



(From left) US actress Alexandra Ficken, Norwegian actress Alisha Boe, US actress Patti French, US actress Diane Keaton, Australian actress Jacki Weaver, US actress Pam Grier, US actress Celia Weston, US actress Rhea Perlman, US actress Carol Sutton and US actress Ginny MacColl attend the premiere of STX Entertainment's 'Poms' in Los Angeles. — AFP photos

Screen legend *Keaton* opens up about age, marriage and Hollywood

Diane Keaton claims to be one of the fortunate ones: as the screen legend reflects on age, marriage, and nearly half a century of working in Hollywood, she says that she's never felt sexually harassed. "Never. Maybe I just wasn't harassed material," said Keaton, who has 68 screen credits since her 1970 debut in the comedy "Lovers and Other Strangers." The 72-year-old's big screen appearances include "The Godfather" (1972) and its sequels, two "Father of the Bride" movies in the 1990s with Steve Martin and "Something's Gotta Give" with Jack Nicholson (2003), for which she won a Golden Globe.

But the actress truly made her mark co-starring in eight Woody Allen movies, from "Play in Again Sam" (1972) to "Manhattan Murder Mystery" (1993). She won her best actress Oscar for starring in "Annie Hall" (1977) with Allen and was nominated a further three times. Keaton and Allen were lovers for a time, and when they broke up they remained friends and work partners. As the Hollywood sexual harassment scandals detonated in late 2017, cascading from producer Harvey Weinstein to heavyweight actors like Kevin Spacey, old accusations of child sex abuse against Allen by his adoptive daughter Dylan resurfaced. "Woody Allen is my friend and I continue to believe him," Keaton tweeted in January 2018. For all her confidence and bravado, Keaton preferred simply not to talk about the controversial actor and director and did not answer a question about whether she'd work with him again.

Age and love

Keaton's last two movies are about aging women: "Book Club" (2018), with its message that love has no age, and now "Poms," set to open on Friday in the United States and Canada. "Poms" is the story of Martha, a terminally ill woman who moves to a retirement community to die, but winds up forming a cheerleading squad made up of female senior citizens. As for aging, Keaton says that life actually gets easier. "I think so, because what have you got to lose? It's like it's the truth. That's what it is. You face it, we talk about it," she said. Keaton is less certain about spending her final years in a retirement home, but she definitely wouldn't be a cheerleader like Martha in "Poms."



Diane Keaton attends the premiere of STX's 'Poms' at Regal LA Live.

"I was never a dancer... and cheerleading is really basically dancing," she said. She auditioned for a school cheerleading squad when she was 14 but didn't make the cut. "Really my heart was in performing on stage," she said. Keaton is familiar with the environment, having volunteered in her 30s at a Jewish retirement home, and she has a brother-the subject of a book she has just finished-at an assisted living facility. "So I know about them, I've been around," she said.

'I'm not unhappy'

Keaton, who enjoys photography when she isn't acting, in no rush to retire. "I don't think of it," she said. If the Hollywood work offers dry up, "I have a lot of hobbies that are very time-consuming that I love. I'll address those and those will be my work. I have no intention of stopping any kind of work whatsoever," she said. Keaton, who had long romances with screen legends like Al Pacino, Beatty and Allen, has two adopted children but never married.

"I wonder if I'm the only single woman of my age who's been in film who hasn't gotten married, so I might be a freak," she said. "Most people in the movies get married at some point and then they divorce. But I've never even got married. I am failure," she joked. Does she regret it? "I don't think about it a lot but I'm aware of the fact that I'm unusual in that regard, and maybe I did miss out on something-but then, nobody can have everything, right?" "I'm not unhappy," she said. — AFP

Disney sets dates for next three 'Star Wars' films from 2022

Following its merger with Fox, Disney on Tuesday sketched out its future plans for two of its most towering franchises—the "Star Wars" saga and "Avatar." Three new as-yet untitled "Star Wars" films will hit the big screen every other year just before Christmas starting in 2022, the mega-studio announced. That means that there could be a three-year wait between the December release of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," the final film in the original series begun in 1977, and the next big-screen "Star Wars" flick.

Several "Star Wars" projects are in the works, including a trilogy by David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, the creators of HBO's "Game of Thrones," and a separate trilogy by "Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson. A spokeswoman for Disney, contacted by AFP, did not offer additional details about the upcoming scheduled films, which will expand upon the cinematic universe created by George Lucas. Disney paid \$4 billion for Lucasfilm in 2012.

In September last year, Disney CEO Bob Iger admitted after the lackluster performance of "Solo: A Star Wars Story," a one-off film in the franchise, that the "Star Wars" release schedule was too frenetic. After six films in 38 years, from 1977 to 2005, the rhythm had picked up considerably. A total of four films came in rapid succession, from the release of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in 2015 to "Solo" in May 2018. "I made the timing decision, and as I look back, I think the mistake that I made—I take the blame—was a little too much, too fast," Iger told The Hollywood Reporter last year.

Meanwhile, the studio pushed back its plans for the next films in director James Cameron's uber-successful "Avatar" franchise—one of the biggest prizes for Disney in the Fox merger. "Avatar 2" will come a year later than expected in December 2021, followed by "Avatar 3" in 2023, "Avatar 4" in 2025 and "Avatar 5" in 2027. "Avatar" remains the top-grossing film of all time, with \$2.79 billion in worldwide box office sales, but superhero extravaganza "Avengers: Endgame" is hot on its heels at \$2.24 billion and rapidly climbing. — AFP



Grande bonds with BTS' Jungkook after show

Ariana Grande has thanked BTS member Jungkook after he attended her show in Los Angeles on Monday. The 25-year-old "7 Rings" hitmaker took to Instagram on Tuesday to post a picture of herself with the K-pop star after she was left "screaming" in excitement when he attended her concert. She wrote alongside the image of the pair: "screaming, thank u soooooo much for coming to my show, Jungkook, it meant so much, love u sm (sic)" Ariana's sweet message comes after Jungkook, 21, also shared his joy at being able to attend the concert, after he posted a picture of himself holding merchandise from the show. He wrote in English alongside the picture: "I felt and learned a lot after seeing her stage. I am really challenged by her stage and will try harder! #ArianaGrande (sic)" And fans have already begun to speculate that the new friendship between the pair could open up doors for a possible collaboration in the future, as BTS - comprised of Jungkook alongside RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, and V - have already enjoyed successful collaborative efforts with the likes of Halsey, Ed Sheeran, Steve Aoki, and Nicki Minaj. Most recently, the group teamed up with Halsey for their chart-topping single "Boy With Luv", and with Ed Sheeran on "Make It Right", both of which appeared on their album "Map of the Soul: Persona", which was released last month. RM, the group's leader, recently said they "knew" they wanted to work with Halsey ever since first meeting her at the Billboard Music Awards in 2017. He said: "We met two years ago at the BBMA's backstage. She told us that she became a fan after she watched music videos. We knew Halsey from 'Closer' [with The Chainsmokers], biggest song of that year. So we met backstage and she came to Korea last year, and we met again. We talked about, like, 'We should collaborate. We should work on something.' We got this track for this album and thought that Halsey would be the best voice for this track. It happened. Boom. Here we are."

Stormzy to return to Ibiza Rocks

Stormzy is set to bring #MERRYK Festival back to Ibiza Rocks 2019. The grime star will headline the pool party venue at the famous Ibiza Rocks Hotel for the third year running, and alongside artists Dave and Fredo, is set to bring the party with his world-exclusive #MERRYK Festival, which is a real-time representation of one of the most exciting times in music in the world right now. This year, Ibiza Rocks has more than doubled its pool party program, and the newly upgraded venue is set to play host to the festival's biggest and most impressive line up in its near 15-year history. Alongside Stormzy, acts including Craig David, Jax Jones, DJ EZ, Rudimental, and MK will also be performing exclusive sets throughout the summer, while the likes of Anne Marie, Mabel, Stefflon Don, Kelis, James Arthur, Artwork, Toddla T, 2manydjs, Disciples, Derrick Carter,

Hannah Wants, Wilkinson, and lots more will also take to the stage. Jordan Hallpike, Director of Talent & Programming, Ibiza Rocks Group said: "Last summer was the first year we dedicated our program exclusively to daytime pool parties, which resulted in our best performing year to date. We have fine-tuned every element of the experience, defined the best time slots, curated the line-ups and the customer experience to make Ibiza Rocks a fully functioning day club. Now, in 2019 with fantastic new venue refurbishments and our biggest line-up ever we are ready to establish the Ibiza Rocks venue as the best day club experience in the world!" Stormzy's two-day festival will take place in the same week he's due to headline the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury music festival, where he is set to play a hit-filled headline set.



Mel C takes the lead with Spice Girls' musical direction for tour

Mel C is taking the lead when it comes to the Spice Girls' musical direction for their upcoming tour. The 45-year-old singer - who is known as Sporty Spice in the group - has made it her "priority" to ensure that she and her bandmates Geri Horner, Mel B and Emma Bunton's vocals are in top shape for the shows by using the same musical director she worked alongside on her solo music. A source told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "The tour is going to have amazing costumes and epic staging, but Mel is passionate about the music and is adamant that the vocals are as much of a priority. 'The girls each have a House of Spice theme complete with groups of dancers branded as Baby, Scary, Ginger and Sporty, which will certainly entertain.' But Mel insisted she brought in a musical director she has worked closely with on her solo material to boost the vocal performances and make sure the music hits the right note." The extensive stadium run - which won't feature Victoria Beckham - kicks off in Dublin on May 24 and it was recently reported that Geri, aka Ginger Spice, has hired her own singing coach. The

band, who have been working hard in rehearsals, haven't performed on stage properly together since the 2012 London Olympic Games Closing Ceremony, and the 'Bag It Up' hitmaker is determined to make sure their fans get their money's worth. An insider said: "Geri is anxious to make sure she is up to standard when the girls get back together ... so she has hired a singing instructor. 'She doesn't want to be the one people point the finger at if it isn't note perfect.' Geri's recruitment of a vocal instructor came after reports that Sporty ordered her bandmates to take singing lessons. The Northerner was worried as the group have not sang together in years and she believes it is 'crucial they take the performance side of the money-spinning return very seriously'. Geri also insisted that they never came close to asking fashion designer Victoria, 45, to join them on the road, even though Mel B claimed she was poised to sign up. She said: "No, there was never a point it was all five of us. Mel thought she could make it happen if she just kept on saying it. She's clever, you've got to hand it to her."



Led Zeppelin documentary in the works

A documentary on Led Zeppelin is in the works. The as-yet-untitled project is now in post-production, and traces the journeys of the four members - Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones, and the late John Bonham - through the music scene of the 1960s, their meeting in the summer of 1968 for a rehearsal that will change the future of rock, and culminates in 1970 when their second album knocks The Beatles off the top of the charts. The documentary has been directed by Bernard MacMahon - who helmed the 2017 music documentary 'American Epic' - and celebrates the 'Stairway to Heaven' hitmakers on their 50th anniversary. Speaking in a press release about the movie, Jimmy Page said: "When I saw everything Bernard had done both visually and sonically on the remarkable achievement that is 'American Epic', I knew he would be qualified to tell our sto-

ry." Whilst Robert Plant added: "Seeing Will Shade, and so many other important early American musicians, brought to life on the big screen in 'American Epic' inspired me to contribute to a very interesting and exciting story." And John Paul Jones said: "The time was right for us to tell our own story for the first time in our own words, and I think that this film will really bring that story to life." The documentary features brand new interviews of Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, and John Paul Jones, as well as rare archival interviews with the late John Bonham, and never before seen archive film and photographs. The film will be the first Led Zeppelin story told through the words of the members themselves, and is the first and only time the band have participated in a documentary in their 50 year career. As of the time of writing, the film is yet to have a firm release date.

