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CRYPTIC by DA 20,905

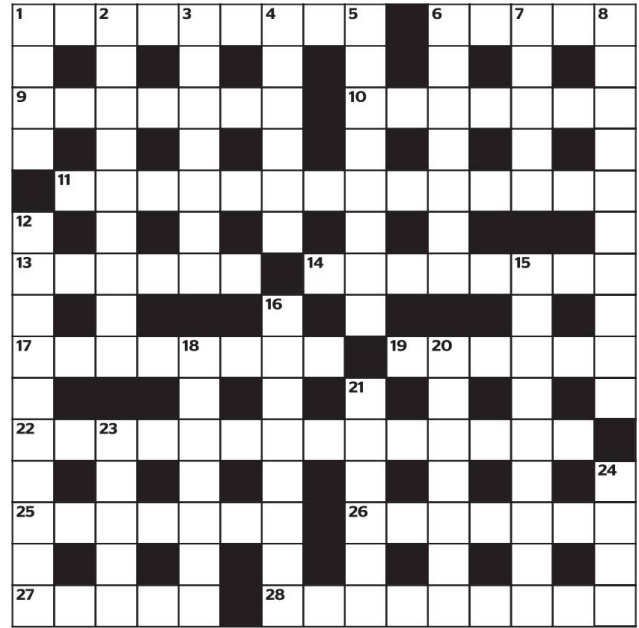
ACROSS

- 1 Charm and chat sadly isn't me (9)
- 6 See 27-across
- 9 Star pockets \$10,000 from old killer (4,3)
- 10 Small American reverted during break to Japanese therapy (7)
- 11 Thwarted by lifts? Good luck! (7,7)
- 13 Gus to fuse pickle? (6)
- 14 Intense light bathes determined desert prospector (8)
- 17 Act with reserve to gain team's tactics (8)
- 19 Where you may find a white-grey smear, perversely (6)
- 22, 26-across, 15-down Cast teach theatre 'attacker' in any light beam (4,4,3,3,4,3,3,6)
- 25 Digital protection is thine after audition? (7)
- 26 See 22-across
- 27, 6-across Shed guy gutted ancient tube on the level (5-5)
- 28 Petty ones sabotaged Hansard tool (9)

DOWN

- 1 Pine for 14-across? Not half (4)
- 2 Silky oak is greener, fringing wrong field (9)
- 3 Involves intense gag, never backfiring (7)
- 4 Slight lab assistant sealing nitrogen oxide, finally (6)
- 5 Maybe one in jam sees Merlin's silver forfeited to us (8)
- 6 Sushi bar supplies a nick regularly, guarded by scholars (7)
- 7 Specifies shelf-life of dried fruit (5)
- 8 South American audio can rewind? (10)
- 12 Publisher announced suitable cold-blooded type (10)
- 15 See 22-across
- 16 The Kray twins, perhaps, tip loud joints (8)
- 18 Court aide damned pong within (7)
- 20 Herb rocks Georgia on somersaulting (7)
- 21 Bust sizes taken at the usual erotic premieres (6)
- 23 Inner peace found in one top saga of yore (5)
- 24 Lake or plain? (4)

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Yesterday's cryptic 20,904

