

## 'Glee' star **Naya Rivera** missing, feared drowned

**"G**lee" star Naya Rivera is missing and feared drowned at a California lake, local officials said, with rescuers to continue a search for her yesterday. The Ventura County Sheriff's office earlier tweeted it was looking for a "possible drowning victim" at the lake, and said a dive team was being deployed to the area. Rivera, 33, is best known for her role as high school cheerleader Santana Lopez in "Glee", the TV series she starred in for six seasons. She rented a boat on Wednesday and took her four-year-old son onto Lake Piru, northwest of Los Angeles, a spokesman for Ventura County Sheriff's Office confirmed.

He was found by another person out on the lake "asleep and with his life vest on," Eric Buschow told AFP. "The search is suspended until the morning and it will resume at daybreak". Rivera put up a photo of her and her son on Twitter Wednesday, alongside the phrase: "Just the two of us." Hundreds have left comments below the post, many offering their prayers.

Rivera and the boy's father, actor Ryan Dorsey, divorced in 2018 and share custody of the child, according to the TMZ outlet. Fellow "Glee" actor, Mark Salling, took his own life in 2018 weeks, before being sentenced for possession of child pornography. Another actor on the hit series, Canadian Cory Monteith, died in July 2013 of an overdose of drugs and alcohol.—AFP



This file photo shows actress Naya Rivera posing as she attends the 23rd Annual Race To Erase MS Gala in Beverly Hills, California.—AFP



US actor Johnny Depp arrives on the second day of his libel trial against News Group Newspapers (NGN), at the High Court in London.—AFP photos



Amber Heard, American actress and former wife of Hollywood actor Johnny Depp, waves as she arrives on the second day of a libel trial brought by Hollywood actor Johnny Depp against News Group Newspapers (NGN), at the High Court in London.

## Johnny Depp denies slapping ex-wife

**H**ollywood actor Johnny Depp on Wednesday denied claims that he slapped his ex-wife Amber Heard, as he faced a second day of questioning in his high-profile libel trial in London. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star is suing British tabloid The Sun for a 2018 article which claimed he was a "wife-beater". Both Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, were in court as lawyers for The Sun's publisher, News Group Newspapers (NGN), questioned him about allegations of violence during the couple's time together. NGN is disputing the claim for libel, and said there is "overwhelming evidence" that he attacked Heard while under the influence of drink and drugs between 2013 and 2016.

The couple first met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary", married in 2015 but divorced two years later. Lawyer Sasha Wass, representing NGN, put it to Depp that he had slapped Heard three times after she made fun of a "Wino Forever" tattoo on his arm in March 2013, when he was drinking heavily. "I'm sorry but that is not true, you are mistaken... I didn't hit Ms Heard," the actor replied. The tattoo originally read "Winona Forever" and referred to the actress Winona Ryder, with whom he had had a previous relationship. He changed it after they broke up.

### 'I never abused Heard': Depp

NGN is relying on 14 separate claims of domestic violence in its defence, all of which Depp denies. The case opened at the High Court on Monday with Depp insisting in a witness statement that had "never abused Ms Heard, or, indeed any other woman" in his life. He said Heard, an actress, was calculating, sociopathic, narcissistic and emotionally dishonest, with a diagnosed borderline personality disorder, and was intent on destroying his life. Much of the questioning has involved his drinking and drug-taking but he insisted he did not have a "nasty side" and lost control while under the influence, as Heard has asserted.

His legal team called Heard's allegations "complete lies". They said she was a "complex individual", prone to wild mood swings under a variety of prescription medication and other drugs. Rather than Depp being the perpetrator, she had subjected him to verbal and physical attacks, and he had had to defend himself on occasions, they argued. "He is not a wife-beater and never has been," his lawyer David Sherborne said. Depp maintains The Sun article, which was published despite a previous public denial of violence, had caused "significant reputational damage" to his career.—AFP

## Rock Hall of Fame to replace 2020 ceremony with broadcast special

**T**he Rock and Roll Hall of Fame said Wednesday it will replace its annual live performance induction ceremony for this year's nominees with a broadcast special in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The program—whose honorees include rapper The Notorious B.I.G. and pop icon Whitney Houston—will air on HBO on November 7, replacing the ceremony originally scheduled for May 2, which was postponed over the fast-spreading virus. The late legends are joined in 2020's class by the synth-pop act Depeche Mode and the industrial experimental group Nine Inch Nails, along with the 1970s rockers The Doobie Brothers and English glam rock band T-Rex.

"To protect the health and safety of our inductees, their families, crews and our attendees, we've made the decision that the scheduled live event is not possible," John Sykes, chairman of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, said in a statement. The 2021 induction ceremony is currently planned for the fall of that year in the Hall's home city, Cleveland.

The Notorious B.I.G.—widely considered one of the greatest rappers of all time—was inducted in his first year of eligibility, which comes 25 years after the release of an act's first commercial recording. The artist born Christopher Wallace and colloquially known as Biggie was murdered in 1997 in Los Angeles at age 24, in a still-murky shooting that some speculated was part of a feud between East Coast and West Coast rappers. Houston, the most awarded female artist of all time, died at age 48 in 2012 after a public struggle with drugs, following a decade that saw her go from America's sweetheart to tabloid drama queen.

The induction of Houston and Biggie mark a continuation of the institution's broadening acceptance of a variety of genres into its ranks. Recent classes have included the rapper Tupac Shakur, Radiohead and Janet Jackson. The organization founded in the early 1980s has faced criticism over the years, however, for its lack of diversity and limited recognition of women.—AFP



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP