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Across

- 1** Arid region in southern Israel associated with story of twelve spies sent by Moses (returning with reports of impregnable cities inhabited by giants) and secret nuclear weapons facility (reported by Mordechai Vanunu)
- 6** Woodwind instruments known for haunting, reedy sound used by Bach, Handel, Mozart and Soft Machine
- 7** Name shared by aristocratic, Italian-Austrian movie actress (*The Third Man*, *Suspria*) and Italian-American singing legend from Newark (*Rag Doll*, *Grease*, *The Girl I'll Never Know* (*Angels Never Fly This Low*) etc.)
- 8** Popular Australian TV host (*The Bachelorette*, *The Masked Singer* etc.) known for winning personality and great hair (4, 1)
- 9** Giant python mentor to Mowgli in *The Jungle Book* by Kipling (with eerie, hypnotic power over monkeys)

Down

- 1** US movie star (*Pal Joey*, *Picnic*, *Vertigo*, *The Man with the Golden Arm* etc.)
- 2** Versatile Australian movie actor known for roles as Con Petropoulos, Uther Pendragon, Hector of Troy, Bruce Banner/The Hulk and Chopper Reed (with first initial) (1, 4)
- 3** Foundational Prime Minister of Israel during turbulent early years of modern era known for advocacy on world stage and pithy aphorisms such as "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children." (first name)
- 4** Long, thin, slimy or wriggly
- 5** Defining gesture of Winston Churchill (1, 4)

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