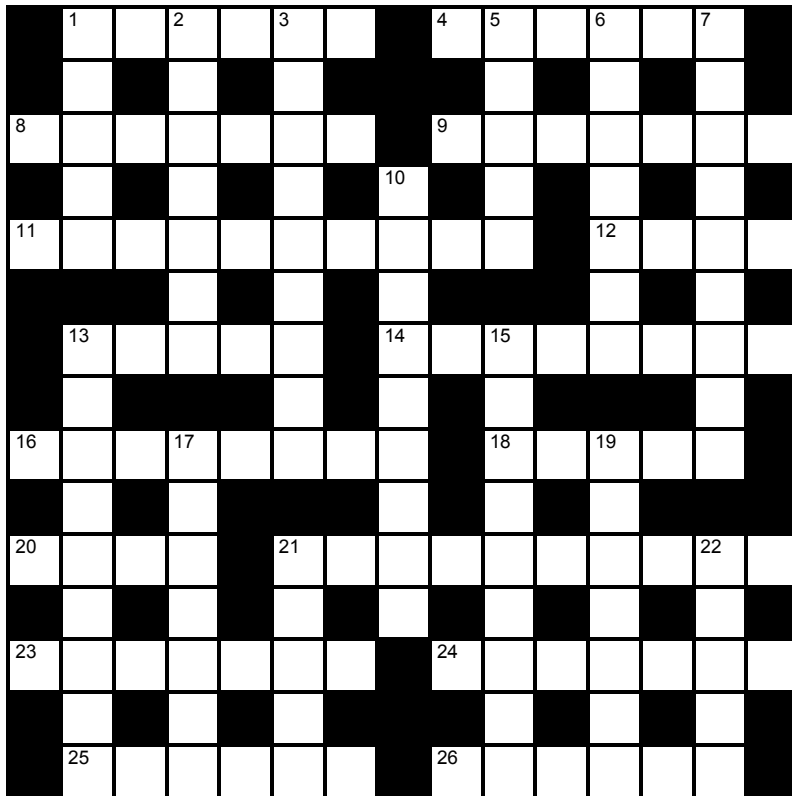


NTSPP - 215 by Bucko



Across

- 1 Scott Fitzgerald's great character gets drug for leading actor and makes ends meet (4,2)
- 4 Mixture of dyes brightened majority of early wine (6)
- 8 Defeat by returning and burning fuels - no need for force (7)
- 9 Singer's brief kiss outside La Scala, missing opening of Elektra (7)
- 11 Impotence in office (10)
- 12 Old Italian dates team, first to last! (4)

- 13 Publish volume about last Hussar (5)
- 14 He questions old Australian "Digger" (8)
- 16 Girl has bare back and starts to enjoy sex with her trousers down! (8)
- 18 Cheeky make up (5)
- 20 Empty rhetoric often improvised? (4)
- 21 Almost accept soft payment terms at the outset - that's nonsense (10)
- 23 Start express outside (4-3)
- 24 Hide and sob sadly before fix (7)

- 25 Finale in G? (6)

- 26 Catches wrasse in estuary nets (6)

Down

- 1 A party good to go (5)
- 2 Mountains shaking on passing of cataclysm (7)
- 3 Spoil salesman's talk after barracking extremely silly introductions (9)
- 5 Record extracted from virology experiment reveals dentine (5)
- 6 Sue, drunk, leaves spilt miniatures to get another drink! (7)

- 7 Truly evil church Count follows (9)
- 10 Notes delivered from France found in part of amusement park by flower (9)
- 13 Fruit tree's first fruit (9)
- 15 Legitimate ration being deficient - blew a fuse! (9)
- 17 Need replacement after hearing virtuoso dried up (7)
- 19 Grisham's brief has a very large bill? (7)
- 21 Vagabond finally abandons stray rancid dog (5)
- 22 Lace flower (5)