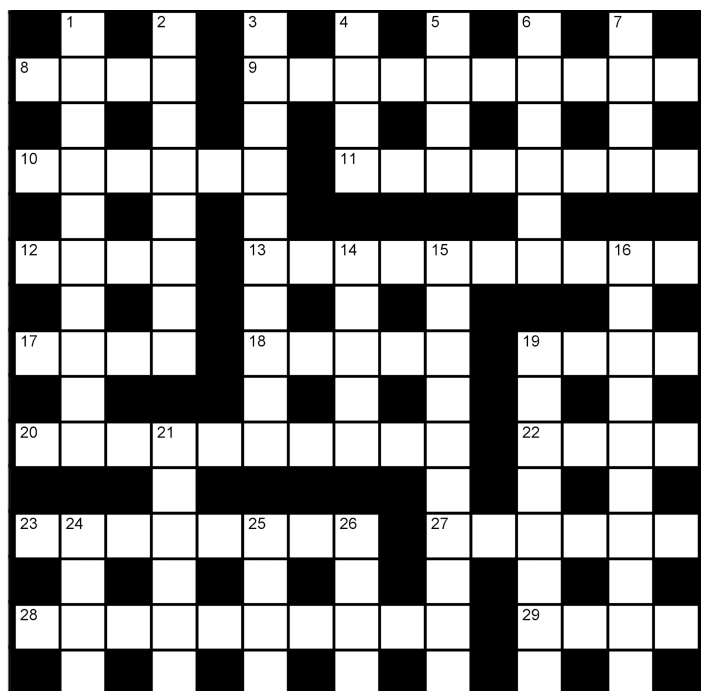


Genius No 266

Set by Claw



A letter must be removed from each clue before solving, always leaving real words. Careful consideration of the superfluous material - along with the limits revealed by the conundrum - will lead to only one conclusion, which should be written below the grid.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 BST on Saturday 30 August. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Conclusion:

Across

- 8 Genuine star pulled regularly (4)
- 9 Defence logo brought in by imaginative American goes ahead (10)
- 10 Coached by withdrawn freestyler articulating very little (6)
- 11 Where Aussie could stop rare skate mutating (4,4)
- 12 *Country House* is regaling crowds (4)
- 13 Some of them will wear clogs – what might drag queens say? (10)
- 17 Confirm taking heater back out for air change (4)
- 18 Endless dikes with depth reduced (5)
- 19 Take heart from temporary resident below (4)
- 20 Sketches deserted island surrounded by vast towns (10)
- 22 Fussy peer rejected an earldom essentially (4)
- 23 Where Grant's vow is placed ultimately (5,3)
- 27 One following giant to East Londoner's retreat (6)
- 28 Curiously, Demi Moore disrobed by English artist outside, revealing skin condition (10)
- 29 Smart Tesla gets shove behind (4)

Down

- 1 Told to destroy planet (10)
- 2 Curt Republican expelled from bank in harsh manner (8)
- 3 See rest day out with time here? (4,6)
- 4 Perhaps Othello's second omen (4)
- 5 Small men cycling at the front for ages (4)
- 6 Deny low-down about head (6)
- 7 Current sign making Brazilians noisy bar lovers initially (4)
- 14 Spoilt daughter charging millions is nothing (5)
- 15 Mediocre, corrupt president primarily wallowing (10)
- 16 Where one can find the Orwell novel *Alias Angie Tango* (4,6)
- 19 Table tennis star covers current political messages? (8)
- 21 Periodically pinches blow then finds a place to chill (6)
- 24 Lead without uplifting half of fleet (4)
- 25 Top act has KISS supporting (4)
- 26 Something slightly tart exposed core (4)