

Lifestyle | Gossip



SIR RIDLEY SCOTT TO RECEIVE BAFTA FELLOWSHIP

Sir Ridley Scott will be given the BAFTA Fellowship at this year's awards. The 80-year-old filmmaker has had a career spanning more than 40 years and has helmed 25 feature films including iconic cinema classics 'Alien', 'Gladiator', 'Thelma and Louise' and 'Blade Runner'. He said: "It is a privilege to have been able to make a career for myself in this industry and to be honored for my body of work is indeed very gratifying." Although never winning an Academy Award, Scott has been nominated for three of the prestigious awards and won two BAFTA gongs. Back in 1992, Scott won BAFTA's Special Award and three years later, he was awarded the Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award alongside his brother

Tony. Now, the iconic filmmaker joins the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg, Sean Connery, Elizabeth Taylor, Stanley Kubrick, Anthony Hopkins, Laurence Olivier and Judi Dench. Last year, Mel Brooks received the prestigious award. Amanda Berry, chief executive of BAFTA, said: "Ridley Scott is a visionary director, one of the great British filmmakers whose work has made an indelible mark on the history of cinema. "His passion and unrelenting pursuit of excellence have provided cinema goers with a tantalising range of films, including 'Alien', 'Gladiator', 'Thelma and Louise' and 'Blade Runner', 40 years since his directorial debut, his films continue to cross the boundaries of style and genre, engaging audiences and inspiring the next genera-

tion of film talent." Most recently, Scott directed and produced the John Paul Getty biopic 'All the Money in the World' which received a BAFTA nomination for Supporting Actor for Christopher Plummer. He also was the executive producer on 'Blade Runner 2049' - the sequel to his cult classic - which received eight BAFTA nods and five Oscar nominations. The BAFTA awards will take place on February 18.



Michael B. Jordan excited to work with Steven Caple Jr in Creed 2

Michael B. Jordan is "really excited" to work with Steven Caple Jr on 'Creed 2'. The 30-year-old actor is set to reprise his role as boxer Adonis "Donnie" Johnson Creed in the upcoming sequel to the 2015 hit movie, and admitted he doesn't know when shooting will start. Speaking to Deadline, Jordan said: "Well, Steven Caple Jr. is going to direct it, and I'm really excited about working with him. Right now, we're in the process of getting the script tight and making sure that it's perfect. Not exactly sure when we're starting, but in the next few months we'll get back to it and try to deliver a solid project in 'Creed 2.'" Caple is said to have been hand-picked by Sylvester Stallone and Jordan to helm the motion picture and took over from Ryan Coogler who helmed the first movie. Coogler is expected to join the movie in an executive producer capacity but a deal has not yet been completed. Last July, Stallone teased 'Creed 2' would be inspired by 'Rocky IV' and shared a photoshopped movie poster in which Adonis stands toe-to-toe with Russian boxer Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren) who was responsible for killing his father Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) in the ring in the 1985 classic. 'Creed' was a spin-off and sequel to the hit 'Rocky' film franchise, in which Stallone portrayed heroic boxer Rocky Balboa six times. Stallone appeared as the Italian Stallion in 'Creed' and was responsible for training Adonis, the son of heavyweight champion Apollo - Rocky's most famous opponent - who was portrayed by Weathers in the first four 'Rocky' movies. Just a few weeks ago, Stallone revealed that the 27-year-old Russian boxer Florian 'Big Nasty' Munteanu will be playing Ivan Drago's son in the upcoming movie.

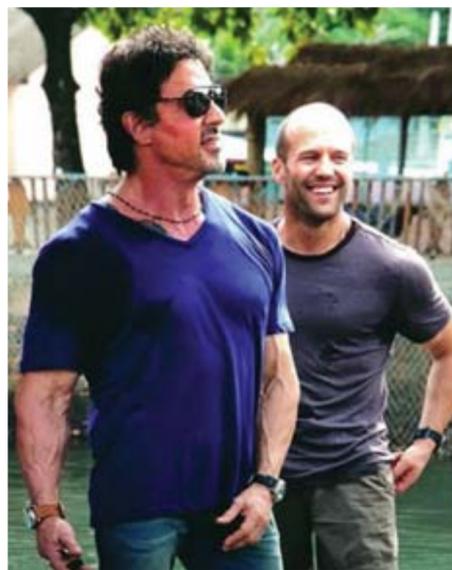
Bill Nighy joins Pokemon movie

Bill Nighy and Chris Geere are the latest stars to join the cast of 'Detective Pikachu'. Ryan Reynolds is already on board to star in the first live-action Pokemon franchise movie, along with 'Inception's Ken Watanabe, 'The Get Down's Justice Smith and 'Big Little Lies' star Kathryn Newton. Now Deadline has reported that 'Love Actually' star Bill and 'You're The Worst' actor Chris have also joined the cast. 'Detective Pikachu' is set to follow Smith's teenage character Tim Goodman, who has to team up with the mouse-like Pikachu in order to find his father who has been kidnapped. Newton is set to star as a journalist. In the movie based on the gaming franchise, Pikachu isn't as agile as the normal fan favourite Pokemon, so has to rely on his intelligence to beat his enemies, and he gets help from Tim - who is the only boy who can under-

stand what he says - to solve Pokemon-related crimes. 'Goosebumps' director Rob Letterman is set to helm the new movie and has teamed up with Legendary Entertainment to oversee the upcoming movie which has been written by 'Guardians of the Galaxy's Nicole Perlman and Alex Hirsch who has worked on 'Gravity Falls', according to Variety. Rather than a standalone film it is expected that 'Detective Pikachu' will act as a launch pad for a new franchise. The Pokemon Company's long-standing movie collaborator, Toho, will handle distribution of the film franchise in Japan, as it recently worked in partnership with Legendary on the reboot for the 'Godzilla' franchise.



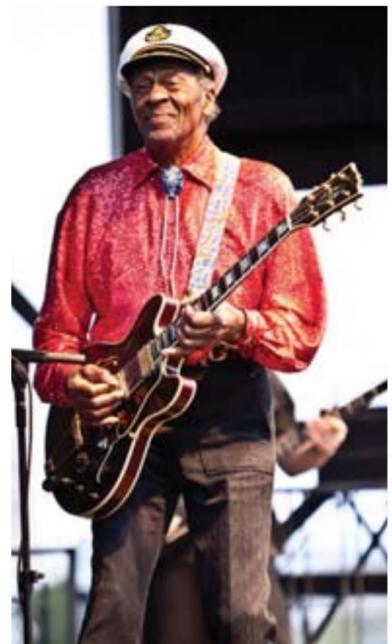
Sylvester Stallone back with Jason Statham on Expendables 4



Sylvester Stallone has given fans a sneak peak of the 'Expendables 4' set. The 71-year-old actor is reprising his role as Barney Ross in the fourth film in the franchise and took to Instagram to reveal a picture of himself "blocking" his co-star Jason Statham - who is returning as Lee Christman. He wrote on Instagram: "Blocking and Rehearsing a scene with. @jasonstatham from EXPENDABLES... (sic)" Last April, Nu Image/Millennium chief Avi Lerner hinted Stallone had quit the franchise due to creative "disagreements" with him, but admitted there was still a chance he could be involved in the fourth film. He said: "We've got disagreements with Sly, but we've had them for over a year and a half. Right now, each one has opinion. We agreed on 95 per cent of things, but there are certain things in production we don't agree on. "I don't think it's over, but what write whatever you want. In my opinion, it's not dead." Shortly afterwards, Arnold Schwarzenegger admitted he wouldn't reprise his role as Trench in the franchise without Stallone. He said: "There is no 'Expendables' without Sly. I would never do the movie without him, no." But, earlier this month Stallone confirmed he was coming back as Barney. He posted on Instagram: "BARNEY WILL BE BACK! PLUS THE CREW AND A COUPLE NEW MEMBERS ... (sic)".

Chuck Berry's life to be documented

Chuck Berry's life is to be made into a documentary. The music legend passed away at his home in Missouri in March last year at the age of 90, and now filmmaker Jon Brewer is set to direct and produce a documentary based around one of the most influential guitarists in history and rock 'n' roll pioneer. In a statement, Brewer said: "I am very privileged to be able to produce and direct this fully authorized and official story of the legendary Chuck Berry." Berry became an icon for his hits including 'Johnny B. Goode', 'Roll Over Beethoven' and 'Maybellene' as well as his duck-walking stage struts and his guitar solos. Cardinal Releasing Ltd signed a deal with Berry's estate and his widow Thelma Berry and plan to produce a feature documentary with the current title 'Chuck! The Documentary'. Following the documentary, a biopic will be produced. Principal photography has already started, Deadline reports, and the biopic is set to start pre-production this summer after the documentary has been completed. The production company has had a history of music biopics including B.B King, Nat King Cole, Jimi Hendrix and Mick Ronson. Berry has been immortalized in previous films already including 'Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Roll' back in 1987 which brought together a number of musicians such as Eric Clapton, Linda Ronstadt, Julian Lennon, Etta James and Robert Cray. Last year, Berry's final album was released in June and was his first record since 1979's 'Rock It', and featured a total of 10 tracks, with eight being written by the 'Sweet Little Sixteen' hitmaker. During his lengthy career, Chuck changed the face of the music scene when he released 'Maybellene', which swiftly became a huge hit. Many hits followed including 'Promised Land', 'Johnny B Goode' and 'Roll Over Beethoven' and in January 1986, Berry became one of the first artists to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Prince's estate block release of new music

Prince's estate have successfully won a lawsuit to block the release of unheard music by the singer. Producer George Boxill claimed to have a collection of unreleased songs he worked on with the late musician - who died in 2016 - between 2006 and 2008 and planned to release them himself, even making one track available to buy on iTunes briefly last year. But the 'Kiss' singer's estate filed legal documents threatening to sue Boxill back in April last year and demanded he return the music to them. It was claimed Boxill signed a confidentiality agreement when he worked with the star which stated all recordings, "would remain Prince's sole and exclusive property". The producer is also said to have agreed he, "would not use any recordings or property in any way whatsoever." TMZ.com has now obtained legal documents which reveal Boxill never responded to the newly filed lawsuit, and the deadline of January 23 has now passed. The estate have now requested the courts sign off on an injunction, blocking the release of any of the tracks. This comes just days after Prince's estate promised new music would be released soon. Estate adviser Troy Carter told Variety: "I heard some music the other night that was pretty mind-blowing and we're getting some stuff mixed right now ... There will be unreleased Prince music coming soon." Last year, Universal Music Group's \$31 million distribution deal for Prince's back catalogue was voided over a lack of clarity regarding the terms of the late singer's contract with Warner Bros. Records, the label to which he was signed for nearly the first 20 years of his career. The contents of Prince's music vaults were moved from his former home in Paisley Park, Minneapolis, to a climate-

controlled storage facility in Los Angeles last year, after some of the tapes were found to have deteriorated. Prince, who was just 57 when he died, had previously revealed the existence of the unreleased music in an interview published after his death. He said at the time: "I've never said this before, but I didn't always give the record companies the best song. There are songs in the vault that no one's ever heard. There are several vaults; it's not just one vault." The 'Little Red Corvette' singer is to be honored with a concert event called 'Prince: Live on the Big Screen' that will take place on April 21 2018 at the Target Centre, Minneapolis. The concert will be part of Celebration 2018, a four-day event in April to honor Prince's life and legacy and will take place at Paisley Park between April 19 and 22.



Judge dismisses lawsuit over U2 track The Fly

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit which claimed U2 stole elements of a song for their single 'The Fly'. Paul Rose claimed that U2 copied the 13-second guitar riff in his 1989 instrumental track 'Nae Slappin' and used it to create a 12-second part of a guitar solo in 'The Fly'. And now US District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan has dismissed the case, saying that it was not enough of a "sufficiently substantial" portion of the track, which is three and a half minutes in length, to be a protectable "fragment" of the work. Rose had been asking for at least \$5 million in damages from Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen Jr as well as UMG Recordings Inc, who releases U2's records under their label, Island Records. In the papers filed, Rose claimed U2 had copied the track "virtually note-for-note", having got hold of it through Island Records after he sent the demo for 'Nae Slappin' to them previously. It comes after guitarist

The Edge recently shared how he thinks the most "unique" aspect of 'Songs of Experience' - their 67th studio album - and the band in general, is that not many groups have made so much music with the original line-up intact. He said: "I hope you don't need to know anything about U2, or anything about the context, to enjoy [Songs of Experience]. I think it's an album of just classic songs, great melodies, great hooks, great lyrics. I think there's very few bands in the history of rock and roll that have been around and made as many albums as we have with the same line-up ... that perspective is unique, you know? On the last record [Songs of Innocence] we wrote about where we came from. "How this band came together, Dublin of the late 70s early 80s, and this new record is the companion album. But it's from this current perspective now ... So many years later, what have we learned?" - Bang Showbiz