

Epics by Retiarus

Across

1 Ambassador's terrible year without girl (8)

5 See 12

9 Educate intensively in 12 venue? (8)

10 Publican might raise a glass to these spirited distributors (6)

12/5 Attempt to ingratiate dog with extremely risky indulgence (5,6)

13 Ignorant king hiding in a French lair returns (9)

14/21D Mad, mad jury hear about very loud spice girl? (6,7)

16 Bamboo-lover swallows arsenic 12 (7)

19 Idleness: I note it's returned in time (7)

21 Lower bailiwick's top (6)

23 Food spies ordered to kill (7,2)

25 Island hosts model 12 (5)

26 Be extremely randy for old servant in uniform (6)

27 Rile a bishop's first organiser (8)

28 Decorative horn a Texan carries (6)

29 Unsullied young Clegg might've earned this epithet at choir practice, say (8)

Down

1 English caught in this branch of philosophy (6)

2 A frenetic arrangement links man and machine (9)

3 Theatrical cast includes old women (5)

4 About unusual cures: a lifesaver (7)

6 A quiet cheer's right for judge (9)

7/25 Pilgrim follows Bono in bizarre accompaniment to 12 (5,5)

8 Leftover aid lures deviant (8)

11 Unexpected deviation leads to big leap in profits (4)

15 Eager for 12 to go? (3,2,4)

17 Provoke garrison's leader with superior new weapon (6-3)

18 Cheap wine holds old boy up 12 (8)

20 Declared competent for victim (4)

21 See 14 Across

22 Daft critic's a lemon? (6)

24 The Count of Cardinal Crimes? (5)

25 See 7

