

Across
1 Movie role associated with Theda Bara, Elizabeth Taylor and Amanda Barrie (with Sid James as Mark Antony, Kenneth Williams as Julius Caesar and Charles Hawtrey as Seneca) ("I have a poisonous asp", "Oh, I wouldn't say that!" etc.)
9 Rudolf of Liechtenstein (initials)
10 Ancient weapon with striking head (such as a metal ball with spikes) attached to a handle with rope swung threateningly around head
11 In an ascendent or dominant position; above
13 Anthony Blunt or Abraham Bomba (initials)
14 Leader of China (before Xi)
15 Remain, stay (arch.)
17 Person so devout the wounds of Christ appear on their bodies such as Saint Francis of Assisi or Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (also called "an ignorant and self-mutilating psychopath who exploited people's credulity") (prior to canonization by John Paul II in 2002)
20 Psychotropic drug associated with Assassins of $11^{\text {th }}$ century Persia and morish brownies
21 Nord, Süd, ..., West
22 Beatle
24 Celebrated authors of disparate texts Der Untergang des Abendlandes and Natural Born Killers (initials)
25 Term indicating surname before marriage (Nora Joyce ... Barnacle etc.)
26 Celebrated authors of disparate texts To Have Done with the Judgment of God and Bad Boy for Love (initials)
27 Parties in haunting Nico song from 60s

Down
1 Inelegant metaphor for uncertainty of life (US)
2 Biblical patriarch from Ur who accompanied Abram on journey to claim divine inheritance in Canaan, offered virgin daughters to men of Sodom in place of angels they wanted to know and founded reviled nations of Moab and Ammon in incest with daughters whilst drunk (in etiological slur of exilic Levites)
3 Conjectured source underlying Pentateuch in so-called documentary hypothesis discredited increasingly in favour of authorship by exilic Levites in Babylon (furthering dark agenda) 4 Pope Francis or Princess Fergie (initials)
5 Beautiful white stone used as metaphor for flawless skin like Nicole Kidman
6 Adorable TV witch
7 Radical insurgency (initials)
8 Port in southern Spain with daily ferry across Bāb al-Maghrib to North Africa
12 Prolific portrait painter from Eltham (Gough Whitlam etc.) known for leftist views
16 Tasteless joke: last words of Dodi to driver Henri Paul, "You come with me and ..."
18 Insane, $16^{\text {th }}$ century Italian poet and fabulist known for wildly popular epic poem about capture of Jerusalem from Muslims in First Crusade known for hyperbolic ahistoricity
19 Extremely parsimonious person
23 Not cooked; expressive in a gritty, authentic, unvarnished way like a Mark Seymour album
25 Inscrutable Bond villain with metal hands played by John Wiseman in 1962 movie

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