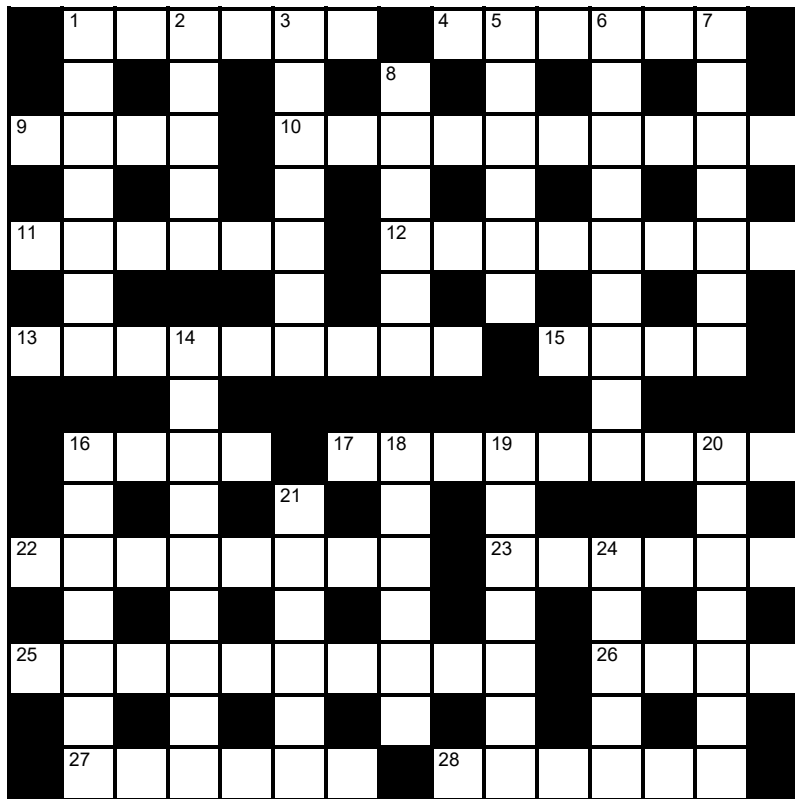


A Christmas crossword (oh, no it isn't!)



Across

- 1 Horrors! In the beginning, Abanazer loses Aladdin, recaptures monkey sidekick (6)
- 4 Thespians in cast dancing, bearing gold (6)
- 9 Sailor could be lead character in 17 (4)
- 10 Put-upon kitchen maid used lid cleaner in 17 (10)
- 11 Stand by among characters where Dame had her entrance (6)
- 12 Dreadful actor starts in the Yuletide abomination (8)
- 13 Romeo missing from adaptation of winter show for 17 (4,5)
- 15 Primarily, lantern Aladdin must polish (4)

- 16 Echoing Dandini's introduction produces unconventional art (4)
- 17 Criticise return of record company test for production (9)
- 22 17 in safe vessel (5,3)
- 23 US thespian acted Hook unusually, losing to a rewrite (2,4)
- 25 Riches setter secures in 17 (10)
- 26 Three characters from the opening of 'Puss in Boots' pursue an Oscar for production (4)
- 27 Most clever stepsister evilly indiscriminate after departure of perverted, vile priest (6)
- 28 Production of 'Peter Pan' uses some of its characters to get bums on seats (6)

Down

- 1 Uproar follows a youth in 17 (7)
- 2 Joint where Lord Edward starts to go after Twankey's heart (5)
- 3 Principal Boy and me chat about theatrical production (7)
- 5 Applause from the audience - let's drink to that! (6)
- 6 Ask too much of opening duo in overture before miracle play (9)
- 7 Break up naughty pupils overshadowing Tinkerbell's introduction (5,2)
- 8 Acting? Not completely! (2,4)
- 14 Magic wands eyed on midweek date - possibly in Sheffield? (9)

- 16 Hunky Eastender gets mixed up with evil spirits (7)
- 18 Jack & Giant, out of bounds, meet resistance: confounded plant! (6)
- 19 Mutiny as foolish actress, not having succeeded, loses top of costume before opening night starts (7)
- 20 Farces with Cinderella's opening replaced with the start of 'Medea'? Dummies! (4-3)
- 21 Seasons Fairy Godmother's cast (6)
- 24 Buttons initially knows nothing of Baron's schemes (5)