

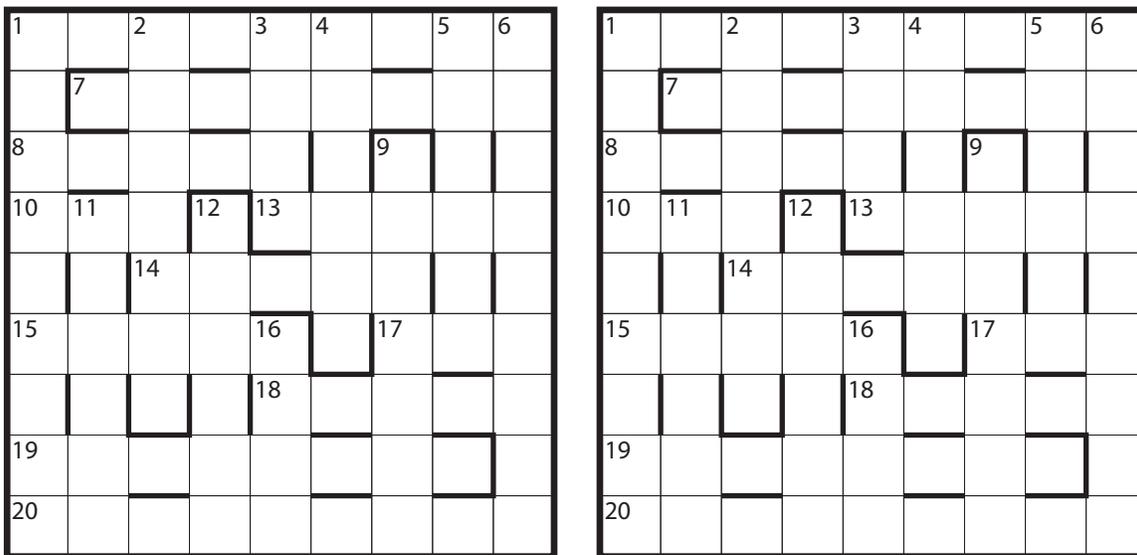
SIDE BY SIDE

by Mark Halpin

The recent opening of *Sondheim on Sondheim* calls to mind the first compilation of Sondheim material, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, a show celebrated by this puzzle.

Each clue consists of two complete and distinct cryptic clues presented side by side. Each of these contains the usual "definition" part and "wordplay" part in some order. Divisions between the clues are to be determined by the solver (punctuation is not indicative of breaks, and may in fact be deceptive). Answers to the two clues are to be entered one each in the side-by-side grids; the first such placement is arbitrary, and subsequent answers might go in either grid.

When the puzzle is complete, solvers may note which squares contain the same letter in both grids. Reading these letters left-to-right, top-to-bottom, will reveal what solvers have earned, something sounding remarkably like the show in question.



ACROSS

- 1 John's dates sometimes chewed garlic (about 50-50); he's at last gone gay & is giddily unconcerned (9; *one is 2 wds*)
- 7 For no charge, maybe, uncannily foretell Joey residing in MA town where merchandise might be found (8; *one hyphenated*)
- 8 Public official, grasping alternatives, backs companies acquiring twelve gutted, pigeon-infested buildings (5)
- 10 Pot having been crafted, select varnish base used in blackening (3)
- 13 Created a mosaic even showing large piece of bread in Arabia! (5)
- 14 Stern make-over artist returned Anne Heche's initial hair color (5)
- 15 Working stiff's function: going after last of cheap, somewhat worrisome perfume ingredient (5)
- 17 A few partial to destructive keying scrape up western college jock's sporty truck (3)
- 18 Pied Piper chiefly entertained by octet dancing the jig without bit of justification (5)
- 19 Needle dropper recreated entire EP by acts of theft, some that are beyond belief (8; *one is 2 wds*)
- 20 Author who ran the surprisingly informative reports on antelopes' social division's getting outspoken (9)

DOWN

- 1 College reconsidered play, once massive fellow prone to expansiveness trashed dorm phone (9)
- 2 Some separating Nazi bodyguard holding up backward-looking child in talon snarled "Hold tight" ... (7; *one is 2 wds*)
- 3 ... the telling of kid's adventure gratified German boy (4)
- 4 Distant from perch, perhaps, bird endlessly sitting atop monarch, becoming an annoyance (6)
- 5 Sadly, we lost worst battle within reckoning, setting back port city (6)
- 6 Excitedly sings demo snippets (material go-getter remixed with energy) (9)
- 9 After festival's commencement, sultan ordered parades; Indian regent marshaled a number (7)
- 11 Speaking of costly vehicle gives eloquent Shakespearean character cause to sparkle a long time, teasing duo (6)
- 12 Is refitted vessel trite novel describes the foremost in victorious stand? (6)
- 16 Sweeping in scope, piece very nearly shattered silence about alien being depicted in Genesis (4)