

3D Crossword July 2020 Newsletter 7

This edition covers the following items:

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3. August Extra Puzzle

1. Review of the June 3D Crossword

The initial rubric said celebrating a song first released 41 years ago. Clues are in alphabetical order. This months winner was Abby Braunsdorf from Lafayette, Indiana. Congratulations Abby.

I have a confession to make. I solved Jolt and Arachne's puzzle a month ago in order to test the online entry system. The test proved successful but my recollection of the solve is now somewhat hazy. I should, of course, have penned this write up immediately. Lesson learnt.

As many of you have said in your comments it was a more straightforward puzzle than May's offering. Arachne's clues were, as always, excellent. A series colours emerged during the solve and, as through one of those distorting fairground mirrors, sort of reflected the colours of the rainbow.

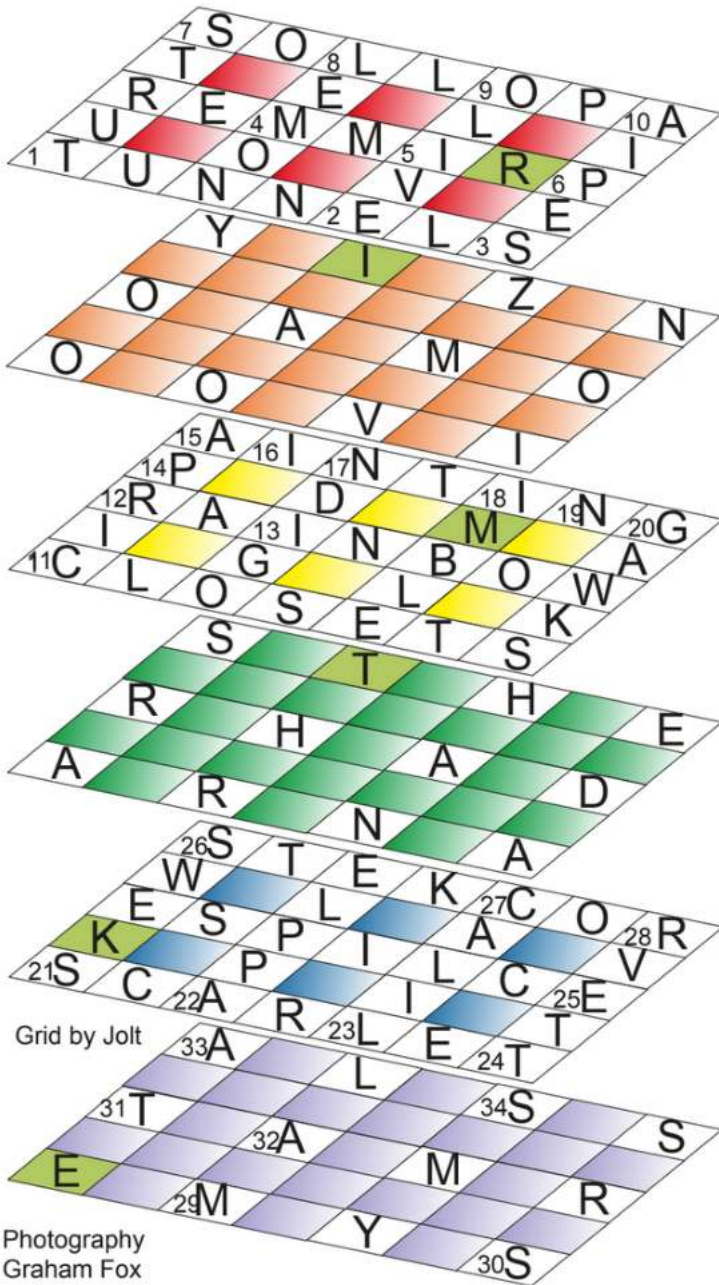
Like many of you I wasn't familiar with the song itself but with KERMIT as a clue it wasn't too difficult to find: 'The Rainbow Connection' released in 1979. Mark you, having now listened to it, I will not be humming it in future.

Frank Paul's pictorial clue was also not too difficult; the Egyptian sun god Ra 'in' a 'bow' tie.

This month nearly every solution has been entered online. We therefore have an automatically checked and readily accessible record of all solutions entered. This is of particular value when it comes to assessing eligibility for the end of year World 3D Crossword Championships.

Through many years in Corporate management I don't believe that I ever experienced such a seamless introduction of an IT system. Right first time, on time and within budget (Jos did it for free). Fantastic.

3D June 2020 Crossword Solution




Grid by Jolt

Photography
Graham Fox



Arachne
Jolt

The Rainbow Connection from the 1979 film *The Muppet Movie* was sung by
 KERMIT

Several solutions together make up a RAINBOW of sorts.

Day 25
12ac (7)



RAINBOW

RA (Egyptian Sun God)
IN BOW (tie)

Drawing by Frank Paul

Clue Solutions and Explanations; June 2020 3D Crossword

Day	SOLUTION	Direction, Clue, Count	Explanation	Notes
1	ANGERS	10d Winds up scraping black off sausages (6)	(b)ANGERS	
2	APHID	32up-4, 13aw-2 OAPs heartily harboured gardener's enemy (5)	(o)AP, HID	
3	APOLLOS	10ba Handsome young men, flighty creatures (7)	Double def.	
4	APPLE	22aw Jobs concern curtailing program (5)	APPLE(t)	shade of green
5	APRICOT	15to,11up Salad of mostly tropical fruit (7)	*TROPICA(l)	shade of orange
6	ASSAYS	33up Tests perhaps welcomed by fool (6)	SAY in ASS	
7	CASE	11d Doctor's concern about someone's skin (4)	CA, S(omeon)E	
8	CLOSETS	11ac Dimwits imprisoning opponents in cupboards (7)	[S,E] in CLOTS	
9	CORVETTE	27ac-3, 28to, 24ba-2 Lord endlessly checked over Prince's colourful car (8)	COR, VETTE(d)	Ref. to another colourful song, Little Red Corvette
10	ECLIPSE	25ba Block online film extract, half viewed (7)	E-CLIP, SE(en)	
11	EVENLY	2d Group of Seven lying with equanimity (6)	(s)EVEN LY(ing)	
12	GAWKS	20to Gran wakes regularly and stares (5)	G(r)A(n) W(a)K(e)S	
13	IMBALM	5d Stop the rot once one's Viva leaves Balmoral (6)	I'M, BALM(oral)	(archaic) Wiktionary
14	INDIGO	16ac-2,17to Arachne doing shifts for Violet's neighbour (6)	I, *DOING	shade of blue
15	LEMON	8to Useless individual embraced by Uncle Monty (5)	(unc)LE MON(ty)	shade of yellow
16	LILAC	23aw 21's relative originally lived in Los Angeles, California (5)	L(ived) I(n) L(os) A(ngeles(C(alifo rnia); the lilac is a relative of the olive	shade of violet
17	LINTEL	8d Support student with information (6)	L, INTEL	
18	MAID	4d-3, 13aw-2 Picking up accomplished girl (4)	Homophone of "made"	
19	MAROON	29up Leave isolated isle clutching jumper (6)	ROO in MAN	shade of red
20	NIMBLE	19ba-2,18to Ignoring the odds, one is mobile and ultimately quite active (6)	(o)N(e) I(s) M(o)B(i)L(e), (quit)E	
21	OLIVE	9to I love roving sailor man's girlfriend (5)	*[I LOVE]. Ref.Popeye (the Sailor Man)'s girlfriend Olive Oyl	shade of green

22	PAINTING	14aw-2,15ac Breathing heavily over his unclothed picture (8)	(h)l(s) in PANTING	
23	POWDER	6d Last of wayward dons might pounce (6) Table 1	(superannuate)D in POWER; pounce=powder	shade of blue
24	PRIMMER	6ba Less uninhibited male putting on coat (7)	M in PRIMER	
25	RAINBOW	12ac Boffin cycling round wide, high arch (7)	BRAIN “cycling”, O, W	
26	ROCKETS	28ba Carpeting small spacecraft (7)	ROCKET, S	
27	SCARLET	21ac Immoral misuse of clarets (7)	*CLARETS. Collins has “scarlet”=“immoral”	shade of red
28	SCHIZO	34up Singular annoyance over split in combinations (6)	S, CHIZ, O.	Definition “split in combinations” (which strictly should be SCHIZO-) is to avoid the otherwise derogatory sense of this word
29	SEPIA	3aw Audibly leaking more ink (5)	Homophone of “seepier”	shade of reddish brown
30	SKEWS	21aw Colours of London garden, surrounded by borders of scabious (5)	KEW in S(cabiou)S	
31	STASIS	30up Ex-secret police chief refused to stop arrest (6)	STASI, S(top)	
32	STRUT	7to Extremely short arousal time for peacock (5)	S(hor)T, RUT	
33	TERROR	31up Tail of delinquent howler monkey (6)	(delinquen)T, ERROR	
34	TUNNELS	1ac Let nuns dance – they’re bored (7)	*[LET NUNS]	

2. Solvers Comments

Relatively straightforward this month and I note the grid could have been completed (perhaps a weakness?) without knowing the theme, for which Google was definitely my friend. The highlight for me was the liberal helping of creative definitions or part definitions: monkey for TERROR, Lord for COR, Jobs concern for APPLE, carpeting for ROCKET, to name but a few. Tough clues, too, for POWDER and STASIS, but all fair. Thanks, as ever, to the whole team. KM

This was enjoyable RC

Great fun as always. Enjoyed listening to different versions of 'Strangers in Paradise'. RE

A strange one, celebrating 'The Rainbow Connection' by Kermit from 'The Muppet Movie'. A song I'd never heard of. Didn't have any problems in solving & quickly realised there were several 'colour' solutions to make up a 'RAINBOW' of sorts. MN

Ah, Kermit; I love the Muppets songs. A gentle solve - TUNNELS my favourite, closely followed by APRICOT. HS

Excellent puzzle with clear clueing. Lots of interesting surfaces to enjoy. Enjoyable theme helpful (Rainbow connection much better than my first thought 'Since you've been gone' by the band Rainbow - also 1979) JP

Nice clues and a grid packed with lots of colourful words. When we solved the anagram and found Kermit we thought of It's Not Easy Bein' Green, but of course the song is Rainbow Connection. Thanks! N&SI

I loved every delicious minute of this puzzle - so colourful and so clever. Well done to Arachne, Jolt, and Frank Paul! JA

Another fun and enjoyable theme. Didn't know the particular song, but worked out the theme was colours fairly quickly. Particularly liked Day 15 as it reminded me of a meeting where the caterer brought in the drinks and asked "who's the lemon?" Much chortling back at the ranch afterwards! CW

As usual it took a while to get started. Initially I thought Mr Kite, but that was 1967. Wikipedia confirmed the film (which I haven't seen) and song.
31. Is "refused" extraneous? MJ

I solved it fairly quickly without identifying the song celebrated HB

Fairly easy clues but apart from thinking the theme must be Beatles-related, I can't work out what the 1979 song is. JM

Nice one, not too hard, not too easy. Particularly after May which I failed at miserably! JB

Intriguing and enjoyably put together. Some of the clues a bit impressionistic for my (purist or puritanical?) taste. It took me quite a long time to discover the precise theme - and it turns out I didn't have to prove that I knew what it was! EF

Really enjoyed this one. Enough tricky ones to keep me on my toes. Took a while to get the theme. BB

A tad less convoluted than last month but with Arachne setting the clues a pleasure nonetheless. I bet I wasn't just me who date-checked 'I can sing a rainbow' only to find the wrong year, but Google found me the right song in the end. PA

This month it was hard to get the theme - or though it eventually turned out to coincidentally topical - 'The Rainbow Connection' wouldn't have been particularly significant at the time Arachne composed the puzzle. (It was only after I found Kermit that a search found the 1979 song referred to, as I'd initially only got the irrelevant YMCA!) PM

Was fully expecting the song to be "It's not easy being green " so was pleasantly surprised to be introduced to "Rainbow Connection". Lovely. RR

Mostly easier than many ML

I didn't get the theme until I had the anagram and discovered that Kermit sang Rainbow Connection in the Muppet Movie of June '79! I enjoyed the puzzle though and found it just difficult enough to be challenging, but with light at the end of the tunnel. DS

Lovely puzzle JM

One or 2 clues that I didn't fully understand (STASIS and STRUT - and IMBALM before I saw the *Wiktionary hint). I liked the ROYGBIV colours appearing differently as solutions (although I'm not sure that each of BLUE, INDIGO and VIOLET was indicated). I completed this puzzle just as a rainbow appeared in the sky before a thunderstorm hit us !!! HE

Didn't know song about rainbow, but Kermit clearly meant the Muppets. Fruit etc colours a nice variation of standard colours. Found whole pretty straightforward. DM

It was a delight to work through this very good set of clues. The gentle rainbow theme was a bonus. I counted 10 colours among the solutions (a couple of fruits counting as colours also). AB

It's not easy being green MM

Great idea for a theme. Stuck for ages on Strut due to senior moment / dyslexia and trying to find a relevant word from S-T-R. I recognised Horus but couldn't see the connection with the answer until Googling led me to the Rainbow Bridge. PD

An enjoyable puzzle. The song is "Rainbow Connection" from the Muppet Movie in 1979 (I assume it's not "Since you've been gone" by the band Rainbow, also in the charts in 1979!) A number of colours forming a rainbow of sorts - apricot, indigo, lemon, lilac, maroon, olive, scarlet and sepia. AM

Another joy. Thank you everyone MJ

Loved it! I really enjoyed the mix of straightforward and more challenging clues, often the difference was just in the way the surface was worded - very clever. A good theme and nice to have the additional anagram BS

A very enjoyable puzzle from the spider lady. I did stumble on the anagram, thinking originally it was 'Mr Kite!' When I couldn't get the Beatles to fit the rainbow theme, or the date, I eventually realised it was 'Kermit' - much more sensible! RS

I couldn't get the theme of this one until I had finished although I did notice there were a lot of colours! Another fun puzzle with some lovely wordplay. MP

Arachne is always witty, neat, entertaining, and this was a lovely puzzle. I love the idea of one's Viva leaving Balmoral, and there are plenty of other stories told. The alternative rainbow - 8 colours, or 10 if you count APPLE and POWDER - seems to me a great improvement on poor old Richard of York. AC

Thank you all so much for this super puzzle JJ

For the second consecutive month I have not found the theme. I liked to think I spotted one almost immediately.

Arachne got me working hard for Day 8. I was sure it was not CARE but either CASH or CASH as both connect to skin. I could not justify either and went back to CARE as the new system rejected my first two tries. In the end the anagram needed another vowel but I still don't know the theme. Arachne is of a younger generation. ET

This one was easy to start but hard to finish. The colour theme was easy to guess but the connection eluded us until the final anagram, despite knowing the song well. Pounce was an interesting new word. JH

An elegant, witty puzzle and a fine tribute to an amphibian star! DH

This celebrates "The Rainbow Connection" from the 1979 Muppet Movie SF

Glad to get to doing a 3D puzzle - I have been very very busy these past few months and something had to give - so this could be the first I have submitted this year. Before getting KERMIT I found "Mr Kite" - hold on, I thought, Sgt Peppers was a damn sight more than 41 years ago we had the 50th celebrations for it a few years back. Big Muppet fan here mainly from 70s & 80s watching with my (now very grown-up) kids - many of their songs are excellent TR

A theme is emerging with this year's puzzles - nearly completing quickly and then one troublesome clue. In this case the spelling of day 13 totally threw me. And the anagram of Kermit took forever to find (then forgot it, and a few days more to remember it). Must be getting rusty! JN

Took a while to get the theme here - thought it might be a song by Rainbow until some Muppets knowledge surfaced from deep down. Very enjoyable, thank you! JH

It's been awhile since I solved it, but seems like it was a quick solve. That's not a bad thing, mind. AB

A clever and entertaining puzzle CH

Enjoyed it as ever. Plenty of clever misleading definitions, which made for some fun puzzling them out JG

So much easier than last month. I quickly got the idea of the colour scheme and really enjoyed this. Day 21 was my favourite clue of all SBa

A colourful puzzle in many senses - though not exactly the full rainbow spectrum included! but still fun to see the theme gradually emerge, and i suppose it's not easy being green when highlighted in green cells. and for once i managed to unravel Frank Paul's cryptic drawing SBr

3. August Extra Puzzle

We are planning on releasing an August extra puzzle in mid August. This will be a 5x5x5 jigsaw puzzle designed and clued by "Etc." I thoroughly enjoyed solving it. Without giving anything away I can say that whilst it is tricky it is not extremely difficult so do have a go. This is a chance to restore your qualification for this year's 3D World Championships if you have not got a 100% correct solve 2020 record.

Alan Goddard