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### Summary



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**ITUNES REVIEW 64** 

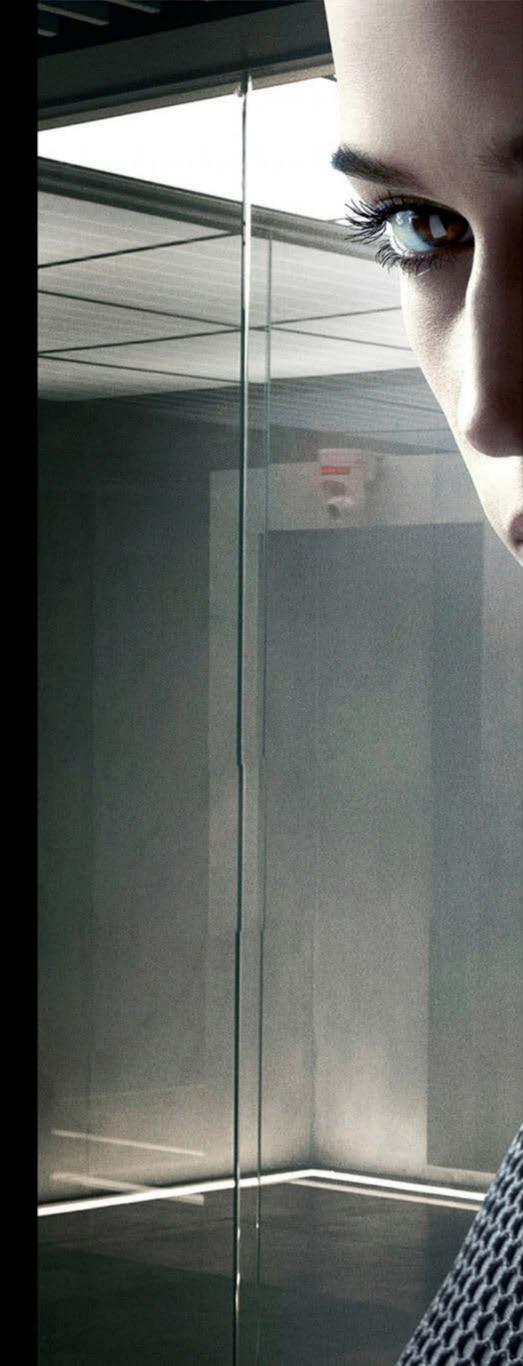
#### Review: A Visionary Sci-Fi Thriller is Born in 'Ex Machina'

Cinema has always been fascinated by androids. From "Metropolis" to "Blade Runner," the juxtaposition of humans next to their artificial form has provided endless hours of stories that can be as exhilarating as they are poignant. Tough moral questions about consciousness and humanity go down easier when hidden under the glossy sheen of genre, after all.

With so many now-classics preceding it, "Ex Machina" might seem like just the latest flavor in the android movie shop. And yet, without necessarily expanding on this well-trod territory or innovating contemporary science-fiction, by going deep on a simple construct, "Ex Machina" establishes itself as a unique and deeply unsettling psychological thriller that's both necessary and unforgettable.

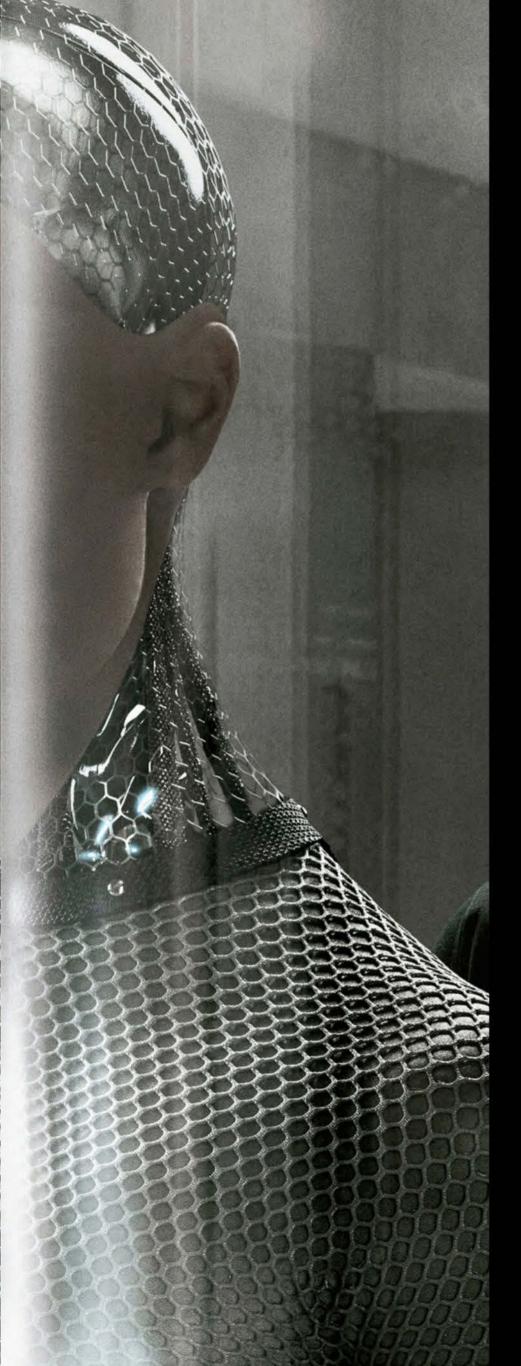
The construct in question: How good is this android?

Writer-director Alex Garland in his feature debut tells the story with basically only three characters: Caleb (Domhnall Gleeson), the sharp programmer whose life is upended to









spend a few days in a remote location with his company's billionaire CEO and brilliant recluse, Nathan (Oscar Isaac); and Nathan's creation, Ava (Alicia Vikander).

Caleb thinks he's won a prize and a retreat with a genius. It's only when he arrives that Nathan tells him his real purpose is to advise Nathan on whether or not Ava passes the human or machine test.

Nathan's home embodies the modern design ideal of organic architecture and he and Caleb discuss Ava as Schubert and Bach play faintly in the background. Big, fascinating ideas fly around at rapid speed, but "should" does not seem to be in their vocabulary.

Garland builds a subtle tension by making everything slightly off, from the concrete, bunker-like bedrooms, to the occasional power-outages and the militaristic security methods. Caleb is never at ease and, as the audience's window into this strange world, neither are we.

A big reason for that is Nathan. Sure, the dorky Caleb is supposed to be intellectually disarmed by the fact that Nathan created the world's most powerful search engine as a teenager. But Isaac, with his shaved head, thick black beard and burly but fit physique, is an intimidating physical presence as well. He's a bruiser, a genius, and a charismatic eccentric who spends his days boxing and his nights getting blind drunk alone.

Isaac, who is quickly proving himself to be one of the greats of his generation, plays Nathan as a celebrity of sorts - the kind who is always requesting that the other person just be more "real," which usually has the opposite effect.

But it's really Ava's film. Her form, too, is distracting. Her body, made of caged metal and fiber optics, though interesting and perfectly curved, is secondary to the face - the only visually human aspect to her.





Her innocent beauty, perfect expressiveness, and surprising wit even make Caleb question whether Nathan is using her loveliness to muddle judgment (i.e. the magician's assistant).

"Did you program her to flirt with me," Caleb asks self-consciously at one point.

As the test progresses and Ava starts to resemble not an experiment but a prisoner, things get more complicated and motives, all around, become fuzzier. Then, "Ex Machina" elegantly transitions away from a theatrical exercise in discourse into a tense thriller with gripping twists and haunting turns right up to the conclusion.

Perverse and provocative, "Ex Machina" is a cult classic in the making.

"Ex Machina," an A24 release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for graphic nudity, language, sexual references and some violence." Running time: 108 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

MPAA definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.





A vigilante hacker, an invasion of Los Angeles and a doctor who gets into a gun battle with gang members are featured in dramas due to appear on a grittier USA network within the next year.

The general-interest cable network, trying to halt a decline in ratings, revealed programming plans with a marked shift away from the lighter procedural fare of "Monk," "Psych" and "Burn Notice" of a few years back. USA is turning to darker and, its executives clearly hope, more buzzworthy shows with ongoing stories.

Two will begin in June: "Mr. Robot," a hacker drama that features Rami Malek and Christian Slater, described as "The Social Network" meets "Fight Club." The drama "Complications" is about a suburban doctor who intervenes in a drive-by shooting, picking up a gun and firing back.

The more mysterious "Colony," due this fall, reunites "Lost" producer Carlton Cuse with star Josh Holloway for a show about fighting back in an occupied L.A. What exactly is occupying Los Angeles is unclear. Chris McCumber, USA president, said the network wanted to appeal more to millennials and "reflect the character and the spirit of the country as we see it."

"We want to find those unexpected heroes that bravely confront the odds and come out the other side in their own unique way," he said.

He'd also like to find more viewers. During the past year, USA has averaged 1.82 million viewers in prime-time, down from 2.9 million three years ago, according to the Nielsen company. Like many cable networks, USA is fighting for an audience in light of increased competition from gaming, Internet streams and other TV sources.

USA also seeks more buzz. The 1.82 million viewers of prime-time USA programs increases to 2.04 million when people who watch on DVRs, on demand or online within seven days are counted. That's a relatively small jump in today's television world; the first episode of "Mad Men" last









season was seen by 2.27 million people on its first night, and the audience swelled to 3.92 million after time-shifting within a week was added, Nielsen said.

Sam Esmail, creator of "Mr. Robot," said that he would not have expected USA to be interested in his intense thriller, given what he knew about its previous programming. He was concerned that USA executives would want to change his idea or otherwise compromise it.

But USA was more aggressive than other networks in seeking his show, which is a selection of the Tribeca Film Festival. He concluded that USA was at an interesting tipping point and intent upon changing its image.

"I feel lucky," Esmail said. "It's kind of an interesting opportunity. They're giving me as much control as I want on my show."

USA's package of programs under development include a comic book adventure, a soldier recruited into a world of crime, a dystopian drama and a show about friends getting into the legal cannabis business in Colorado. USA is also trying to increase live programming, and will pick up the WWE's "Smackdown" from SyFy next year. NHL playoff hockey will also be shown on USA.



### With a Wink to 'Twilight,' Kristen Stewart Speeds Forward

In "The Clouds of Sils Maria," Kristen Stewart's celebrity has been inverted. The paparazzi rush right past her.

She plays the efficient, constantly emailing assistant to Juliette Binoche's famed European actress. Reading tabloid stories about a Hollywood starlet (played by Chloe Grace Moretz), she shrugs: "It's celebrity news. It's fun." When she's running through possible roles for her boss, the former "Twilight" star describes one film as having werewolves "for some reason."

"I had to seriously harness the glee that was exploding across my face when I was saying some of those lines," Stewart said in an interview. "I don't think that's what the movie is fully about. It's not a commentary about the insane nature of the media in the States, especially. But no one knows about that more than me."

Stewart, 24, doesn't seem so much like she's fleeing her teen idol past as she's already long gone, maybe just glancing back, with a wink. "The Clouds of Sils Maria," directed by French filmmaker Olivier Assayas ("Carlos," "Summer Hours"), which opens in theaters April 10, is part of a string of recent and upcoming films Stewart has made in a headlong rush.

"I'm having more fun now than I ever have," says Stewart. "These movies go by (she snaps her fingers). We made `Camp X-Ray' in 20 days. It's just better when it's faster."

The frenetic pace is in stark contrast to the plodding demands of a five-film franchise like "Twilight." The movies now are largely independent, and the roles (like in "Sils Maria") are often supporting or part of an ensemble. She co-starred as Julianne Moore's daughter in "Still Alice" and played a Guantanamo guard in "Camp X-Ray." She's completed a science-fiction romance ("Equals"), a stoner thriller ("American Ultra") and a New York mugging drama ("Anesthesia"). She's been filming Kelly Reichardt's adaptation of Maile Meloy short stories, and she's to co-star in Woody Allen's next film.

"Because of the lack of expectation of any of these movies, there were no moments that people had read in a book that were the most important thing in their lives," she says, referring to her "Twilight" role. "I really let go."

Shew adds she's "gotten a lot better at trusting myself and not thinking that you need to use these nerves and crazy inertia to convince everyone on the set that you're legitimate."

Stewart's post-"Twilight" work reveals (or perhaps reminds) that her nature is less as a megawatt star than an actress bent on naturalism, instinct and inquisitiveness. She has basically returned to making much the same kind of indies she made outside of "Twilight": "Adventureland," "Welcome to the Rileys," "The Runaways." There's a distinct lack of preciousness in choosing projects or any evident career-building.

"All my favorite actors are not people that go off and make these characters that are iron-clad perfect," Stewart says. "I want to see people willing to go places they're not determining. You want to see the surprise in people's faces."









Assayas approached Stewart for "Clouds of Sils Maria" on the suggestion of producer Charles Gillibert, who had worked with Stewart on the Jack Kerouac adaption "On the Road," also a French production. Stewart says she never got the script ("and in their very French way they didn't call or ask or push"), so the role was cast for Mia Wasikowska. After Wasikowska dropped out, Stewart came aboard.

"It's really something that you have not seen her in," Assayas said at the Cannes Film Festival, where the film first premiered. "Kristen, whatever image one has of her, ultimately she's just a great actress by any standard."

She has certainly won the French over. In February, she became the first American actress to ever win a Cesar, France's top film award, for her performance in "Clouds of Sils Maria."

Of the actor-publicist relationship Stewart says: "It's always more complicated than: `Go get me water.'" Though she's playing a character on the opposite side of fame, it may be the role closest to Stewart herself.

"It's so not a departure. It's a world that I know so well and that I've observed so much of," Stewart says. "I really wasn't trying to be anyone else."

In person, Stewart seems to physically shrink, balled up in a defensive pose, her sleeves pulled over her hands. She never exactly loosens up, but she's animated when talking about her inspirations and her newfound creative freedom.

When asked about how "Twilight" changed her, Stewart rambles reluctantly on how it helped her realize she's an actor. But when it's pointed out that it sounds like "Twilight" is far from her thoughts, she quickly nods.

"Completely. I only have to think about that when someone asks me."





# Musical of 'Groundhog Day' Heading to Broadway

It's going to be "Groundhog Day" on Broadway. It's going to be "Groundhog Day" on Broadway.

A musical version of the story about an arrogant weather forecaster forced to live the same day over and over is slated to arrive in 2017, thanks to four creators of the hit "Matilda the Musical" - director Matthew Warchus, composer Tim Minchin, choreographer Peter Darling and set and costume design by Rob Howell. The story will be based on the 1993 film that starred Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell and Chris Elliot. The book will be by Danny Rubin, who co-wrote the screenplay with Harold Ramis. The producers are Whistle Pig Productions, Scott Rudin and Columbia Live Stage. No casting was announced. Previews will start in January 2017.

On his blog, Minchin said the musical is "going to be both instantly recognizable, and utterly different," adding: "It has the potential to be complex, dark, visually fascinating, and thematically rich, whilst still being a joyous romantic comedy with cool tunes and lots of gags." Turning films into successful stage musicals has been a tough task on Broadway, with recent failures including "Big Fish," "Bullets Over Broadway" and "Rocky." But hits include "Kinky Boots," "Once" and "Newsies."





>> The last word in shopping luxury

#### BUYERS OF \$17,000 TIMEPIECE TO BE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY

You might imagine that spending a bit more of your hard-earned money on a new watch would entitle you to a few perks above those who go for the budget option. What about when you spend as much as \$17,000 on that timepiece, and you're purchasing from nothing less than the world's most valuable company? That's the question that prospective Apple Watch Edition buyers are asking themselves - and they're in for a real treat.

Of course, it could be argued that those opting for the range-topping version of the Cupertino giant's hugely eagerly-awaited watch have more than enough fabulous features to get excited about. This is the variant, after all, with cases crafted from custom rose or yellow 18-karat gold alloys, claimed by Apple to boast twice the hardness of standard gold.

That's without reckoning with the protection given to the Retina display by polished sapphire crystal, or the choice of straps and bands distinguished by 18-karat gold clasps, buckles or pins. When the rest of the customary Apple Watch functionality is taken into account, it's hard to see how those queuing up for an Apple Watch Edition on the April 24 release date could have it any better... well, except for the fact that they won't be queuing at all, at least according to the latest reports.















#### NOT JUST ANOTHER APPLE STORE EXPERIENCE

One only needs to read how Apple has described the Watch Edition to its employees to realize how much it wants to mark it out from the variants of the timepiece for the hoi polloi. The Cupertino firm has referred to the Edition as "the ultimate expression of extraordinary craftsmanship, incredible innovation, and design driven by functionality and end use... technology becoming seductive, with desirability not necessarily defined simply by a price tag or elitism, but rather meticulous focus on usefulness and utility rooted in beauty."







This has led to the decision to set out a distinct purchasing path for the Edition that "is intended to be extremely personal, elegant, and purposeful." Fears of theft mean that prospective buyers will be permitted to try on no more than two different gold models at a time, and there will even be a special try-on station, including the kind of try-on mat that you might be familiar with from jewelry stores, together with a pair of stools for the customer and a demo kit that holds the Watches.

When the customer decides on the Edition that they would like to buy, they will be able to have it set-up with the same Expert in-store, or alternatively, via a new Virtual Personal Setup service that allows them to learn more about their new investment in the comfort of a home video conference with an online Apple Store staff member.

Buyers of the ordinary stainless steel Apple Watch will be able to access Virtual Personal Setup too, but only Edition customers will have an exclusive, dedicated, 24/7 technical support phone line at their beck and call for the first two years of ownership.



# **ÉWATCH**

### THREE APPLE WATCH SHOPS OPEN THEIR DOORS

A further indication of Apple's determination to make Watch Edition buyers feel a class apart is the fact that several dedicated Apple Watch stores-within-stores have already opened in London, Paris and Tokyo. Befittingly, all three are in high-end department stores - Selfridges, Galeries Lafayette and Isetan Shinkuku respectively.

Only viewings and sales of the smartwatch would seem to be catered for by the new locations, with those in need of support related to their \$17,000 investment still being

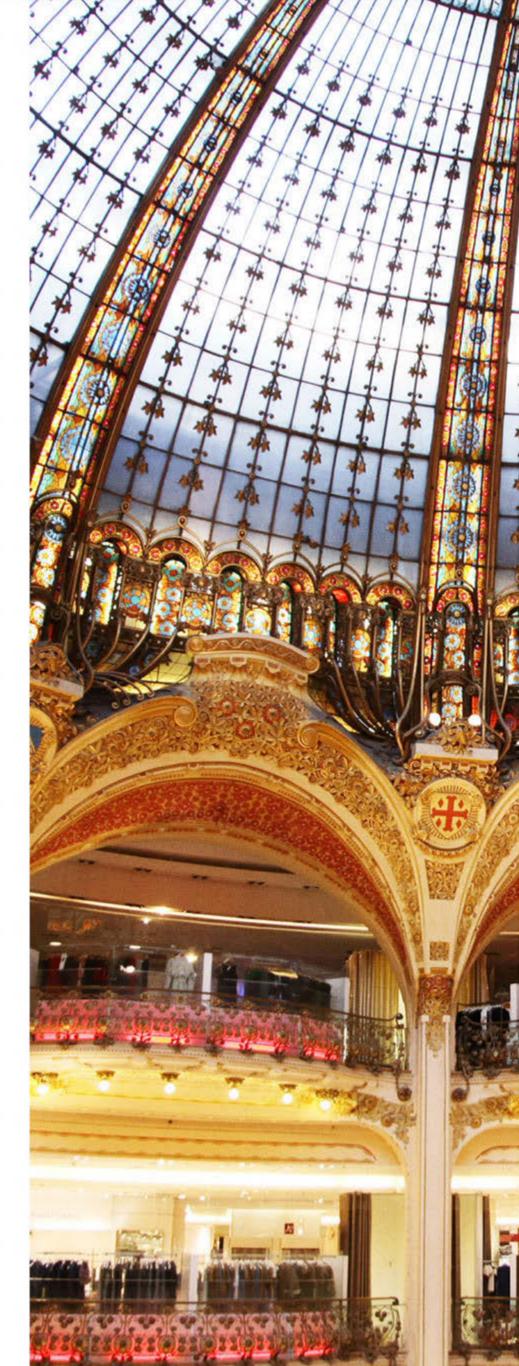
pointed towards other Apple retail stores. It has been reported that Apple has been recruiting from other London retail stores for its Selfridges shop, which can be found close to the entrance of the Wonder Room, the mammoth shopping mall that exhibits the offerings of various leading brands in luxury jewelry and watches.

Galeries Lafayette's Apple Watch section, meanwhile, will take up four balcony sections on the store's second floor, in what Apple has described as "a dramatic arched setting". An entire mall location will be reserved for the Tokyo display, a fixture seemingly there to stay.

Such stores certainly make impressive backdrops on which to check out the Watch and be matched with the best model, in readiness for the big release date of April 24, when the device will be obtainable in not just the United States, but also the United Kingdom, Australia, China, Canada, Germany, France, Hong Kong and Japan.

#### A NEW, YET OLD STRATEGY FOR APPLE

Such approaches that Apple has adopted for its eagerly anticipated wearable show that its head honchos really do want to achieve the ultimate marriage between jewelry and technology. What's more, it looks set to achieve this through a savvy strategy, including intelligent pricing and treating the highest-end customers like they would expect to be treated by any other watch seller.



















# Price is Right' Model Apologizes for \$21,960 Mistake

"The Price is Right" model Manuela Arbelaez thought she would have to come on down to the unemployment line after she mistakenly revealed the price of a new car on the game show.

The 26-year-old model said in an interview Friday that she lost her train of thought while exposing the answers to "Five Price Tags," a game that involves correctly choosing a vehicle's value among five oversized tags. Arbelaez accidently unmasked the correct \$21,960 price after the contestant's first pick, even though the participant still had two more chances to guess.

"It was a brain fart," said Arbelaez. "I just zoned out. I literally did not see that coming. My body took over and reacted before my brain had a chance to stop it."

The goof brought Arbelaez to tears and sent "Price is Right" host Drew Carey into a giggle fit.

"Congratulations, Manuela just gave you a car,"
Carey told the contestant. The clip of Arbelaez's
unexpected exposure made the social media
rounds online after the episode aired Thursday.
Arbelaez joked about her flub on Twitter, but she
said Friday that it wasn't a laughing matter for her
during production of that episode.





"We took a commercial break, and I was still very overwhelmed," said Arbelaez. "I was in tears. I thought, `Well, this is it.' I asked the producers, `Am I going to be fired?' They started laughing and told me of course I wouldn't be fired."

Arbelaez, who has been showcasing prizes on "The Price is Right" for six years, has been surprised by the attention her blunder has garnered. The clip on the show's official YouTube channel has received more than 3 million views.

"It's been overwhelming, in a good way," Arbelaez said. "I knew I was going to get a couple of tweets and videos with my name tagged on it, but this has gone viral. It's amazing how people reacted. It's been very positive. Everyone has been so nice and supportive."

Arbelaez said she wasn't reprimanded for the error, and \$21,960 wasn't deducted from her paycheck. She noted that there have been many model mishaps over the show's 43 seasons.

"There was an occasion when a girl crashed a car into Door 3 and another gave away a trip to Disneyland," Arbelaez recalled. "There have been small things like that over the years, but I think my mistake was the most expensive in the history of the show."

Arbelaez hasn't played "Five Price Tags" since her gaffe. She said the next time she's manning those giant price tags, she'll reveal the answers extremely slowly and double-check each guess with Carey.

"I guess at some point in our `Price is Right' careers, we're all going to make mistakes, and it was my time that day," Arbelaez reflected. "I probably would've died if that happened within the first year of me working on the show. In a weird way, I'm kind of glad it happened now."

Online:

http://www.priceisright.com





## Youtube Star Michelle Pahn Branches out with Icon Network

Even First Lady Michelle Obama has asked YouTube star Michelle Phan for beauty advice.

"She asked me what kind of powder I liked," Phan recalled in a recent interview. She traveled to Tokyo last month with Mrs. Obama as part of her "Let Girls Learn" campaign, which encourages education around the world.

Phan, 27, herself has made a career out of sharing her beauty tips. She began by posting makeup tutorials on YouTube in 2007, just two years after the video site was founded, and today has 7.5 million subscribers. She has a subscription makeup business called Ipsy ("with more than 100 employees and we're going to be making over \$100 million this year," says Phan). Now, she's launching her own online network of original content called ICON. It features other female Web personalities hand-picked by Phan, who share tips on everything from fashion and beauty to DIY projects.

ICON, available on YouTube, its own app and with plans for Roku and other streaming platforms, is now available in the U.S. and United Kingdom with plans to expand to Asia in the next few months. "We're platform agnostic," said Phan. "We'll go wherever our audience is."





Phan recently chatted with eNews Magazine about ICON, keeping up with technology and the pressures to post. Answers have been edited for length.

eNews Magazine: Some people are intimidated by all the different apps and social media sites like Facebook and SnapChat out there. Are you? Or do you see it as opportunity?

Michelle Phan: I celebrate newness! It's incredible what the internet has done to widen the market space not only in production but entertainment, education and media. I really believe in the digital revolution. The industrial revolution jumpstarted our economy. Now we're entering into the digital revolution where this will really change our economy.

eNews Magazine: Your YouTube popularity has given you a following, and I'm sure that means possible dollar signs to businesses and other brands. Has it been difficult deciding what the right fit is when choosing partnerships?

Phan: I've had times where I've partnered with someone who wasn't right for me at the time. It all comes with experience. Failure is part of the process.

eNews Magazine: You've managed to stand out among the millions who post videos online or are trying to build a following. Not everyone would share their secret to success. Why are you giving others a platform on ICON?

Phan: The internet has widened the marketplace so much that you can really own a market that's niche. I have a niche market, and I have millions of followers who subscribe to my channel or who buy my products. I really believe there's no competition online because you can really own a market that's very specific to you.

eNews Magazine: What's the one biggest mistake made by people who want to become an internet personality?





Phan: The first mistake is they want to do it for money. People forget the internet is open 24/7. There's a lot of pressure to maintain and upload on a constant basis so if you're not passionate you're going to burn out really fast.

eNews Magazine: Have you ever been burned out?

Phan: Yeah, but that was mostly because I was stretched really thin. A beauty company wanted me to make 10 videos and a jewelry company wanted me to make videos. Everyone wanted a video from me. People often times see me as talent which is fine but what I'm very good at is strategy and marketing.

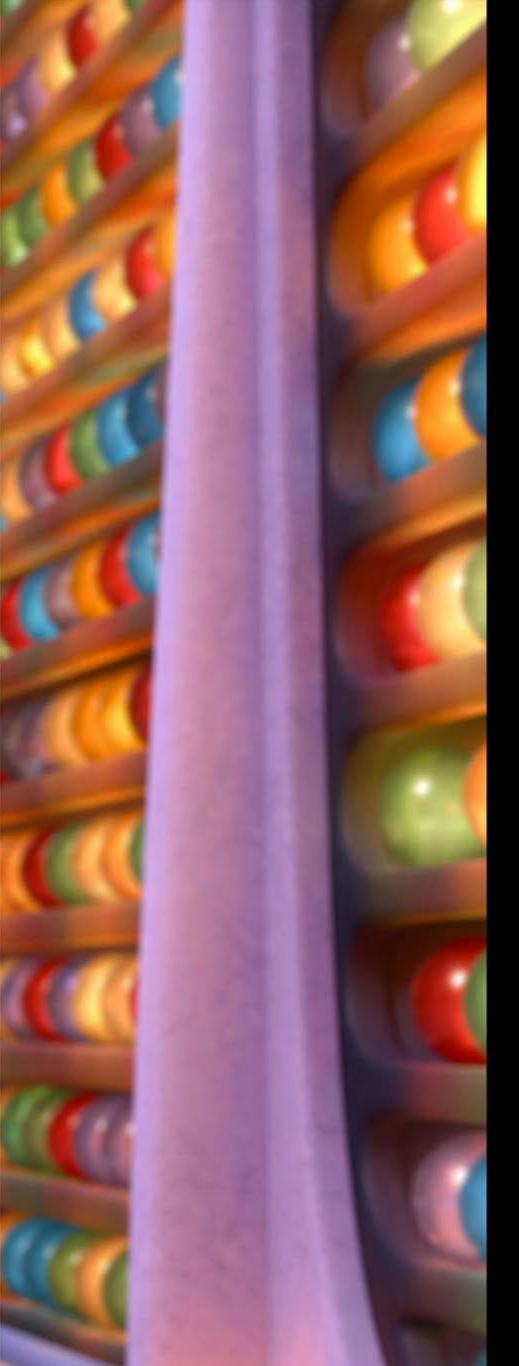
eNews Magazine: Have you become careful about what you say you like because it becomes an endorsement when you're a public figure?

Phan: No, I'm very authentic with what I like. I keep it real with what I'm using and where I'm buying it from.

eNews Magazine: Would you ever charge to view your content?

Phan: It depends. If it's content people are already watching for free, no. We have to understand that we're in a generation where people either want things for free, or they'll watch with ads or to pay a very low cost.





# Pixar Gets Emotional With Film 51/2 Years in The Making

Fear, anger, disgust, sadness and joy have taken over Pixar headquarters, and things are going great.

The Oscar-winning animation studio is celebrating the completion of "Inside Out," a film that features each of those emotions as personified characters controlling operations inside in a little girl's head. Sculptures, sketches, paintings and other concept art from the film 5 1/2 years in the making fills a gallery at the studio's resort-like headquarters in Northern California. Some 350 artists and technicians collaborated under the direction of Pete Docter ("Up," "Monsters, Inc.") to bring the imaginative adventure to life.

"Inside Out" tells a story of two worlds - the external, human world and the internal landscape of the mind - and how they influence one another. As 11-year-old Riley navigates the human world, including a move from her native Minnesota to San Francisco, her mind's staff of emotions handle her internal goings-on.



Joy (Amy Poehler) was the de facto leader of the emotion team, but when she and Sadness (Phyllis Smith) get lost deep in the recesses of Riley's subconscious, Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black) and Disgust (Mindy Kaling) are left in charge. Joy and Sadness, with the help of a character named Bing Bong, must bridge their differences to ensure Riley's happiness and the ongoing development of her personality - heady territory for an animated, family film.

With the project recently completed, Docter and producer Jonas Rivera invited reporters to Pixar to explain why "Inside Out" was so time-consuming.



Animated movies typically take longer than live action to produce because everything has to be built - not only the sets and costumes but the characters and cameras.

On this film, though, the artists had to create entire worlds.

"Inside Out" started with an idea from Docter inspired by his daughter, who'd gone from an outgoing, happy kid to a quiet, sullen pre-teen. He imagined a story set inside a little girl's mind that explored what went on in there.

His team met with neuroscientists and psychologists to learn some basics about emotion, memory and mind function.

Then it was up to the story artists to develop characters based on that information, conceptualize how they should look and act and come up with a script. Meanwhile, production designer Ralph Eggleston was dreaming up what the world of mind and personality might look like.

"It was an intellectual idea we had to conceptualize," he said. "The biggest challenge was what is the mind?"

Filming comes next, before animation, inverting the familiar lights-camera-action formula.

"In animation, it's camera, action, lights," said director of photography Patrick Lin.

Animators - a team of 45 in the case of "Inside Out" - give expression and personality to the characters. It takes about a week to produce three seconds of animation, said directing animator Jamie Roe.

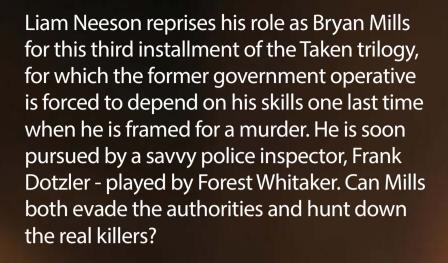
Lighting comes last, and it functions like a cinematographer would on a live-action film, shaping the shot and directing the eye, said lighting artist Angela Reisch. Like animation, lighting each scene is a painstaking process, and artists can complete only a few shots a week.

The film is set for release June 19.



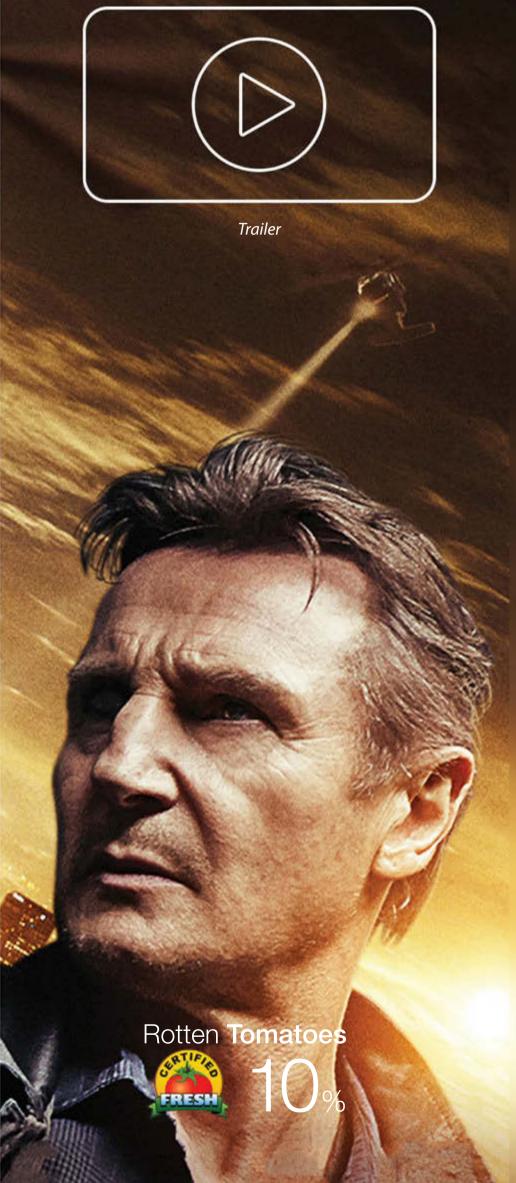


### Taken 3 (Unrated)



#### **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** Taken 3 follows 2008's Taken and 2012's Taken 2.
- **2.** Other cast members include Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Dougray Scott, Sam Spruell and Leland Orser.
- 3. Neeson had once suggested that the chances of a third Taken were minimal.
- **4.** Principal photography took place in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Covington, Georgia.
- **5.** The film was scored by French composer Nathaniel Méchaly.





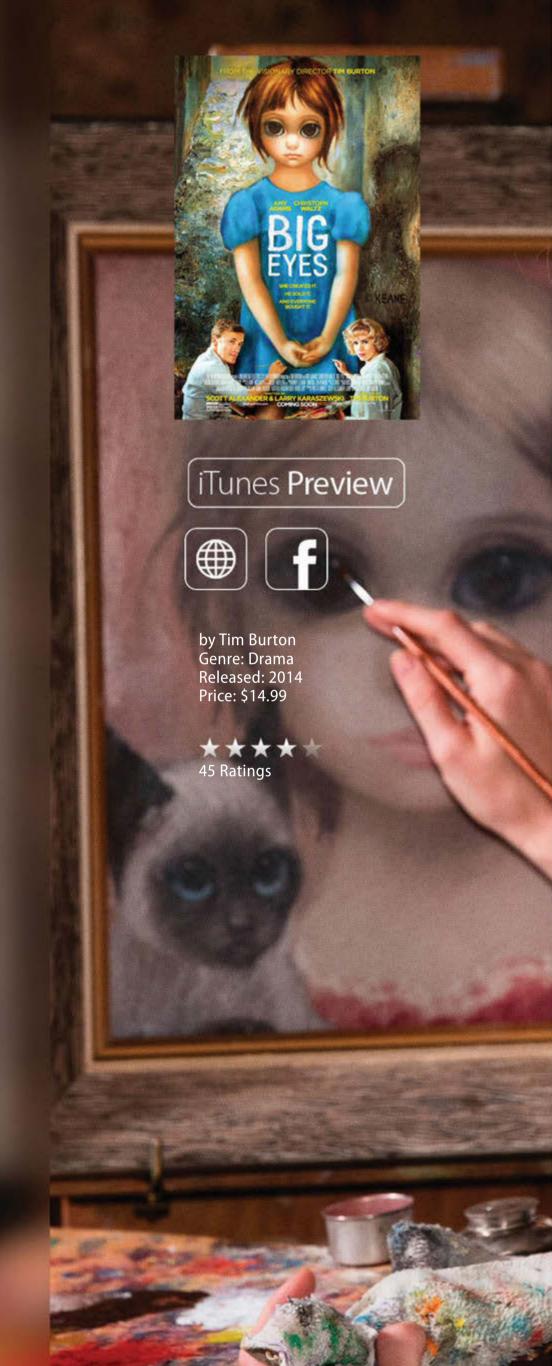


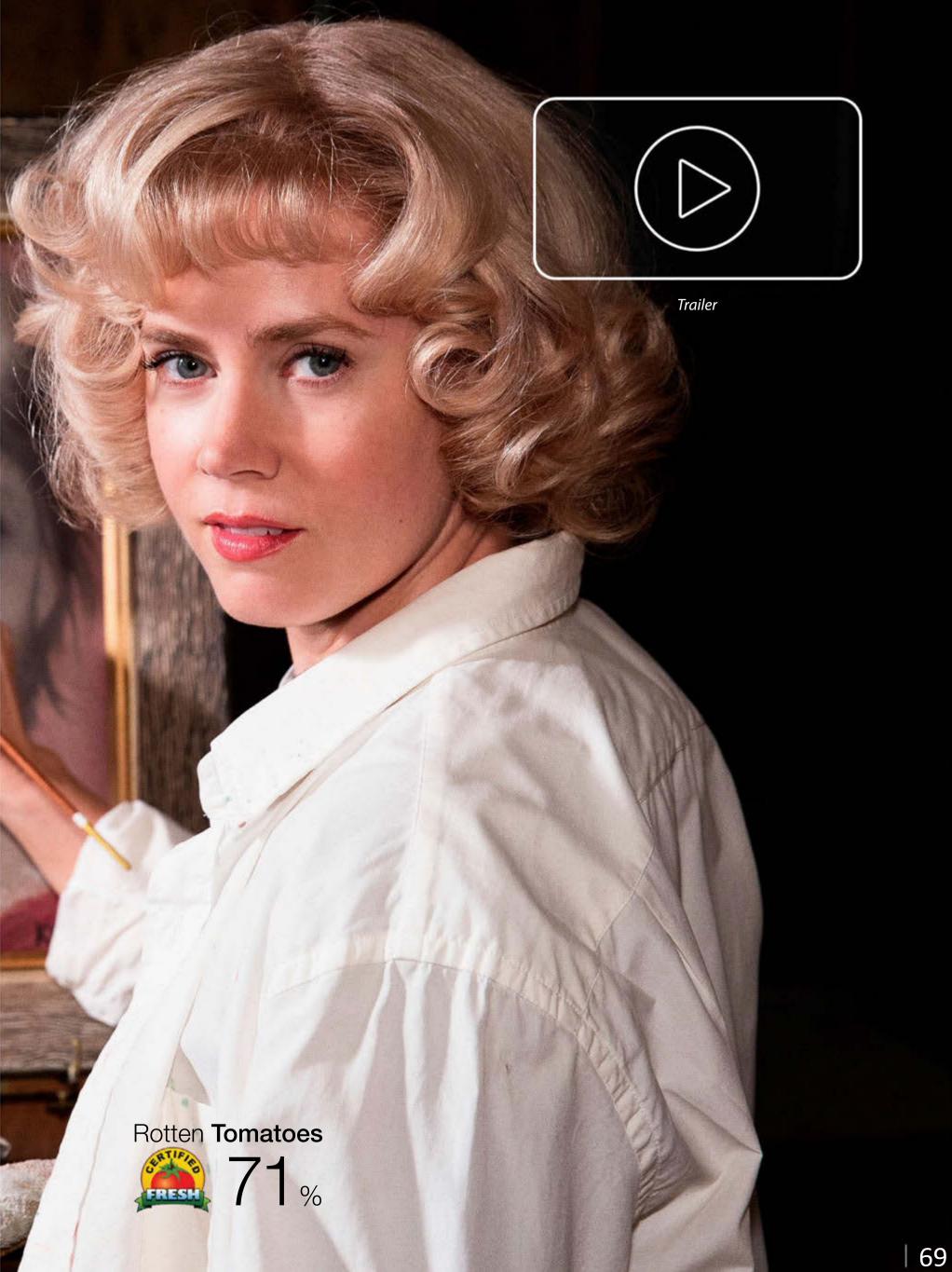
### Big Eyes

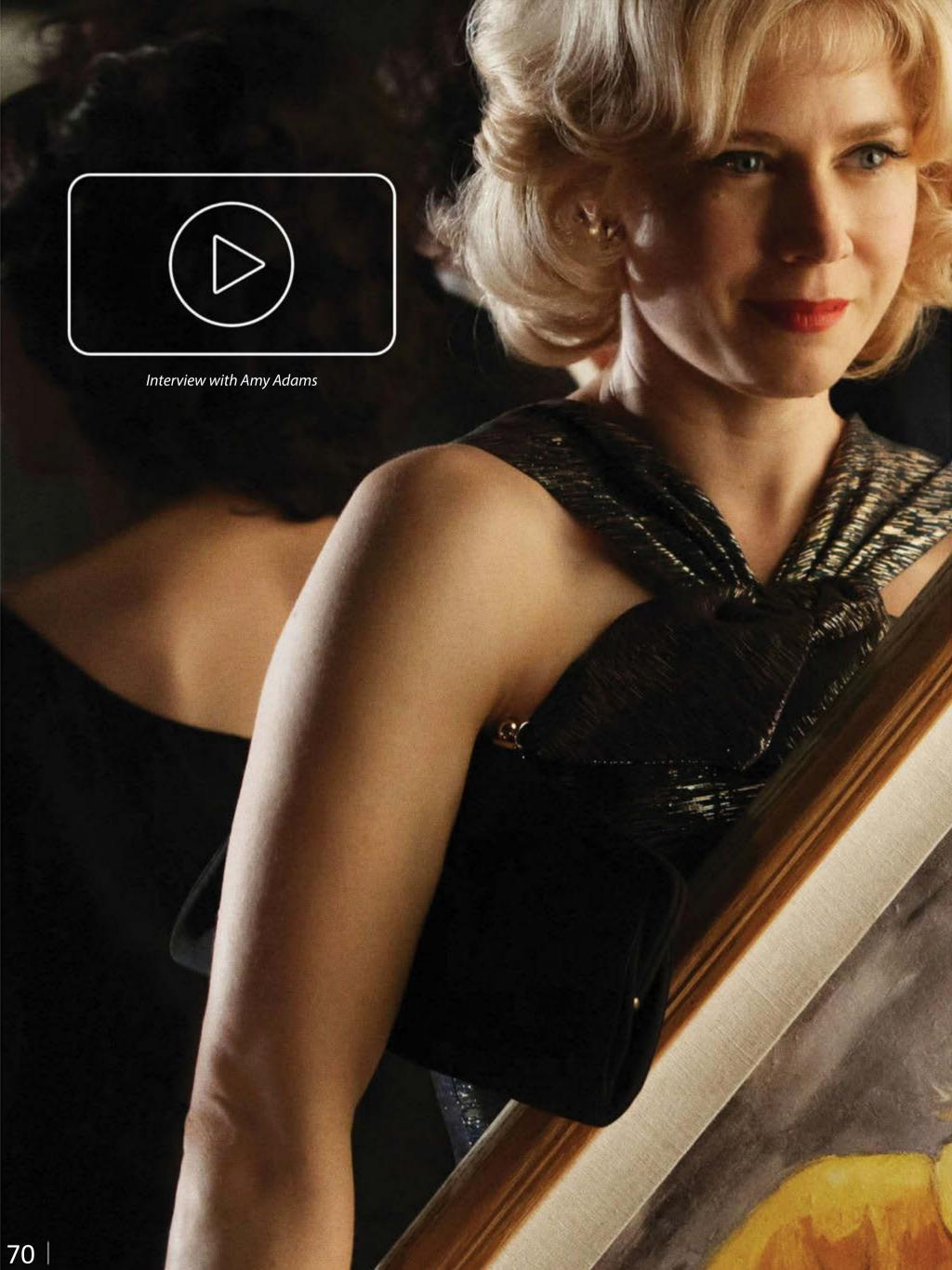
Walter Keane rose to prominence in the 1950s as the acclaimed painter of vulnerable, large-eyed waifs, only to soon be exposed as a fraud, the actual artist being his wife, Margaret. This latest Tim Burton drama, starring Amy Adams and Christoph Waltz, tells the true story of one of the last century's most extensive art scams.

#### **FIVE FACTS:**

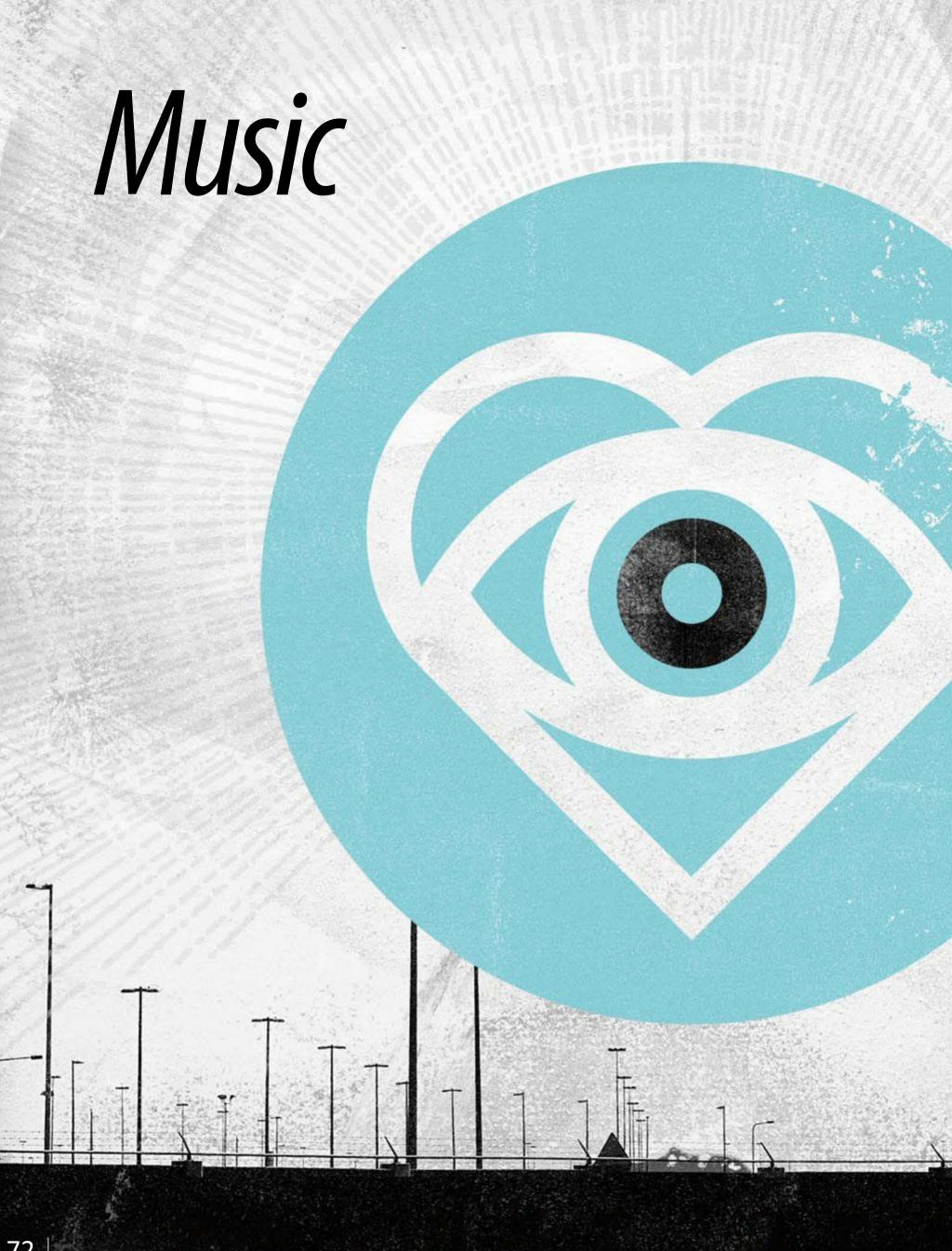
- **1.** Margaret only announced to the world that she was the true artist behind her husband's paintings in 1970.
- **2.** She proved this in court by creating one of the famous big-eyed child paintings in less than an hour.
- **3.** She was later commissioned to paint the portraits of actresses Joan Crawford and Natalie Wood.
- **4.** Burton was another collector of her artwork, **and commissioned her to paint a portrait of his then-girlfriend, Lisa Marie**.
- **5.** The film was nominated for three Golden Globe Awards, with Adams winning Best Actress for her portrayal of Margaret.

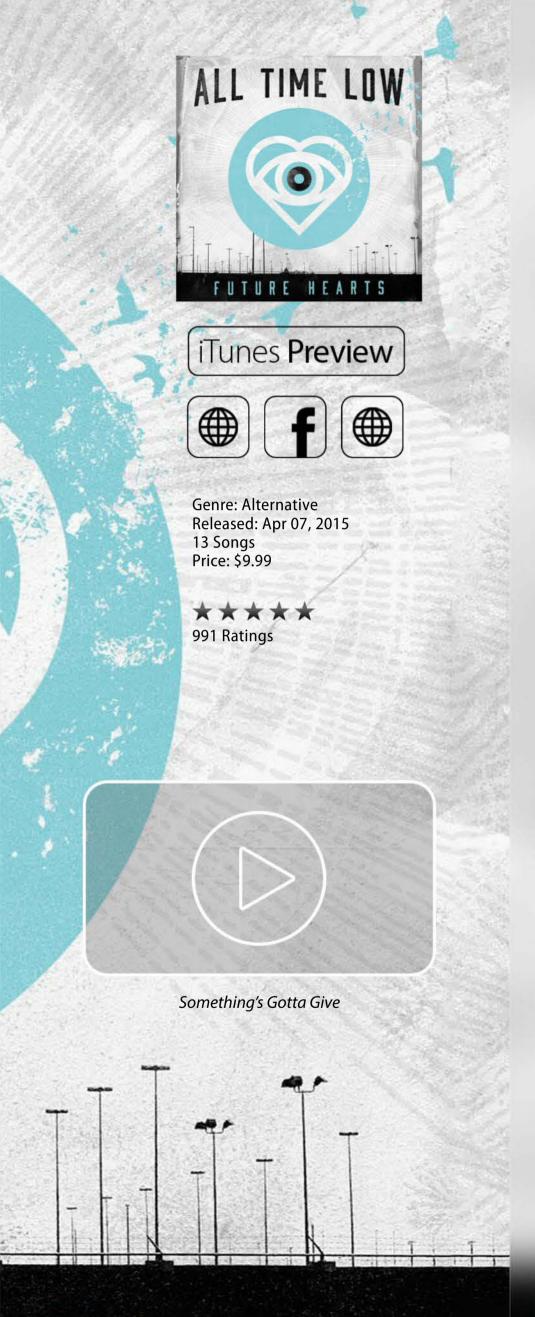












## Future Hearts All Time Low

The Baltimore pop punk group follows up 2012's Don't Panic with what has been described as a "logical next step" by vocalist and guitarist Alex Gaskarth. John Feldman takes the helm as producer, while Mark Hoppus and Joel Madden are enlisted as guest artists. The album has been promoted with the singles "Something's Gotta Give" and "Kids In The Dark".

## **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** The band was formed in Towson, a suburb of Baltimore, Maryland, in 2003.
- **2.** It consists of Gaskarth, lead guitarist Jack Barakat, bassist Zack Merrick and drummer Rian Dawson.
- 3. The group's name was taken from the lyrics of New Found Glory's song "Head On Collision".
- 4. Gaskarth has said of the new album: "It feels like a definite progression. I wouldn't say it's an insane departure or anything like that. We haven't gone completely the other way and tried all kinds of new things. We've certainly tried some new things, but I don't think it's necessarily going to alienate anyone or push people away that loved the last record."
- **5.** "Something's Gotta Give" debuted at number 14 on the US Hot Rock Songs chart.





## Strange Trails Lord Huron

The Los Angeles indie folk foursome Lord Huron came to prominence in 2012 with the release of their debut album Lonesome Dreams, which was based around a series of old adventure tales. Similarly, the follow-up sprung from the idea that group founder - and visual artist - Ben Schneider had of a feature film, based on characters living together on 'strange trails'.

## **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** The band's members are currently guitarist Schneider, percussionist Mark Barry, bassist Miguel Briseño and guitarist Tom Renaud.
- **2.** Schneider began writing music in his hometown of Okemos, Michigan.
- **3.** He **later studied visual art at the University of Michigan**, finishing his degree in France.
- **4.** Lord Huron **initially began life as a solo project**.
- **5.** The band's name was inspired by Lake Huron, the lake that Schneider grew up visiting, and where he would spend evenings playing music around the campfire.







## TRAILS

## [iTunes **Preview**]







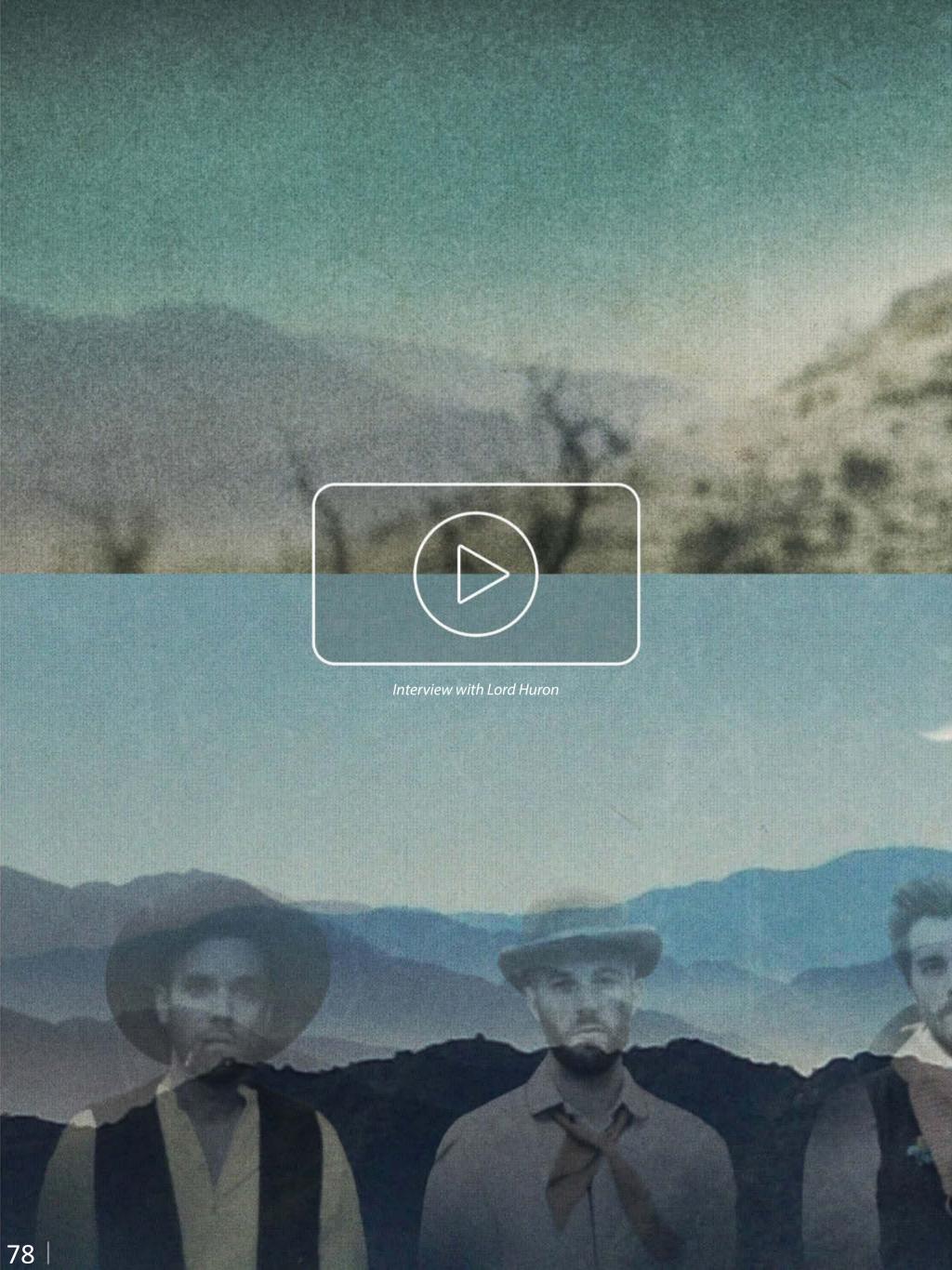
Genre: Indie Rock Released: Mar 31, 2015 14 Songs Price: \$9.99



182 Ratings



Fool For Love









## No Promises By Giuliana Rancic to Return to 'Fashion Police'

Giuliana Rancic isn't making any promises that she'll return to "Fashion Police" in the fall.

The E! Entertainment personality appeared on the "Today" show Monday to promote her new book, "Going off Script."

And she also seemed to go off-script at the interview's conclusion, when host Savannah Guthrie asked if Rancic "will be there" when "Fashion Police" airs again in September.

Hedging, Rancic said only, "We'll see."

The show, formerly hosted by the late Joan Rivers, has recently been in turmoil with the abrupt departures of panelist Kelly Osbourne and new host Kathy Griffin.

Before that, Rancic took heat for a wisecrack about actress Zendaya's dreadlocks that some viewers, including the actress-singer, deemed racist.

But Rancic repeated her explanation that the joke was misinterpreted after editing removed the context.

# CAN PHONE COMPANIES DO MORE TO BLOCK ROBOCALLS?





Jeri Vargas put her elderly mother on the "Do Not Call" list years ago. So why is the 88-year-old woman with Alzheimer's disease still getting several recorded phone calls a day pitching her everything from vacation cruises to medical alert devices and fire extinguishers?

The Federal Communications Commission has been asked to consider the question of whether phone companies could do more to stop the onslaught of "robocalls," the automated phone calls favored by scammers. Since the convergence of Internet and phone lines, it's become easy to blast out hundreds of thousands of calls in a matter of minutes to see who takes the bait. The question of whether these calls can be blocked has never been more pressing than around tax season, when many pretend to come from the IRS.

The phone companies say they worry that automatic call blocking might run afoul of laws requiring them to connect phone calls and have asked the FCC to clarify that it doesn't. Many carriers offer call blocking services to consumers, sometimes for a fee. But they also don't want regulators to create any hard-and-fast rules, which they say could be difficult to implement.

Consumer groups counter that the phone companies are dragging their feet for no good reason and that, once given the green light from the FCC, could block most robocalls if they wanted.

"It is time for AT&T to provide free, effective solutions to this problem immediately, so that









unwanted robocalls are stopped before they reach us," wrote Tim Marvin with Consumers Union in a recent letter to AT&T. The group, which has organized an online petition at **EndRobocalls.com**, sent similar letters to Verizon and Century Link.

AT&T says it's not as easy as it sounds.

Robocallers can easily "spoof" their identity and location by pretending to be from a legitimate source or by altering the caller ID.

So blocking robocalls is "a bit like a game of Whac-A-Mole: just as numbers are identified for blocking, the robocaller spoofs another number," the company said in an FCC filing.

The U.S. passed the widely popular "Do Not Call" legislation in 2003. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if you've put your number in the registry unless they have "an established business relationship" with you. But unsolicited phone calls remain a top consumer complaint. The Federal Trade Commission, which goes after businesses for deceptive business practices, say it receives on average of 150,000 complaints a month on robocalls and has filed more than 100 lawsuits against violators of the Do Not Call rules.

Still, regulators and phone companies say they remain stumped on how to fix the problem for good.

"For every company we can shut down, there are probably 10 to 100 companies that can pop up in its place," said Patty Hsue, an FTC staff attorney who leads the agency's technical initiatives against robocalls.





A common example is "Rachel from Cardholder Services." The automated voice recording encourages listeners to press a number, which connects them with someone who promised to lower their interest rates in exchange for an upfront fee. The FTC was able to trace the calls back to multiple people inside the U.S. and demand refund checks, but copycat scams continue.

For Vargas, it was the aggressive telemarketing calls that tipped her off to her mother's failing health. Yachting equipment arrived at the house one day, followed by magazines, books and light bulbs her mom didn't need. Vargas hid her mom's credit cards, only to find out later that a man claiming to sell fire extinguishers had her mom search through old statements to provide him a credit card number. Vargas says she thinks that robocalls were an easy way of identifying her mother as a vulnerable target. Now the phone rings all day long, but Vargas is reluctant to get rid of the line in case of an emergency.

"I don't mind if someone calls me because I can say, `No thank you,'" said Vargas. "But it's hard for someone like my mom."

The problem has gotten so bad nationwide that the FTC in 2012 began offering cash prizes for technical solutions. Among the winners is Nomorobo, which hangs up on robocallers for you. But it only was built to work on certain phone lines, namely Voice-over-Internet Protocol, or VoIP.



POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

Consumers groups say that the emergence of Nomorobo and other anti-robocalling technologies suggest the phone companies have the technical ability to spot obviously fraudulent calls.

**Enter the National Association of Attorneys** General. The group of state lawyers last fall, led by Missouri and Indiana, asked the FCC to clarify whether blocking robocalls might violate any telecommunications statutes. The major carriers say they agree that some legal guidance would be useful, but they also say they don't want to become beholden to any new regulation. USTelecom, an industry group, said in a statement that "complex technological and legal issues" remain.

The FCC confirmed this month that it is reviewing the NAAG petition, as it's required to do with any petition, but declined to comment further. There's no deadline for the agency to respond.









## HERE ARE FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ROBOCALLS:

## 1) SALES ROBOCALLS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS A SCAM

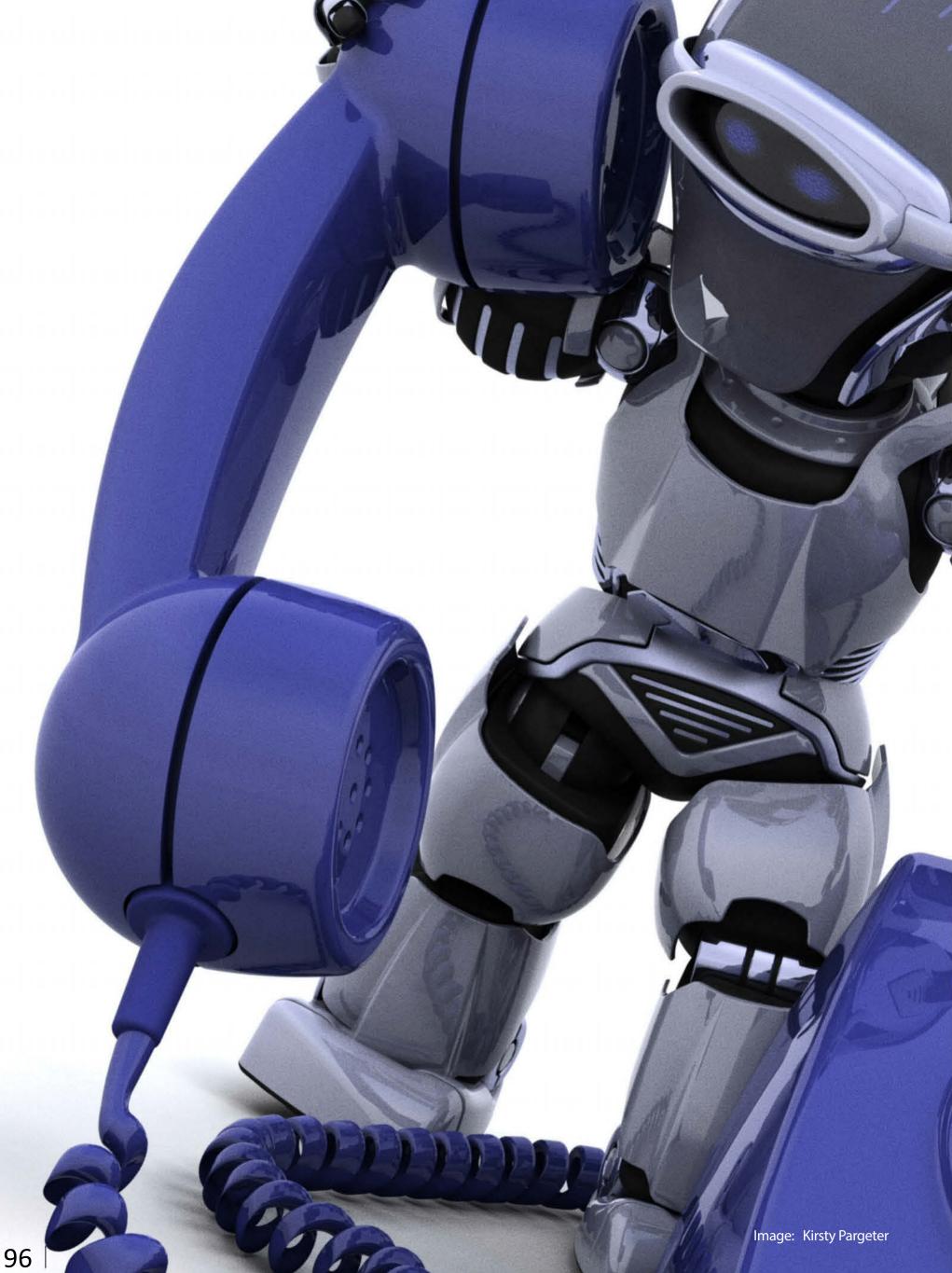
Robocalls are never allowed on cellphones, unless you give them prior written consent or it's an emergency. Robocalls to your landline are only allowed from political campaigns, charities, debt collectors, survey takers and information services such as your pharmacy or school. So if you get a robocall selling a product or claiming that a product has been purchased for you, hang up immediately.

## 2) THE SCAM

Scammers like to pretend they are conducting a survey or representing a charity before connecting you with a live operator who will try to sell you something. That's still illegal. Some also pretend to be from the IRS or Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, rambling off fake badge numbers and trying to scare people into thinking they will be audited or deported unless they pay a fee or divulge banking information.

## **3) DON'T PRESS "1."**

Pressing any number, even if it suggests that doing so will take you off their list, only confirms your number is working and that they have reached a live person. Engaging the call in any way will just lead to more calls.

















UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)
MARK RONSON

SHAKE IT OFF
TAYLOR SWIFT

**BLANK SPACE**TAYLOR SWIFT

**STYLE**TAYLOR SWIFT

ALL ABOUT THAT BASS MEGHAN TRAINOR

ONE LAST TIME ARIANA GRANDE

FIRST KISS KID ROCK

LIVING FOR LOVE MADONNA

LIPS ARE MOVIN MEGHAN TRAINOR

HAPPY (FROM DESPICABLE ME 2)
PHARRELL WILLIAMS











FIFTY SHADES DARKER E L JAMES

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY EL JAMES

FIFTY SHADES FREED E L James

**A THOUSAND ACRES**Jane Smiley

AMERICAN SNIPER
CHRIS KYLE AND OTHERS

FIFTY SHADES TRILOGY BUNDLE EL JAMES

THE NIGHTINGALE Kristin Hannah

STILL ALICE LISA GENOVA

**GONE GIRL** GILLIAN FLYNN

## Showtime Still Hopeful of Salvaging 'Twin Peaks' Revival

Showtime is expressing hope of salvaging an updated version of "Twin Peaks" after its cocreator, David Lynch, announced he is leaving the project.

The network said it was "saddened" by Lynch's statement but still hopes to resurrect "Twin Peaks" with both Lynch and his co-creator, Mark Frost, on board.

This reboot of the eerie 1990-91 ABC thriller was announced by Showtime last fall. Lynch and Frost were set to be back to write the new series, with Lynch slated to direct all nine episodes. But Sunday on Twitter, Lynch declared that after 16 months of negotiations Showtime still had not approved a budget that he considered sufficient.

Showtime responded that it believed it had been making progress with him on "the few remaining deal points."









## New Albums Honor Billie Holiday on Centennial of Her Birth

The odds were stacked against Eleanora Fagan, who was born to unwed teenage parents in Philadelphia on April 7, 1915. But she would become perhaps the most influential jazz singer ever, Billie Holiday, whose centennial is being celebrated with new albums honoring her legacy.

Unlike Ella Fitzgerald, Holiday lacked the vocal technique that would have gotten her past the early rounds of "American Idol." But nobody did it better when it came to interpreting and plumbing the emotional depths of a song.





"Billie Holiday - The Centennial Collection" (Columbia/Legacy) offers an excellent introduction to 20 of Holiday's finest recordings from 1935-44.

Holiday likened her voice to a horn, and her inventive phrasing and sense of swing enabled her to seamlessly mesh her vocals with the instrumentals. These recordings pair Holiday with top Swing Era horn players, both white and black, including Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Buck Clayton, Ben Webster and notably her musical soulmate, tenor saxophonist Lester Young.

These early recordings show a more optimistic Holiday in peak voice, playful and flirty on such tunes as "What a Little Moonlight Can Do." Her mood turned darker after tours of the Jim Crow South in the late 1930s, leading to the searing anti-lynching song "Strange Fruit."

The collection concludes with more melancholic recordings from the early 1940s reflecting a greater sense of pain and loss, including the self-penned "God Bless the Child," "Gloomy Sunday" and "Fine and Mellow."

Cassandra Wilson acknowledged Holiday's influence by opening her Grammy-winning 1996 album, "New Moon Daughter," with "Strange Fruit." A masterful interpreter of songs, Wilson has released a musical homage, "Coming Forth by Day" (Legacy), offering a fresh, bold 21st-century take on 11 songs from Holiday's repertoire.

Wilson once again blends jazz with folk, blues, country, R&B and rock influences. Her genrebending approach is reinforced by involving non-jazz artists - rock and pop producer Nick Launay, best known for his work with Nick Cave; the iconoclastic Van Dyke Parks, who did the lush string arrangements; producer extraordinaire T Bone Burnett, who plays the guitar on several tracks; and drummer Thomas Wydler and bassist Martyn P. Casey of Cave's alt-rock band The Bad Seeds.





Wilson's sultry, smoky vocals are enhanced by the often haunting, ever-changing electro-acoustic sonic backdrops on such tunes as a slowed-down, minor key "All of Me," the sensual "The Way You Look Tonight" and "You Go to My Head" with a sweeping Philly Soul string arrangement.

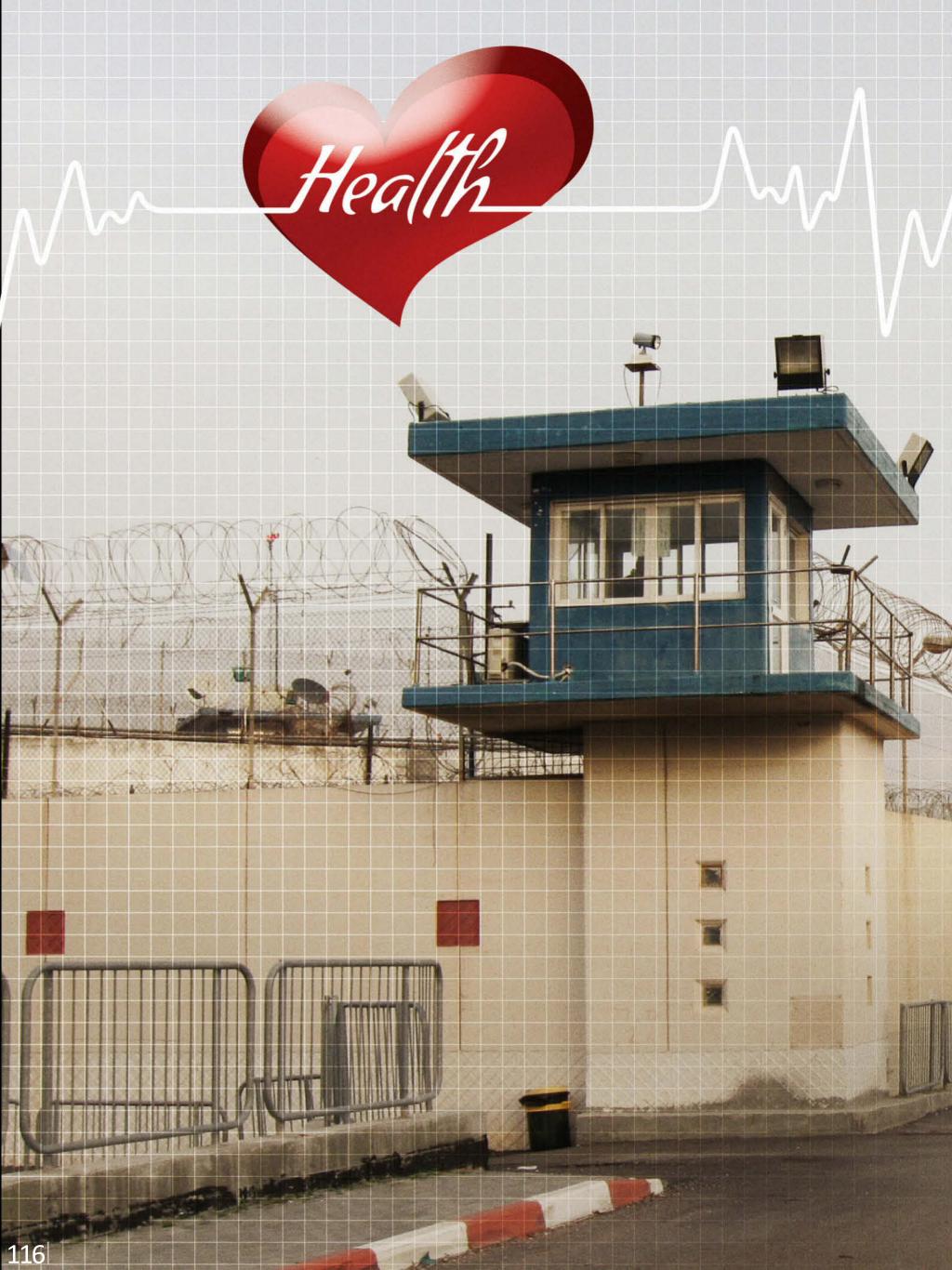
Wilson brings "Strange Fruit" to a rousing climax full of screaming guitars. Her original "Last Song (for Lester)," imagining what a heartbroken Holiday might have sung had she been allowed to perform at Young's funeral, matches her tender vocals with Robby Marshall's mellow tenor sax.

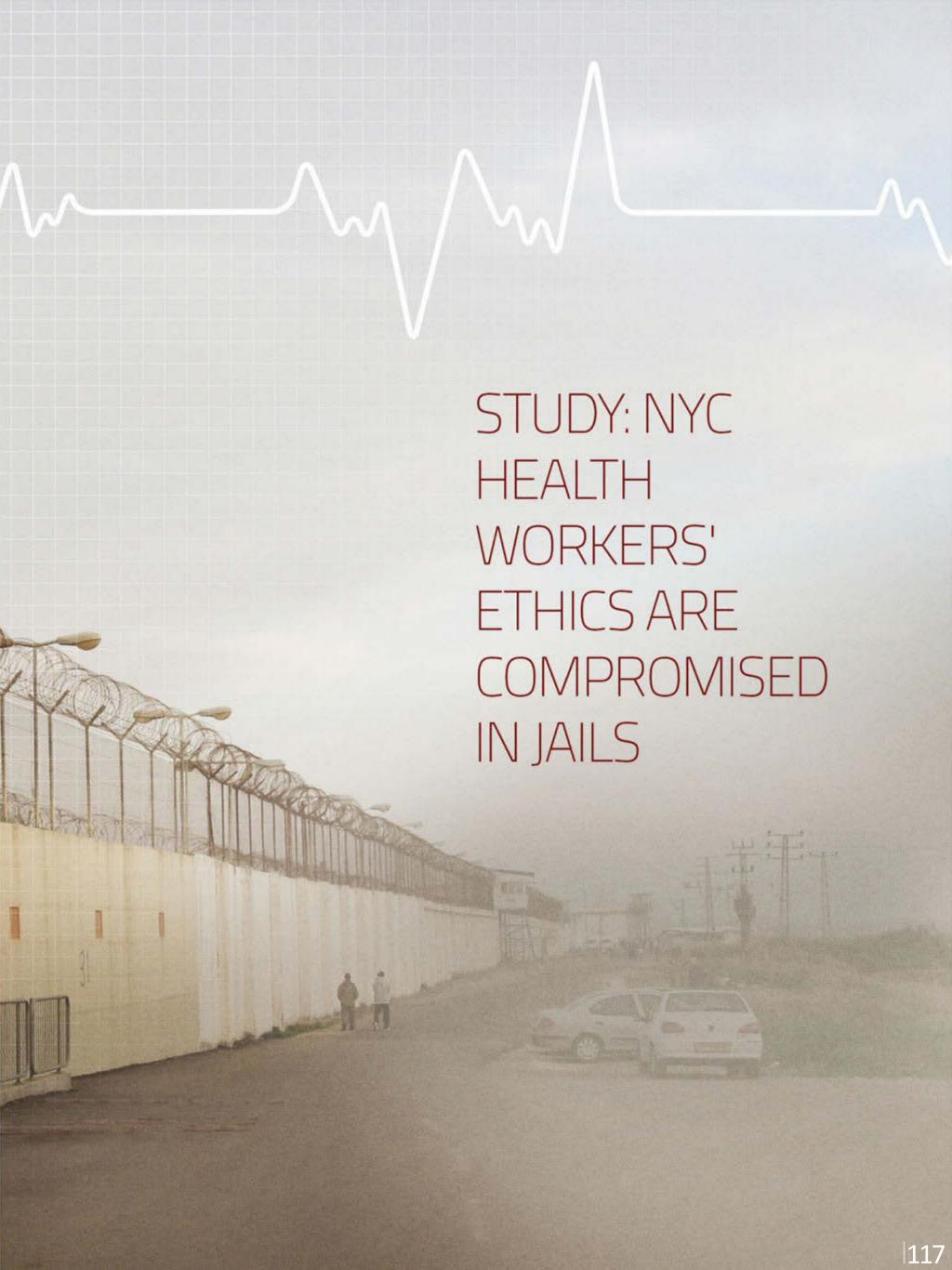
Jose James describes Holiday as his "musical mother." On recent albums, James offered an eclectic mix of R&B, hip-hop, neo-soul, indie rock and jazz. But on "Yesterday I Had the Blues: The Music of Billie Holiday" (Blue Note), the baritone shows he can be a convincing jazz balladeer, sounding almost like an heir to the laid-back Johnny Hartman.

James is supported by a top-flight rhythm section - with pianist Jason Moran, bassist John Pattitucci and drummer Eric Harland - who respect the tradition while adding modern touches, playing mostly acoustic arrangements that highlight but never overwhelm the vocals.

James performs a male-appropriate selection of nine tunes from the Holiday songbook. He smoothly croons his way through hushed versions of "Good Morning Heartache" and "Tenderly," gets into slow blues grooves on "Fine and Mellow" and "God Bless the Child," and trades briskly paced solos with Moran on the only uptempo track, "What a Little Moonlight Can Do."

James closes the album with his own dirgelike solo version of "Strange Fruit," punctuated only by occasional hand claps and his own looped and layered voice adding a droning chant, an emotional reminder of the song's relevance today.





New York City jail health workers say their medical ethics are often compromised by the demands of treating patients who are also prisoners, such as when they witness guards' use of force or are asked to approve stints in solitary confinement, according to a first-of-its-kind city study.

The two-year study at New York's sprawling Rikers Island jail complex concluded with a bold recommendation to remove health workers entirely from the most contentious issue they face - whether to put an inmate in solitary. That's because many doctors believe the confinement, which involves 23-hour stretches of isolation, could harm inmates.

"Whatever the security reasoning for placement in such units, the participation of health staff in this process is cumbersome, time intensive, of questionable value and does not reflect a patienthealth provider interaction that is in the patient's best interest," city health officials write in the study, set to be published in the June issue of the Health and Human Rights Journal.

Corrections officials didn't comment on the study's recommendation, but a spokeswoman for jails Commissioner Joseph Ponte said in a statement that in the past year, corrections and health officials have worked to improve conditions and reduce the use of solitary, including creating therapeutic housing units for seriously mentally ill inmates who have trouble following jailhouse rules.

Tension between jail guards, who focus on enforcing order, and health workers, who have taken an oath to protect patient health, exists in lockups across the country.

But experts have specifically cited such competing priorities as a problem that has played a role in neglect and poor treatment at Rikers Island. The 10-jail complex employs more than 9,000 guards and 1,400 health workers; 40 percent of the roughly 11,000 inmates have a





mental health diagnosis, and many come in with long-untreated health problems.

The Associated Press reported last year that breakdowns in procedures and protocols may have contributed to nine of 11 suicides at Rikers over the past five years. And the AP also uncovered documents over the same period that questioned the quality and timeliness of care in 15 inmate deaths that had been considered purely medical.

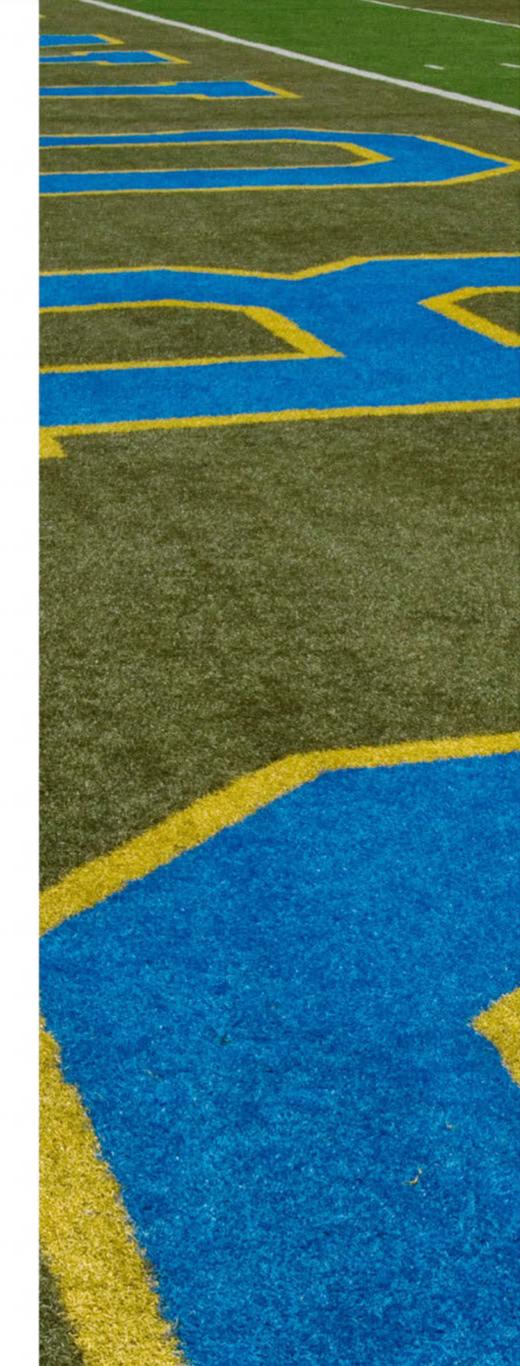
Correctional health experts say the Rikers health worker study - based on a review of thousands of health records, survey responses, focus groups and interviews with 19 patients who hurt themselves while locked away - is perhaps the most comprehensive documentation in a U.S. correctional setting of the "dual loyalties" phenomenon.

"A bedrock principle is that the physician's primary ethic is to act in the interests of the patients," said Dr. Scott Allen, a professor at University of California Riverside School of Medicine who formerly served as the top medical official in Rhode Island's prisons. "These conflicts are built in to jails and prisons because of the conflicting missions of what security needs to do versus what medical needs to do."

At Rikers, the study found more than one-third of mental health workers feel their ethics are regularly compromised. It also found health workers' independence is routinely challenged by guards' use of force, solitary and even more mundane, daily security practices.

In a survey, more than 90 percent of health workers said they had treated an inmate for injuries noted in an official report as resulting from an inmate-on-inmate fight while the inmate claimed he had actually been beaten by guards.

About 70 percent of those health workers said they would either ask the guard to leave or call a supervisor, while 13 percent said they









would ask the inmate to sign the report as is, while documenting the inmate's account in the electronic health record.

A common theme is that inmate complaints of physical or mental illness are taken seriously by health workers but viewed by guards as faking to get out of punishment, particularly solitary confinement, known on Rikers as "the bing."

Electronic health records examined in the study show that jail health workers often struggle with what to do with inmates who threaten to hurt themselves if put in solitary - even if they were thought to be a low risk of actually committing suicide.

Those inmates are referred to by guards as "bing beaters."

"Don't tell us that this inmate who came in fine yesterday and didn't have no problems, all of the sudden now that it's time to go to the bing, he's got psychological problems," said Norman Seabrook, president of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association.

About 16 percent of health workers said they've heard of or seen guards beating inmates in a clinic, and they acknowledged in focus group discussions that they worried about retaliation if they reported such brutality.

"People don't feel supported here, so they have a mentality of: `If I don't see anything, then I don't know anything. And that protects me,'" one health worker said in a focus group.

Gabriel Eber, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, who has worked on the issue, said corrections systems across the country should conduct similar studies.

"Above all considerations, the goal of any correctional health care system should be to meet the needs of a patient," he said.





# Ober's Popularity Surges; Business Travelers Avoiding Taxis

Business travelers are bypassing the taxi queue with greater frequency, choosing instead ridehailing services like Uber Technologies.

A new report by expense management system provider Certify shows that 47 percent of the ground transportation rides by its users in March were through Uber. That's more than tripled from the 14 percent of rides that Uber had just over a year ago in January 2014. In a few cities, Uber now tops taxi rides for business travelers.

"While we often see noteworthy market shifts - leading restaurant chains and hotels exchanging leadership positions, for example - it is unprecedented to see one vendor grow to take such a commanding market share within one year's time," says Certify CEO Bob Neveu.





While taxis, limousines and airport shuttles still dominate the ground transportation business, Certify's report shows ride-hailing services are rapidly on the rise among business travelers. Certify based its finding on the 28 million trip receipts its North American clients submit each year.

Uber connects travelers with various cars through its smartphone app. Some drivers work for car service companies; others spend a few hours driving their personal cars on the side for some extra money.

Business travelers might be quickly moving toward Uber, but their employers have some major concerns.

Mike McCormick, executive director of the Global Business Travel Association, notes that many companies are worried about issues of safety and liability. Depending on the city, Uber drivers aren't necessarily regulated by government taxi licensing authorities. Both Uber and competitor Lyft insure their drivers during paid rides and also require the drivers to carry personal auto insurance that covers them the rest of the time.

Uber has faced criticism that its employees inappropriately accessed customer data and that it does not properly screen drivers to ensure they have clean criminal records.

In a few cities, Uber beats out taxis by a wide margin for business travelers. In its home town of San Francisco, 71 percent of rides expensed through Certify during the first quarter were for Uber; 29 percent used taxis. Uber also beat out all other forms of ground transportation in Dallas, accounting for 56 percent of the rides.

In Los Angeles and Washington D.C., Uber represented 49 percent of business travel rides. Taxis, limousines and airport shuttles still reigned in New York, Miami and Chicago where they took 79 percent, 77 percent and 75 percent of rides expensed, respectively.

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