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Across

- 1** Rezza, Prezza, Franga, Nuna, Blackie, Brunny, Far Kew etc.
- 7** Oral Roberts University (initials)
- 8** Scottish music icon from 80s (*Vienna* etc.)
- 9** Turgid art film by Alejandro González Iñárritu about interconnectedness with Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchet (sic) as grieving American couple on vacation in Morocco. Adriana Barraza as their illegal Mexican maid and Rinko Kikuchi as troubled, sex-starved, deaf teenager (sic) in Tokyo (2006)
- 11** Universally lauded director of leaden art films
- 13** “I’m afraid. I’m afraid. Dave. Dave, my mind is going. I can feel it. I can feel it. My mind is going. There is no question about it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I’m a...fraid” Movie villain from 60s known for memorable death scene (in leaden art film by 11 across)
- 14** 22nd letter of Greek appearing in Christogram seen by Constantine in vision with message *Ev τούτω Νικα!* (“In this, conquer!”) displayed on vexillum leading to victory over forces of Maxentius in Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312
- 15** “Johnny could only sing and the note he sang was this: Aaaahh!” Rogers and Hart showstopper from 1937 Broadway musical *Babes in Arms* known for intricate word play by troubled lyricist (“Got in Aída / indeed a / great chance to be brave / He took his / Howled like the North Wind / Brought forth wind / that made critics rave / While Verdi turned round in his grave etc.”)
- 17** Controversial group of cantos by Ezra Pound written on toilet paper in cage in Italy in 1945 (regarded by court at post-war trial for treason as insane)

Down

- 1** Exuberant party associated with coeds (in 50s) (4, 3)
- 2** City of ancient Mesopotamia known for ziggurat chosen by exilic Torah authors as birthplace of Abraham to establish fiction of non-Canaanite origins of house of Israel (in masterclass in cult creation with endgame playing out in region today)
- 3** Iconic 1886 painting by Sir John Everett Millais adapted for famous advertisement for Pear’s soap (also subject of arresting Jeff Koons sculpture in porcelain and goldleaf from 1989)
- 4** Point of no return after river of ancient Rome constituting border with Cisalpine Gaul crossed by Julius Caesar in 49 BCE (deliberately defying law limiting imperium) and with famous words *alea iacta est* (“the die is cast”) making war inevitable
- 5** German playwright known for radical concept of Verfremdungseffekt transforming theatre in 20th century
- 6** Mysterious creatures in Celtic mythology which assume human form by removing their seal skins in stories about unhappy marriages to humans because they long for the sea
- 10** Ayn Rand *or* Arthur Rimbaud *or* Axel Rose *or* Al Rio (initials)
- 12** United Against Nuclear Iran (initials)
- 16** Nelson Algren *or* never again (initials)