

Triple Threat

by Ucaoimhu

As befits this birthday party for our multitalented hostess, in this puzzle you will both solve cryptic clues, and give a performance.

On the one hand, answers to Across clues will be entered normally, without showing off. Each such clue, though, does contain an extra letter, to be removed before solving; these letters, in clue order, spell a bonus cryptic clue cluing a five-letter word.

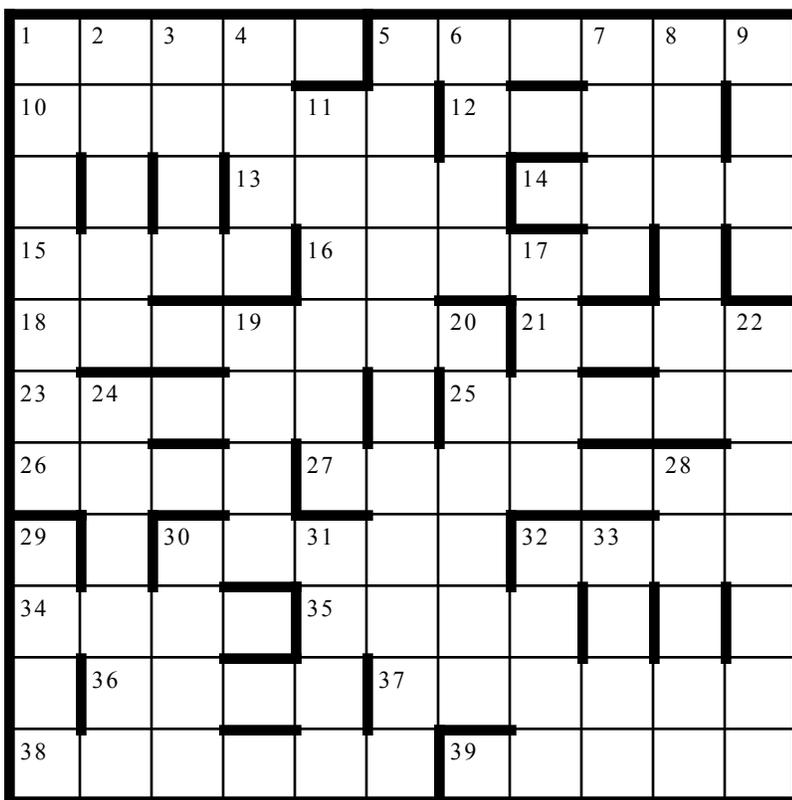
On the other hand, the Down clues work normally, but for each one you must perform one of the following amazing acts before entering the answer in the grid (each applies to seven answers):

- (1) Juggle a couple of items in the answer.
- (2) Sing the answer in a retro style.
- (3) Get a laugh that tops the answer itself.

Finally, if you perform (1), (2), and (3), in order, on the answer to the bonus cryptic clue, you will get another word, which also splendidly suits that clue.

ACROSS

1. Desires to be the leader of aesthetes wearing bloomers in a brewery (5)
5. Apex of black part of grayish cube (6)
10. Franklin, who sings a note that's cute, slightly (6)
12. Thracian TV heroine with axe beheaded score of gymnasts (4)
13. Concealing Garbo in California and Missouri (4)
14. Cloud upset little fool (4)
15. Reckless gambler's latest husband holds races (4)
16. After wince, covers empty plates with metal (5)
18. Leo — a Hun I confused with playwright Jean (7)
21. What dancing follows Erato's final, rude word (4)
23. Noise of René in Chapter 1 of *François and René Make Butter* (5)
25. Start to needle Pat about each breathing problem (5)
26. One unstable particle or three, turning brown ultimately (4)
27. Rules originally graven over spinster's hearth (7)
30. At the same time, topless Mae gets laid (2 3)
32. Narrow, pointed piece of gland tilts back (4)
34. Then spot, say, Pasadena's largest brownie (4)
35. Actress Gershon and thou in front of valley (4)



36. Somersaulting rodents alight up above us (4)
37. Gelt Nat prepared for a top lawyer (3 3, *abbr.*)
38. Only tritium-filled units, at first, will be "hot" (6)
39. Bear offerings from people who exist? (5)

DOWN

1. Follow the marks left by 1000 wagon wheels
2. Ship seeking the Golden Fleece and nitrogen gas
3. Reportedly level Eurasian land, as part of procedure
4. Guttled the church with advanced machinery
5. Like *Paradise Lost*, an Italian city enthralls Ms. Basil
6. About to obtain ten English draft animals
7. Tin bonded to uranium, good and tight
8. Flaming piece of Emmenthaler is low in calories
9. Captured the face of Courtney Love
11. The last letter in "gram" or "vim"
17. A mystery author can take Kevin's left jab
19. Stocking issues of *Time* taken from little guys
20. One barely stopping to check air
22. Submachine guns destroyed nests
24. For fear that Tesla would support the French
28. Rune is shaped like a bear
29. Neuter pronouns ultimately yield rewards
30. Gore stripped both frequently (2 *wds.*)
31. So, um, what supplies monopolists with money?
32. Consumes beef and pork, but not the starter
33. Joke about a quiet, cryptic author in Quebec