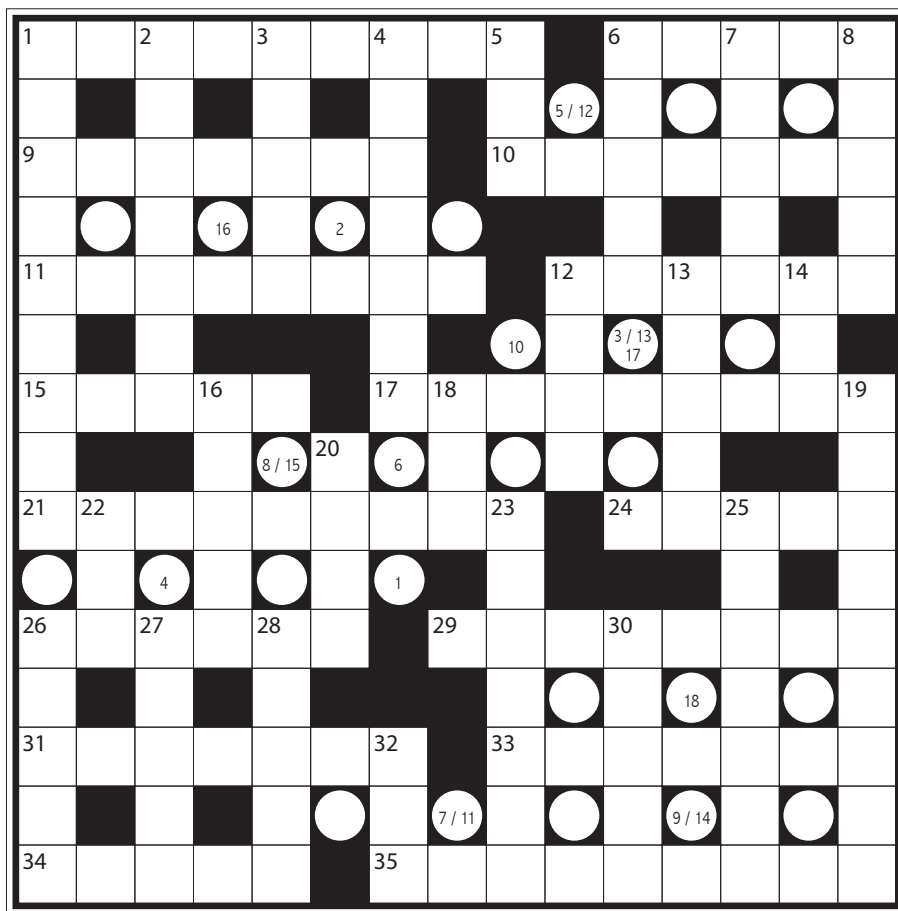


STORIES AND ART

by Mark Halpin

After solving the Across and Down clues in the cryptic crossword at right, solvers should enter certain letters into all of the circled spaces. Transferring letters from the numbered circles into the appropriate blanks below will reveal a message to Mr. Sondheim on the subject of storytelling.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18



ACROSS

- 1 White poodle is running around stacks of logs (9)
- 6 Nation's somewhat unkind, I admit (5)
- 9 Gushing, one sings inanely about youth's heart (9)
- 10 Affliction displayed by mailmen, typically (7)
- 11 Like Russia or US in area, surprisingly (8)
- 12 Scoundrel initially plunders retro bar furniture (6)
- 15 Perfect self-description from a Vegas professional? (5)
- 17 Sadly, I simpered for some tissue (9)
- 21 Say "Hi, Lama!" when traveling Tibetan mountaintops (9)
- 24 Indiana athlete's reviewed in postgame discussion (5)
- 26 By no means should Greek characters near explosive stuff (6)
- 29 Check about beer container and wine bottle (8)
- 31 Candy made from gourd mixed with bit of milk and pepper (7)
- 33 Author Isabel's leaden novel describing love, primarily (7)
- 34 Cruel criminal's ill-gotten gains (5)
- 35 Might Sue panic hysterically about snakes at first? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Reverend Spooner's desire to wrestle cod or haddock (9)
- 2 Witness is verbose when confused (7)
- 3 Duos *Bartlett's* perhaps quoted (5)
- 4 Winter Olympics sport involving trick suitcases (7)
- 5 60% of Spain is a great place to relax (3)
- 6 Small part of a chain damaged tiles (5)
- 7 Artist Rivera mirroring "id" and "ego" (5)
- 8 Ace-ten's shuffled as poker hand starts (5)
- 12 Pop's kerfuffles brought up (4)
- 13 One way to get ham to ruin fewer comedy scene finales (5, 2 wds.)
- 14 Loudly put down souvenir from Hawaii (3)
- 16 Rework bald carpet, cutting out odd pieces (5)
- 18 Pat slightly restructured academic organization (3, *abbr.*)
- 19 Replace each piece of shoe covered in soft leather (9)
- 20 Jargon word used by one giving up (4)
- 22 Promise of payment is not entirely serious (3)
- 23 Singer Gwen's fan site hacked (7)
- 25 Interrupt obnoxious coin nut (7, 3 wds.)
- 26 Hollywood bigshot obscured by smog, ultimately (5)
- 27 Part of a college, without trace of precaution, raising poisonous plant (5)
- 28 Doctor's assistant translated runes (5)
- 30 McBeal and others without exception sitting on forks (5)
- 32 Heads of Pixar expect pristine animation (3)

*This puzzle was commissioned by
 Arden Theatre Company,
 honoring Mr. Stephen Sondheim
 as the inaugural recipient of the
 Master Storyteller Award
 on June 1st, 2015
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