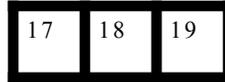


Variety Triptych

by Ucaoimhu

As befits a salon, this cryptic crossword is a bit more craft- and performance-oriented than usual. To get the full effect, just follow these simple, step-by-step instructions:



(1) Copy the three letters of the posted triptych into squares 17, 18, and 19.

(2) Solve the cryptic. All clues work normally, and all answers are entered normally. But be careful of the boldface clues; in addition to the right answer, which should be entered in the grid, each has a plausible wrong answer whose cryptic reading will be off by one letter.

(3) The letter in square 18 will also occur in several squares in the main grid. Connect all of those squares, dot-to-dot-style, in order by the *clue numbers* of the words they are in (each such square forms part of only one word).

(4) In magic marker, copy the figure you have just drawn in (3) into the blank nine-by-nine grid, cut this grid out, and tape it on the posted triptych, covering the middle square.

(5) If so inclined, follow the instruction that can be read starting at square 13 and continuing across.

ACROSS

- 2. Is finishing Chapter XXX (4)
- 5. Chicago athlete and goalie ultimately box (4)
- 9. West Indian leader is not completely tight (4)
- 11. Rather than start to follow after elected politicians, leaves party (7 2)
- 12. [Square 18] with Fae swarming around it provides food (4)**
- 21. Uncertain author at very loud club (4)
- 22. Taking no notice of fun duel he arranged (9)
- 23. Primary part is [12 Across] initially, or maybe finally (4)**
- 24. Trendy clothing made originally with cannabis fiber (4)
- 25. Left bug in orange-flavored powder (4)

DOWN

- 1. Letterbag often contains iodine-fortified dog food (4 5)
- 3. Attacks cap-wearing Oakland players (3 2)
- 4. During endless siesta, extremely loutish EE planted at the [23 Across] is most glazed over, perhaps (9)**
- 6. German and Latino, in the end, get loose (4)
- 7. Device for cleaning bass capsized dock (5)
- 8. Finish gobbling up the Cuban meat with no zest (9)
- 10. More than one computer fraud turned up (4)
- 14. A lune-shaped couple of bones in your arms (5)
- 15. Above Viennese started by, er, hiding under [23 Across] of U-boat (4)**
- 16. Kind of switch owned by Fonz, mostly (3-2)
- 20. Fancy wife supported by that man (4)

