



Kravitz Joins 'Harry Potter' spinoff 'Fantastic Beasts'

Zoe Kravitz has joined the cast of Warner Bros "Harry Potter" spinoff "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." The pic stars Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Ezra Miller and Alison Sudol, is set in New York, 70 years before the events in the "Harry Potter" books and film series. It follows Newt Scamander (Redmayne), a Magizoologist who ventures into a secret community of witches and wizards as he attempts to document magical creatures. His book is eventually used at Hogwarts where Harry Potter attends school.

Kravitz' role is unknown at this time but is expected to be bigger in the sequel, which WB recently announced. David Yates is

directing the film, which is set to bow on Nov 18, 2016. JK Rowling wrote the screenplay for the project. David Heyman, Rowling, Steve Kloves and Lionel Wigram are producing. Neil Blair, Rick Senat and Danny Cohen are executive producing. Kravitz recently appeared as one of the muses in George Miller's "Mad Max: Fury Road." She'll appear next in the HBO series "Big Little Lies" with Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Shailene Woodley and also has the Sony film "Rock That Body." She's reped by Paradigm and Untitled Entertainment. — Reuters



Review

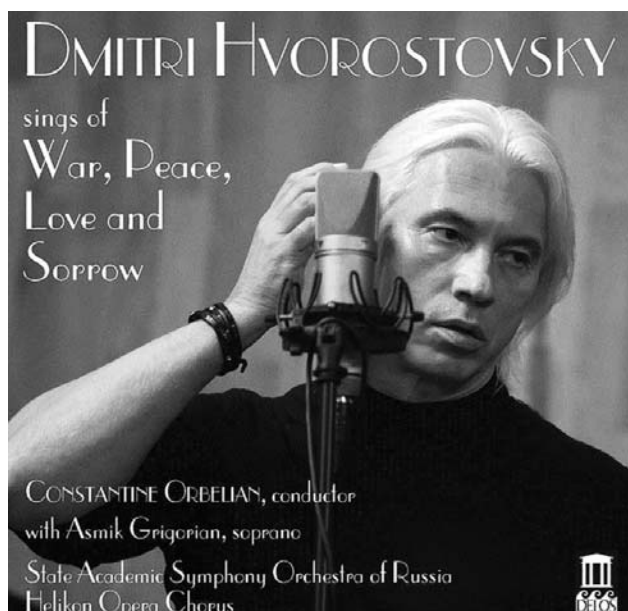
Wild Beasts live up to name on potent 'Boy King'

Wild Beasts live up to their name on the potent "Boy King," 10 electric exposures of the English art rockers' raw carnal desires. Led by Haden Thorpe's sometimes ghostly vocals and a barrage of synths and guitar riffs both glimmering and rusty, the band's fifth album displays a lineup of a certain kind of very male narratives about what must be modern love. Most of the characters on "Boy King" seem burdened by stunted emotional growth, the intensity of feelings expressed in lines like, "You can stuff your chastity, your wait and see" ("He the Colossus"); "Once the fuse gets lit, nothing good will come of it" ("Ponytail"); and "You know that I'm the worst when I come calling" ("2BU").

Explaining that "I will not hold you back ... I'll be right behind you," even the apparently supportive partner behind the "Alpha Female" may be a scary stalker. It's only rock 'n' roll but don't come near my daughter. After all the saber rattling, "Boy King" ends in a reflexive mood, supplanting testosterone with tenderizer. The man-as-boy-again in "Dreamliner" drops the hedonistic bluster and cries out "so be kind to me now." Like everyone else, he just wants to be loved and would give his kingdom for a hug. — AP

Hvorostovsky sings of 'War, Peace, Love and Sorrow'

The opera world was shocked by news last year that Dmitri Hvorostovsky had brain cancer. But the beloved Russian baritone with the velvety voice and phenomenal breath control carried on, canceling some appearances but performing when he could. "War, Peace, Love and Sorrow," his new release recorded last October during a break in his chemotherapy, reaffirms that he sounds as good as ever. Unfortunately, apart from reassuring his fans, there isn't much about this album that makes artistic sense. As the title suggests, it's a hodgepodge of scenes and arias, some of which the baritone had recorded before. Still, there's much to enjoy. The magical opening from Prokofiev's "War and Peace" finds him in terrific form, moving from dejection to hope as he overhears Natasha sing of her joy in life. This is followed by excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa" and "Iolanta." —AP



Hit maker Timbaland producing music for fitness brand Zumba

Hit-making producer Timbaland is used to people dancing to his beats at nightclubs, and now fans will get a chance to move to music he specifically designed for working out through a new partnership with Zumba. The man behind hits for Justin Timberlake and Jay Z is crafting songs for STRONG by Zumba, a non-dance-inspired workout that focuses on high-intensity interval training, bodyweight exercises and strength training paired with music to match every move.

"I've always been into fitness, and music is a big part of exercising for me, and I feel like STRONG by Zumba was a great way - with my edge, my music style - to put it together," the 44-year-old Grammy winner said in an interview Tuesday. The Timbaland-produced song "Nobody," performed by his new girl group, Obs3ssed, will be used by STRONG by Zumba instructors during training sessions; the track won't be available for sale or streaming. Timbaland is also working on another song with fellow producer Scott Storch for the program.

STRONG by Zumba isn't like typical Zumba classes where Latin dances are at the forefront. Timbaland says his music is designed to help people get through workouts with more ease and inspire people to push their limits at the gym. Zumba largely cornered the sparse dance cardio market when it emerged more than a decade ago, but it's facing increasing competition with the rise of celebrity dance trainers like Tracy Anderson, boutique studios with live DJs and black lights, fitness raves and a slew of studios dedicated to barre and ballet classes.

"(STRONG is) a step out for them. I think what they were really doing by working with someone like Timbaland, it's almost like you've been typecast into a certain role ... when you step out and do something different than what you've done before, then you look to make a splash and bring a different type of energy to it," said Ntiedo Etuk, CEO of YG Studios, an online platform that pairs trainers with clients. Zumba has worked with other musicians, including Daddy Yankee and Don Omar. Timbaland said he's never taken a Zumba class, but "thought it was interesting." He performed at the Zumba Instructor Convention in Orlando, Florida, last month. Timbaland is executive music producer for the hit TV series "Empire." He has produced hits for Missy Elliott, Aaliyah, Nelly Furtado and others. "That's what I am - I am music. I try to find all different types of avenues to express my talent when it comes to music," he said. — AP



In this June 25, 2015 file photo, Timbaland arrives at the 2015 ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP