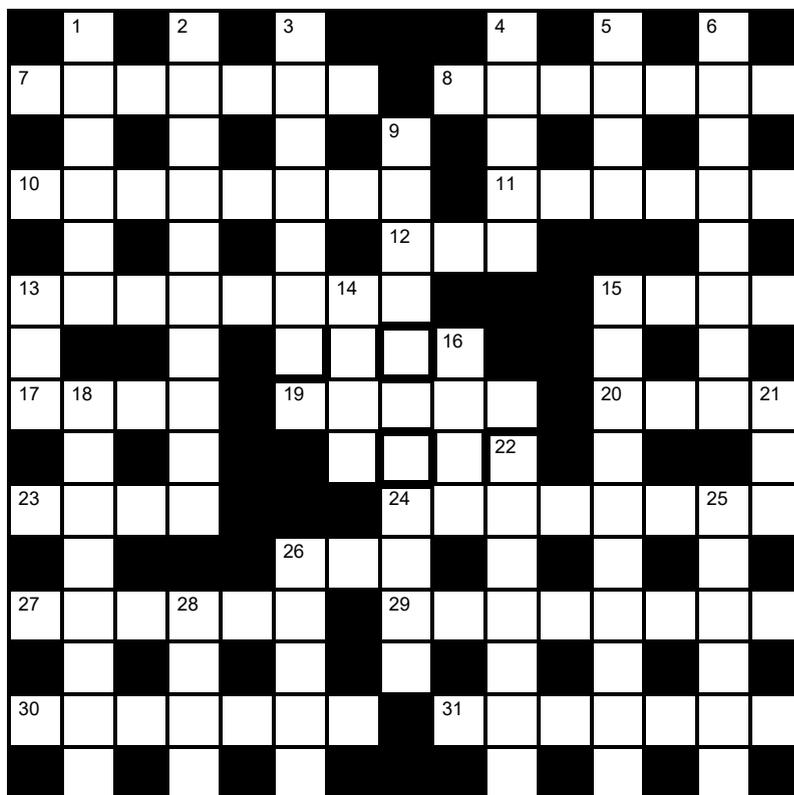


“Theme and Variations”

An actress, on fire at The Fringe, should assist solvers in identifying a two-word phrase (the THEME, to be highlighted in the completed grid) that connects three groups of answers, each with four members (the twelve VARIATIONS).

Across

- 7 Hosting a party in America, Dad knocked back Stateside fizz (4,3)
- 8 Local "Monkee-babble" quoted by Spooner? (4,3)
- 10 Put hotel's vacation of Iceland House in writing; storage facility needed (8)
- 11 For some Listeners, solver's in a pet (6)
- 12 Now start to cheer (3)
- 13 Returning Head of BBC securing Tony Hall a cut (8)
- 15 A Yorkshire-based compiler making series in York - no Michael Curl! (4)



- 17 A figure of love can't get quite enough of chopper? (4)
- 19 See 21 Down
- 20 Talk about *Fedora* or *Trilby*? (4)
- 23/26D Old people take it with bangers and mash (9)
- 24 Gentle Ben's first milk gets confused with ale (8)
- 26 More of the same following one song and dance (3)
- 27 Rejected two ways of ID'ing champion steeplechaser (3,3)
- 29 Sports car breaking 13dn rules over way (8)
- 30 Itinerant's towelled feet? (7)

31 In district cricket great shot by all-rounder (7)

Down

- 1 See 21
- 2 "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"? Perhaps - sadly not with best gal (6,4)
- 3 Supported Charterhouse pupil who's extremely garlicky, containing personal pong (7)
- 4 Old college principal's first aquatic animal (5)
- 5 Cheesy bit from broadcaster on recipe (4)
- 6 One works thawing ice blocks on a farm (8)

9 What it raised for Arthur 1 around the courts? (4)

- 13 A long letter due when? (3)
- 14 Novice British agent Spanish golfer's cut up (4)
- 15 Fleetwood perhaps taking diplomat on road (10)
- 16 Symbol of Sikhism a rescue vessel's sealed up (4)
- 18 Seduce this undersecretary, wandering about? (8)
- 21/19 Here's person of authority round Oxford with a name for puzzling (3,3,3,5)

22 Uplifting Christmases? Elgar is in favour (5,2)

- 24 Group absent, letting down Arthur 2 on the boards? (4)
- 25 Catch Kelvin King Cutting it at the *Kabaret Klub!* (3,3)
- 26 See 23 Across
- 28 Something to warm hands and balls up (4)