

Blunt says Mary Poppins offer was 'like a marriage proposal'

Emily Blunt says the offer to play Mary Poppins was like a marriage proposal. The 35-year-old actress - who is married to fellow Hollywood star John Krasinski - has opened up about the circumstances surrounding her casting in 'Mary Poppins Returns', admitting it was a career-changing moment. She recalled: "It was like [director Rob Marshall] was about to propose to me! Then when he said it's Mary Poppins, I was like, 'Oh my God'. "I like to imagine he got down on one knee. But Mary Poppins is a big deal for all of us - we all had to approach it with a sense of courage." "We have waited 54 years to see her come back out of the clouds so we very much wanted to walk that fine line between paying homage and being the next chapter and bringing the spirit of the first one. "We had to think how we make our version our own and a standalone spectacle on its own, that people can watch for generations to come." Emily was intent on making her version of the iconic nanny distinct from Dame Julie Andrews' performance in 1964's 'Mary Poppins'. Dick Van Dyke - who starred in the original movie - makes a cameo appearance in 'Mary Poppins Returns', but Andrews declined the chance to appear in the film. Speaking to the Irish News, Emily explained: "I really understand why she didn't want to be in it and it means a lot to me that she chose to not do it in the way that she did."



Smith says Aladdin will pay homage to Robin Williams

Will Smith's version of the Genie in his 'Aladdin' remake will pay "homage" to the late Robin Williams. The 50-year-old actor has assumed the role of the Genie in the upcoming live-action film, and Will has admitted he initially found playing the character - who Williams voiced in the 1992 'Aladdin' movie - to be a daunting prospect. He confessed: "Whenever you're doing things that are iconic, it's always terrifying. The question is always: where was there meat left on the bone? Robin didn't leave a lot of meat on the bone with the character." But, over time, Will developed a confidence that he could deliver something that was a homage to Williams but was also musically different. Speaking to Entertainment Weekly, Will added: "Just the flavor of the character would be different enough and unique enough that it would be in a different lane, versus trying to compete." The upcoming film also stars the likes of Naomi Scott and Mena Massoud. And according to Will, working on the Guy Ritchie-directed project was "one of the greatest film-making experiences" of his career.



Oprah Winfrey: Black Panther is bigger than a movie

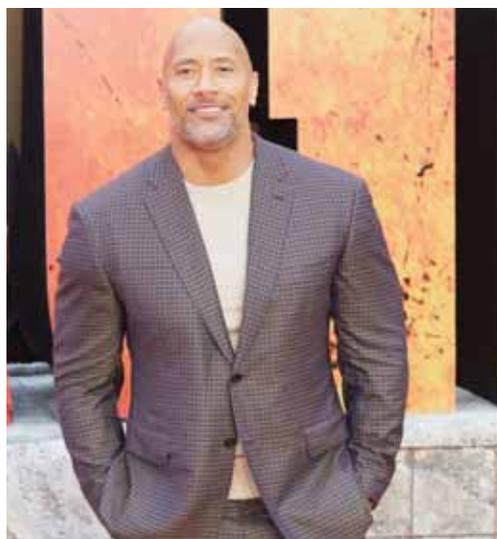


Oprah Winfrey thinks 'Black Panther' is "bigger than a movie". The 64-year-old star has hailed the Ryan Coogler-directed Marvel movie, saying it represented a "game-changing" moment for the film industry. She said: "I just wanted to say that when I first saw 'Black Panther', I sent an email to my friend [Disney chief Bob Iger] and said, 'Hi Bobby! Just saw it. It's worth everything I've heard and more. A phenomenon in every way, on every level. "Makes me tear up to think that little black children will grow up with 'Wakanda forever'. It's game-changing, it's pride-making, it's dazzling, it's phenomenal. That was my personal review." Oprah subsequently described the superhero movie - which features a predominantly black cast - as a "cultural happening". She explained, according to The Hollywood Reporter: "I also know that throngs and throngs and so many people came, and came with their families, and then they went back and they got more family members, and then they went back and told their co-workers and their friends, because everybody recognized that something bigger than a movie was happening up on that screen."



Johnson and Statham have 'chemistry'

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson thinks he and Jason Statham have a "biting chemistry". The 46-year-old actor has been reunited with his former 'Fast and the Furious' co-star for their upcoming spin-off movie 'Hobbs And Shaw', and Dwayne admitted he loves working with the action star. He explained: "We started talking about the potential of a spin-off really after 'Fast Five'. And then when 'Fast 6' came around, that's when we started having real talks about it, but then the challenge was just finding out what the creative could be and how we cracked that. "I'm really happy that we were not only be able to crack the creative and really lean into the relationship and chemistry - the biting chemistry between myself and Jason Statham - but I think that also you find out that it's something the fans have been wanting for some time now." Dwayne admitted he's always had the ambition of extending his connection to the 'Fast' franchise for as long as possible. He told Entertainment Weekly: "When you have a franchise that is as successful as the 'Fast and Furious' franchise, the goal, certainly my goal, was always to try and create a scenario where we have as much longevity as we possibly can have. "And in that spirit, you have to evolve and you have to spin off and you have to create new characters and new stories, especially when you're coming off 'Fast 8', where you have an eight at the end of your title."



Rami Malek's fake teeth helped Bohemian Rhapsody performance

Rami Malek's fake teeth helped his performance in 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The 37-year-old actor played Queen frontman Freddie Mercury in the biopic and although the costume provided some difficulties it actually ended up giving him a boost on set. He told The Wrap: "They started out being pretty difficult to deal with. We tried out all different sizes and when they first went in I felt very insecure, but immediately I compensated. "Physically, I started to sit with more posture and elegance and I thought, 'Oh, he is so elegant!' "You see him covering up his lips and his teeth all the time, and I could never quite get the hang of it. But as soon as those teeth went in, it was done. It was little things like that that were very informative for me." Rami previously admitted he has always been open with producer Graham King about his lack of musical ability prior to landing the coveted role. He shared: "We sat down for a six-hour meeting and he'd really only seen me in 'Mr Robot', where I played this profoundly alienated, socially anxious human being who's a pretty far cry from Freddie Mercury. "Graham saw something in me with Dennis O'Sullivan, and gave me a shot. I said, 'Listen, I'm not a singer."