

GOSSIP



Van Morrison finds making album's 'boring'

Sir Van Morrison doesn't enjoy making albums anymore. The 71-year-old folk singer is gearing up to release his 37th studio album, a blues record called 'Roll Back The Punches' - which features the likes of Jeff Beck, 'Out of Time' hitmaker Chris Farlowe and regular collaborator Georgie Fame - on September 22. Despite having amassed a vast back catalogue over the past five decades, Van says he now finds the recording process "boring". Asked if he still believes in releasing records, he told Uncut magazine: "No, it's just the way it happens. It's not an album a year, because 'Keep Me Singing' was finished quite a while before it came out. "I took probably a year to get that one out. "This one hasn't taken a year. What was the reason for doing it? I just wanted to record some blues and have - allegedly - some fun. But then it turns into hard work, as it always does. "I don't enjoy recording the tracks, but then the mixing and all the rest of it, it's so boring. "People would not believe how boring it is. I used to enjoy making albums, but the whole process of doing it now, I don't enjoy it at all." It was not a desire to release another LP, but simply the 'Brown Eyed Girl' hitmaker's aficionado for blues music that led him to make this record. He explained: "From a very early age, I connected with the blues. The thing about the blues is you don't dissect it - you just do it. I've never over-analysed what I do; I just do it. Music has to be about just doing it and that's the way the blues works - it's an attitude. I was lucky to have met people who were the real thing - people like John Lee Hooker, Jimmy Witherspoon, Bo Diddley, Little Walter & Mose Allison. I got to hang out with them and absorb what they did. They were people with no ego whatsoever and they helped me learn a lot."

Swift's video to feature 'subtle hints' about Kimye feud

Taylor Swift's new music video will feature "not-so-subtle hints" about Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West. The 27-year-old singer's latest single 'Look What You Made Me Do' is believed to be aimed at the rapper and his wife and Taylor will reportedly give fans some clues in the footage, which will premiere at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. A source told TMZ: "Taylor feels she was backstabbed by the couple and there will be more not-so-subtle hints in the official music video, which will debut Sunday during the VMAs." And Taylor also appeared to take aim at Kanye in the track, as she slammed someone for their "titled stage", which Kanye had during his 'Saint Pablo' tour in 2016. Declaring her hate towards the person, the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker sings the line: "I don't like your little games/ Don't like your titled stage/ The role you made me play/ Of the fool/ No, I don't like you." She also vows revenge against her enemies, singing: "Honey, I rose up from the dead, I do it all the time/I've got a list of names and yours is in red underlined/I check it once, then I check it twice." Taylor and Kanye have been feuding ever since the 40-year-old rapper stormed the stage at the MTV VMAs in 2009 because he thought Beyonce deserved the Best Female Video prize over her. Although they enjoyed a brief truce, Kanye also took aim at Taylor on his track 'Famous' last year, in which he referred to the singer as a "b****" and joked about sleeping with her. While Taylor lashed out at the song, Kim shared videos on Snapchat revealing that Kanye had discussed it with the star before release, although Taylor insisted she was not aware of the full content.

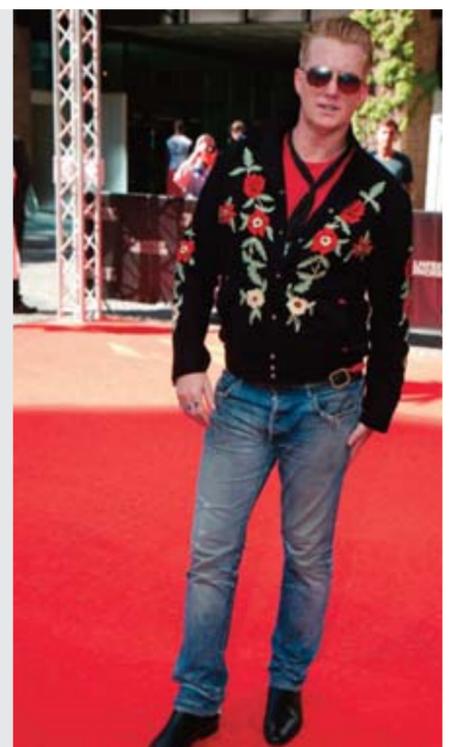


Shane Filan: Westlife reunion could happen

Shane Filan says a Westlife reunion "could happen" in the future. The 38-year-old singer gets asked if the band will get back together all the time and his honest answer is that he "doesn't know," but he'll never say never. Asked if he thinks the group - who disbanded in 2012 - will reunite one day, Shane exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "The Westlife question I get asked all the time. "The honest truth is I don't know. It could happen someday, of course there is a chance, but there is also a chance that it might not." The 'Flying Without Wings' hitmaker says when he meets up with his former bandmates - Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan and Markus Feehily - they never talk about reuniting, but they do reminisce on their time in the chart-topping band, which sold over 50 million records worldwide during their career spanning 14 years. He continued: "We haven't talked about it. There is no plans right now. "Whether that will change in the future, I suppose you will have to wait and see you never know. "We still have a friendship. It's always nice to see the lads. Whenever I see the lads it's never awkward. "When we see each other it's nice and we chat about stuff and reminisce. "We have a bond that no matter whether the band happens again we will always have a bond that no one else has." Shane's third solo album 'Love Always' is out now. Fans can catch the 'Unbreakable' singer on his UK and Ireland tour this autumn.

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE'S SURPRISE LEEDS FESTIVAL SET

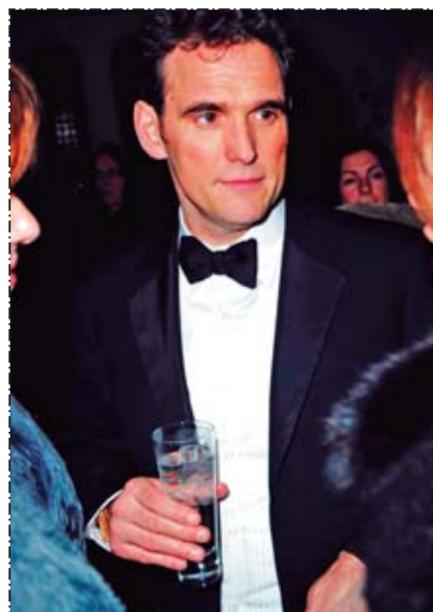
Queens of the Stone Age have announced a surprise performance at Leeds Festival this afternoon. The 'Villains' rockers will bring their ferocious live show to the NME/ BBC Radio 1 Stage at 12.45 pm. Tweeting the news within less than an hour of them going on stage, the band wrote: "HERE. WE. COME 'villainsworldtour (sic)" Rumors have been circling for a while that Josh Homme and his bandmates were expected to play the rock extravaganza. The heavy metallers haven't said if they are going to give the festival's sister site in Reading the surprise set treatment yet. As the festival, which is held from Friday until Sunday, kicks off, there have been a number of changes to the line-up. Rising pop rockers The Xcerts are set to open the main stage at both Reading today and Leeds this afternoon, after Royal Republic were forced to cancel their set due to "personal reasons" A tweet from the organizers read: "For personal reasons, @RoyalRepublic have to regrettably cancel their festival performances. @thexcerts will take their place. (sic)" The likes of Kasabian, Liam Gallagher, Muse, Eminem, Blossoms, Major Lazer, Korn, PVRS, Bastille, Charli XCX, Halsey, Haim and many more are set to perform at Richmond Park in Reading and Bramham Park in Leeds this weekend.



EMILIA CLARKE 'BURNED' BY TERMINATOR GENISYS

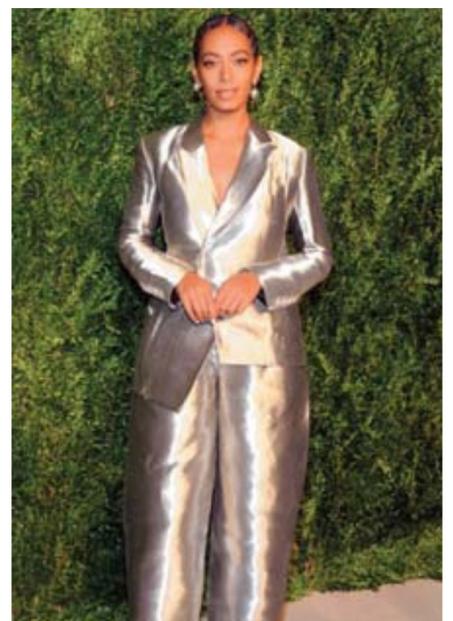


Emilia Clarke and Alan Taylor were both "burned" by 'Terminator Genisys'. The 'Game of Thrones' actress starred in the 2015 flop, directed by Taylor and he says that the experience was "rough" and not something they would like to repeat. He told Newsweek: "That was a rough one. It was tough, it was tough on [Clarke] and me. I think we came away feeling a little bit burned by the process. It was hard for her in ways that I didn't have to experience, because it was her face up on the screen and facing the [criticism] we had to face. I'm not surprised she's more content to carry on with her other fantastic projects than re-enter that world." And he insisted that even if a sequel was suggested, neither of them would be back. He said: "Well, it hasn't come up...but you won't see either of us back in that world, I think it's safe to say." However, Taylor acknowledged that there were some great moments on set and he was full of praise for Arnold Schwarzenegger, who reprised his most famous role for the flick. He said: "There were so many great things about it. I think she and I loved some of the same things. Arnold was a delight, in every way, to work with; the crew were a delight; being on location in New Orleans was a delight."



Solange Knowles announces digital exhibition Seventy States

Solange Knowles has announced a digital art exhibition called 'Seventy States'. The 31-year-old singer has teamed up with London's Tate Modern museum for the visual and interactive project to coincide with the 'Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power' exhibit. It features exclusive unreleased performances and concepts from the soulful star's music videos for her songs 'Cranes in the Sky', 'Don't Touch My Hair' and 'We Sleep in Our Clothes'. There is also an original performance and score created by Solange - who is the younger sister of R&B megastar Beyonce - and Carlota Guerra, which features an installation by Ricardo Basbaum. The piece was directed by Alan Del Rio Ortiz. And that's not all, the dark-haired beauty - whose last record was 2016's 'A Seat at the Table' - has also written two poems which are showcased within the visual. Speaking about the project, Solange said: "I wanted to create a specific scenography through movement and landscape to communicate my states of process through this record, I decided to do this through a visual language." Today visitors at Tate Modern in the British capital can view the gallery animated by a one-off digital display of the visually captivating 'Seventy States' at Uniqlo Tate Late on the walls of the Tanks Foyer. The online project will also be released on the Tate's website www.tate.org.uk.



Lady Gaga doc to premiere at TIFF

Lady Gaga's documentary will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. 'Gaga: Five Foot Two' will debut at the Canadian festival on September 8 at the Princess of Wales Theatre, and will be followed by an intimate performance from the singer songwriter. The Netflix documentary - directed by Chris Moukarbel - follows the star over an eight-month period as she records and releases her 2016 album, 'Joanne'. TIFF artistic director Cameron Bailey said: "Moukarbel's documentary offers an unprecedented look at Lady Gaga in full creative mode: the ideas, the emotion, the sheer work it takes to do what she does. "We're thrilled to be bringing this film to audiences in Toronto, and even more excited that Lady Gaga will follow the screening with a performance. This one is for all her fans, Little Monsters, and movie lovers alike." Moukarbel added: "I had a rare opportunity to create a portrait of an artist with such an open heart and mind. I feel really lucky that Gaga trusted me and my vision." Gaga, 31, has shared some footage of the documentary on Instagram, including discussing her fear of being alone. The star - who has been single since splitting from fiancé Taylor Kinney in July 2016 - finds her life can go from an extreme of constantly being surrounded by people to be left in "total silence". She said: "I'm alone, every night. And all these people will leave, right? They will leave, and then I'll be alone. And I go from everyone touching me all day and talking at me all day to total silence." In another clip, she discussed her ongoing feud with Madonna, and insisted she doesn't have a problem with the '4 Minutes' singer, but the video then ended on a cliffhanger. She teased: "The only thing that really bothers me about her..." The documentary, will also show the 'Bad Romance' rehearsing for her Super Bowl Halftime Show earlier this year.



Dillon praises 'There's Something About Mary'

Matt Dillon wishes all movies were as fun to make as 'There's Something About Mary'. The 53-year-old actor co-starred with Cameron Diaz in the 1998 comedy directed by the Farrelly brothers and has praised both the process and the movie's endurance. Speaking at the SANFIC Santiago International Film Festival, he said: "If they all were like that it would be so great. We all had fun making it. "I was getting on the airplane and someone said to me 'To Santiago?' and I remembered that I had a line in that movie about Santiago!" Matt also spoke about his upcoming Lars von Trier's thriller 'The House That Jack Built', which he admitted is quite dark. He said: "The content of the movie is quite dark. That was something that I had to take a leap of faith in. [Lars told me], you couldn't play anybody worse. At dinner before we started Lars asked me to trust him and I said OK. The experience was really good for me from a creative standpoint." And Dillon explained that he has seen many changes in the movie industry in his 30-year career. He said: "I've watched the business side of the industry change a lot. I've never been all that comfortable with the business side, I'm more into the creative processes."