

SINGER CHRIS BROWN RELEASED FROM JAIL ON \$250,000 BAIL



Chris Brown

Los Angeles police have released singer Chris Brown from custody after arresting him on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, jail records show. He was arrested on Tuesday following an hours-long standoff after a woman alleged he pointed a gun at her, and freed on \$250,000 bail at 11:19 pm local time according to Los Angeles County jail records. Prosecutors have not formally charged him. "Chris is out and well," Brown's attorney Mark Geragos tweeted yesterday. "The allegations against him are demonstrably false," he added.

The Los Angeles Police Department earlier said that officers from the homicide and robbery division, which deals with celebrity cases, headed to Brown's palatial home after the woman called for help at 3:11 am.

Brown, 27, took to social media to deny any wrongdoing, daring police to get a search warrant to enter his home in a series of videos posted on Instagram. After the lengthy standoff, police by early afternoon had obtained a search warrant and entered the singer's home. Baylee Curran, who was crowned Miss California

Regional in a beauty pageant this year, identified herself as the caller as she also took to Instagram. She also spoke to the Los Angeles Times, saying she and a friend went into a hot tub at Brown's house and that the singer became angry when she admired the jewelry of a member of his entourage.

She said she fled in fear, then refused to sign a nondisclosure agreement before she escaped from Brown's house. The gossip website TMZ reported that Brown had thrown a duffel bag out of a window and that police had recovered

gun as well as drugs. Police have not confirmed the report. The R&B singer, who topped the US singles chart with "Run It!" and "Kiss Kiss," has had years of run-ins with the law. Most notoriously, he was convicted of beating then-girlfriend Rihanna before the 2009 Grammy Awards, forcing the pop singer to miss the music industry's annual gala. He is set to be arraigned in court on September 20. — AFP

Gomez takes a break from music due to Lupus side effects

After travelling the world for her Revival tour, Selena Gomez is taking a break from music to focus on her health. A year after she revealed her Lupus diagnosis, Gomez on Tuesday released a statement that she's taking some time off due to complications of the autoimmune disease. She cites "anxiety, panic attacks and depression" as side effects. "As many of you know, around a year ago I revealed that I have lupus, an illness that can affect people in different ways," she said in a statement to People. "I've discovered that anxiety, panic attacks and depression can be side effects of lupus, which can present their own challenges."

Related Selena Gomez Does 'Carpool Karaoke' With James Corden "I want to be proactive and focus on maintaining my health and happiness and have decided that the best way forward is to take some time off," the statement goes on. "Thank you to all my fans for your sup-

port. You know how special you are to me, but I need to face this head on to ensure I am doing everything possible to be my best. I know I am not alone in sharing this, I hope others will be encouraged to address their own issues."

In a 2015 interview with Billboard, Gomez revealed that she had undergone chemotherapy for Lupus in 2013, during a break in her Stars Dance tour. She cancelled the Asian and Australian legs of the tour in late 2013 and early 2014. During the break, rumors emerged of substance abuse. "I wanted so badly to say, 'you guys have no idea. I'm in chemotherapy. You're a-holes,'" she said in 2015. "I locked myself away until I was confident and comfortable again." A source told People that Gomez's current break is "absolutely not related to alcohol or substance abuse," and that she "hadn't felt like herself" in the past couple of months. — Reuters



In this April 7, 2016, file photo, Selena Gomez arrives at WE Day California at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. — AP



Chris Perez, from left, Suzette Quintanilla and AB Quintanilla attend the unveiling of a wax figure of Selena Quintanilla at Madame Tussauds Hollywood on Tuesday in Los Angeles. — AP

Wax figure of late Selena Quintanilla unveiled

Madame Tussauds Hollywood unveiled its latest wax figure double on Tuesday - a statue of late pop star Selena Quintanilla. Dozens of fans watched the unveiling of the life-size figure alongside the singer's relatives, which marked the 21st anniversary of "Dreaming Of You", Selena's

final studio album. The Mexican-American singer died aged 23 after she was shot and killed by the president of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, at a Texas motel on March 31, 1995. — Reuters

Frankenstein 2.0: Hollywood's obsession with 'playing God'

Ridley Scott's son Luke steps out of his father's shadow this week with his directorial debut "Morgan," a modern take on the "mad scientist" trope that has preoccupied Hollywood for more than a century. Ever since inventor Thomas Edison's company made the first Frankenstein motion picture in 1910, filmmakers have been telling cautionary tales about the folly of mankind "playing God" to create life. Setting aside more than 70 movies featuring Mary Shelley's monster himself, numerous other films have tackled the ethics of bio-engineering, from "Metropolis" in 1927 to last year's "Jurassic World."

"I think the appeal of 'Man playing God'-themed films endures largely because of human nature," Shawn Robbins, a senior analyst at movie data website Boxoffice.com, told AFP. "Cinema, and fiction at large, are escapist art forms, but characters believing they can achieve the impossible through the ultimate power of creation can inspire thought-provoking stories that stick with you after leaving the theater."

Modern retellings of the Frankenstein story-known in academic circles as "synthetic biology" (SB) movies-are big business. Researchers in Vienna looked at 48 SB movies from 1920 to 2010 for a study entitled "Frankenstein 2.0: Identifying and characterizing synthetic biology engineers in science fiction films." They counted a combined inflation-adjusted worldwide box office of around \$14 billion for the films.

Paranoia

The genre arguably had its golden age in the 1990s with such films as "Species," "The Island of Dr Moreau" and "Alien Resurrection" reflecting American fears about cloning. "Jurassic Park" broke opening weekend records from Mexico to Britain and markets across the Far East, going on to take \$914 million worldwide, with Steven Spielberg reportedly pocketing more than \$250 million personally. "Since the 1990s, a number of pioneering research outcomes such as the cloning of a sheep in 1996 and the completion of the Human Genome Project in 1999 have been generating an increase in public interest in bio-technologies in general," the Vienna study said.

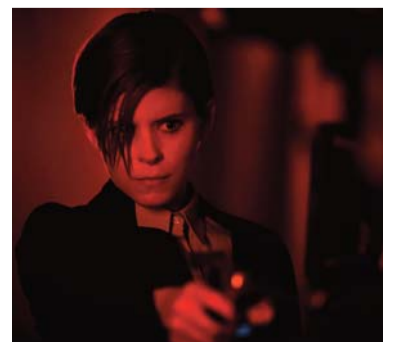
"Morgan"-the latest iteration of Shelley's "modern Prometheus" myth-hits theaters on Friday with a stellar cast fronted by Kate Mara, best known as reporter Zoe Barnes in the Netflix political drama "House of Cards." She plays a corporate troubleshooter sent to a top-secret location to investigate a violent incident involving "Morgan," a bioengineered being with synthetic DNA. Director Luke Scott, whose highest profile work so far has been as a second unit director on his father's films "The Martian" (2015) and "Exodus: Gods and Kings" (2014), says he was intrigued by the big themes raised in Seth Owen's script. He knew he had his "Frankenstein's monster" when he stumbled across 20-year-old Argentine-British actress Anya Taylor-Joy, whose performance in her debut feature "The Witch" earlier this year dazzled critics.

'Familiar tale'

"I got a preview copy and I saw 'The Witch' and I was blown away by that movie anyway," Scott told AFP. "But then there's this kid in it called Anya Taylor-Joy and I was like 'she's amazing.'" Setting out as an intriguing morality tale, "Morgan" kicks into high-octane action as the bodies pile up and Mara and Taylor-Joy lock horns in a series of increasingly tense and violent set-pieces. "We laughed a lot, just out of relief of getting through certain takes, which are really brutal and challenging, mentally and physically," Mara said.

The strong support cast includes Toby Jones ("Harry Potter," "Frost/Nixon," "The Hunger Games"), Jennifer Jason Leigh ("The Hateful Eight," "Single White Female") and a delicious cameo by the prolific Paul Giamatti ("12 Years A Slave," "Straight Outta Compton"). Big names and an enduring theme don't always translate into commercial success, however, and some industry insiders have been pessimistic about the film's chances of finding an audience.

"Morgan" will very under-perform at the box office," one told AFP. Early reviews have been mixed, with critics agreeing that what starts out as a smart, if derivative, thriller begins to lose its edge as suspense gives way to generic action. "This is a familiar tale: man creates monster, monster runs amuck, man regrets playing God," the online news portal The Verge concluded. "It's just never remotely clear what Scott and Owen found so compelling about this story that they wanted to tell it again, without meaningful variations, and in the immediate wake of better, smarter, more thrilling versions." — AFP



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Kate Mara in a scene from 'Morgan'. — AP



A priest blesses the statue depicting Mexican songwriter and singer Juan Gabriel.



Mourners gather around a statue depicting Mexican songwriter and singer Juan Gabriel during a mass in Mexico City's Garibaldi plaza, Tuesday. — AP/AFP photos

Mexico to pay tribute to singer Juan Gabriel

Mexico will hold a tribute to the legendary singer and composer Juan Gabriel in the capital city next week, officials said on Tuesday. The singer known as the "Divo of Juarez," who touched millions with wrenching ballads of love and loneliness, died of a heart attack Sunday at his home in Santa Monica, California during a break in his latest tour. He was 66.

"Tribute to Juan Gabriel will be held next Monday in Fine Arts," the culture minister Rafael Tovar y de Teresa tweeted, referring to the Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City's premier cultural center. It's not clear whether President Enrique Peña Nieto will attend. He is set to travel to China Friday to participate in a G20 summit from Sunday to Monday. Gabriel's family

issued a statement saying a memorial service would be held over the weekend in his home city Ciudad Juarez in northern Mexico followed by "a public celebration of the life of our father and his musical career."

The singer's remains were cremated in the United States and will arrive over the weekend in Ciudad Juarez, officials said. An old-school idol some liken to Mexico's Elvis Presley, Gabriel wrote hit songs, sold tens of millions of records, received six Grammy nominations, and had a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in a barrier-busting career that won him admirers around the world. His hits included "No Tengo Dinero" ("I Have No Money"), "Hasta Que Te Conoci" ("Until I Met You") and "Amor Eterno" (Eternal Love). — AFP



A woman holds a picture of Mexican songwriter and singer Juan Gabriel.



A woman holds a poster of Mexican songwriter and singer Juan Gabriel.