

# Grand Theft Auto: finger flexes keep 90-year-old gamer console-ready

Every day, 90-year-old Japanese grandma Hamako Mori flexes her fingers to keep them nimble. Not for knitting or needlepoint, but to keep them in shape for playing video games. The pensioner known as "Gamer Grandma" spends three or more hours a day battling monsters and going on missions in the virtual worlds of her favourite games, and even has a popular YouTube channel for her fans. "I'm passionate about playing games every day," the white-haired widow told AFP in an interview conducted by videochat. "Every day is an enjoyable day," she said, describing eviscerating on-screen foes as a fantastic stress reliever. Mori cuts an elegant, mild-mannered figure, with her hair pulled back into a ponytail and a pair of large glasses perched on her nose.

She begins the videos she posts on her YouTube channel with a friendly "Konichiwa" and a bow. But her grandmotherly demeanour disappears when she plays, transformed into a gun-toting character in Call of Duty or a sword-wielding android in NieR: Automata. Mori, who lives in Chiba, southeast of Tokyo with her family, holds a Guinness World Record certifying her as the world's oldest gaming YouTuber. "She always gets into the games," her only grandchild, 43-year-old Keisuke Nagao,

told AFP. "I think she is slightly different. Ordinary old people are not so enthusiastic about video games as she is."

### 300,000 YouTube fans

Mori isn't new to the gaming world, and has played some 200 titles since she took up the hobby some four decades ago. Her first console was a Cassette Vision, which she bought in 1981 after being intrigued by her children's obsession with gaming. "I discovered that there was this fascinating thing that existed in the world," she said. She has played most of the gaming world's smash hits including "Super Mario Brothers", "Dragon Quest", "Final Fantasy" and "Call of Duty", and admits to sometimes staying up until 2am when she is sucked into a session. Her favourite games include action-adventure series "Grand Theft Auto" and popular fantasy role-playing game "Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim". "You can do whatever you want to" in a game, she said, describing them as a "motivation in life."

Mori usually plays alone at home, but launched a YouTube channel in 2014 to connect with other gamers. She posts new videos filmed by her grandson three or four times a month and has attracted 300,000 subscribers and millions of views with content featuring her gaming



This handout photo shows 90-Year-old Hamako Mori, dubbed Japan's "Gamer Grandma", holding a video game controller in Matsudo, Chiba prefecture.—AFP

but also showing her daily life. "It's fun being watched by a lot of people, rather than playing alone," she said of her "Gamer Grandma" channel. Among her videos is one showing her blowing out candles on a cake to celebrate her 90th

birthday with her family. Another features her "unboxing" a brand-new PlayStation console. At 90, Mori is fighting fit, but she says some state-of-the-art games require agile hand motions that can prove challenging. "It's getting hard. It really is,"

she said, describing exercises she does with her fingers and hands every day to keep herself game-ready.

### 'Better than doing nothing!'

But she has no intention of giving up gaming. "I won't put it down just because it's difficult... It's better than doing nothing!" And she hopes with practice she can improve further. "I want to play well no matter how old I am," she said. "I want to continue as long as possible." Mori is something of an evangelist for video games, and encourages other older people to get into gaming, or find other hobbies that keep them going. "It doesn't have to be video games necessarily. But it's good to do something," said Mori, who swam regularly until the age of 80 and still knits.

And while Mori said she understands concerns about video game addiction, particularly among young people, she pointed out that gaming may have helped many survive lockdowns over the coronavirus. "It's safer to play at home, rather than going out," she said. For now, Mori is eagerly awaiting the release of the PlayStation 5, due to hit shops later this year. "It's seriously preoccupying me," she said. "I want one. I really do."—AFP

## CPS: It was 'right' to prosecute Caroline Flack

Caroline Flack was "right" to be prosecuted, after it was claimed she was facing a "show trial" before her death. The 'Love Island' television presenter tragically took her own life earlier this year, after finding out the Crown Prosecution Service was going to pursue a trial, which saw her charged with assault by beating following an alleged fight at her home in December with Lewis Burton, which she plead not guilty to. And now Ed Beltrami, Chief Prosecutor of London North, has defended his decision to continue to prosecute Caroline. He said: "You've got to do what you think is right. You cannot do what you think is popular ... You don't just fold at the first sign of trouble. The fact the victim doesn't want to know ... you've got to look at whether you can prosecute without the support of the victim. Domestic abuse is a separate category by itself - [with a] high risk of the offending escalating. The guy phoned the police, he was terrified he

was going to be killed. He's been hit over the head with a lamp, he's got a cut to his head, and she's made an admission to the police at the scene. In the principles of domestic abuse you say, 'I'm going to proceed without the victim because I've got the admission, I've got the complaint from the victim which I'll try to get in, I've got the evidence of the cut to the head and the mess in the flat which has been filmed by the police.'" And Beltrami insists he had no idea Caroline would decide to tragically take her own life. He added to Wales on Sunday: "But obviously when you make that decision to proceed with the case you have absolutely no idea the defendant is going to take her own life. You can't possibly anticipate that sort of thing."



## Aniston donates \$1m to fight racism

Jennifer Aniston has donated \$1 million to fight racism amidst the Black Lives Matter movement. The 'Friends' star has donated to Color Of Change to help support the movement after the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper: "Like most people, Jen has been deeply affected by what is going on in America and the terrible injustice that people of colour experience every day. She wanted to show her support, and has donated a big sum to the charity she felt resonated with her the most. The link is on her Instagram page so her fans can also donate." Jennifer previously admitted the week had been "heartbreaking" as she spoke out about racism and justice. Calling for people to donate to charities to support communities experiencing racism, she wrote on her Instagram page: "This week has been heartbreaking for so many reasons. We need to acknowledge that the racism and brutality in this country has been going on for a long time - and it's NEVER been okay. As allies, who want equality and peace, it's our responsibility to make noise, to demand justice, to educate ourselves on these issues, and more than anything, to spread love. How much more time are we willing to let pass without change? HOW MUCH MORE TIME? (sic)" Jennifer also shared a black square on her Instagram account earlier this week to coincide with Blackout Tuesday. She captioned it: "Black lives matter. #blackouttuesday (sic)"



## David Beckham to launch his own cooking show

David Beckham is reportedly in talks to launch his own cooking show. The 45-year-old star has held discussions with the BBC and Netflix about the prospect of creating a cooking show - which would be developed by his company Studio 99 - having furthered his culinary skills during lockdown with the help of his daughter Harper, eight. A source told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "One of the unintended benefits of lockdown for David has been the opportunity to do what he loves most - baking. 'He's been recreating some of his mum's old recipes, and got a load of pots and pans for his birthday recently.'" The retired soccer star - who is married to designer Victoria Beckham - has already taken advice from his showbiz pal Gordon Ramsay about the proposed project. On the other hand, broadcasters are said to be keen to work with more sportspeople following the success of the

basketball documentary 'The Last Dance', which has been a huge hit on Netflix. The insider explained: "David's also used this time to really focus on Studio 99, and initially chatted to Gordon about the pair doing an Instagram Live. 'He's seen how well Gordon has done with his own cookery shows and his Studio Ramsay production company, and Gordon's given him some great advice. 'Series like 'The Last Dance' on Netflix - about basketball player Michael Jordan - have made networks including the BBC keen to talk to sportspeople. 'The appetite is there for someone like David. Plus he comes with a huge social media presence which, in this day and age, is basically free advertising.'" Studio 99 was originally created to produce documentaries, shows and other formats, and David is already committed to star in some of the projects that are currently in development.



## Rose McGowan has finally found peace in her life

The 'Charmed' star was one of the first women to accuse Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault when she alleged in 2017 that he had raped her in 1997, and after the disgraced movie mogul was found guilty of third-degree rape and a first-degree criminal sexual act earlier this year, she's hugely relieved to know he can't "hurt" her anymore. She told OK! magazine: "The feeling of peace has come. This person can't hurt me anymore. He was a one-man wrecking crew. He destroyed so many lives. 'Thank God the jury saw through that old fashioned slut-shaming.'" After he was found guilty, he said, 'I can't believe this happened in America.' It was the first time I ever agreed with him." Rose was in "utter shock" when the guilty verdict came through because she expected the producer to walk away. Asked how she felt about the verdict, she said: "I was in utter shock. The cases they tried in Manhattan were the weakest cases they had I think Harvey thought he was going to get off because of that. That's why he was sleeping through testimony. 'One of his core victims was having a full breakdown and he slept through it.'" The 46-year-old actress has previously spoken of her belief that people were being paid to "terrorise" her and she's admitted the pressure got so bad, she fled to a

retirement complex, where she had a "nervous breakdown. She said: "A year and a half ago, people were being paid to drive me insane and terrorise me and plant drugs. 'It was like I had spies following me, recording my life secretly. I had all this crazy pressure. I cracked at one point, after someone was hired to terrorise me at a book signing. 'I hid at a retirement community in Florida, among a bunch of senior citizens, and I had a nervous breakdown there. 'I learned that you can survive your brain breaking and you can put it back together. What I have now is a peace that can't be bought - and I didn't have that before. Ever.'"



## Lisa Kudrow's son is 'not a fan' of her work

The former 'Friends' star - who has 22-year-old Julian with husband Michel Stern - doesn't often talk about her work with Julian and is happy to keep it that way, as she wants their relationship to be purely familial. Asked what Julian makes of the 'Friends' phenomenon, she said: "We don't talk about it a lot. He's been thrilled about certain things I've done but he's not a fan of mine and I don't want him to be. I want him to be my son. He should hold me accountable for parental things." Lisa thinks she and Michael "lucked out" in parenthood because Julian is "so great". She told OK! magazine: "He's unbelievably great. We lucked out. I try to advise him about girls and then I realise I probably don't know what I'm talking about." The 'Space Force' actress has found one "sad thing" about parenthood is she stopped finding certain TV shows and films funny. She said: "Motherhood changed everything. I remember thinking, 'Nothing else is ever going to be as important as this. I get it.'" The sad thing is, a lot of things stopped being funny. There are a lot of movies and TV shows I can't watch any more. "I can't watch children getting hurt or doctor shows. 'Motherhood changed my sensitivity. But I loved 'The Crown'. I went through that

real fast." Meanwhile, Lisa is having a great time isolating at home amid the coronavirus pandemic. She said: "I talk to my dad about it a lot. He's like, 'I'm loving this isolation. How can anyone be bored?' I'm with my dad on this one. There's so much to do, so much to read, so much to watch. I potter around and keep moving and exercising then I do the cleaning and the day goes so quickly."—Bang Showbiz

