
11 Threaten to pin tail on monkey (6)
12 Happy to accept counter-flowing effluent escapes (4,4)
13 Articles to film for the body expert (9)
15,26 23's interpretation of self or Iman? (4,2,4)
16 23's musical (4)
17 One bleating about pal-lor, primarily, has need for dark pigment (9)
21 Made shameless by beer and rum, Diaz's bottom pinched (8)
22 Out of bed, tired but happy (6)
24 Body of water, fluid Asian 2? (7,3)
25 Pay freeze finally put on comedian (4)
26 See 15
27 Dissenters, two of whom for 23? (6)

Down

- 1** 23's leading hand (7)
2,5 23's one single, it's cut see! (5,6)

- 3** The Queen spoken to, having squashed rat that's driven over (7)
5 See 2
6 23's feature, a fix up ending in brawl (5,4)
7 Psycho's skull? (7)
8 Pop song underlining the ultimate character, 23 (5,8)
14 Where it's unclear which way to turn, phosphorus injected into side as sedative (9)
16 Mishmash newspaper found in Portuguese city (7)
18 Fruit getting mature's brought down (7)
19 23's influences (7)
20 Partial brunette, then? (6)
23 Frontiersman finds the front line at regular intervals (5)

Solution No. 25,863

