

Perimuppetic by Ucaoimhu

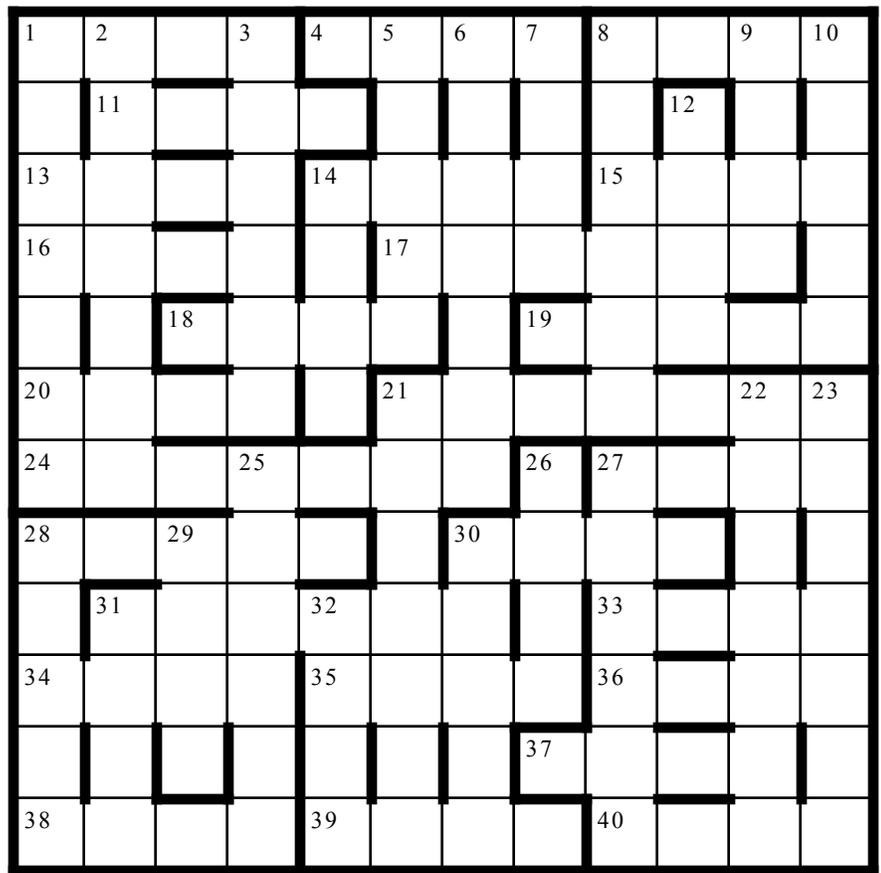
In this puzzle, you must alter most Down answers before entry, so they either (a) appear in a movie, (b) caper, or (c) have part of a certain island taken (equal numbers will do each); the altered entries will include a two-word phrase, an 11C-findable title, and a self-referential term.

For each of the remaining Down answers, you must put multiple letters into a single square. If you trace a chronological path through these overloaded squares, the other squares you go through will indicate a certain well-traveled Muppet figure, and the whole path, together with a few letters before and after it, will indicate an associated Muppet. (In each case, the middle section must be treated phonetically.)

To compensate for the Muppetlike weirdness above, all Acrosses work normally.

ACROSS

1. Show where you would hear “Frank Mills is a Lagomorph” sung (4)
4. Outspoken nobleman must pay for a kind of household cement (4)
8. Will bombed when orating (4)
11. Host imitated Buffy (4)
13. At first, Mel has only small units of conductance (4)
14. Marsupials almost act like chickens (4)
15. Misdirected adolescent with depilatory (4)
16. Every other item from Fomalhaut, Honolulu, etc. (4)
17. King James I, say, brought back mostly-fermented cabbage dishes (6)
18. Dole misused mock-archaic term for “antique” (4)
19. 1000 things with hammers and toothed wheels (5)
20. Country shown in French and English body art (4)
21. Somebody else has disrobed, not *that* woman (7)
24. PI tried weird dessert featuring crushed Oreos (4 3)
27. Ms. Barrymore made sketches (4)
28. Odin’s counselor is a character in *Rent*? Right (5)
30. One touching the heart of Gogol or Stravinsky (4)
31. Again get nearer when wandering about (6)
33. Quebecois hand-produces water pipe (4)
34. The person who wrote this manuscript in Hebrew letters (4)
35. AC/DC gutted good *Most Happy Fella* song (3 1)
36. Decapitated, cubed, and frozen (4)
37. Dan’s unusually logical operations (4)
38. Turn little cheese crackers to face west (4)



39. Menelaus, for example, doesn’t have good smell (4)
40. This letter is for near-vacuous tradesmen (4, *abbr.*)

DOWN

1. St. Thomas, and others
2. Is not going to toss Mr. Solo into street
3. Following around, er . . . a Muslim ruler near Troy
5. Yes, yes — inside Cyrano’s one is free
6. In *Little Shop of Horrors*, Dr. Scrivello bent iron
7. Help a home-run hitter named Sammy
8. Little-heard amphibian I own
9. New musical instruments will produce microwaves
10. Requires spouses to have one daughter
12. Rich Little’s ultimate destiny
14. After conversion, rat shed hostile feelings
21. Real fir I damaged with a BB gun (2 *wds.*)
22. Native Americans ignore the first item in sequence
23. Ashen item at wizard’s right hand!
25. Individual getting rest at that same location (*hyph.*)
26. Coped with leonine hair containing silver
27. Least simple game where you take stuff over (*abbr.*)
28. Tossed ham at Sam, Gandhi, and other such people
29. Like Lewis Carroll’s raths inside seismometers
30. Ensnare ninth nude Saxon’s kinsman (*var.*) [NI2+]
31. To summarize: An AMC car headed north
32. Exclude beginning of biting, biting remark