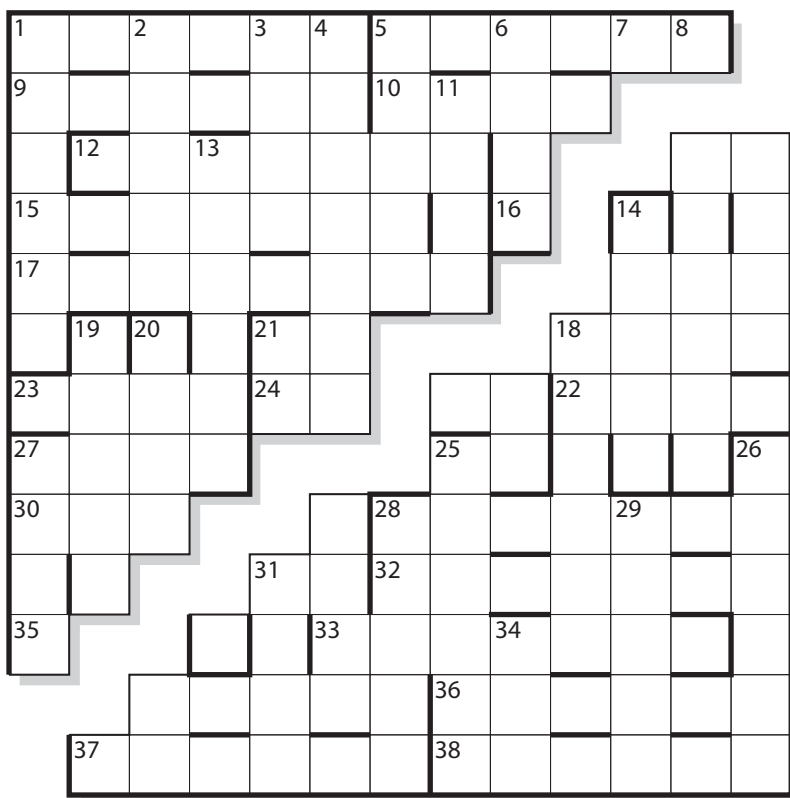


BEAUTIFUL GIRLS

by Mark Halpin

Shades of the younger selves of nine "Weismann Girls" (Sally, Phyllis, Stella, Solange, Hattie, Vanessa, Heidi, Emily, and Carlotta) still haunt the crumbling theater depicted at right, where they performed in the *Weismann Follies* many years ago. In ghostly fashion, they appear in any horizontal, vertical, or diagonal direction, sometimes passing through walls. And, like ghosts, they're never entirely visible. If they were, though, the solver might realize what these spectral figures are echoes of.



ACROSS

- 1 Constant complaints (6)
- 5 Ring in the holidays with glee, finally interrupting anger (6)
- 9 Scour a cast for someone who can really sing (6)
- 10 Not oddly, saucy trio is in the middle of a Shakespearean comedy (6; 2 wds)
- 12 Look at that horse enter briskly (7; 2 wds)
- 15 Man sees bananas in a bunch (7; 2 wds)
- 16 Warily stripping edges off seed covering (4)
- 17 Yours truly set a trap to catch returning owl, with grub used for bait (8)
- 18 Game's appeal being discussed (4)
- 21 A library's opening Housman wings (4)
- 22 Switch part of a lid (4)
- 23 Quietly exaggerate dance movement (4)
- 24 Viewed number of ancient wonders, overlooking five (4)
- 27 Jimmy Stewart's occupied by computer game (4)
- 28 Bachelor mends some sorted laundry (7)
- 30 Oaks transplanted around a Japanese city (5)
- 32 Cockroach on a keyboard pens start of essay, right after it takes a bow (7)
- 33 Terrible garnish: extremely salty nuts (7)
- 35 Jezebel is lady found in Hebrew text (read right to left) (6)
- 36 Begin to study strange pet auk (6; 2 wds)
- 37 Any son potentially becomes irritating (6)
- 38 First-rate professor is handsome fellow (6)

DOWN

- 1 Seem worried about church intrigue (6)
- 2 Senorita's love turned up with a bouquet (5)
- 3 Goddess exists in a recurring way (4)
- 4 Lift home entertainment furniture (7)
- 5 A wet fluid, rain! (5)
- 6 Hot spot that's identifiable in Vietnam (4)
- 7 Least filthy name given to a despot in trial (7)
- 8 Like San Francisco: kind of cold, first off (5)
- 11 Heartlessly condemn eccentric characters like the Mizner brothers (6)
- 13 Buddy rented a temporary bed (6)
- 14 *Variety* article first to recognize actor Walston (5)
- 18 Jam initially peddled at fair (6)
- 19 Say line as if delirious or blissful (7)
- 20 Girl raised eating one kind of fiber (5)
- 21 It's cheesy, like a theatrical villain (6)
- 25 Mistakes are recalled involving singer (6)
- 26 Observation post caught in wicked spy's morale-breaking tactics (6)
- 27 Brown bird no longer seen circling couple of children (5)
- 28 Clubs accepting bit of hard cash from Asia (5)
- 29 The lens reveals great beauty (5)
- 31 Nearly commit murder over quantity of drugs (4)
- 34 The German uprising is tragic (3)