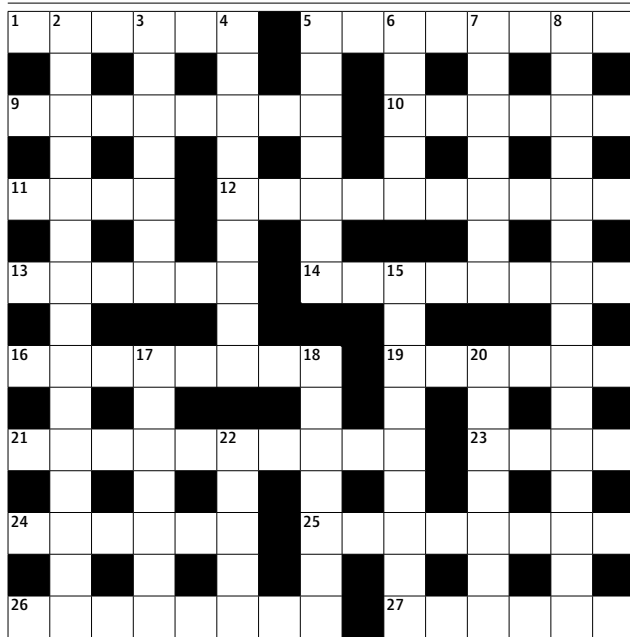


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,230 set by Puck

Across

- 1 Ornament? Composer's almost room for one (6)
- 5 Uncovered aunt desperately lying about age? Just a little awkward (8)
- 9 Something Arabs or Bedouin have imbibed (8)
- 10 Demons? Fashionable young reporter has one (6)
- 11 Made notes about animals (4)
- 12 Upbeat current film has visual restraint (10)
- 13 Stiff examination involving mark set by female (6)
- 14 Paint picture of second bed in flower (8)
- 16 Was in contact with John Peel? Sorry, no idea about that (8)
- 19 Heartless men wrongly take over Times, heartlessly (6)
- 21 Playing Puck not Bottom, learn he is a helpful creature (10)
- 23 Insane woman's backing poet (4)
- 24 Father of actor undergoing split (3,3)
- 25 After I left, floor covering is in a state (8)
- 26 Final appearance of Desmond, N in Sunset Boulevard (4,4)
- 27 Female king? The Spanish are ready (6)

Down

- 2 I am dressing 24, holding up party (5,10)

- 3 Top boss? Mum mouths off: "Animal!" (7)
- 4 It's a frightful thing, almost struggling to walk without glasses on, initially (9)
- 5 Unruly youth, first out of bed, with hairstyle changed to latest version (7)
- 6 Harsh-sounding brother (5)
- 7 One that cuts new coins in Ireland (7)
- 8 Someone like me to throw up a pork pie on the hearth? (3-3-2-3-4)
- 15 Kills a little time at Angler's Rest, ultimately getting drunk (9)
- 17 Eight in a row? (8)
- 18 Criminal activity of daughter somewhere in London (7)
- 20 Have to get in a cheese-cake (7)
- 22 Unable to love choral music (5)

Solution No. 26,229

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