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Across

- 1** Esoteric image of serpent eating its tail
9 Greatly loved John Travolta role (not Vinnie Barbarino or Vincent Vega) (initials)
10 Third worst sin (after idolatry and whoredom) in febrile moral universe of exilic Levites compiling law in Babylon (also Ian Paisley in 1977 campaign against decriminalization of homosexuality in Northern Ireland with memorable slogan “Save Ulster from ...”)
11 Pilgrimage to Saint Denis (initials)
12 Veteran US actress (*Citizen Kane*, *Bewitched* etc.) (initials)
13 61 (Roman numerals)
14 Bald, Alsatian artist known for organic forms
15 Esoteric work studying mystical implications of Torah by 1st century rabbi (living in cave)
18 Author of trilogy about two worst things the ancient Greeks thought you could ever do
20 Queen of Angels *or* quagmire of Afghanistan (initials)
21 Lauded Brazilian artist (1962-2012) (*Fairy Sipping a Cool Drink*, *Sexy Pirate Girl with Sword*, *Beautiful Blonde Sexy Space Fairy*, *Nurse with Needle* etc.) (Vale)
22 Praise highly
24 Manchester United *or* Mr. Universe (initials)
25 Unwatchable play by Peter Shaffer known for horse masks and nudity (also Sidney Lumet movie version with impassioned soliloquies of Richard Burton as stricken psychiatrist and graphic finale) (also unwatchable)
26 Legendary unlistenable double album by Lou Reed (not *Lulu*) (initials) (1, 1, 1)

Down

- 1** Voluptuous slave attending wives of sultan, often depicted nude, prone and languid
2 Biblical home of Job
3 Nord, Süd, West
4 Spectacular strait separating Europe and Asia (connected by 15 July Martyrs’ Bridge) (as seen in media events such as Tiger Woods hitting golf ball from Europe to Asia etc.)
5 Oppositional Defiant Disorder (initials)
6 *Rheingold* overture (initials)
7 Khayyam, Bradley, Sharif, Mullah
8 Conference attended by visiting experts to discuss a particular subject (nowadays often online such as recent Cyber ... organized by *MyPillow* CEO, Mark Lindell to address issues of day)
11 *Die weiße Hölle vom ...* Mountain in Swiss Alps featured in 1929 classic of Bergfilme genre (called the German Western) directed by Dr. Arnold Fanck and G. W. Pabst (with interpretive dancer Leni Riefenstahl) (3, 4)
14 World leader in nanny cam technology
16 US author of kitsch classic about hair combs and watch fob (adapted in *The Honeymooners* in poignant story about gift of bowling bowl cover) (initials)
17 Corrosive substance
19 Code indicating agent licensed to kill in British Secret Service (in 60s)
23 Symbol for gold in periodic table (and Rolls-Royce number plate of Auric Goldfinger) (in *Goldfinger*)
24 Popular *Abba*-based musical (initials) 28 Aug 2021