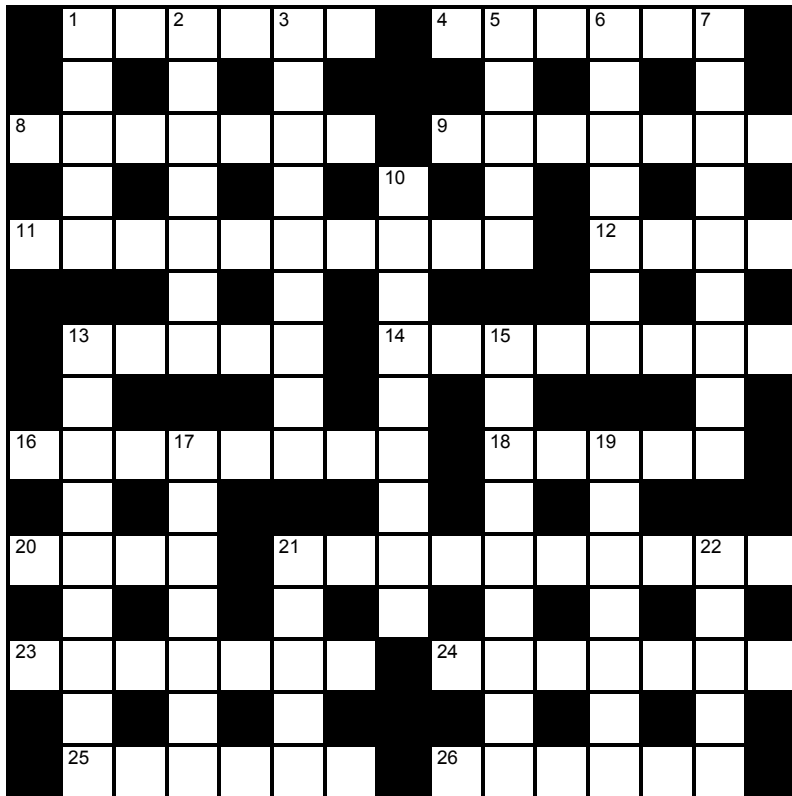


NTSPP - 215 by Bucko



Across

- 1** Scott Fitzgerald's great character gets drug for leading actor and makes ends meet (4,2)
- 4** Mixture of dyes brightened majority of early wine (6)
- 8** Defeat by returning and burning fuels - no need for force (7)
- 9** Singer's brief kiss outside La Scala, missing opening of Elektra (7)
- 11** Impotence in office (10)
- 12** Old Italian dates team, first to last! (4)

- 13** Publish volume about last Hussar (5)
- 14** He questions old Australian "Digger" (8)
- 16** Girl has bare back and starts to enjoy sex with her trousers down! (8)
- 18** Cheeky make up (5)
- 20** Empty rhetoric often improvised? (4)
- 21** Almost accept soft payment terms at the outset - that's nonsense (10)
- 23** Start express outside (4-3)
- 24** Hide and sob sadly before fix (7)

- 25** Finale in G? (6)

- 26** Catches wrasse in estuary nets (6)

Down

- 1** A party good to go (5)
- 2** Mountains shaking on passing of cataclysm (7)
- 3** Spoil salesman's talk after barracking extremely silly introductions (9)
- 5** Record extracted from virology experiment reveals dentine (5)
- 6** Sue, drunk, leaves spilt miniatures to get another drink! (7)

- 7** Truly evil church Count follows (9)
- 10** Notes delivered from France found in part of amusement park by flower (9)
- 13** Fruit tree's first fruit (9)
- 15** Legitimate ration being deficient - blew a fuse! (9)
- 17** Need replacement after hearing virtuoso dried up (7)
- 19** Grisham's brief has a very large bill? (7)
- 21** Vagabond finally abandons stray rancid dog (5)
- 22** Lace flower (5)