

MUSIC & MOVIES



This file shows US singer Lady Gaga poses on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the British Fashion Awards 2016 in London. — AFP

## Lady Gaga reveals battle with post-traumatic stress disorder

Pop icon Lady Gaga has revealed an ongoing battle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), part of the emotional fallout from having been raped as a teenager. The singer-songwriter made the revelation during a television interview on Monday at a New York homeless shelter for gay and lesbian (LGBT) youth. "I told the kids today that I suffer from a mental illness—I suffer from PTSD," said Gaga, speaking to NBC television's "Today Show" program. Two years earlier, the

singer revealed on television she had been raped at age 19, an experience that left her traumatized. A gay icon who has long championed the rights of sexual minorities, Gaga, now 30, urged the youths at the Ali Forney Center shelter to find the courage to face their problems. "I don't have the same kinds of issues that you have, but I have a mental illness, and I struggle with that mental illness every day," she said. "I need my mantra to help keep me relaxed. You are brave. You are coura-

geous." The visit marked the first time the "Born This Way" singer has spoken of having PTSD, although in the past she has revealed battling depression and anxiety. On Twitter, Lady Gaga thanked the shelter residents for "sharing your stories, trauma & pain", and added: "Today I shared one my deepest secrets w/ the world. Secrets keep you sick w/ shame." — AFP

## Mel Harris: 'Thirtysomething' stars remain 'close' friends

Almost 30 years since "thirtysomething" went off the air, the now 50-something cast of the drama about a group of American baby boomers remain friends. Mel Harris, who played Hope Steadman on the show, says she and cast mates Ken Olin, Timothy Busfield, Patricia Wettig, Polly Draper, Melanie Mayron and Peter Horton bonded while making the show, which aired on ABC from 1987 through 1991. "We were also there for each other as co-workers, as friends and that bond has continued outside of it. Do we have dinner every Friday night together? No, which would be a hoot, but I would say every few years we get together. We see each other."



In this frame grab from video shot on Nov 28, 2016, actress Mel Harris is interviewed in New York. — AP

Harris says she just recently ran into Olin in Vancouver, Canada, where she's filming the Hulu series, "Shut Eye." "We went to dinner. It was just lovely." The new series, which begins streaming on Dec. 7, is about fake fortune teller Charlie Haverford, played by Jeffrey Donovan ("Burn Notice"), who starts having real visions after suffering a severe head trauma. Harris plays Nadine Davies, a wealthy socialite and one of Haverford's marks. "It's her second bout with psychics," Harris says. "They're very good at getting her to trust them in the face of, 'Oh, I've already been burned once,' and in the course of the journey when she realizes that maybe she can't trust them. It's an awakening event for Nadine Davies."

The role marks the first regular one in almost a decade for Harris who in recent years has been focusing on fixing up old houses and working on TV pilots with her writing partner and husband Bob Brush. She decided to take on "Shut Eye" after Brush took a break from writing pilots to work on a book. Harris says she's not sure yet if she'll continue acting when her writing partner frees up but says for the moment she's having fun. "Otherwise, I wouldn't do it thirty-something years later." — AP



Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton

## Dylan, Clapton manuscripts to go on auction

Original manuscripts of classic songs by Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton will go on auction as part of a collection of rock memorabilia, Sotheby's said Monday. The auction house estimated that the two manuscripts would fetch \$50,000 to \$70,000 each when they go on sale Saturday in New York. The collection includes the manuscript of "Layla," one of rock's best-known songs of unrequited love, which Clapton wrote in 1970 about Pattie Harrison—then the wife of his friend, Beatle George Harrison. She would later marry Clapton before they eventually divorced after nine years.

Clapton wrote the opening lyrics to "Layla," which was loosely inspired by the tale of the Persian Romantic poet Nizami Ganjavi, on the stationery of the Thunderbird Motel in

Miami Beach. Sotheby's will also auction the original typescript of "This Wheel's on Fire," one of the best-known songs from Dylan's 1967 sessions with Canadian folk rockers The Band around Woodstock, New York.

"This Wheel's on Fire," which the future Nobel laureate wrote with The Band's Rick Danko, went on to appear on the 1975 album "The Basement Tapes." Among other items up for auction is a set of seven portraits that Dylan and fellow folk rocker Joan Baez sketched of themselves and each other. Dylan and Baez, who had been lovers, drew the sketches in 1963 on stops at a coffeehouse in Woodstock on their motorcycle trips. Sotheby's estimated that the set would sell for \$30,000 to \$50,000. — AFP



Childish Gambino

## New Zealand man latest to claim Prince as father

A New Zealand man is the latest person to say he is pop icon Prince's heir after a judge dismissed a series of other claims, court documents showed Monday. A lawyer for the administrator in charge of Prince's estate agreed to arrange genetic testing on Max Stacey McCormack, but made no secret of his doubts about the claim. McCormack, from Invercargill on New Zealand's southern tip, submitted as evidence a photo of a person who had a "mild physical resemblance" to Prince but did not appear to be the "Purple Rain" star, said David Crosby, who represents Bremer Trust.

"We must admit that we are somewhat skeptical of your claim, given our understanding that (Prince) was completing high school in Minnesota in 1976, as opposed to living in New Zealand for several months," Crosby said in response to McCormack's account, made under oath. In a letter filed with a Minnesota court, Crosby said it was nevertheless theoretically possible that McCormack's mother had sex with Prince. He gave the New Zealander and his mother until December 12 to arrange DNA tests. Little is known about the new claimant. A 2007 article in the newspaper The Southland Times said McCormack, then 30, was in court for allegedly injuring a woman's eye with a machete.

Prince died on April 21 from an accidental painkiller overdose and left no will, setting off a flurry of claims from people seeking to inherit his multimillion-dollar estate and vast song catalog. A judge last week dismissed a claim from Carlin Williams, an imprisoned rapper who said his mother had sex with Prince in a Kansas City hotel. Williams, who has rapped about killing his alleged father, failed a DNA test and the judge, Kevin Eide, formally

excluded him as an heir after a dispute about his request for a new examination. Others who have come forward to claim Prince's estate include a woman who said she had secretly married Prince in Las Vegas and a man in California who said the musician quietly promised him \$1 billion. Prince left behind a sister and five half-siblings but no recognized child or spouse. — AFP



This file photo shows Musician Prince presenting the winner for Record of the Year to Gotye and Kimbra on stage. — AFP

Review

## Childish Gambino gets immersed in the Funk

It's OK not to "get" Childish Gambino's third studio album "Awaken, My Love!" With its lush soundscapes and sparse lyrics, one can only gather that the funk-drenched latest release from the multi-talented Donald Glover is a collection that is to be felt first and understood second - if understanding is possible at all. Outstanding first single "Me and Your Mama" and equally arresting follow-up track "Redbone" are the easiest to digest of the 11-song set. Twinkling chimes and a haunting chorus give way to fiery electric guitar and crashing drums on the former, while Gambino coos and cries out in his falsetto across the swaggering production of the latter.

Both were produced by Gambino's longtime collaborator and Swedish music composer Ludwig Goransson, who has a hand in the majority of the tracks. But Gambino and Goransson's latest project together is nothing like the previous albums and mixtapes. The cartoonish production and silly wordplay are gone. Instead of rapping, Gambino sings from the gut, sounding like Rick James on the spine-tingling

"Zombies," featuring up-and-coming singer-rapper Kari Faux. "They can smelt your money, and they want your soul," Gambino sings, in a warning that could easily be about the music industry or Hollywood - the "Atlanta" show creator and music artist knows both.

His voice is ghoulish on the uplifting Parliament-Funkadelic-inspired "Have Some Love" and desperate on the chaotic "Riot," which includes in its credits members of the legendary funk collective. Gambino channels an easier 70s vibe on "Baby Boy." (Think: Sly and the Family Stone.) "Little hands, little feet, tiny heart, tiny beat," he sings before pleading, "don't take him away." It's easy to get lost in the music, with one psychedelic-tinged track washing into another. That is, with the exception of the beachy, annoyingly catchy and slightly out of place "California." Gambino pushes the limits of his sound on "Awaken, My Love!" and while it's not all smooth sailing, it's a trippy ride worth taking. — AP

## VANESSA REDGRAVE MAKES DIRECTING DEBUT WITH REFUGEE FILM

Actress Vanessa Redgrave makes her directing debut in London yesterday with a film about refugees, featuring fellow stage stars Ralph Fiennes and Emma Thompson. "Sea Sorrow" recounts life for refugees fleeing European war zones throughout the last century and aims to have an impact on viewers. "We all get tired, we've got to be reminded of the deeper things that make it worthwhile to live and to help others, and that's really why we made this film," Redgrave, 79, told the Press Association. The Oscar-winning actress filmed "Sea Sorrow" in countries including France, Greece, Italy and Lebanon, beginning the project after an image of a Syrian boy washed up on a Turkish beach went viral.

"First and foremost it was my horror at the fact so many refugees were dying who should have been given safe passage, and could have been given safe passage," she said. "I thought of it before but when the little boy Alan Kurdi was found washed up, that was the moment that said 'get going, get started.'" Nearly 12,000 people have died or gone missing crossing the Mediterranean Sea since the start of 2014, according to figures from the UN refugee agency. After a peak of more than one million sea arrivals in Europe in 2015, so far this year more than 350,000 people have made the crossing.

Redgrave also drew on 20th-century experiences for her film, featuring Lord Alfred Dubs who earlier this year campaigned to have more child refugees brought to Britain. The Labor politician was a child refugee him-

self, brought to the UK under the "Kindertransport" program which helped children flee Nazi persecution. "Sea Sorrow", which will be screened at London's Hammersmith Town Hall, was produced by Redgrave and her son Carlo Nero, who said it had particular significance at Christmas. "We have to remember that the Christmas celebration in the religious sense is about persecution and a family of refugees in the Middle East—that is the story and it is our story," he said. — AFP



Vanessa Redgrave

## 'A Kid'

Calling "A Kid" a nice family drama may sound faintly damning, but the fact is the film is just that, a solidly crafted story about a man discovering that his late father, Jean, had another family, told with the right dose of emotion, without sex, and with a finish designed to leave a warm and quasi-tearful glow. In lesser hands, "A Kid" would have tipped into bland sentimentality, but Philippe Lioret ("Welcome") is a master at weaving narratives that balance a sufficient degree of psychological depth with good old-fashioned storytelling know-how. Though the midsection is weak, the movie compensates with a well-played ending that makes it a natural for mainstream Francophone art houses, not to mention Euro satcat rotation and in-flight entertainment.

At 33, Mathieu (Pierre Deladonchamps, "Stranger by the Lake") appears vaguely unsatisfied with his life as a dog-food sales executive in Paris. His relationship with ex-wife Carine (Romane Portail) is good, he's an involved dad to son Valentin (Timothy Vom Dorp), yet he seems to be treading water. Then he gets word that the father he never knew has died in Canada, leaving two other adult sons, and he decides to go to Montreal to meet the family he was unaware existed. Mathieu's sole contact is the person who broke the news by phone, his father's friend Pierre (Gabriel Arcand). At the airport Pierre appears demonstrably annoyed that Mathieu made the journey, urging him to keep his existence a secret from half-brothers Benjamin (Patrick Hivon) and Samuel (Pierre-Yves Cardinal). It's all very perplexing to Mathieu, whose mother died eight years earlier sticking to her story that she'd had a one-night stand and never revealing even his father's name.

Making matters more complicated, Jean drowned in a lake and his body hasn't been found. Benjamin and Samuel head north to the site in the hopes of finding their father's remains; Pierre reluctantly agrees to bring Mathieu along provided he doesn't tell the brothers that he's the half-sibling they don't know about. Here's where the script sags a bit, as tensions between Benjamin and Samuel feel forced (money and religion come into play), and their interactions could have been better played. More meaningful and considerably more satisfy-

ing are scenes with Mathieu at Pierre's home, where Pierre's wife Angie (Marie-Therese Fortin) and their daughter Bettina (Catherine de Léan) offer insight into Jean and his family while extending warmth and understanding to the slightly bewildered Frenchman.

### Violent ways

Lioret sets up Pierre's family dynamics as an antidote of sorts to Jean's more fractured household, but in keeping with the helmer's quietly unassuming style, he reveals that loving families come in all forms, and that surfaces rarely offer views into what lies beneath. "A Kid," very loosely adapted from a novel by Jean-Paul Dubois, plays with these notions in a straightforward yet layered manner, contrasting forms of fatherhood without passing judgment. The film also juxtaposes Mathieu's French laissez-faire outlook with the Canadians' more unyielding mindset, in which secrets are allowed to stew and bubble over in sometimes violent ways. That said, there are barely any true fireworks here, just the kind of gradual understanding that comes with hard-won maturity.

Deladonchamps plays a seemingly more conventional character than in recent films, but Mathieu is never less than an interesting figure, decent and kind without being wishy-washy. That's a good summation for the whole film: handsomely made, gently told, and revealing depths that weren't so apparent from the beginning. — Reuters



Film Review