

Kings of Leon set for new festival Fusion Presents

Kings of Leon are set to play the inaugural Fusion Presents festival in Liverpool this summer. The 'Sex on Fire' hitmakers - who released the album 'WALLS' in 2016 - will play their only festival show of 2019 in the UK at the new event - which comes from the organisers of the popular Fusion Festival - on August 30 at Sefton Park. The Nashville rock band - who supported the Pixies at British Summertime Hyde Park last summer - will be joined at the one-day rock extravaganza by BRITs Critics' Choice winner Sam Fender and Franz Ferdinand, plus Liverpool's very own Circa Waves Echo & The Bunnymen. Event Director, Damien Sanders commented: "Liverpool is an iconic city, entrenched in music heritage and we've wanted to launch

a new event for the last couple of years. "The biggest challenge has been finding the right artist for the job. "We're over the moon that we were able to secure one of the world's most successful rock bands to launch Fusion Presents and we cannot wait to see them perform in our new home, Sefton Park." Fusion Festival was originally held at the seaside location of Otterspool Promenade, and 2018 saw pop acts including Fifth Harmony's Ally Brooke and the likes of The Vamps, Raye, Becky Hill, Yungen and Grace Carter perform. Tickets for Fusion Presents will be on sale from 9am on Friday.



Carrie Underwood announces UK arena tour

Carrie Underwood has announced a UK arena tour. The 35-year-old country pop star will play shows in Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester, before wrapping the run in support of her latest LP 'Cry Pretty' with her biggest headline show at London's The SSE Arena, Wembley on July 4. Announcing the news by waving the Union Jack flag in a video on her Instagram account, she said: "Hey everybody, Carrie here. "I just wanted to check in and say that life is good and we are all getting very excited that the 'Cry Pretty Tour' is going to be starting soon in May. "I've got some news, we are coming to the UK at the end of June, bringing the 'Cry Pretty Tour' overseas and we are just super excited and we can't wait to see you guys there. Woohoo!" Carrie will be joined by UK country duo The Shires - comprised of Ben Earle and Crissie Rhodes - at the shows. The last time the 'Love Wins' singer played this side of the Atlantic was at C2C: Country to Country London in 2016. Whilst her last tour was the 'Blown Away Tour' in 2012, which included a date at London's Royal Albert Hall. Carrie - who gave birth to her second child with husband Mike Fisher, a son named Jacob, last month - returned to the stage in April last year after a nasty fall that saw her require 40 stitches. The award-winning star - who also has three-year-old Isaiah with her spouse - appeared at the American Country Music (ACM) Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas to perform her new single 'Cry Pretty'. She received a standing ovation from the star-studded audience, which included Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban, Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton. The 'Before He Cheats' hitmaker injured herself badly when she fell on some steps at her home back in November, breaking her wrist - which was fitted with a titanium implant - and requiring over the extensive amount of stitches to her face. The singer kept a low profile as she recovered from the surgery, concealing her injuries from the cameras. However, Carrie reassured her fans that she was getting back to her usual self. In a newsletter posted to The Official Carrie Underwood Fan Club website, Carrie told her loyal fans at the time: "First off, physically, I'm doing pretty darn good these days! My wrist is almost back to normal, about 90% there ... and the docs say that last 10% will come in time. And my face has been healing pretty nicely as well. I definitely feel more like myself than I have in a while. One of the silver linings for me in this healing process is the time I've gotten to spend with Mike and Isaiah. I've been calling it "forced relaxation." Sometimes I think things happen in order to make us slow down. (sic)"

CHRISTINA AGUILERA ANNOUNCES FIRST UK TOUR IN OVER A DECADE

Christina Aguilera has announced her first UK tour in 13 years. The 'Beautiful' hitmaker will bring 'The X Tour' to Glasgow, London, Manchester and Birmingham in November, following her Las Vegas residency. The 38-year-old pop superstar will play all her hits - including 'Genie in a Bottle' and 'Fighter' - and songs from her most recent LP, 'Liberation'. The 'Dirty' star's last run on British soil was in 2006, on the 'Back to Basics Tour' in support of her album of the same name. Christina's 16-date 'Christina Aguilera: The Xperience' residency will kick off inside the Zappos Theater at Planet Hollywood on May 31, and the 'Stripped' hitmaker previously teased that she is creating a multi-sensory show with elements of "mother nature". She said: "This is the next chapter in something new, exciting, creative and epic for my fans. "I'm such a visual person and I've been acquiring all these inspirations. You know I love a theme and a concept and I'm creating a specific world for this show. "[We are] playing with elements of Mother Nature and visual effects. I'm excited where that takes us. I always like to get what they're feeling and thinking. We're going to touch on a

little bit of everything and make that into an amazing experience - which is the title of the show." Christina - who has son Max, 11, with first husband Jordan Bratman and four-year-old Summer with partner Matthew Rutler - wrapped her hugely-successful 'Liberation' tour last November, and the experience of getting back on the road inspired her new residency. She added: "'Liberation' was such a success for me. The last time I had been on tour was when I was pregnant with my son [2007's Back to Basics]. And being such a mama bear and wanting to take care of my kids and all of that first it was a long time coming. "I want[ed] to get back to my fans and definitely [get] back to what my soul needed to do. "To be on that stage has always been my first love since I was a tiny little girl. The whole point of 'Liberation' was getting back in touch with myself, finding that love, being in my artist body again, finding my true self and identity on stage again. It was just like coming home. And I want to take that to Las Vegas." Tickets for Christina's 'The X Tour' UK dates go on sale on March 8 via LiveNation.co.uk



Mattel's Film Chief says Barbie movie will be 'positive'

The 'Barbie' film will have a "very positive" message for women and show what a great influence the iconic doll has been since her creation. Mattel Film Chief Robbie Brenner has said. Margot Robbie has been cast to play Mattel's most famous ever toy, who celebrates turning 60 this year, in the upcoming live-action film which will follow Barbie as she is expelled from Barbie Land for failing to live up to the expectations of its residents. Brenner accepts that some people will want to complain that a film is being created around Barbie, who has been criticized by some commentators for portraying unrealistic beauty standards and outdated gender roles, but the female executive insists critics are completely misunderstanding what Barbie stands for. When asked about the "inevitable backlash" surrounding the 'Barbie' movie, Brenner told The Hollywood Reporter: "Barbie is turning 60 this year. But if you go back to the root of Barbie and who created Mattel ... Ruth Handler created Barbie because she wanted her daughter to have something amazing to play with and her husband created Hot Wheels for their son. "[Barbie] was actually way ahead of her time if you go back and look at all of the amazing things that she did way beforehand. "Now she embodies what the world looks like today with all the different body types and ethnicities. It is a very inclusive and empowering doll, and that's what we want to come across. "For the people who want to hate and come down on it, they were going to do that anyway. The movie will be very positive." Ruth was inspired to create Barbie after watching her daughter Barbara playing with paper dolls as if they were adults. With the help of her husband Elliot - who worked for toy manufacturer Mattel - she developed and launched Barbie in 1959 and instantly had a hit on their hands which has lasted to this day. Despite criticism that Barbie promotes sexist gender stereotypes, the titular doll has held many jobs: in the 60s she was a nurse, a ballerina and became an astronaut, whilst in more recent years Barbie has been an architect, a teacher and video game developer. The 'Barbie' film will be produced through Margot's Lucky Champ production company, Mattel and Warner Bros. Pictures. 'Mary Queen of Scots'



star Margot, 28, has previously admitted it is an honor to portray the iconic toy who she believes has promoted empowerment and "self-discovery". She said: "Playing with Barbie promotes confidence, curiosity and communication throughout a child's journey to self-discovery. "Over the brand's almost 60 years, Barbie has empowered kids to imagine themselves in aspirational roles from a princess to president. I'm so honored to take on this role and produce a film that I believe will have a tremendously positive impact on children and audiences worldwide. I can't imagine better partners than Warner Bros. and Mattel to bring this film to the big screen."

Olivia Colman didn't prepare her Oscars speech

Olivia Colman didn't prepare her Oscars acceptance speech. The 42-year-old actress was hailed for her humorous and touching speech when she went on stage to collect her prize for Best Actress In A Leading Role for her portrayal of Queen Anne in 'The Favorite' at this year's Academy Awards, and has now revealed that none of her words were planned and when she stated it was "quite stressful" to win she meant it as she doesn't know how "anyone is composed" when collecting prizes. When asked how much of her speech was prepared, she told OK! magazine: "None of it. I've just been told I forgot [to thank] Melissa [McCarthy] and Yalitza [Aparicio] as well, but you know it's not an everyday occurrence. I don't know how anyone is composed and remembers everything because it's a very weird situation." Olivia was overwhelmed with emotion and appeared stunned as she picked up the accolade at Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre in front of the star-studded crowd. Taking to the stage, she said: "It's genuinely quite stressful. This is hilarious. I've got an Oscar. If I forget anybody, I'll find you later and give you a massive snog but I'm sorry." Olivia - who has three children with husband Ed Sinclair - tried to thank her parents but the emotion grew too much. She said: "My mum and my dad... you know. "My kids who are home and watching. Well, if you're not, well done but I sort of hope you are, this is not going to happen again."



Larson didn't feel any pressure playing Captain Marvel

Brie Larson didn't feel any pressure playing Carol Danvers in 'Captain Marvel'. The 29-year-old actress is portraying the titular superhero in the first female-led standalone film Marvel Cinematic Universe movie but she insists she didn't feel any responsibility whilst shooting the movie to guarantee it be a box office success as she just wanted to do the "best job she could" on set. In an interview with The I Paper, she said: "I don't know if I'm crazy, because so many people have been like, 'You must feel pressure, you must feel responsibility?' And I'm like, 'I don't, is that bad?' "I just don't think that it's helpful to me or helpful to this story or helpful to the work to feel that way. For me it's just like

I really love this character, I love Carol, and I think there is a lot of value in it. "I just wanted to focus on the best job I could do, and I know especially with a movie this big it seems like it's like this public thing - but when you're on set it's super private so that is how it felt, it felt like we were making a small movie." The 'Room' star undertook nine months of intense physical training to prepare for the role, at the end of which she could deadlift 225 pounds, and she admits before the regime started she never believed she could train so hard for so long. She said: "My goal was just to train really hard for nine months and see what happened, and I didn't even think it was possible for me. "And the reason why I did it was basically for this, for these moments, for these conversations, when we are discussing what it feels like or what it looks like to be a female, a self-identified female, and be strong." Larson stars in the film with Djimon Hounsou, Jude Law, Ben Mendelsohn and Samuel L. Jackson.