REFLECTING POOL
Greg Pliska

Fill the grid, crossword style. Certain squares will contain two letters, and will need to have a diagonal placed in them oriented so that the correct words appear in each direction.

For example: where S[ID]E crosses A[ID]A, the diagonal goes from lower left to upper right (/) between the I and the D. The letter order remains the same in both directions. But where MAY[OR] crosses ER[RO]R the diagonal goes from upper left to lower right (\) so that the letters read one way across [OR] but the other way going down [RO].

Acrostically, the across clues spell ENTRY SIDE and the down clues spell AIM LASERS. Each left side entry point connects via a laser path (treating the diagonals as mirrors) to one top row exit point, providing a pair of letters. Order these letter pairs by the length of the paths the lasers trace, from shortest to longest (“Take the shortest path…”). The resulting phrase is:

SACKBUTS BECAME THEM

TROMBONES is the correct answer to this puzzle.