



Environmental activist Rob Greenfield walks around Beverly Hills, wearing a suit filled with every piece of trash he has generated living and consuming like a typical American for one month to raise awareness about how much garbage just one person generates. — AFP photos



Environmental activist Rob Greenfield walks around Beverly Hills.

What a waste: US campaigner wears his trash for a month

We all know someone with a rubbish fashion sense, but Rob Greenfield is proud to be wearing garbage—it's all part of a plan to show just how much trash we unthinkingly throw away every month. The campaigner is wandering the streets of Los Angeles and surrounding cities in a specially designed suit that holds all of the junk he has produced over the last few weeks. "For most of us, trash is out of sight, out of mind," he told AFP on the swanky shopping streets of Beverly Hills. "We throw it in the garbage can and it goes away and we never think about it again. I wanted to create a visual that helps people to really see how much our trash adds up."

With just a few days left to go in his challenge, Greenfield is wearing around 62 pounds (28 kilograms) of rubbish generated from the drinks, snacks and meals he has consumed. All of it is packed in his clear plastic suit, with specially constructed pockets on the arms, legs and back.

The legs are already bulging with cans that clatter and restrict his ability to walk, adding to the overall impression of a robot made of junk. "It was about day 12 that I started to really feel the burden of con-



Environmental activist Rob Greenfield talks to customers in a Starbucks in Beverly Hills.

sumerism," he said, noting that the average person in the US creates around five pounds of waste per day. "I really started to feel the weight and see the visual and just say 'wow, it's astounding how much our trash really adds up.'"

Greenfield, who prides himself on living a minimalist life with only a handful of pos-

sessions, no bank account and no driving license, is no stranger to stunts aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues. In 2019, he fed himself for a whole year on food he grew and harvested himself. But for the purpose of the trash suit, he decided to put aside the asceticism and consume like the average American



Environmental activist Rob Greenfield eats a breakfast sandwich while walking around Beverly Hills.

for 30 days.

The sight of a man wearing garbage as he wanders through upmarket parts of one of America's most avowedly consumerist cities raises some eyebrows, but, he says, most people are interested in learning more. "There are some people who think I'm someone who's experienc-

ing homelessness or that I have a mental health issue, but for the most part, people have just been very positive. "People can understand this message and it helps me to really reach people from all walks of life." — AFP

Tom Cruise receives honorary Palme as 'Top Gun' jets into Cannes

Tom Cruise received an honorary Palme d'Or and gushed about his passion for cinema as he made his first visit in 30 years to the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday for the launch of "Top Gun: Maverick". The French Air Force display team streaked across the sky over the red carpet as the stars headed into the screening for the long-awaited sequel to Cruise's superstar-making 1986 blockbuster.

The movie was supposed to premiere at the French Riviera film fest back in 2020 before it was cancelled by the COVID pandemic and the film's release delayed multiple times. Cruise was adamant it was worth waiting for cinemas to be back in full swing, and said he never considered releasing "Top Gun: Maverick" via a streaming platform.

"That was not going to happen, ever," he told a Cannes audience in a talk ahead of the premiere. "I make movies for the big screen. Cinema is my love,



US actor Tom Cruise receives a Palme d'Or d'honneur (honor Palme d'Or) ahead of the screening of the film 'Top Gun: Maverick' during the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

my passion. I always go to movies when they come out. I'll put my cap on and sit in the audience with everyone." Fans lined balconies and stood on roofs along the Cannes seafront to catch a glimpse of the stars, while others held up signs begging for a last-minute ticket to the screening.

'No to war'

Earlier, the festival's main competition got going with a movie from Russian dissident Kirill Serebrennikov, who has been forced into exile since the invasion of Ukraine. His entry in the race for the Palme d'Or, "Tchaikovsky's Wife", is unlikely to improve his standing with the Kremlin given that it shines a light on the legendary composer's homosexuality—a story that remains taboo for Russian conservatives. "No to war," he said after the premiere.

"I am totally convinced that culture and people of culture can help ensure that this war ends," added the director, who was unable to attend the festival for two previous nominations due to a controversial court case that barred him from leaving Russia. The war has already been a major theme at the festival, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky making a surprise video appearance at the opening ceremony on Tuesday. There will be a special screening on Thursday of "Mariupolis 2", a documentary about the conflict by Lithuanian director Mantas Kvedaravicius, who was killed in Ukraine last month—reportedly by Russian forces. Ukraine's beleaguered film-makers will get a special day at the festival and one of its most promising directors, Sergei Loznitsa, will show "The Natural History of Destruction", about the bombing of German cities in World War II.

'Emotional wallop'

Meanwhile, Cruise's fight is to boost cinemas as they struggle to emerge from the pandemic. His 39 films as a lead actor have pulled in just shy of \$8.5 billion (8 billion euros) worldwide, and Box Office Pro estimates "Top Gun: Maverick" could add as much as \$390 million in the United States alone. Critics have been mostly giddy in their reviews, with Empire magazine praising its "slick visuals, crew camaraderie, thrilling aerial action, a surprising emotional wallop and, in Tom Cruise, a magnetic movie-star performance as comforting as an old leather jacket".

The Cannes Film Festival continues to be a popular launchpad for big budget spectacles, with industry insiders noting that its new sponsor TikTok has added another level of social media buzz this year. Cruise received his surprise honorary Palme as he entered the theatre for Wednesday's screening.

He was last in Cannes in 1992 for the premiere of "Far and Away" with his then-wife Nicole Kidman, and is the only Hollywood megastar of that era to have maintained his box office power, even as he prepares to turn 60 this year. "In the history of cinema... he has one of the highest success rates," festival director Thierry Fremaux said. "This is someone that we haven't seen on streaming platforms, TV series, or doing adverts.... He is someone who is devoted to cinema." — AFP



Married couple land record UK lottery jackpot of £185 million

A married couple from western England were revealed Thursday as Britain's biggest-ever lottery winners after scooping a jackpot of nearly £185 million (\$230 million, 218 million euros) in the EuroMillions draw. Joe and Jess Thwaite, from Gloucester, called the unprecedented win "huge for us" as they claimed the record-breaking sum of £184,262,899 with a ticket of randomly selected numbers earlier this month.

"It was amazing but also surreal," said Joe, 49, who works at a communications company, at a press conference with his wife as they recounted the momentous moment they discovered online their May 10 win. "I looked at the amount. I put the phone down and I picked the phone up again and I looked at the amount again!" The early-riser somehow contained his excitement enough to let his wife keep sleeping until her alarm sounded—and then relayed the news.

"He was like, 'I've got a secret to tell you'," recalled Jess, 44. "I was like 'don't be stupid!'," she said, adding they initially thought it was a joke and "obviously wrong". The couple, like many other Britons, have been struggling through the country's growing cost-of-living crisis and plan to share their newly-amassed fortune with friends and family. "This is an amazing thing that's happened to us, and this means it's an amazing thing that's happened to our family and we want to share that with them," said Jess, who runs a hair salon with her mother and sister. — AFP



US actor Greg Tarzan Davis (left), US actress Keleigh Sperry, US editor Linda Bruckheimer, US actor and producer Tom Cruise (center), US actress Jennifer Connelly and Cannes Film Festival director Thierry Fremaux look at the French air force's aerobatic unit "Patrouille de France", flying over the Festival Palace, as they arrive for the screening of the film "Top Gun: Maverick" during the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov poses during a photocall for the film 'Tchaikovsky's Wife (Zhena Chaikovskogo)' at the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP