

21.12

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
8			9				
10		11					
		12		13		14	
15	16						
17					18		
19			20		21		
22							

Across

- 1** Opera by Wagner set in Middle Ages with thousand-year-old woman cursed to not die for laughing at Crucifixion transformed into alluring temptress by wicked, self-castrated sorcerer consumed with hatred for order of knights led by long-suffering leader with never-healing wound inflicted by lance of Longinus and chorus of scantily clad flower maidens sent to dissuade chaste hero from holy quest etc.
- 8** Henry Kissinger *or* Han Küng *or* *Hello Kitty* (initials)
- 9** Ruthless Bolshevik secret police instigated by Lenin to crush reactionary elements in new soviet state
- 10** Soulful song by Tanzanian sensation Zuchu from 2020 hit album *I am Zuchu*
- 12** Elixir of immortality in Hinduism
- 15** Ripping novel by Emile Zola about lives of grinding poverty of coal miners in northern France in 1860s
- 17** Wight, Man, Dogs, Skye, Gilligan's etc.
- 18** Excellent *Suicide* album (initials)
- 19** What it is when the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie (in catchy Dean Martin song)
- 21** Ennio Morricone *or* Edvard Munch *or* Ethel Mertz *or* Eric Menendez *or* Eddie McGuire *or* Elon Musk (initials)
- 22** Satanic entity at large in world today (4, 4)

Down

- 1** Soft, conical, woolen cap bent over at apex connoting revolutionary zeal also called *bonnet rouge* as seen in 1792 self-portrait by Anne-Louis Girodet de Roussy-Trioson
- 2** Acronym indicating alternative name (Sean Combs ... Puff Daddy, Phrygian cap ... *bonnet rouge* etc.)
- 3** "Hello, my name is Robert" Pseudonymous, cold-callers from sub-continent known for devious techniques for getting you to tell them your banking details or allow remote access to your computer (also short tempers)
- 4** "Who's the black private eye who's a sex machine to all the chicks?" Greatly loved US musician known as the Black Moses (initials)
- 5** Of cats
- 6** Akira Kurosawa *or* Anna Kournikova *or* Arthur Koestler *or* *Atomic Kitten* (initials)
- 7** Iconic home furnishing from 60s with hypnotic, ever-changing coloured blobs (4-4)
- 11** Greatly loved 30s movie star known for droll comedic style, platinum blonde hair, love affair with William Powell and heartbreaking early death
- 13** Radical insurgency (initials)
- 14** Non-lethal electroshock pain compliance device used by US law enforcement officers to subdue by neuromuscular incapacitation in harrowing internet meme "Don't ... me bro!"
- 16** Unusual English girl's name ranking among the 100 most popular baby names in the UK
- 20** Eldridge Cleaver *or* Eric Cartman *or* ethnic cleansing *or* Enid Coleslaw (initials)