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Charlie Hebdo Tragedy

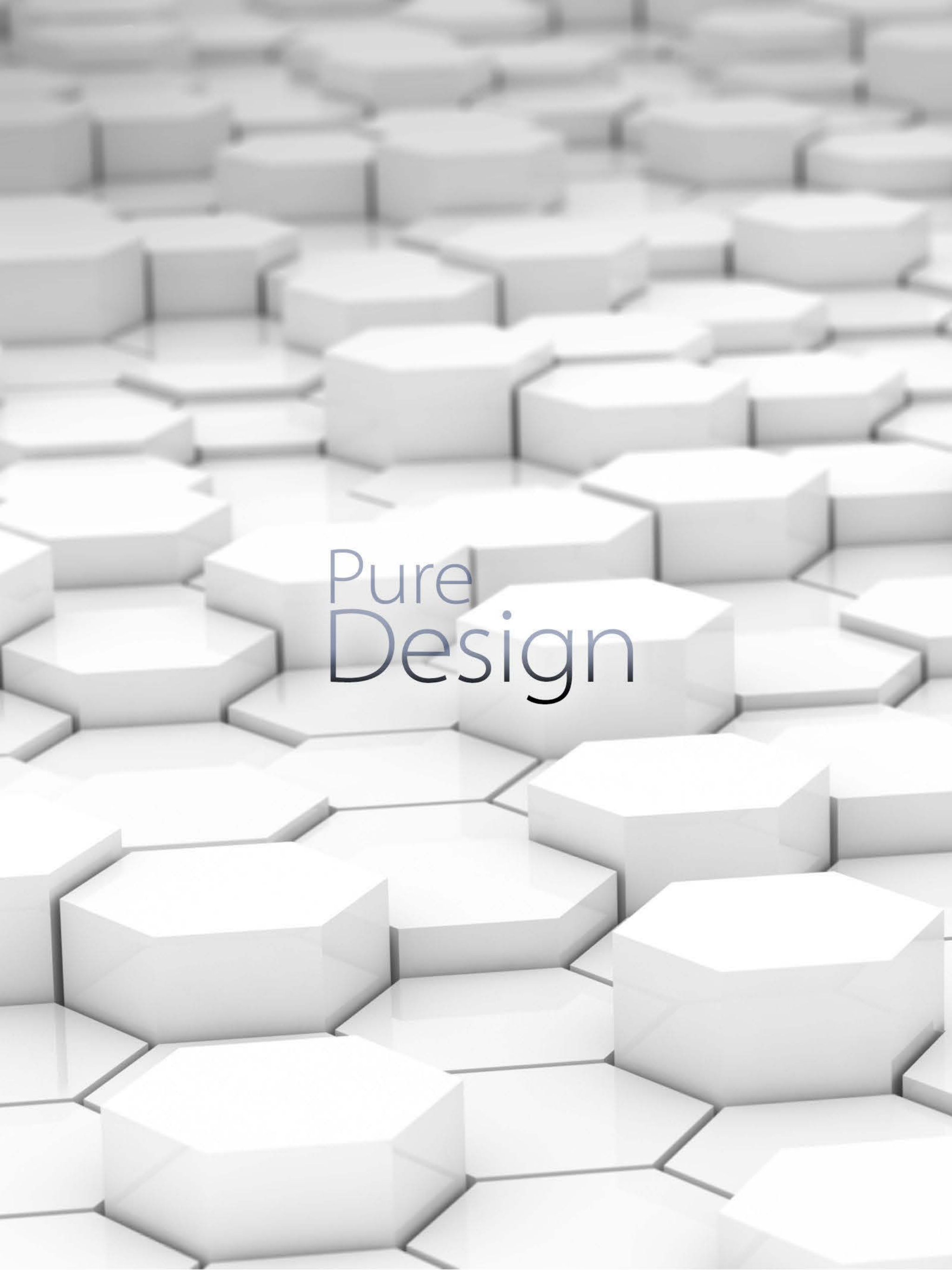
High Stakes When Satire
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Consumer Technology

Electronics Set To Make
Big Strides In 2015

THE INTERVIEW

SONY PICTURES CEO: CALL TO GOOGLE GOT MOVIE OUT



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Eminem Fulfills Terminally ill fan's wish with home visit

Rapper and Detroit native Eminem has fulfilled the wish of a terminally ill fan by visiting him at his Detroit-area home.

Eminem surprised 17-year-old Gage Garmo in Rochester Hills on Sunday evening. The Detroit Free Press (<http://on.freep.com/1xjjmx3>) says the pair sat in the family's living room talking about hip-hop and football.

Gage was diagnosed with bone cancer three years ago, when he was a freshman at Rochester High School.

Friends and classmates used social media to spread Gage's wish to meet Eminem, his musical hero, after he learned last week that he has just days left to live. Michigan-based charity Rainbow Connection was able to set up the meeting within 48 hours.

Rainbow Connection's wish director says the stars aligned and Gage's wish came true.





CBS 'Odd Couple' Remake Brings Back Comic Vet

CBS has brought in an expert to help launch its remake of "The Odd Couple" starring Matthew Perry: the legendary producer who adapted Neil Simon's Broadway play into the television series that starred Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

Garry Marshall, who went on to create "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley" and "Mork & Mindy," is helping Bob Daily, the new show's executive producer, as a consultant. Cast members say Marshall is on the set each week pitching jokes and telling stories.

Marshall, a neighbor of CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves, came on at Moonves' suggestion. Daily said he got into the business partly because of his love for the shows Marshall made, so he was happy to have him. Marshall, 80, said a big factor in coming back was that it's being made in a studio close to his home.

"Just to have Garry's endorsement alone was huge," said Perry, who plays Oscar Madison to co-star Thomas Lennon's Felix Unger.

Marshall said he was happy to revisit the show. "It was the first show that I ever did that was a hit," he said. "It kind of made my career."





His involvement was a reminder how times had changed since the original sitcom aired on ABC from 1970 to 1975. In the 1970s, the show had no women writers. Marshall said ABC wanted to have as many women actresses around the two lead characters as possible because the network thought viewers might believe they were gay.

Daily, a former writer on “Frasier,” said the concept of “The Odd Couple” is durable and it was time to update it.

“‘Frasier’ was basically ‘The Odd Couple’ with one Oscar and two Felixes,” he said.

The show is updated for the times - Madison isn’t a newspaper sportswriter, he hosts a sports radio talk show - but doesn’t rely on old scripts or story lines. There was one exception, with a joke on the show’s pilot lifted directly from Simon’s play.

“The funniest joke in the pilot was written 45 years ago,” Perry said.

Perry brought the idea of a remake to CBS at about the same time as the network had independently been thinking about reviving it, so the timing proved fortuitous. Perry, the “Friends” star whose recent sitcom “Go On” didn’t make it past its rookie year on NBC two seasons ago, said he wanted to come to CBS because he believes it knows how to launch shows better than any other network.

“What’s cool about the show is we’re just trying to be funny,” he said. “We’re just trying to make people laugh.”

The remake debuts on Feb. 19. New Orleans artist Trombone Shorty recorded a new version of the show’s theme song.

le



Madonna, AC/DC, Ariana Grande to perform at Grammy Awards

The logo for Hardcandy Fitness Berlin features a red circle with a white 'hc' inside, where the 'c' has a sunburst pattern. Below this, the text 'hardcandy' is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'FITNESS' and 'BERLIN' in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

hardcandy
FITNESS
BERLIN

Madonna, AC/DC and Ariana Grande are among the first performers announced to take the stage at the Grammy Awards next month.

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and country star Eric Church will also perform at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, The Recording Academy announced Tuesday.

Grande, who is nominated for two awards, will make her Grammy debut. Church is nominated for four honors, while Sheeran has three, including album of the year for "x."

Beyonce, Sam Smith and Pharrell are the leaders in nominations with six apiece. The three pop stars, along with Sheeran, will compete with Beck for album of the year.

The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live on CBS.

Online:

<http://www.grammys.com>



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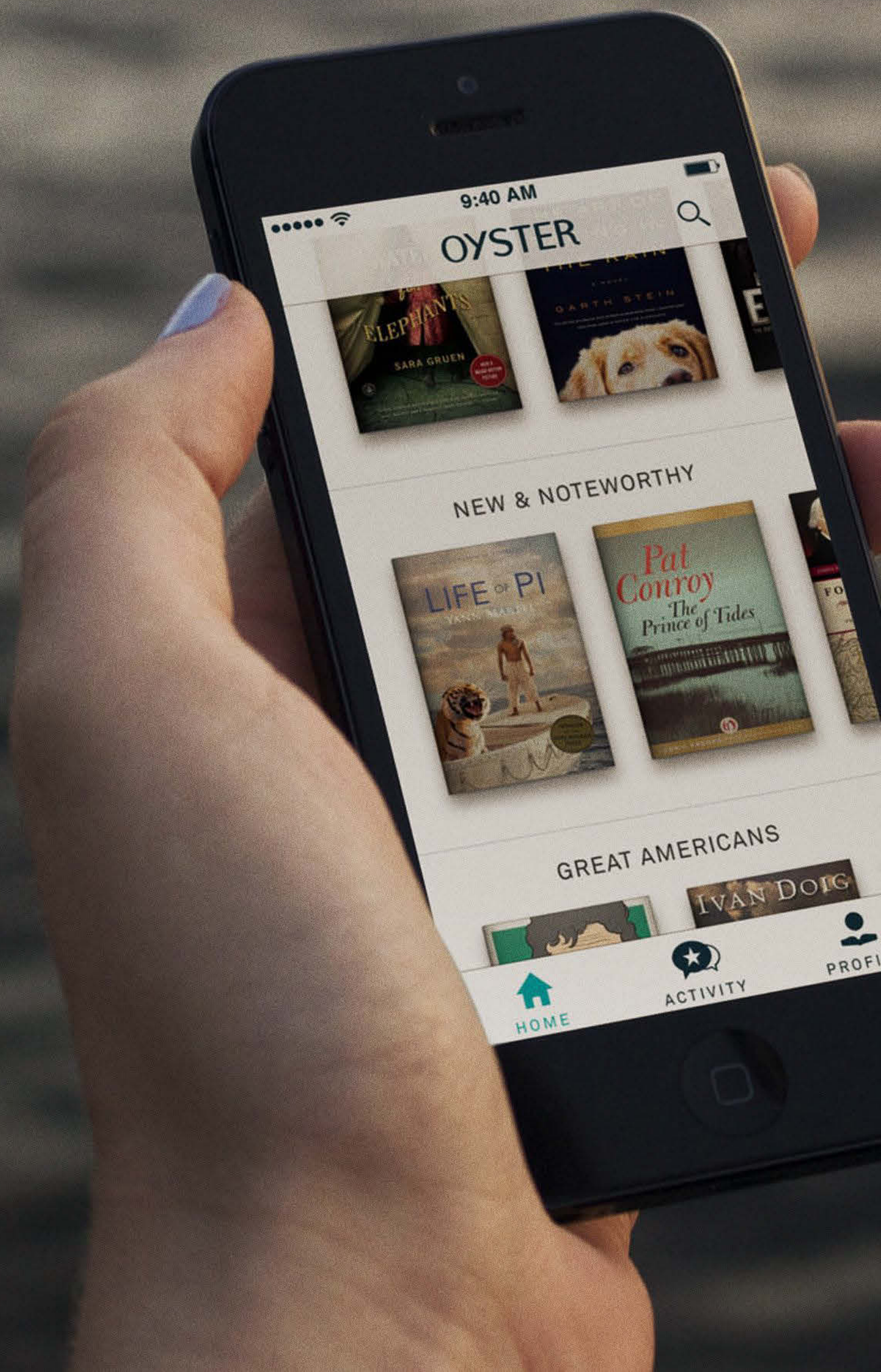
Macmillan Reaches deal with subscription service Oyster

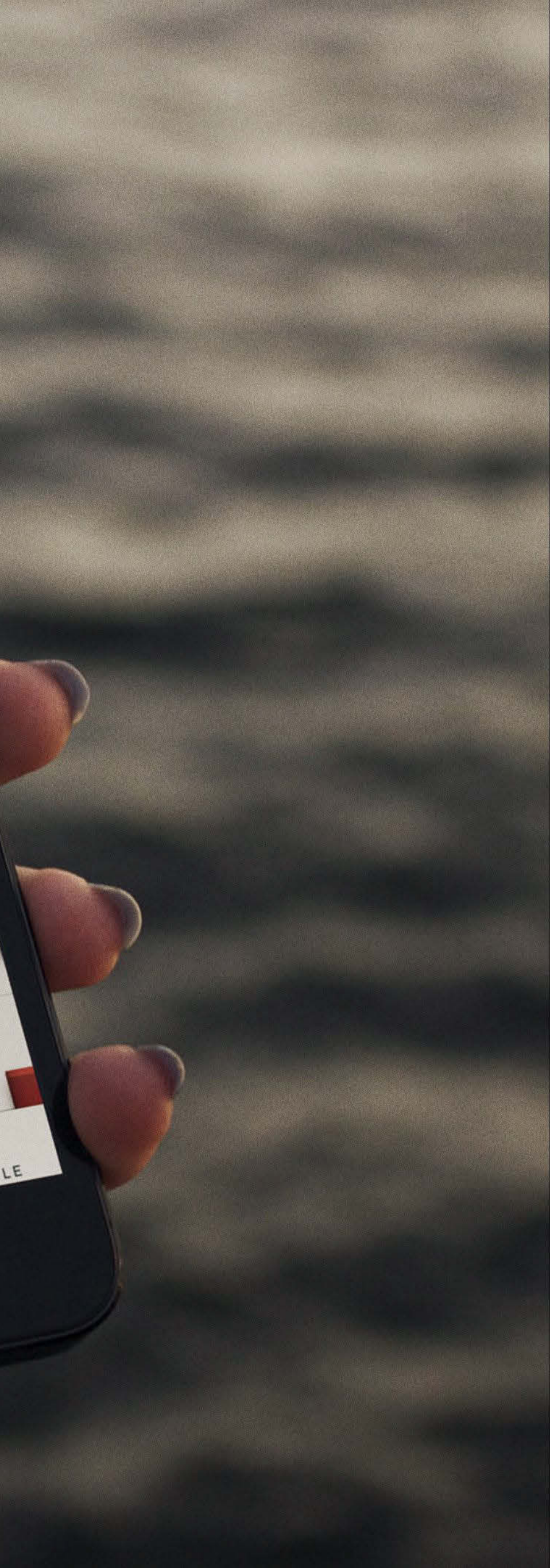
Another major publisher is testing the subscription market.

Macmillan will make 1,000 books available to Oyster, the subscription service announced Tuesday. The releases, all older works, range from Janet Evanovich's "Full House" to "The Language of Passion" by Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa. Publishers, citing concerns about driving down the value of a book, have been cautious about working with companies such as Oyster, Amazon.com and Scribd that offer unlimited e-reading of hundreds of thousands of releases for less than \$10 a month.

Simon & Schuster and HarperCollins also have been working with subscription companies, and the CEOs for both publishers have said they were happy with the results. A spokeswoman for the country's largest publisher, Penguin Random House, said it is "uncommitted at present to offering our books for any subscription services." (The respective parent companies of Penguin Random House and Macmillan, Bertelsmann and the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, co-founded the German subscription service Skoobe in 2012.)







Financial terms between Macmillan and Oyster were not disclosed. Last month, Macmillan CEO John Sargent wrote an end-of-year letter to authors, illustrators and agents that disclosed his willingness to try subscriptions despite a “significant long-term risk.”

“We need broader channels to reach our readers,” wrote Sargent, who referred to Amazon.com’s dominance of e-book sales.

“Several companies offer ‘pay per read’ plans that offer favorable economic terms. We plan to try subscription with backlist books, and mostly with titles that are not well represented at bricks-and-mortar retail stores. Our job has always been to provide you with the broadest possible distribution, and given the current financial and strategic incentives being offered, we believe the time is right to try this test.”

Macmillan and other publishers once expressed similar reservations about offering e-books to libraries, but virtually all now make them widely available.





Sony Pictures CEO: Call to Google got 'The Interview' out

The network was crippled. Days before Thanksgiving, Sony Pictures employees had logged onto computers that flashed a grim message from a hacker group calling itself Guardians of Peace. Soon personal information for tens of thousands of current and former workers was dumped online, including Social Security numbers and the purported salaries of top executives. Five Sony-produced movies, including the unreleased "Annie," appeared on file-sharing websites. Thousands of private, and sometimes embarrassing, emails hit the Internet.

"They came in the house, stole everything, then burned down the house," Michael Lynton, the movie studio's CEO, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday. "They destroyed servers, computers, wiped them clean of all the data and took all the data."

More than six weeks later, the studio's network is still down - and is expected to remain so for a few weeks, as techs work to rebuild and get it fully back online. In that time, Sony has been thrust into the geopolitical spotlight as the target of an





unprecedented corporate cyberattack that the United States has attributed to North Korea. In a wide-ranging interview Lynton talked about the isolation and uncertainty created by the attack and the unique position the company found itself in, in a case that's undoubtedly being closely watched in boardrooms around the world.

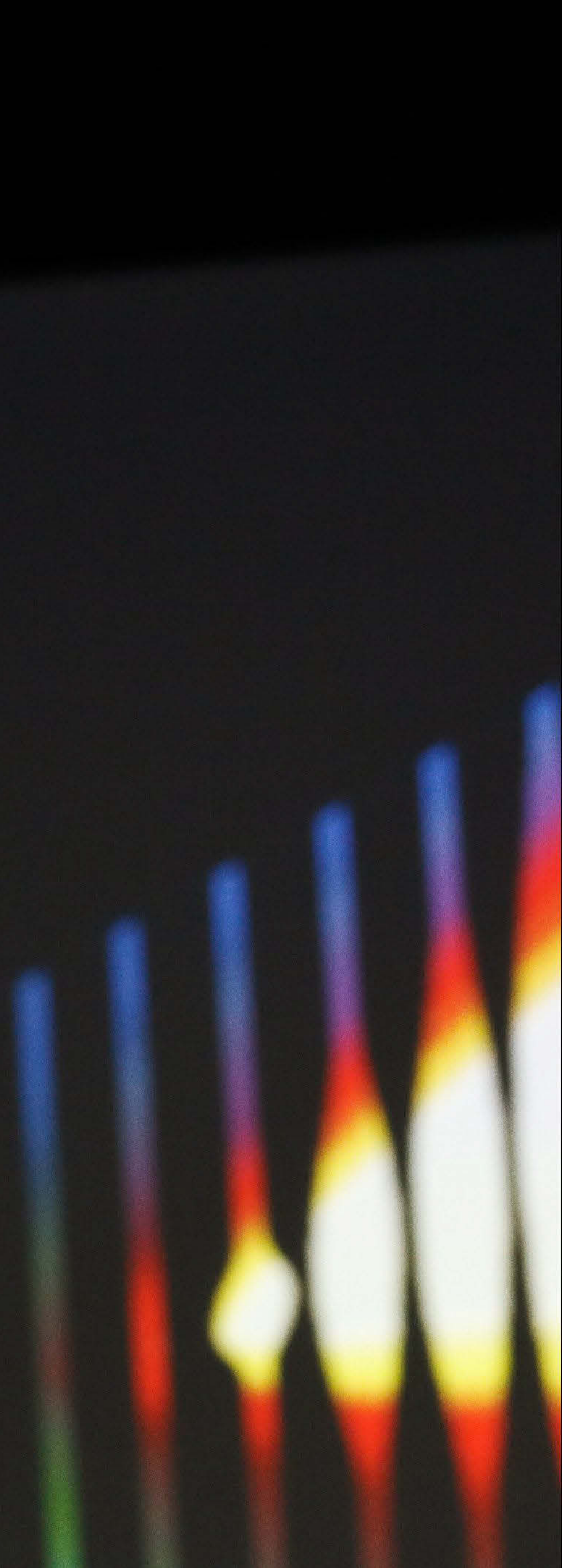
"We are the canary in the coal mine, that's for sure," Lynton said. "There's no playbook for this, so you are in essence trying to look at the situation as it unfolds and make decisions without being able to refer to a lot of experiences you've had in the past or other peoples' experiences. You're on completely new ground."

In the early hours of the hack, workers scrambled to find ways to communicate with the studio's 7,000 employees and keep the business running. Some dug through basement boxes for old BlackBerrys so they could email securely and others turned up long-unused check cutters so workers and vendors could get paid by paper check. A close-knit senior management team of 10 to 15 people relied initially on word of mouth, an emergency notification system and town hall meetings to disseminate information and calm fears. Managers were told to be visible during commissary mealtimes and gathered with 80 to 90 employees at a time at buildings across the lot to offer updates.

"People relied on each other and it's a good thing they relied on each other, because there wasn't a lot of assistance coming out of the community, except for the FBI," Lynton said.

While most Sony employees already were on the Everbridge emergency notification system, workers recruited the rest to sign up. If he had to do it again, Lynton said he would have made it mandatory to already be on it. Senior managers created text and phone trees to communicate and held twice-daily meetings. Thirty to 40 people worked day and night through the Thanksgiving holiday. When employees arrived





to work on Monday, one week after the Nov. 24th hack, a “concierge”-like desk greeted them to help get them signed onto a temporary email system set up by the technology team.

The focus, Lynton said, was on answering questions and curbing fears as well as maintaining operations. People were upset and scared and managers were tasked with trying to assure them and providing information updates two to three times a week. Focusing on operations and making employees feel safe helped keep Lynton and his senior managers afloat.

“As long as you could stay true to that, it felt OK, it actually felt OK,” he said. “They weren’t ideal circumstances, and of course, when you went home your kids or your spouse would say to you, ‘Geez, how is it,’ and it’s a very difficult thing to recount because every day you go into the office thinking one thing and go home with a completely different set of events than you’d imagine. All my colleagues felt the same way.”

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigative firm Mandiant were brought in within the first week. Lynton is effusive in his praise of the FBI, which camped out in a special set of rooms in the center of Sony’s lot and conducted multiple hour-long “clinics” on a sound stage for 400 to 500 Sony employees at a time. The meetings covered identity theft and also some computer security tips.

But with constant data leaks and rolling threats coming in from the hackers, Lynton said his team had to work hard to not be too reactive and to make measured decisions.

“The whole series of events, not just for myself, but for everybody in the company, had so many twists and turns to it that every time you thought you were going down a path, every time people thought we got this in hand, the next thing you knew we’d have another threatening email come through two days later or another series of events,” Lynton said.





And the story was about to take another turn. As the studio grew closer to a planned Christmas Day release of the Seth Rogen and James Franco comedy “The Interview,” which spoofs an assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the hackers shifted from providing fodder for gossip columnists to instead fanning fears of terrorist attacks. Threats of violence reminiscent of September 11, 2001, against theaters planning to show “The Interview” prompted major theater chains to pull the movie, forcing Sony to say it would cancel the film’s Christmas Day release.

The company immediately faced a litany of criticism over free speech and censorship from all sides, from Hollywood actors like George Clooney to the President of the United States, who said during a press conference that Sony “made a mistake.” In the midst of the firestorm, the FBI formally announced it had linked the attack to North Korea.

“We were so taken by surprise by the events... that we didn’t have a plan at that moment to go forward,” Lynton said.

President Barack Obama said at the time that his administration would respond to the hacker break-in at Sony, and later issued additional sanctions against North Korea. The U.S. government was not responsible for sustained electronic attacks that crippled North Korea’s Internet infrastructure last month, however, two senior U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Lynton said Sony always planned to release “The Interview,” it just initially didn’t know how to.

“We probably in retrospect should have said we’re exploring other options, because that’s exactly what we were doing,” he said. Almost immediately after the theater chains pulled out Lynton said he was on the phone trying to find a way to get the film out, especially after suffering through the prior three weeks of data dumps and

A photograph of the Sony Pictures building exterior. The image shows a white stone wall with the words "SONY PICTURES" in large, black, serif capital letters. Above the wall is a black metal fence with pointed tops. Behind the fence, there are dark green trees and a white building with a flagpole flying the American flag. In the foreground, there is a dense green hedge and a small plant with long, pointed leaves.

SONY PICTURES



“what could only be described as extortion.”

“We’d already spent a lot of money, millions and millions of dollars, to get a national audience to release a picture, the last think you want to do is then haltingly bring the movie out,” he said. But cable, satellite and digital companies told Sony they were wary of running the film during the holidays, a traditionally high-selling period, out of fear of becoming targets for hacker attacks too.

Lynton then called Google Chairman Eric Schmidt, who he recalled told him: “this is what we’ve been waiting for.” Schmidt agreed to help get the film out on Google Play and YouTube. Sony built its own website and Microsoft’s X-box and Apple’s iTunes also ultimately agreed to release the film, Lynton said. Sony purposely priced the online version of “The Interview” at \$5.99 rather than a typical \$9.99 or higher to avoid accusations of price gouging and to ensure more people could see it after the free speech criticisms it had weathered. The movie launched online on Christmas Eve and independent theaters also stepped up to screen the film on Christmas Day. Sony became an unintended test piece in a new film release strategy of putting out streaming video at the same time as a theatrical release.

The film, which had a \$40 million production budget, has so far made more than \$31 million from its online and on-demand release, Sony said earlier this week. That is the most lucrative digital release for a Hollywood film so far. “The Interview” is currently playing in 558 theaters and has been rented, streamed or purchased 4.3 million times. It had originally been forecast to earn about \$30 million in its opening weekend alone in a few thousand theaters, however.

Lynton said the studio views the release of a film on on-demand video and in independent theaters as “still experimental.”

“You would never take a movie of this size and do what we did with it in the end,” Lynton said. “It’s true, it proved to be that kind of experiment,





but it certainly wasn't planned." The theatrical experience is important, Lynton said, especially for comedy "because people love to laugh with each other."

"Had this not come along the way it had, we would've proceeded exactly the way we planned to do it, which is to put it out on 3,500 plus screens," he added.

Throughout, Lynton said senior management focused on keeping the business going. One manager ensured "Annie" would still release over Christmas, another made sure Black Friday went off without a hitch for DVD sales and replenishment was made available for all DVDs, another focused on all television shows shipping on time. As a result, the company didn't lose a single day of television or film production and Lynton said losses are expected to be "very manageable" and "not disruptive to the wellbeing of the company."

He declined to provide a cost estimate but said prior numbers that have circulated aren't accurate.

Meanwhile, most forensic on-site work at Sony is complete and remaining techs are focused on getting the system back online. Lynton said it's likely another week before email is back up and running and two to three weeks before the network as a whole is back online. The company is now working on identifying lessons learned and trying to determine what should or shouldn't be changed going forward.

"I know that we were adequately prepared," Lynton said about the company's technology and security. "Just not for an attack of this nature. Nobody could have withstood an attack of this nature."

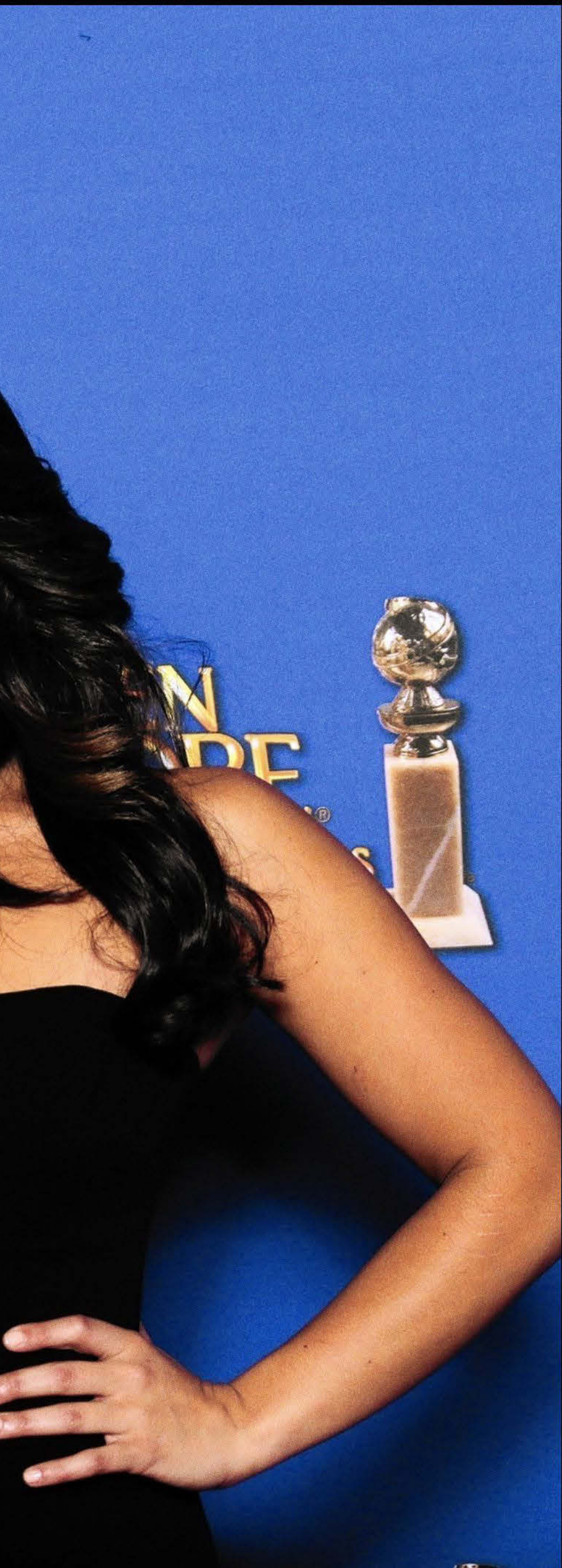
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Rodriguez, 'Transparent' Win TV Globes

The Golden Globes seemingly honored every type of content service feeding television's changing world, except for the four major broadcast networks still watched by most Americans each week.

The Globes' night of underdogs included wins for Amazon's comedy about a transgender woman, a rookie Latina actress who just learned Sunday that her show had been picked up for a second season, a new Showtime series about a marriage undermined by a torrid affair and the television remake of the movie "Fargo."

In all, three Globes went to streaming services, three to basic cable networks, three to premium cable networks, one to public broadcasting and one to the tiny CW broadcast network. ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox were shut out.

Amazon's "Transparent" won best comedy and Jeffrey Tambor, who plays a transgender woman who hasn't told his adult children about his journey, earned the Globe for best comic actor. Visibly moved as he accepted his award, the veteran actor thanked the Globes for giving attention to the series and dedicated his award to the transgender community.





“Thank you for your courage, thank you for your inspiration, thank you for your patience and thank you for letting us be part of the change,” Tambor said.

The series creator, Jill Soloway, expressed hope that the award will “teach the world something about authenticity and truth and love.”

Another series that could get a boost from the Globes is the CW’s “Jane the Virgin,” which has received critical praise but a limited audience. Gina Rodriguez plays the title role of a young woman inseminated by mistake, and won the Globe for best comic actress. Not only did she beat much-honored stars like Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Lena Dunham for the Globe, she learned hours earlier that the series had been picked up for its second season.

Rodriguez is the second Latina actress to win the award in this category, after America Ferrara of “Ugly Betty” in 2007.

“This award is so much more than myself,” said Rodriguez, who thanked her parents for allowing her to follow her dreams. “It represents a culture that wants to see themselves as heroes.” The Showtime series “The Affair,” also in its first year, was honored as best television drama. Ruth Wilson, who plays the waitress who becomes involved with a married writer, was named best actress in a drama.

“If I have learned anything from writing about an affair, it is how sacred and valuable and essential marriages are,” said Sarah Treem, creator of the series.

Actor Kevin Spacey, after eight nominations, took home a Globe as best actor in a drama for his role as politico Francis Underwood in Netflix’s “House of Cards.” He briefly dipped into character as he grabbed his trophy. “This is just the beginning of my revenge!” he said.





Actor Matt Bomer won a Globe as best supporting actor in a TV movie for playing a New York Times reporter with the AIDS virus in HBO's "The Normal Heart." He thanked his husband and three children from the stage.

FX's adaptation of "Fargo" won the Globe for best television movie or miniseries, beating out three high-profile HBO series in the category. Billy Bob Thornton, who plays Lorne Malvo in the series set in rural Minnesota, won for best actor in a miniseries or movie and kept his acceptance speech safe and short.

"You can say anything in the world and get in trouble," Thornton said. "I know this for a fact. So I'm just going to say thank you."

Joanna Froggatt won best supporting actress for her role of Anna Bates in PBS' "Downton Abbey." Her character was raped in the show last season, and Froggatt said in accepting her award that she had heard from several real-world victims of rapes in the aftermath of the episodes. She said she hoped the award would let them know that their voices had been heard.

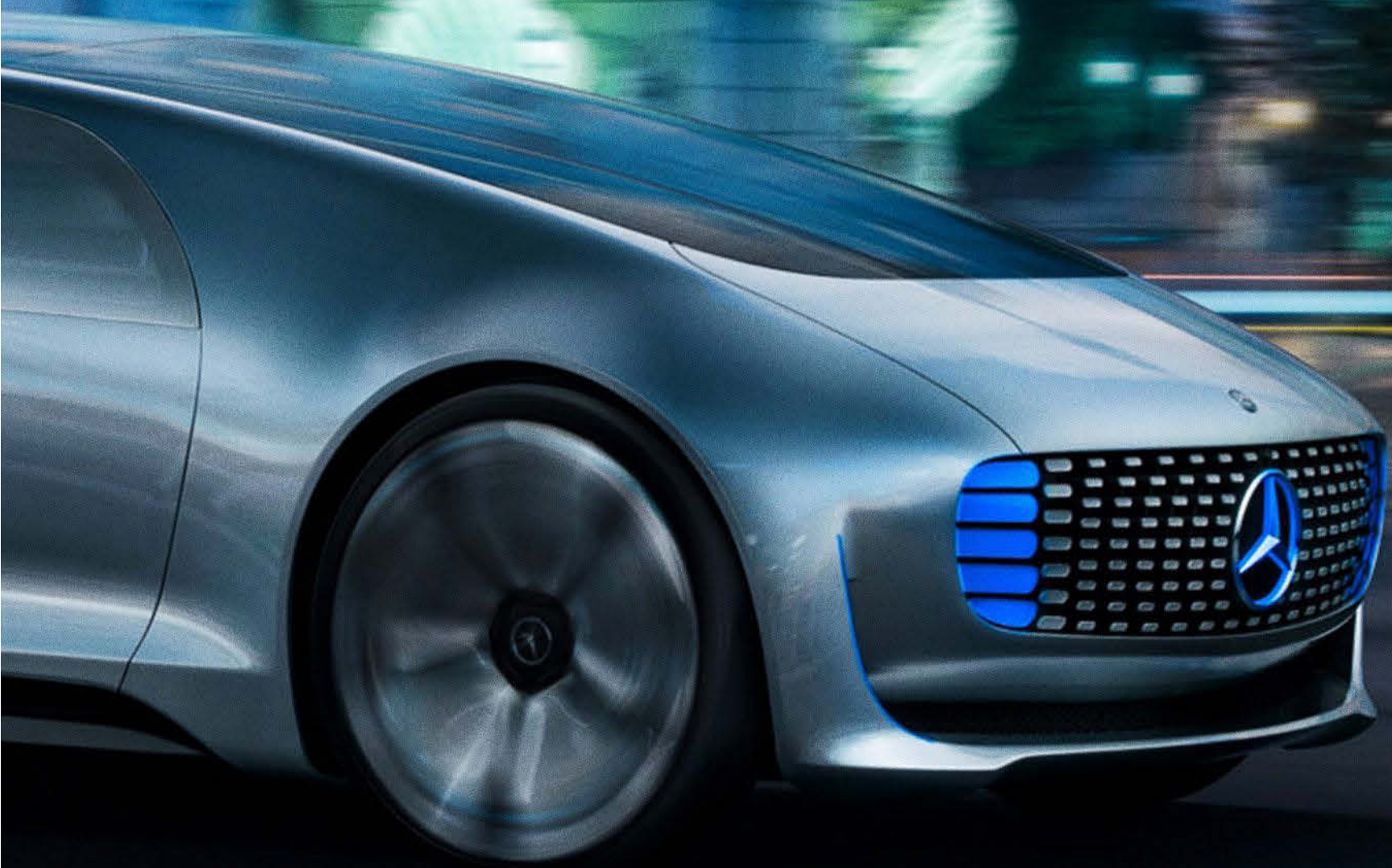
Maggie Gyllenhaal won as best actress in a miniseries for playing businesswoman Nessa Stein in "The Honorable Woman," a political thriller that was shown on Sundance TV. She said Hollywood is providing a greater variety of roles for women.

"What I think is new is the role for actual women in television and film," Gyllenhaal said. "That's what I think is evolutionary and revolutionary and it's turning me on."



CES 2015 WELCOMES IN
THE YEAR WITH A BANG

Tech:Lifestyle



AN EXCITING YEAR FOR CONSUMER
TECHNOLOGY AHEAD

ALL OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SHOW FLOOR

Ah, but you couldn't possibly have expected the technology world to die down for a little while after Christmas, surely? Yes, you may have barely got rid of the last remaining wrapping paper from your brand-spanking-new smartphone, tablet, PC or other device, but technology never sleeps, and the same has to be said of the wider consumer electronics world, as shown by the impact of CES 2015.

The Consumer Electronics Show or International CES has been held since June 1967, and once took place twice a year. Now, it's just the one date that you need to put in your diary, January, and there's just the one

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venue to remember every year - the Las Vegas Convention Center in Nevada. We wouldn't recommend turning up uninvited as a random member of the public, though - we're afraid that it's trade-only.

The CES has become the event to be at among consumer technology professionals, in part due to its record of being the first event at which so many game-changing developments have debuted. It was before a CES crowd in 1970, for instance, that the videocassette (VCR) recorder made its first appearance, followed by the likes of the camcorder and compact disc player (both 1981), the MiniDisc (1993), high-definition television (1998) and plasma display (2001).



WHAT THIS YEAR'S SHOW SERVED UP

The International CES, then, has quite the heritage, and this year's event took place at its usual venue from Tuesday, January 6 to Friday, January 9. The other associated numbers simply confirmed the continued status of CES as the United States' biggest tech show, **with 170,000 people filing through the Convention Center's doors to eye the offerings of the 3,600 exhibitors.**

It was a recipe for no shortage of spectacle, with CNET's John Falcone being among the many wooed spectators, describing the show as "brimming with swaggering startups, the hyperbole of hopeful marketing, dizzying bright lights and supersized TV screens." On the downside, it was hard to ignore the absence here of so many of the biggest names in tech like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple. But on the bright side (again), the less celebrated players did a fine job of impressing us in their wake.

Despite the impressive roll call of previous debutant technologies, there wasn't necessarily one standout game-changer in the CES 'class of 2015'. Indeed, Darrell Etherington of TechCrunch described the show as "typical in one key regard: The best insights to be had at the event are those that appear when you look at its overall composition, rather than at any single announcement or product unveiling."

There were similar sentiments to Etherington's from Falcone, who observed that "Rather than a single overarching product or trend, the most important thing about





CES may be the show itself: the industry as a whole came together in meetings, at parties, in back rooms, and on the show floor to coalesce around tech's dominant and increasingly intertwined themes."

ALL MANNER OF INTRIGUING DEVELOPMENTS

However, that shouldn't lead you to think that CES 2015 saw no new technology unveilings of consequence - quite the opposite, in fact. In some areas of the show, for example, the buzz was all about realizing the up-to-the-minute potential of virtual technology (VR), which is now looking less and less like a sci-fi gimmick thanks in large part to the hardware of VR innovator Oculus Rift.

There's also been a lot of fuss made in the technology world in recent years about 3D printers, which are no longer restricting themselves to plastic filaments, also now embracing materials like metal, stone and wood - oh, and even chocolate. Drones have been talked about a lot too, and at CES 2015, quadcopter drones were a common sight, despite the continuing legal debates over this particular technology.

What else has been predicted to enliven the technology world in the next few years? Oh yes... self-driving cars. Audi might have hogged most of the headlines by getting such a driverless car to make the journey from the San Francisco Bay Area to Las Vegas, but Mercedes-Benz also got plenty of attention for its 15-foot-long autonomous

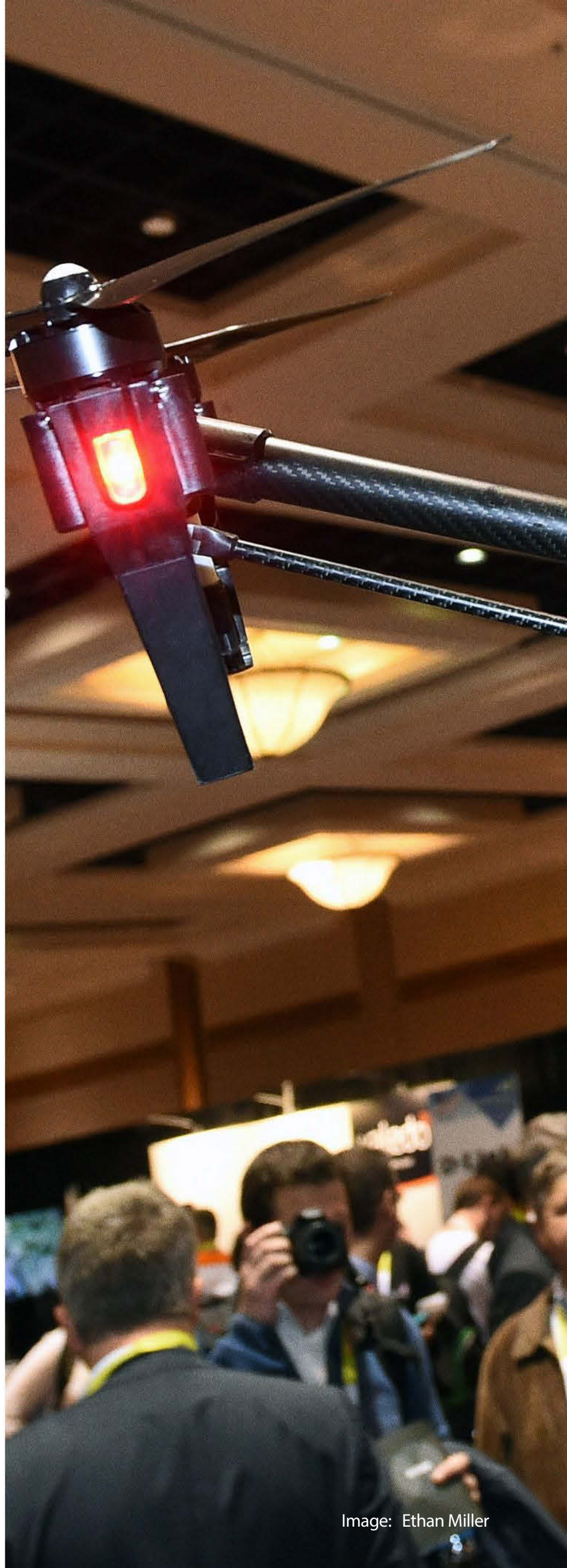


Image: Ethan Miller



prototype that very much resembles the traditional Jetsons-like vision of a "living room on wheels".

CES 2015 was also a fine place to observe the continued evolution of the Internet of Things connected home, with Google's Nest and Samsung's SmartThings standards being the subject of much conversation, as





the first big products with Apple HomeKit compatibility were also given an airing. The 'smart home' isn't quite a coherent reality yet, but with major and minor players alike involved, it looks like almost every imaginable home device will be gaining a chip or sensor before too long.

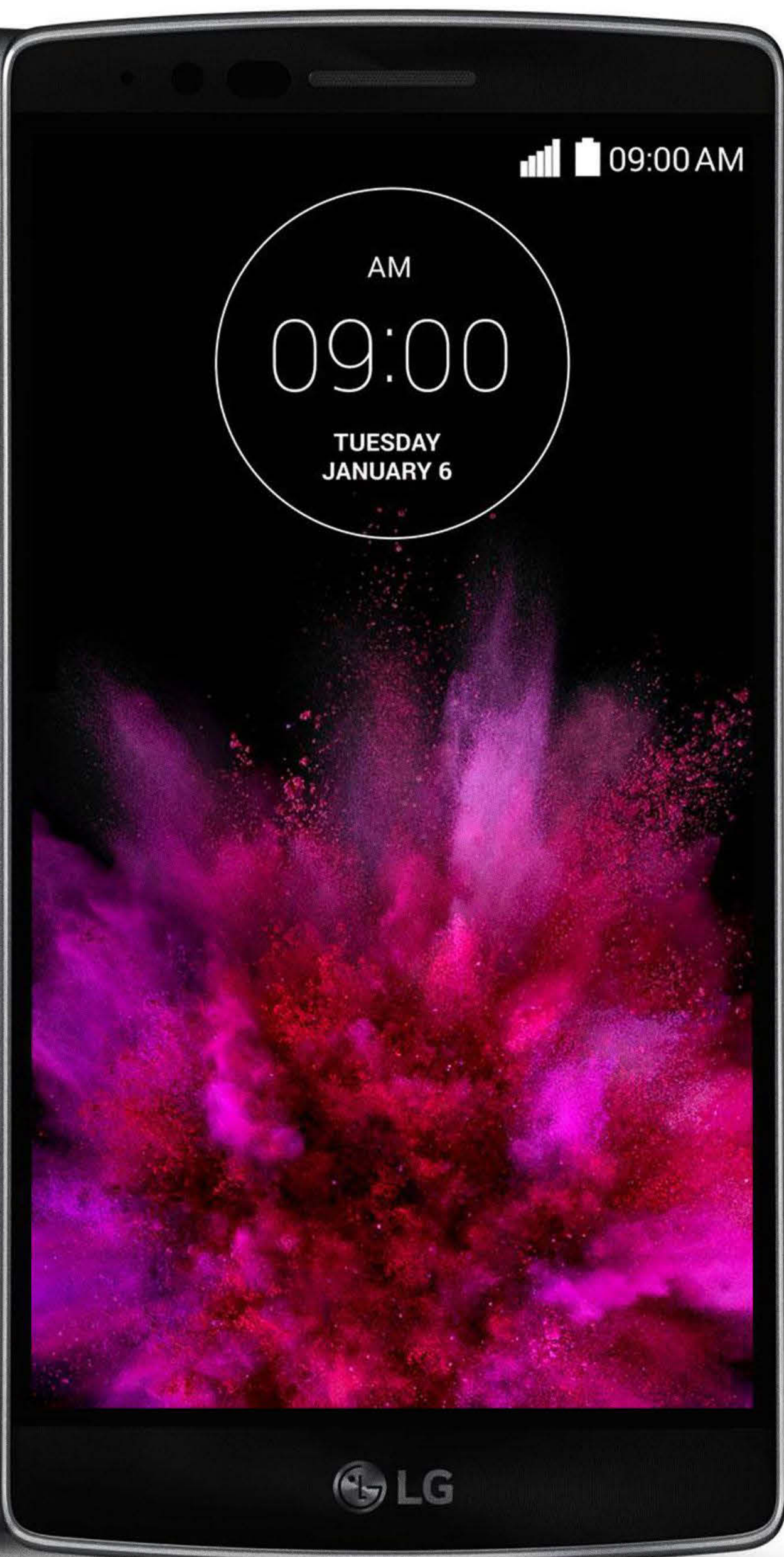
THE EXPENSIVE, THE WEIRD, THE WONDERFUL

But CES 2015 had so much more than those key developments to entertain us. As you might expect in the run-up to the Apple Watch's final release, wearables was a big focus for many of this year's exhibitors, although the slew of smartwatches to debut here often - and interestingly - emphasized fashion and style over the hard tech.

Other significant news at this year's CES included the continued prominence on the main floor of developments in TV technology, such as OLED TVs, bendable and curved screens, 4K TV, ultrawidescreen, 8K TVs and HDR. Talking of radical improvements to a more time-honored product category, many observers were also intrigued to see the unveiling of a series of thin and light PCs, with laptops and hybrids like the Asus Transformer Chi and Lenovo LaVie Z evidently incorporating many of the best things about tablets to fine effect.

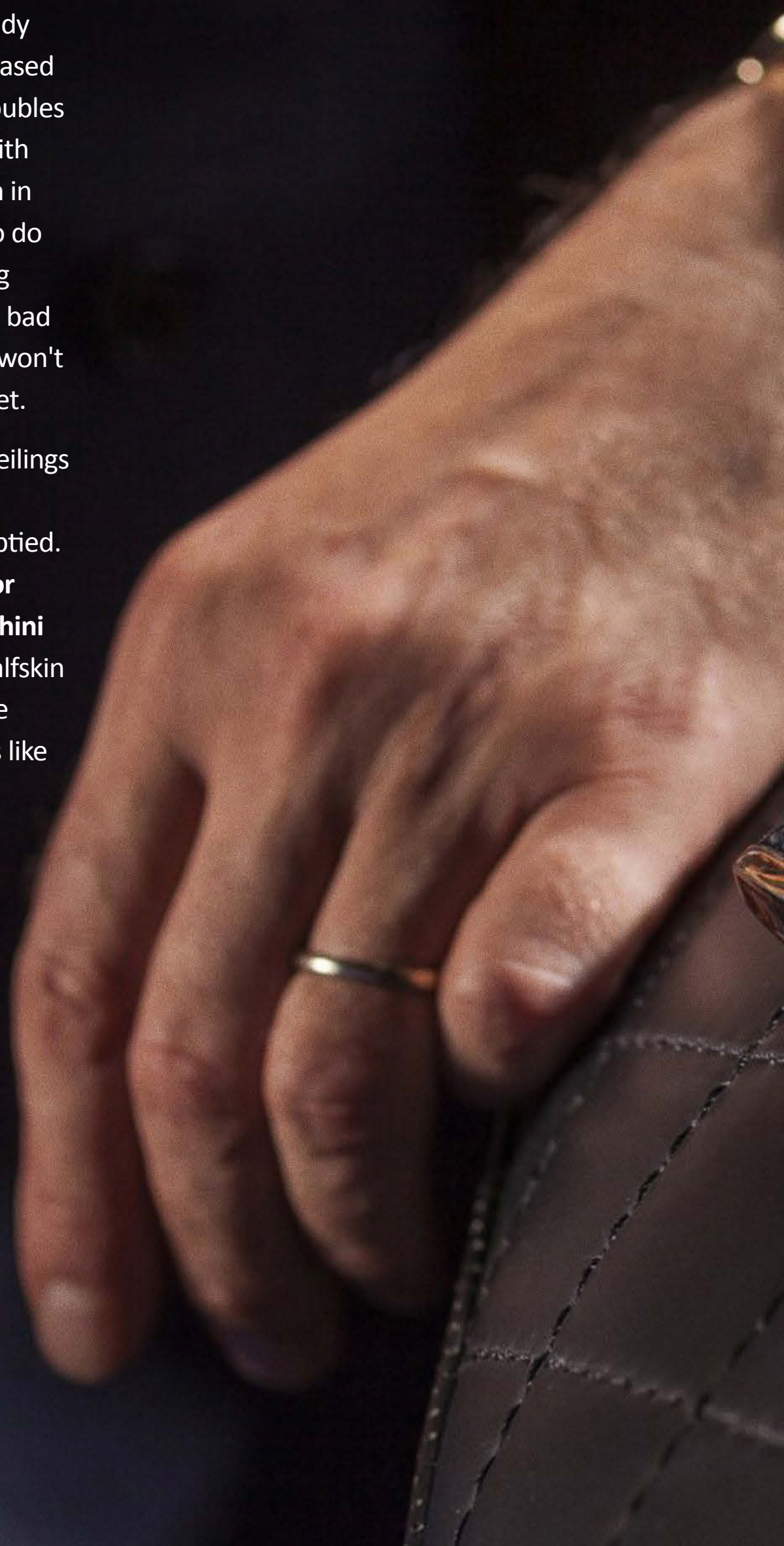
Then, there were some of the 'weirder' new developments to consider. What with all of the recent fuss about 'bendgate', one imagines that **there may have been a few chuckles at the presence here of a smartphone - the LG Flex 2 - that is curved and flexes if it is dropped or sat on.** Or what about Panasonic's smart mirror, which points out your facial flaws like wrinkles, pores and dryness, the idea being to suggest products that you can buy to "fix" them?





Or what if you've made getting fit your New Year resolution, in common with pretty much every other person on the planet? In that case, even if you've seemingly already abandoned that resolution, you'll be pleased to know that there's now a chair that doubles as a gym. It's called the Tao Chair, and with its arms that resist your pushing of them in various directions, it's the perfect way to do presses, curls and leg lifts while watching some of those aforementioned TVs. The bad news is that it's still a prototype, so you won't be able to actually buy one for a while yet.

Indeed, even for many of those CES unveilings that you are able to purchase, you can expect your wallet to be thoroughly emptied. **Just consider the \$1,100 Kube cooler, for instance, or the \$6,000 Torino Lamborghini 88 Tauri** - a phone that incorporates a calfskin and stainless steel build, some expensive headphones and even a case that opens like a Lamborghini hood.







OVERALL, ANOTHER MEMORABLE YEAR

All in all, it has proved to be far from 'just another year' for the legendary consumer electronics extravaganza that is CES. 2015 has seen more stunning products and innovations than ever to keep the ever-bulging audiences stimulated and entertained, and while it's difficult to say whether this year's show had any true game-changing technologies, there were definitely a lot of candidates for that status if our first impressions were anything to go by.

Now, if only we could just get a few more cents together for that Lamborghini phone... ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan







Estimated 19.3 Million Viewers for Globes

The Nielsen company says an estimated 19.3 million people watched the Golden Globes ceremony on NBC on Sunday night.

That's down from the 20.9 million people who watched the ceremony last year, when it was the most-watched Golden Globes in a decade. Nielsen said Monday that it represents the most-watched prime-time entertainment program on NBC since the 2014 Golden Globes ceremony.

It marked the third year in a row that Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the show; they've said this would be their final year.

AT&T LTE

10:59 AM

100

Genres

Featured

Charts



New & Noteworthy



Guardians of the Galaxy
Action & Adve...



Dawn of the Planet of the A...
Action & Adve...



Dawn of the Planet of the
Action & A

PALO ALTO

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Movie of the Week



Music



Movies



TV Shows



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Image: iMore

Why we really are on 'Planet App Store'

HOW THE
APP STORE IS
MAKING THE
WORLD A
BETTER PLACE



THE WIDER IMPACT OF THE APP STORE

As a humble Apple customer, you might imagine the App Store and iTunes Store to simply be a treasure trove of media - games, ebooks, apps, music and so much more. These stores have both become so central to the lives of the modern tech fan, that it should barely surprise you to hear of Apple's announcement **that a new record for billings from the App Store was set during the first week of the year.**

Apple was understandably keen to trumpet its latest impressive set of statistics, declaring that January's first week saw almost half a billion dollars of expenditure on iOS apps and in-app purchases. Indeed, New Year's Day 2015 was the biggest sales day ever for the App Store.

Such an achievement follows on from a 2014 in which all kinds of records were broken to the cheers of the boys and girls at Cupertino. More than \$10 billion in revenue was generated for developers by iOS apps over the course of last year, which also saw billings double those of 2013. Since developers began making iOS apps and games, they have pocketed an accumulative \$25 billion from selling them to iDevice users.

HOWEVER... THERE'S A BIGGER PICTURE

You might have noticed from the above statistics that Apple was specifically emphasizing what the App Store had helped others to earn, rather than itself. There's a good reason for that - the Californian



Windy's Lost Kite
Education
\$1.99



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- Capture and...
Productivity
Free



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JibJab Messages
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APPS FOR RED



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Musik
8,99 €



Der
Menschliche...
Bildung
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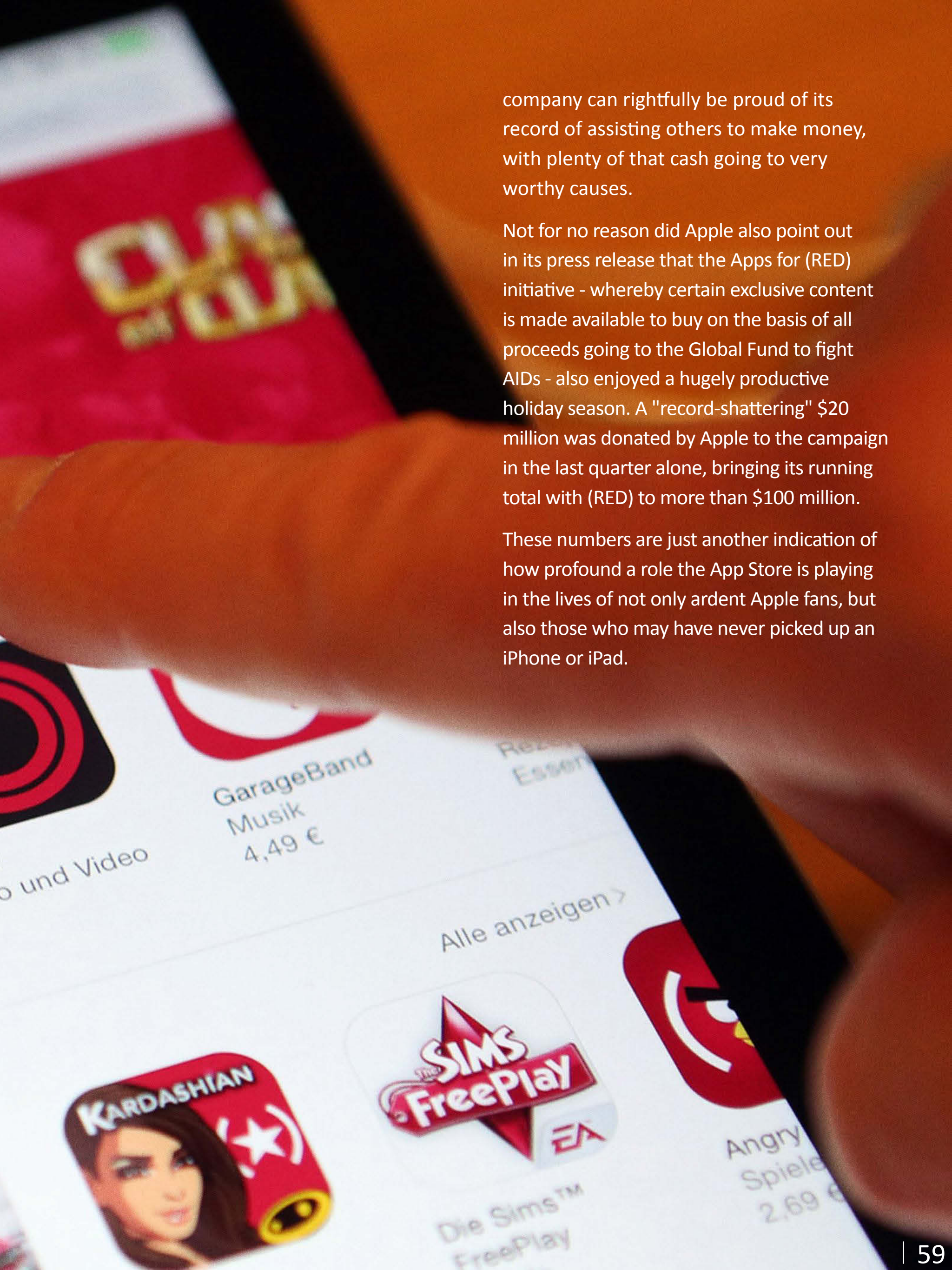
Over
Foto



company can rightfully be proud of its record of assisting others to make money, with plenty of that cash going to very worthy causes.

Not for no reason did Apple also point out in its press release that the Apps for (RED) initiative - whereby certain exclusive content is made available to buy on the basis of all proceeds going to the Global Fund to fight AIDs - also enjoyed a hugely productive holiday season. A "record-shattering" \$20 million was donated by Apple to the campaign in the last quarter alone, bringing its running total with (RED) to more than \$100 million.

These numbers are just another indication of how profound a role the App Store is playing in the lives of not only ardent Apple fans, but also those who may have never picked up an iPhone or iPad.





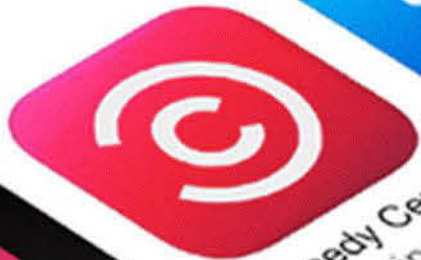
HAPE

TOUCH GRIND
SKATE 2

Best New Apps



Hopscotch
Programming...
Education
FREE



Comedy Central
Entertainment
FREE



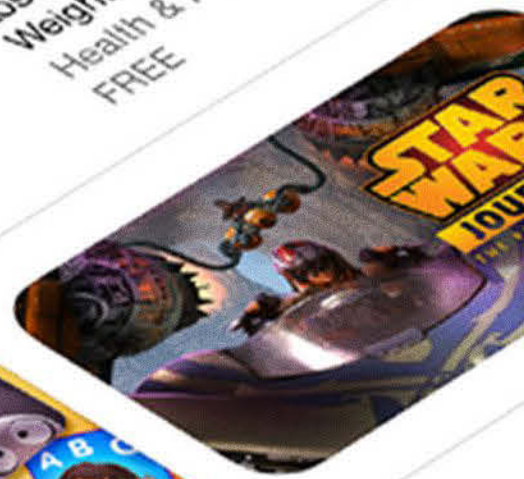
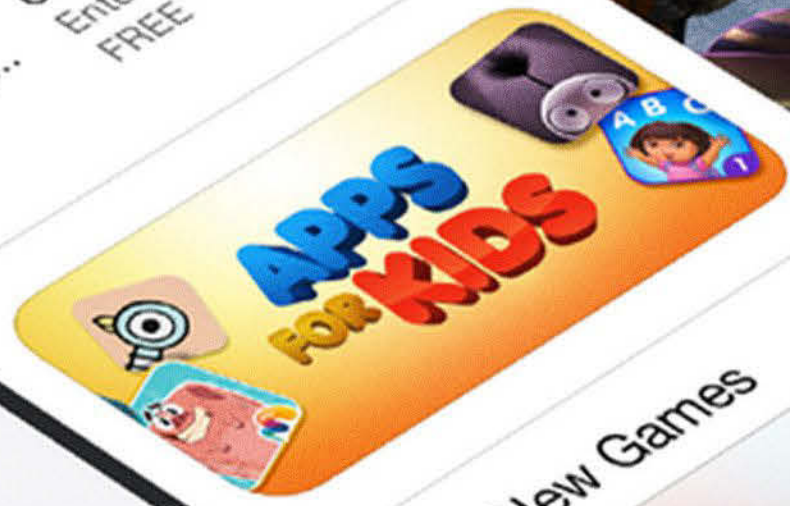
Next for iPad -
Track your ex...
Finance
\$2.99



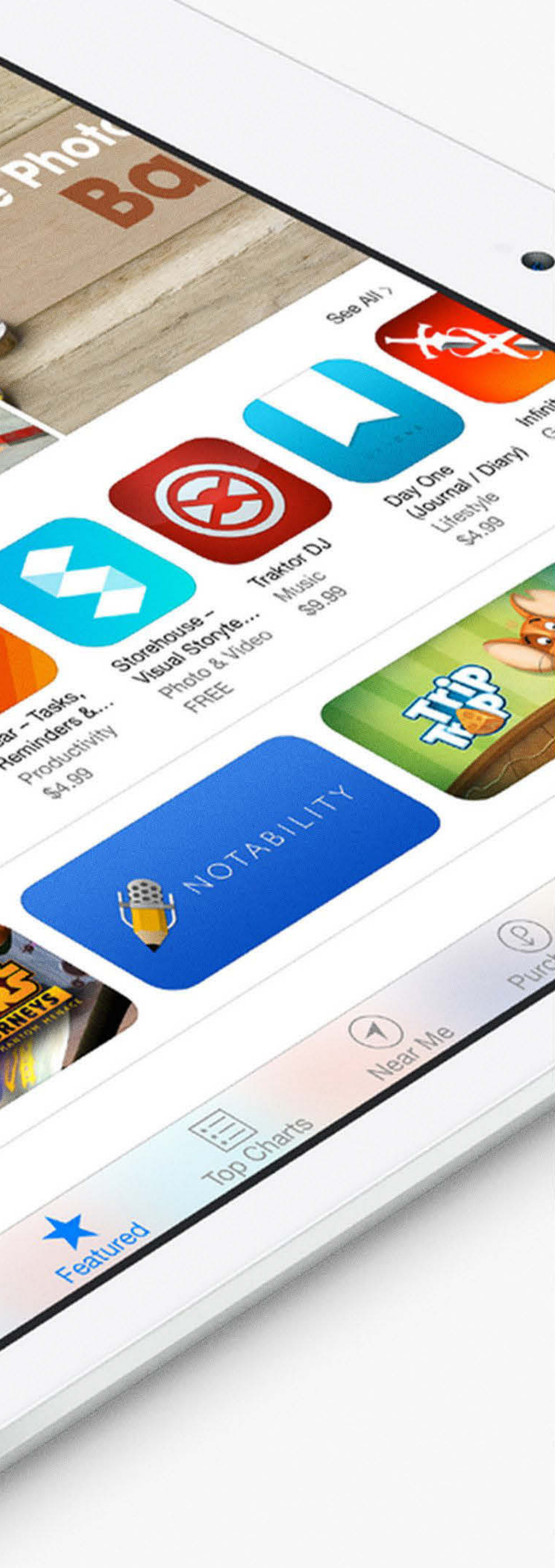
Lose It! -
Weight Loss...
Health & Fitness
FREE



Sky Guide:
View Stars Ni...
Reference
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Best New Games



NEW INNOVATIONS MAKING DEVELOPERS' JOBS EASIER

Any discussion of the wider impact of the App Store and iTunes has to touch on the hard-working, but also frequently unsung iOS developer community. These are the men and women who slog it out to bring you wonderful apps and games that make your own life better, and such new developments within iOS as the powerful new Swift programming language and the robust HealthKit and HomeKit frameworks are only making it easier for these apps to be created for your enjoyment.

Those updates and alterations by Apple to the already-winning iOS formula are almost certainly enabling developers to be established and grow faster, as evidenced in part by how many smaller, independent app creators are really thriving. Those range from the UK's ustwo, which is responsible for the Monument Valley game, to the creators of the intelligent and intuitive Crossy Road game, the Australia-based Hipster Whale.

As Hipster Whale's co-founder, Matthew Hall has observed: "We could never have dreamed of this level of success, with Crossy Road only being available on the App Store for the last six weeks of the year. In a couple of months we were able to create a simple, fun game that was featured on the App Store and climbed to the top of the App Store charts around the world—it's amazing."

HOW THE APP STORE IS CREATING JOBS

The iTunes and App Stores have had seismic effects on their respective industries since their introductions, and Apple has released no shortage of statistics indicating the major impact that the App Store has had on the wider U.S. job market since its 2008 launch.

627,000 jobs in Apple's home country have been created with the help of the iOS ecosystem in those six years, and given the astonishing international reach of the App Store's 1.4 million apps over 24 categories, it takes little imagination to picture the positive knock-on effect across the globe. Not everyone takes much time to think about the whole industry that has sprung up around app design and development and the support that this has given to related sectors.

Engineers, retail workers, manufacturers, suppliers and app developers are among the vast range of direct or indirect beneficiaries of the App Store, with Apple effectively making more than one million U.S. jobs possible. 66,000 of those are U.S.-based Apple employees, while 334,000 of them are workers at other companies whose positions depend on the spending and growth of the Californian firm.

The App Store helped to give birth to what we can now call the 'app economy', **which APPNATION has recently predicted will be worth more than \$150 billion internationally within three years**, amid suggestions that there will continue to be more job vacancies in the sector than are able to be filled. Nor



Image: iMore

11:22 PM

32%

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Beach Buggy
Racing
Games
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Epic Zen
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Defenders
Games
Free

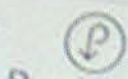
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Mr. Game
Game
Free



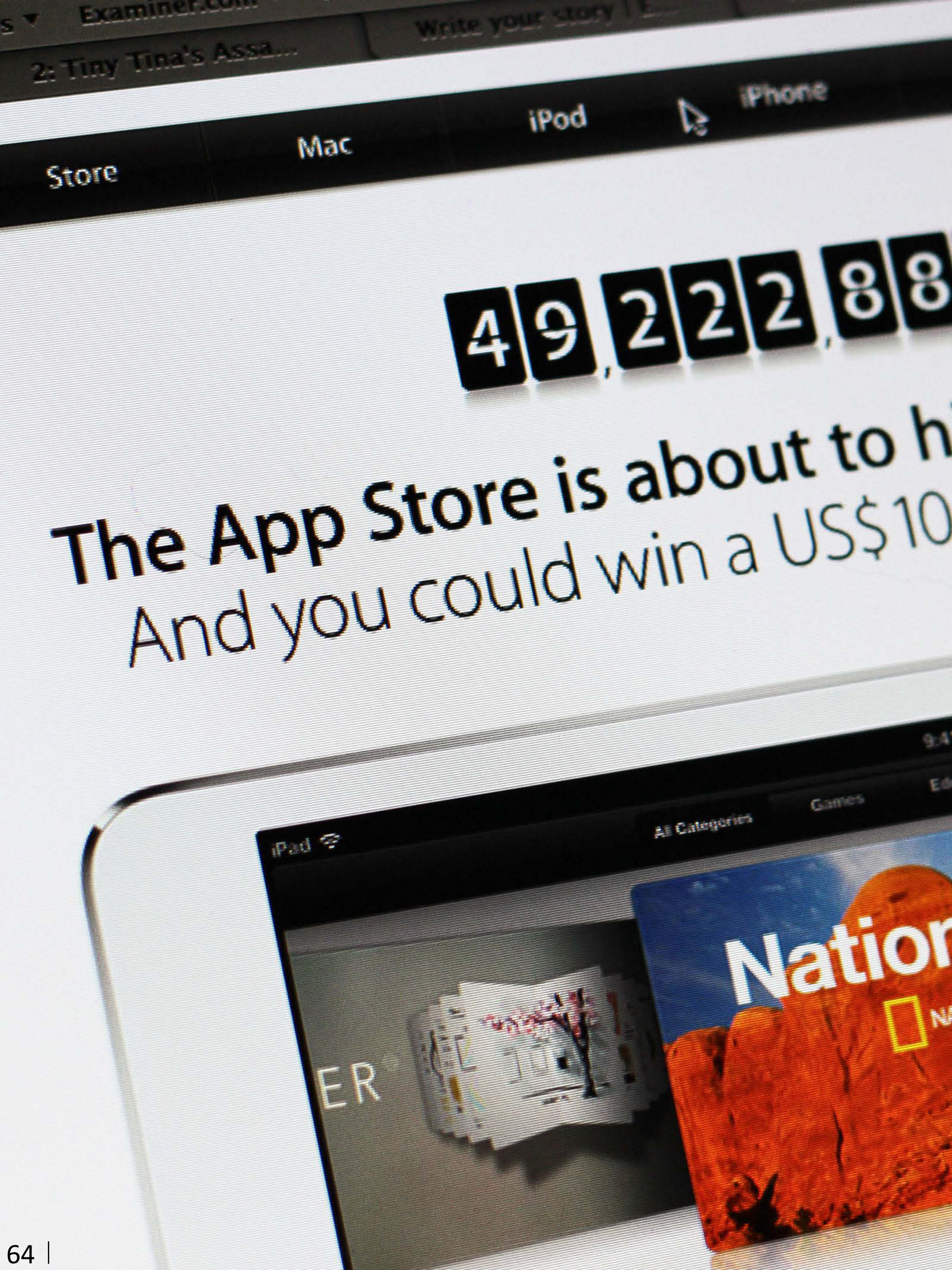
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Updates



49,222,88

The App Store is about to h
And you could win a US\$10

iPad

All Categories

Games

ER

Nation



NA



should one ignore the broad geographical spread of this economy, given that 78% of the companies that make apps are based outside Silicon Valley.

JOBS SUPPORTED AT APPLE AND BEYOND

There may have been a stagnation in overall employment in the United States over the last decade, but Apple has been swimming gladly against that tide, expanding the base of people that it directly employs almost sixfold over that time. The last decade has seen 52,000 jobs created at Apple, over 9,000 of those just in the last year, and there are now 50 states with full-time Apple employees, ranging from artists, designers and scientists to manufacturing, retail and tech support.

But there are also so many ways in which the Cupertino firm supports the U.S. economy as a whole. Have you ever considered how many planes and trucks need to be built to transport Apple products to customers around the world, and how many jobs would be lost in this area alone if the Cupertino company didn't exist? Don't forget too, that there's a whole industry around the construction of components for iPhones, iPads and other Apple products.

Remarkably, simply the astonishing growth of the iPhone is estimated to account for between one quarter and one third of a percentage point of the annualized growth rate in this country's gross domestic product. Contrary to the perceptions in some quarters

that the vital components for consumer electronic products are manufactured in a process completely unconnected to our own shores, there are actually 31 U.S. states providing parts, materials or equipment for Apple products.

Another oft-forgotten part of the 'app economy' - but certainly not by Apple itself - are the associated customer support staff, which in the Cupertino firm's case, are largely located in the U.S. At a time when certain competitors are happy to relocate all or most of their call centers to such countries as India to cut costs, Apple continues to maintain 28 call centers in 18 states, a total of 19,000 U.S.-based jobs supporting AppleCare.

PLENTY FOR THE APP STORE TO BE PROUD OF

All of the above makes for a staggering overall impact by the iTunes and App Stores, often reaching areas of the U.S. economy and parts of the world that you would never have imagined. We haven't even touched here on such aspects of Apple's job-creating operations as its Supplier Diversity Program, or the full range of app categories and the astonishingly diverse assortment of developers servicing them.

In short, one should never play down the extent to which our world has become 'Planet App Store'. Apple is doing truly good things for this planet, with so much of that being made possible by the apps that you purchase and use on your own humble iGadget. ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan



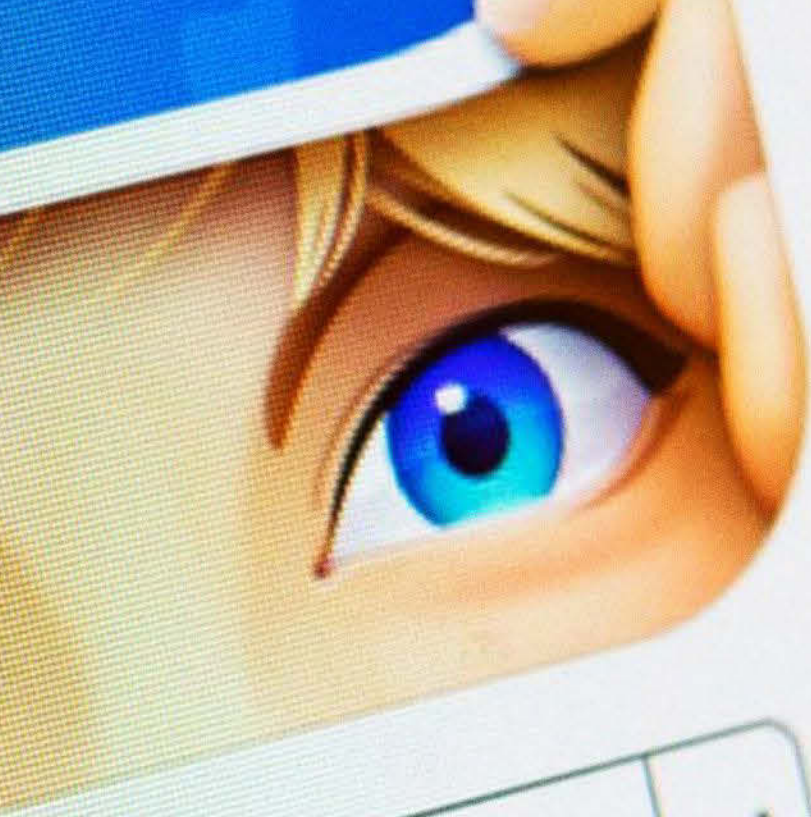
Sup!

Details

Rating

iPhone

Screenshots



£0.79 Buy

Includes In-App Purchases

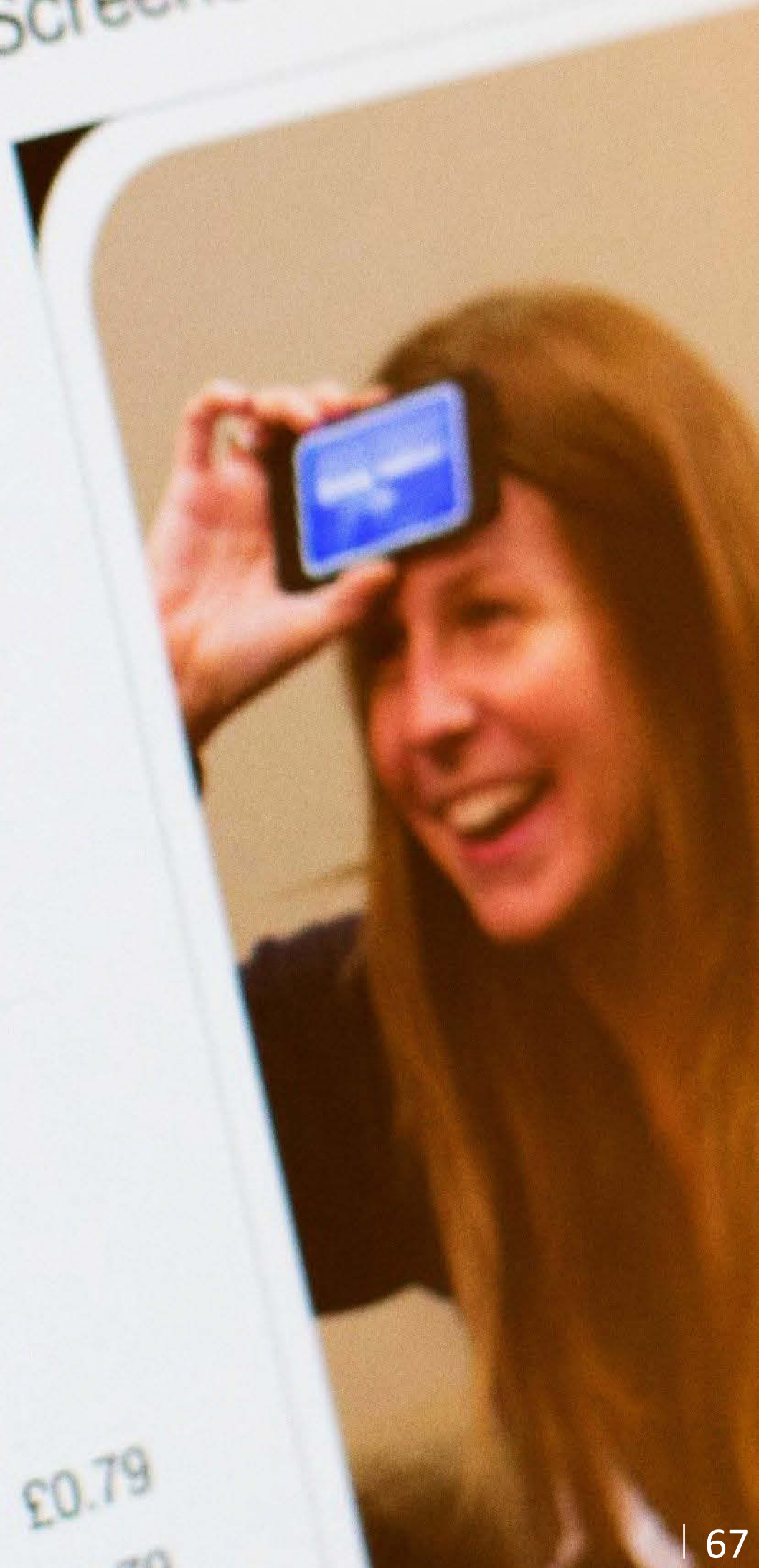
The app is designed for both iPhone and iPad

★ ★ (107)

4+

APP PURCHASES

£0.79





**JE SUIS
CHARLIE**

**J
C**



Charlie Hebdo: High Stakes When Satire Meets Globalization

These are dark days for those who want to believe that the pen is mightier than the sword.

The attack on French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo has caused grief and soul-searching around the world, and exposed the risks humorists can run - only intensified in an era of instant global communications where starkly opposed ideologies can collide.

British cartoonist Gerald Scarfe expressed his anguish in the Sunday Times newspaper with the image of a sword slicing off a hand holding a pen. In the Sunday Telegraph, Bob Moran depicted a cartoonist in full body armor under the slogan "Keep Calm and Carry On."

For centuries, satirical stories and cartoons have mocked the powerful and sacred in the societies that produced them. Often they drew a harsh reaction. Offending an absolute monarch could mean death. Well into the 20th century, comedians from Lenny Bruce to the editors of British magazine Oz were prosecuted for offending society's sensibilities.



ENQUÊTE : LES PARADIS FISCAUX DE BERNARD ARNAULT P. 15

CHARLIE HEBDO

INTÉGRISME
MAHOMET FAIT
DU CINÉMA P. 2

ÉCOLOGIE
LE PS SOLUBLE DANS
LE GAZ DE SCHISTE P. 7

MARIAGE HOMO
CES CURETONS
QUI SONT POUR P. 11

EN KIOSQUE
LE HORS-
ANTINUC
DE CHARLIE

INTOUCHABLES



Today, societies in countries like France are more diverse than ever before. Once overwhelmingly Catholic, France is now an officially secular country with 5 million Muslims, about 7.5 percent of the population. There's less consensus on what's taboo and where the boundaries of taste and offense lie.

And now that words and images move around the world at the click of a mouse, there's more chance for provocative humor to collide with rigid ideas, whether Islamic fundamentalism or North Korean communism.

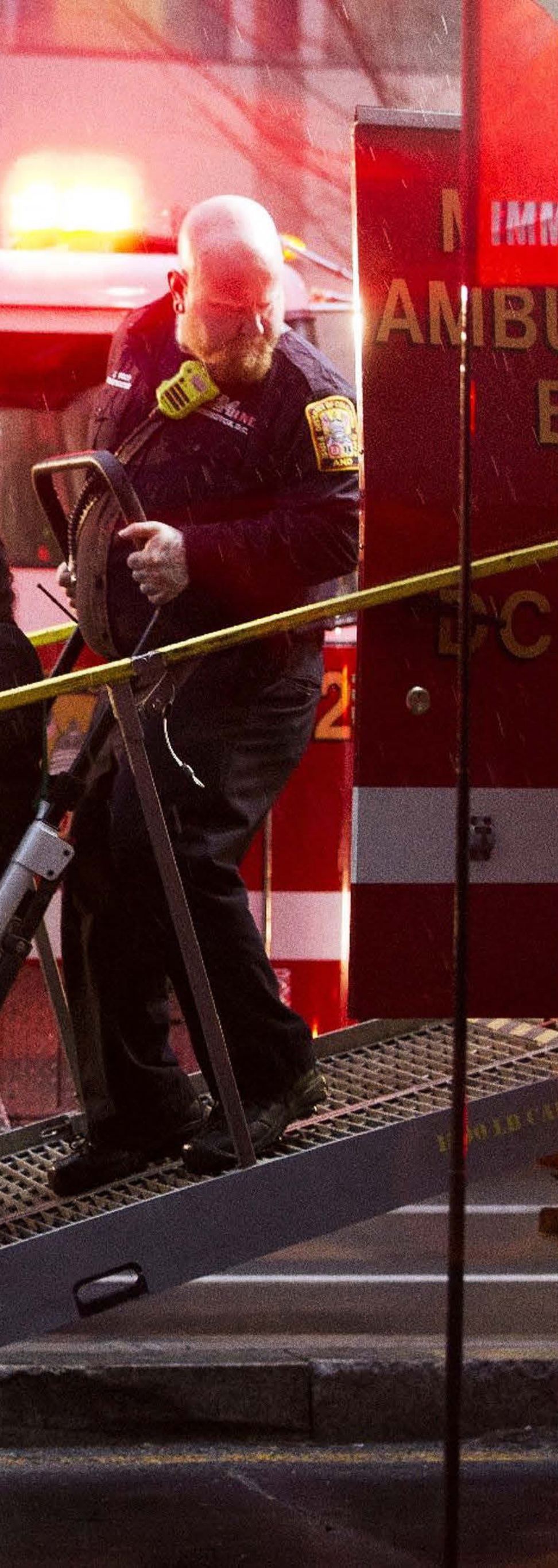
When comedian Seth Rogen and his collaborators chose the imagined assassination of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, who presides over one of the world's most isolated countries, as the plot of slacker comedy "The Interview," the distant leader took offense. North Korea condemned the movie as an "unpardonable mockery of our sovereignty and dignity of our supreme leader." There were threats against U.S. movie theaters, and Sony was hit by a cyberattack that spilled sensitive commercial data and embarrassing emails across the Internet. (U.S. authorities have blamed North Korea for the hack, though some cybersecurity experts have their doubts).

Charlie Hebdo springs from a French satirical tradition that reaches back to the republic's revolutionary roots: rude, scabrous, an enemy of power and piety. Its targets have included popes, politicians - and the Prophet Muhammad. Many Muslims believe all images of the prophet are blasphemous; Charlie Hebdo's cartoons could be deliberately crude and outrageous, once showing Muhammad as a star in a porn shoot.

Some witnesses reported that the attackers who killed 12 people at the paper's offices shouted "We have avenged the prophet."

The attack is another bloody chapter in a story that stretches back to Salman Rushdie's 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses," whose ironic take





on the prophet drew a death edict from Iran's religious authorities. The British Rushdie lived in hiding under police protection for years. Many miles from both Britain and Iran, his Japanese translator was stabbed to death. Rushdie's Italian translator and Norwegian publisher were also attacked, but survived.

In the book "Globalization and Insecurity in the Twenty-first Century," London School of Economics professor Christopher Coker said "The Satanic Verses" controversy was both caused by globalization and an illustration of its limits. The world is an ever-smaller place, but the gaps that divide us are wide.

"Rushdie's novel was an example of a postmodern Western cultural genre (satire)," Coker wrote. "Western intellectuals recognized the genre but not the culture (the Quran). Islamic intellectuals recognized the culture but not the genre."

University of Lincoln professor Brian Winston, author of "A Right to Offend: Free Expression in the 21st Century," said the Rushdie affair made fundamentalists realize that "you could respond (to grievances) by attacking artistic expression. Suddenly you could attack an artist because of what they had said."

That tension exploded into violence again in 2004 with the slaying of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh by a Muslim fanatic angered by the documentarist's depiction of Islam.

More violence erupted after a Danish newspaper published cartoons of Muhammad - including one which showed the prophet with a bomb-shaped turban - in 2005. There were threats to the cartoonists, and fiery protests in Muslim countries in which dozens were killed.

The attack on Charlie Hebdo is the latest shocking reminder that humor has both power and consequences. That fact is not lost on imprisoned Russian punks Pussy Riot or detained Egyptian





TV satirist Bassem Youssef, but often forgotten in the West, where it has become rare for humor to cause physical protest.

Since the attack on Charlie Hebdo that killed 12 people, hundreds of thousands of people around the world have gathered to proclaim “Je suis Charlie” (I am Charlie).

Despite the show of solidarity, some fear the violence will lead to self-censorship by artists and publishers.

British cartoonist Martin Rowson said last week that he wanted to respond to the Paris killing with a cartoon of Muhammad wearing a “Not in my name” T-shirt. Instead, Rowson drew himself slumped at his easel in a cartoon for The Guardian. His loved ones, the caption explained, “don’t want me to risk getting murdered offering a few of you lot a wry smile.”

Mad magazine editor John Ficarra, in a taped statement for CBS News’ “Sunday Morning” that was aired two days after the end of the France attacks, acknowledged initially being fearful of appearing on the program.

“By the simple act of appearing on camera denouncing the terrorists and defending the rights of cartoonists and satirists, would I be drawing a target on my back and the backs of my colleagues?” he said. “Unfortunately these days, those are not unfounded fears.”

But he closed with a defiant message.

“On the other hand, come Monday morning, my staff and I will be back at work on the next issue of Mad.

“What, us worry?”





Liam Neeson's 'Taken 3' Earns \$39.2m at Weekend box off

Liam Neeson has a new skill to add to his resume: taking down "The Hobbit" at the box office.

"Taken 3" swiped first place at the box office away from three-week reigning champion "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies." The 20th Century Fox thriller series starring Neeson as a vengeance-seeking retired CIA operative with "a very particular set of skills" earned \$39.1 million.

Paramount's civil rights drama "Selma" expanded into wide release and arrived in second place with \$11.3 million.

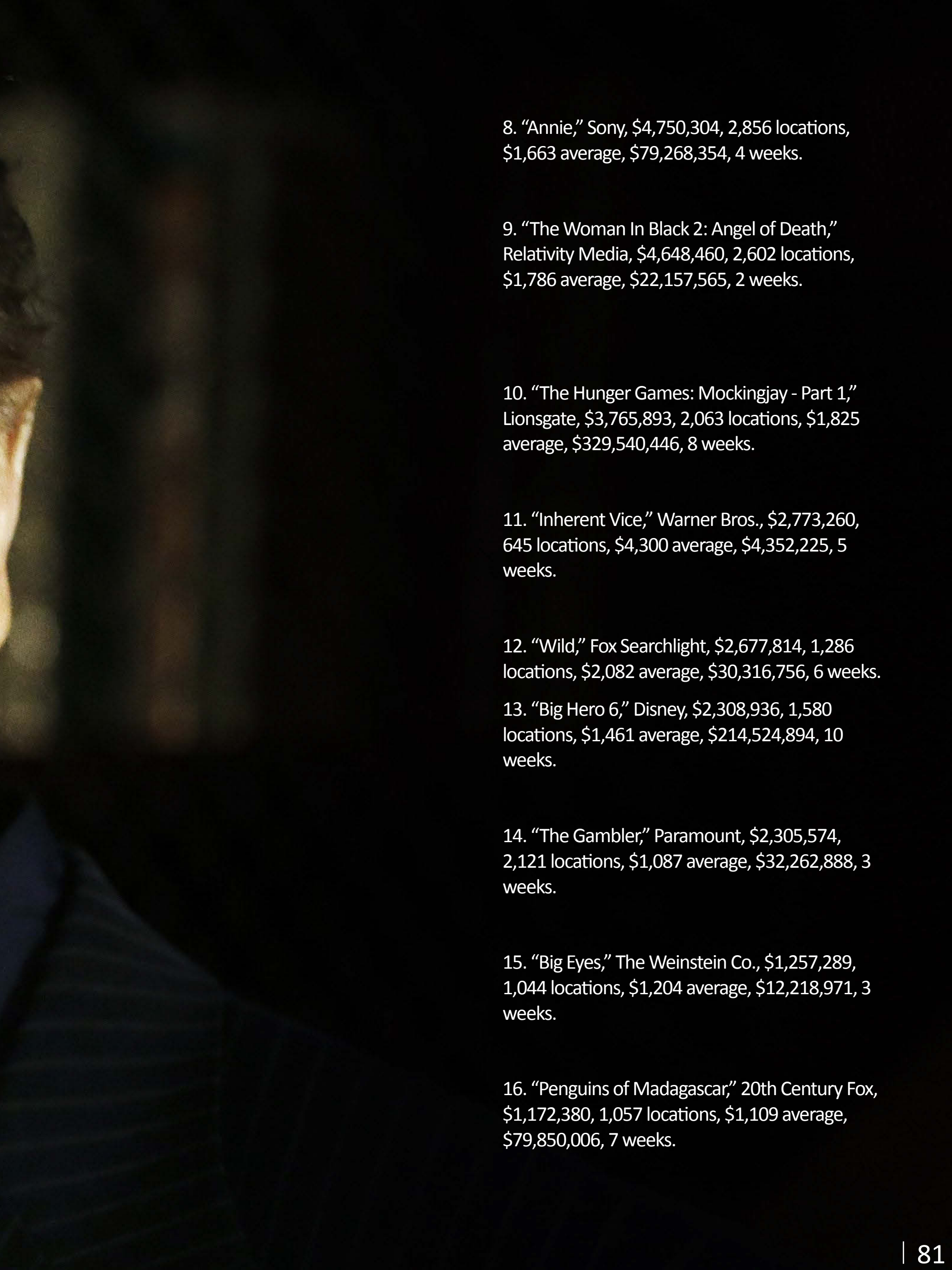


In its third week at the box office, the Disney musical “Into the Woods” earned \$9.5 million in third place.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Rentrak:

1. “Taken 3,” 20th Century Fox, \$39,201,657, 3,594 locations, \$10,908 average, \$39,201,657, 1 week.
2. “Selma,” Paramount, \$11,307,394, 2,179 locations, \$5,189 average, \$13,594,343, 3 weeks.
3. “Into The Woods,” Disney, \$9,554,755, 2,833 locations, \$3,373 average, \$105,076,684, 3 weeks.
4. “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies,” Warner Bros., \$9,377,118, 3,402 locations, \$2,756 average, \$236,459,605, 4 weeks.
5. “Unbroken,” Universal, \$8,170,305, 3,301 locations, \$2,475 average, \$101,404,575, 3 weeks.
6. “The Imitation Game,” The Weinstein Co., \$7,213,862, 1,566 locations, \$4,607 average, \$40,430,301, 7 weeks.
7. “Night At The Museum: Secret of the Tomb,” 20th Century Fox, \$6,718,622, 3,371 locations, \$1,993 average, \$99,542,110, 4 weeks.





8. "Annie," Sony, \$4,750,304, 2,856 locations, \$1,663 average, \$79,268,354, 4 weeks.

9. "The Woman In Black 2: Angel of Death," Relativity Media, \$4,648,460, 2,602 locations, \$1,786 average, \$22,157,565, 2 weeks.

10. "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1," Lionsgate, \$3,765,893, 2,063 locations, \$1,825 average, \$329,540,446, 8 weeks.

11. "Inherent Vice," Warner Bros., \$2,773,260, 645 locations, \$4,300 average, \$4,352,225, 5 weeks.

12. "Wild," Fox Searchlight, \$2,677,814, 1,286 locations, \$2,082 average, \$30,316,756, 6 weeks.

13. "Big Hero 6," Disney, \$2,308,936, 1,580 locations, \$1,461 average, \$214,524,894, 10 weeks.

14. "The Gambler," Paramount, \$2,305,574, 2,121 locations, \$1,087 average, \$32,262,888, 3 weeks.

15. "Big Eyes," The Weinstein Co., \$1,257,289, 1,044 locations, \$1,204 average, \$12,218,971, 3 weeks.

16. "Penguins of Madagascar," 20th Century Fox, \$1,172,380, 1,057 locations, \$1,109 average, \$79,850,006, 7 weeks.



17. "Interstellar," Paramount, \$1,160,152, 703 locations, \$1,650 average, \$184,809,001, 10 weeks.

18. "Exodus: Gods and Kings," 20th Century Fox, \$1,103,400, 1,142 locations, \$966 average, \$63,655,505, 5 weeks.

19. "Gopala Gopala," BlueSky Cinemas, \$708,706, 100 locations, \$7,087 average, \$708,706, 1 week.

20. "The Theory Of Everything," Focus Features, \$673,509, 408 locations, \$1,651 average, \$25,894,537, 10 weeks.



iTunes Preview



by David Fincher
Genre: Drama
Released: 2014
Price: \$14.99

★★★★★
674 Ratings

Movies & TV Shows

Gone Girl

This drama, based on the Gillian Flynn novel of the same name and directed by David Fincher, sees Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) report his beautiful wife Amy (Rosamund Pike) missing on their fifth wedding anniversary. A media frenzy and legal pressure ensue, as the question arises of whether Dunne may actually be his wife's killer.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Flynn's *Gone Girl* novel was published in June 2012.
2. It soon made the New York Times Best Seller list.
3. Neil Patrick Harris, Tyler Perry and Carrie Coon also star in the film adaptation.
4. The film's world premiere was at the 52nd New York Film Festival on September 26, 2014.
5. The movie **attracted four Golden Globe nominations**.



Trailer

Rotten Tomatoes



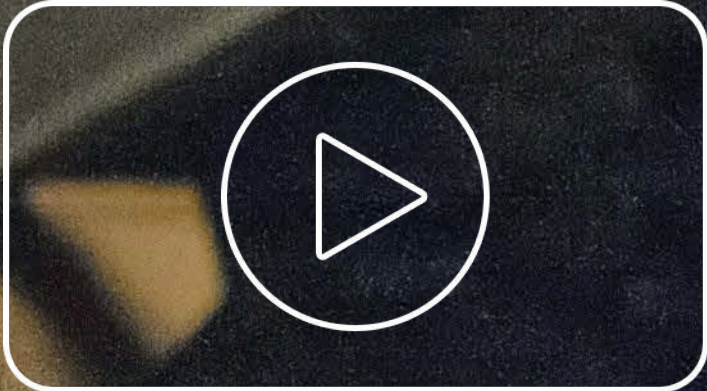
89%

See more in
iTunes

THURSDAY JULY 05, 2012

MISSING





Interview with Ben Affleck and Carrie Coon

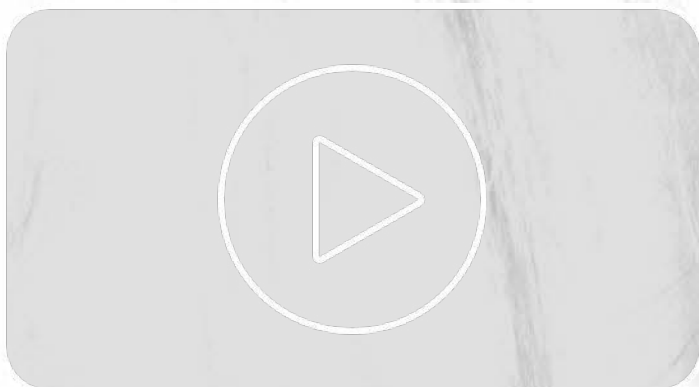
Lucy

French director Luc Besson continues his visionary streak established by *Le Femme Nikita* and *The Professional* with this action thriller about a captive woman (played by Scarlett Johansson) who is accidentally dosed with a drug enabling her to use 100% of her brain capacity, turning her into a merciless warrior evolved beyond human logic.

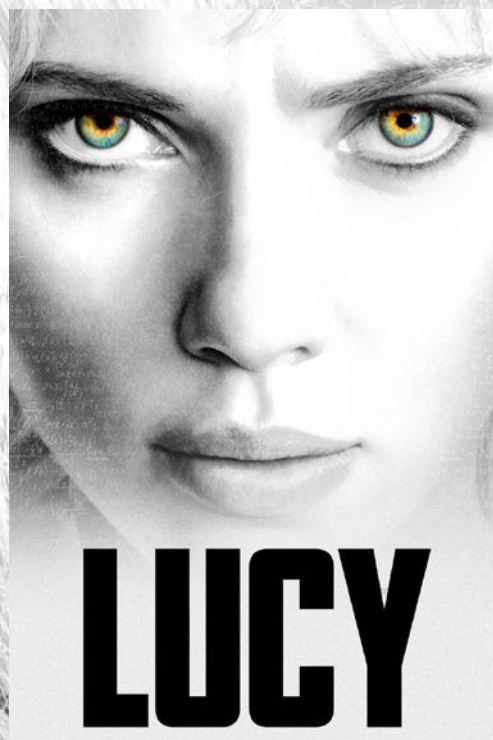
FIVE FACTS:

1. Other cast members include Morgan Freeman, Choi Min-sik and Amr Waked.
2. Filming locations included Taipei, Paris and New York City.
3. Long-time Besson associate, Éric Serra composed the film's original score.
4. Lucy has drawn comparisons with such films as *Akira*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Matrix*, *The Tree of Life* and *Limitless*.
5. The movie **was a major box office success, grossing \$458,863,600 worldwide.**





Trailer



iTunes Preview



by Luc Besson
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2014
Price: \$17.99



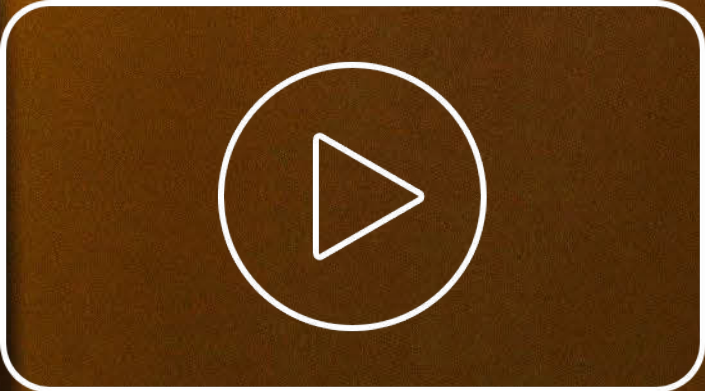
557 Ratings

Rotten Tomatoes



66%





Interview with Scarlett Johansson



Music

All About That Bass



iTunes Preview



Genre: Pop
Released: Jan 09, 2015
15 Songs
Price: \$12.99

★★★★★
3922 Ratings

Title (Deluxe)

Meghan Trainor

How do you follow up one of the biggest singles of all time, the criminally infectious “All About That Bass”? Well, by releasing an album that lives up to the hype, that’s how. The 21-year old is making all of the right moves at the moment with her much-admired brand of traditional bubblegum pop and lyrics focusing on female empowerment.

FIVE FACTS:

- 1.** Meghan Elizabeth Trainor was born on December 22, 1993 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.
- 2.** She began singing at 6 years old and songwriting at age 11.
- 3.** Trainor is also an alumna of the Berklee College of Music.
- 4.** “All About That Bass” topped the charts in 58 countries and spent eight non-consecutive weeks at the top of the U.S. Billboard Hot 100.
- 5.** The Title album follows an EP of the same name, which debuted at number 15 on the U.S. Billboard 200.

See more in
iTunes



Interview with Meghan Trainor





Uptown Special

Mark Ronson

Previewed by the Bruno Mars-fronted megahit “Uptown Funk”, Uptown Special is a must-listen for fans of old school funk and disco. That’s not a big shock when one casts a glance over the galaxy of represented talent, including Jeff Bhasker, Mystikal, Kevin Parker, Michael Chabon, Stevie Wonder and Ronson himself, for whom this is his fourth studio album.

FIVE FACTS:

Five Facts:

1. Mark Daniel Ronson is an English musician, DJ, singer and music producer.
2. His debut album was Here Comes the Fuzz in 2003.
3. “Uptown Funk” was his first U.S. number one single.
4. He is also known for producing Grammy-award-winning albums for Adele and Amy Winehouse.
5. Ronson has said of Wonder’s appearance on the new album: “I still can’t believe somewhere in a studio in Chicago one night, Stevie Wonder actually recorded a piece of music that I wrote. I’ve listened to it a hundred times and it still messes me up when I play it.”



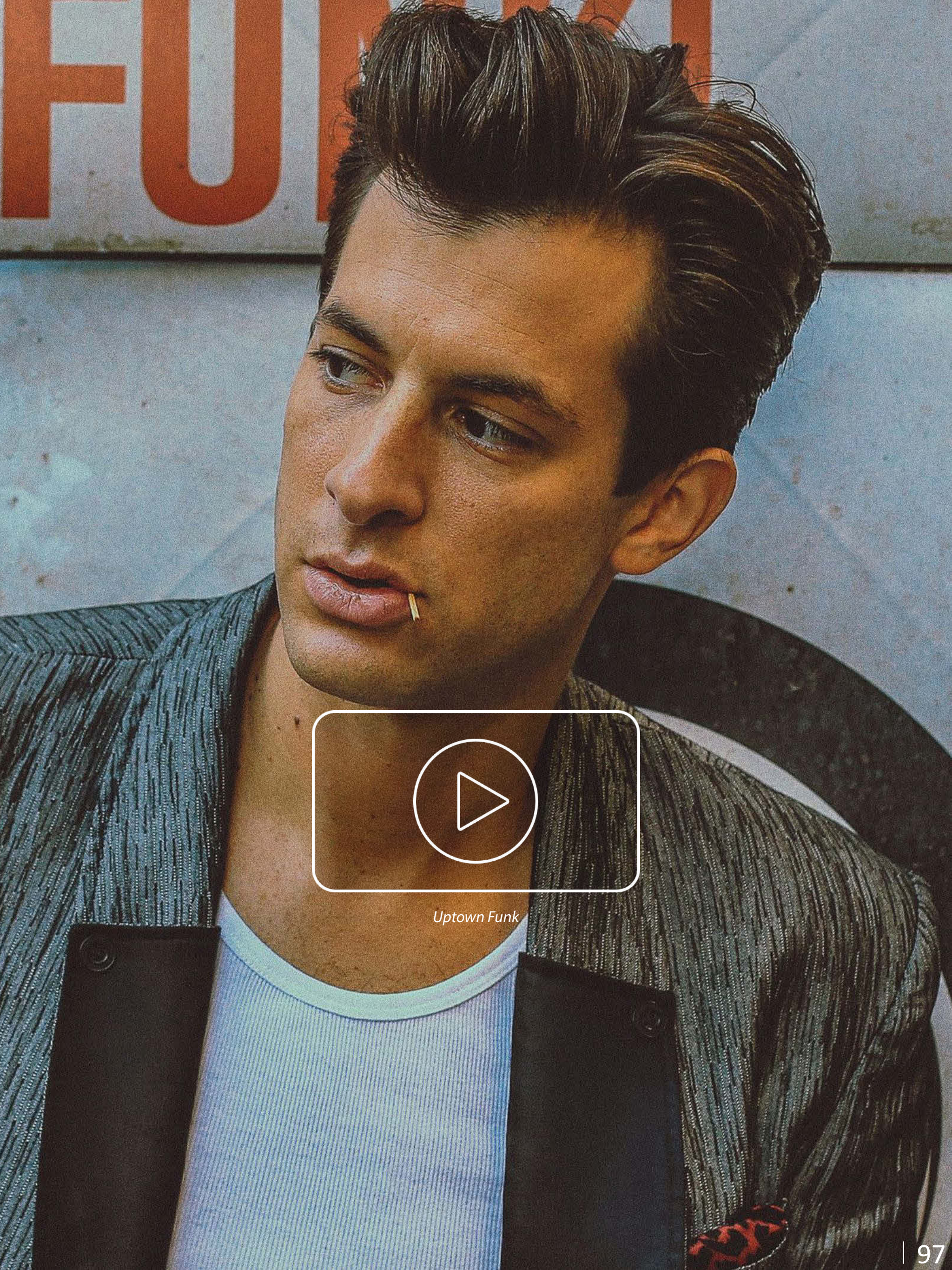
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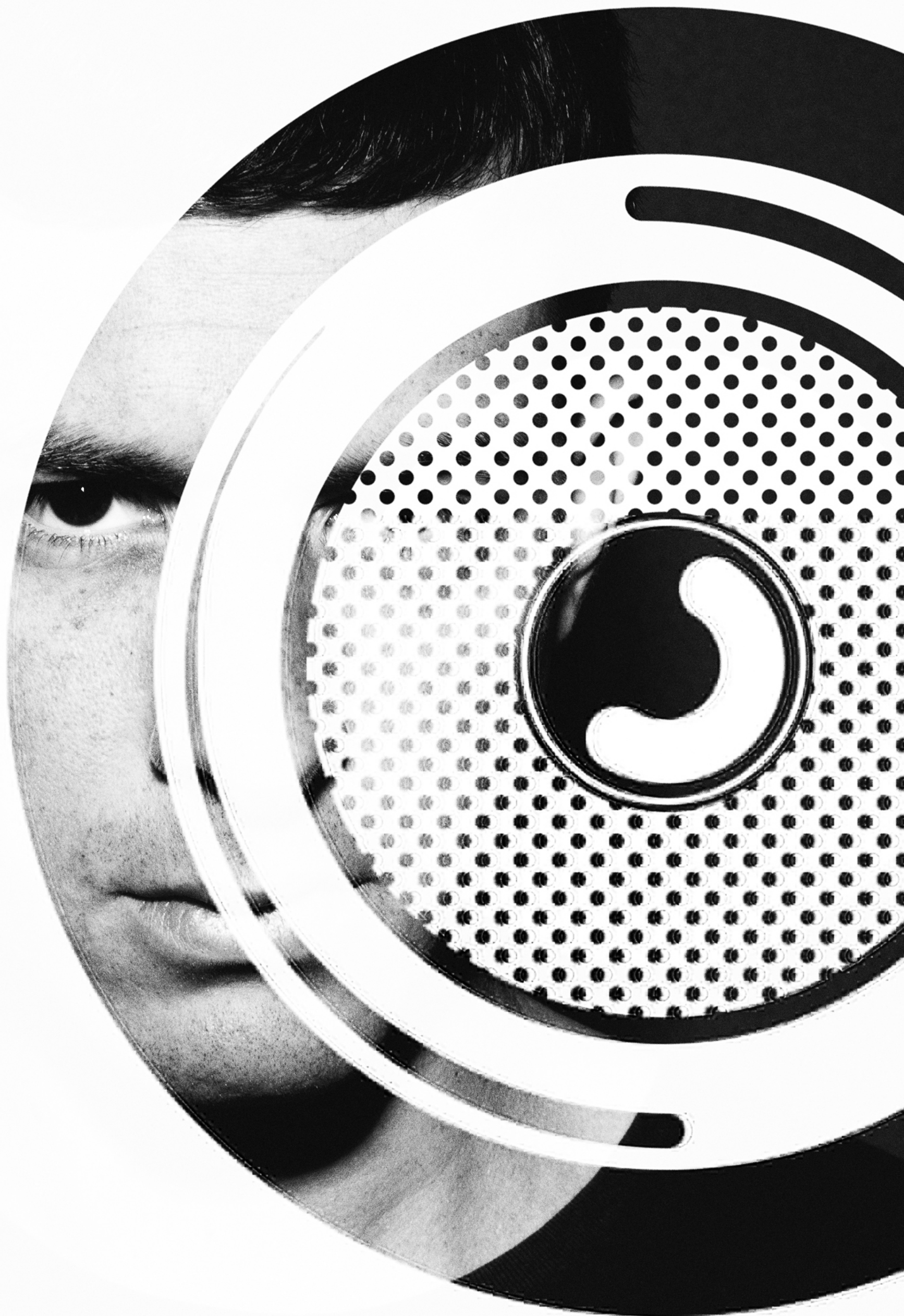
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Released: Jan 12, 2015
11 Songs
Price: \$9.99



180 Ratings

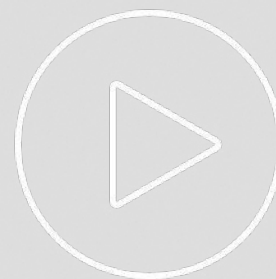


Uptown Funk



**MARK
RONSON**

**UPTOWN
SPECIAL.**



Interview with Mark Ronson





Kyle MacLachlan Returning as Agent Cooper in 'Twin Peaks'

When "Twin Peaks" returns to TV, FBI agent Dale Cooper will be along for the ride.

Kyle MacLachlan is reprising the role in Showtime's sequel to the 1990-91 ABC drama, the cable channel said Monday.

Showtime President David Nevins employed a cameo appearance by MacLachlan to make the announcement to a Television Critics Association meeting.

As Nevins spoke to reporters in a hotel ballroom, the actor walked up to him with a cup in hand.

"I think you need a damn good cup of coffee," a smiling MacLachlan said, reviving a catchphrase of his character.

"Twin Peaks," which eerily posed the question, "Who killed Laura Palmer?" was set in an offbeat Northwestern town. It had a small but devoted following, and some critics have called it ahead of its time and the subsequent era of daring shows.

"I'm very excited to return to the strange and wonderful world of 'Twin Peaks,'" MacLachlan said, adding impishly: "May the forest be with you."

Showtime has said the limited-run series, set in the present day, is going into production this year and will air in 2016.

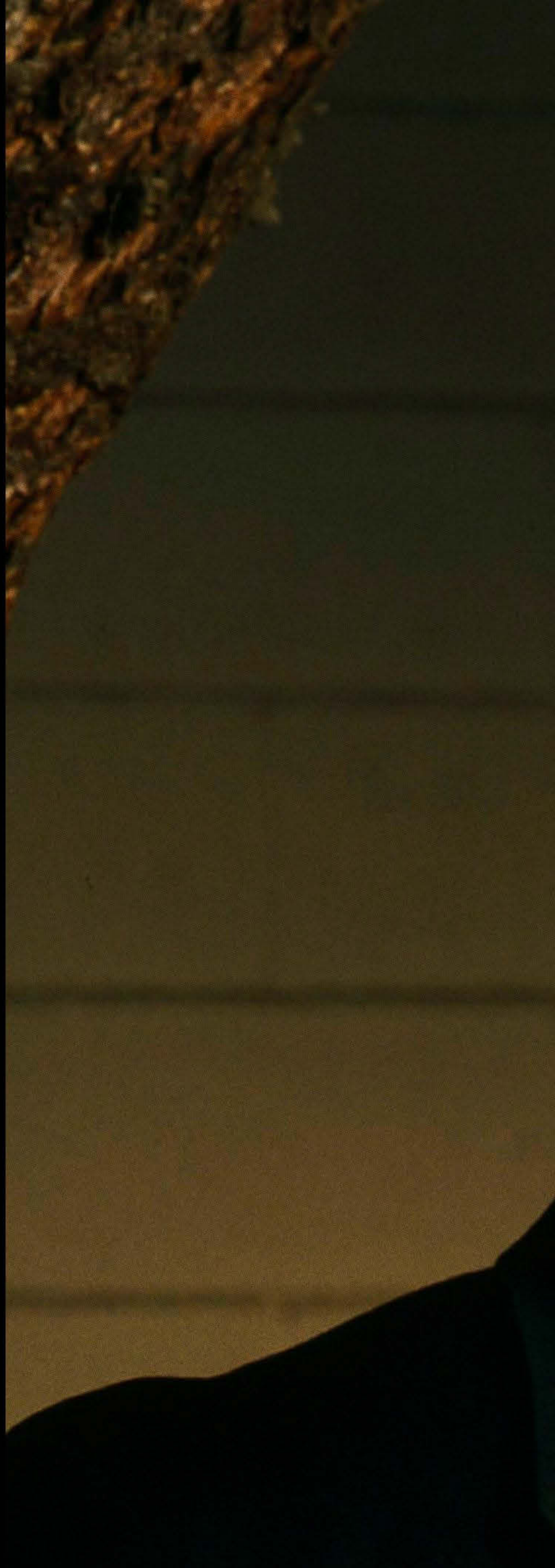
Original series creators and executive producers David Lynch and Mark Frost had been toying with revisiting “Twin Peaks” 25 years later, Nevins said.

Nevins said he was “kinda begging them and hoping to pass muster” with Lynch, whose agreement to direct every episode of the limited-run series was seen as crucial by Showtime.

Additional casting has yet to be announced. Nevins also kept plot details to himself while trying to stoke early interest in the series.

Lynch and Frost “have been very specific in promising closure, and that’s exciting,” Nevins said. “From what I’ve seen - I won’t even say what I’ve seen - this is going to live up to expectations and then some.”

The original series’ cast included Michael Ontkean, Lara Flynn Boyle and Sherilyn Fenn.









Condo to Loom over Samurai Graves in Japan, Spurring Protest

The “47 ronin” samurai who inspired the long-loved saga of loyalty and honor eulogized in films, books and plays are fighting a new kind of battle in urban Japan.

An apartment complex is going up next to the curved tile-roofed Sengakuji temple where the three-century-old graves of the ronin, or masterless samurai, lie. The stone monuments, standing barely waist-high, are known here and elsewhere as a humble but proud testament to sacrificing one's life for what's right.

The Buddhist monks who are still praying for the souls of the ronin, visitors from near and far, and the neighborhood residents including those who run souvenir stores are all aghast. Nearly 2,000 people have signed a petition demanding a stop to the construction. Huge protest banners are up by the gate.

Plans show an eight-story condominium, measuring 24 meters (79 feet), dwarfing the graves and placing the temple's main wooden gate in its shadow. Building has already begun and construction is expected to be completed later this year.





“People who come and pray here, including tourists from abroad, can’t believe why this is being allowed,” said Kenmyo Muta, a priest at the temple. “Anyone can see what it will do to this beautiful place.”

The plight of the graves highlights the recurring struggles between commercial development and the effort to preserve history.

Although many European and American cities work hard to maintain the old, Japanese cities often are a hodgepodge of cutting-edge futuristic buildings next to kitsch, if not slum-like, chaos, exemplified in sign posts galore and cheap erratic construction.

“What we are seeing here is the tragically common, ever repeating story, where a private gain is valued higher by the existing laws and planning regulations than the preservation of a public historical asset,” said Christian Dimmer, assistant professor for urban design at the University of Tokyo.

Similar conflicts are unfolding around Japan, Dimmer said, especially as new earthquake-resistant technology allows for ever taller construction, setting off controversies such as whether from-the-street view of Mount Fuji might get blocked.

No illegality is involved in the condominium’s construction. The neighborhood around the temple has stayed quaint only because residents voluntarily kept buildings no higher than three stories.

There are no laws in that area to restrict the height of buildings, even if they’re right next to a site designated by the government as “historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments,” as were the graves since 1922.

Damaging such a site is punishable by law. But not building right next to it, said Takahiko Noguchi, a city-planning official at Tokyo’s Minato ward office.





“We do see the cultural heritage site as our treasure, and we want to protect it,” he said. “But we cannot force a change or a stop to the plans.”

Although protesters are asking the ward to buy the property and make it part of a tribute to the 47 ronin, Noguchi said no such funding decision was likely, as money must be allocated to projects that benefit the entire ward.

The construction company Daiichi Realter Co. in Tokyo declined to comment.

Armand Piscopo, a 44-year-old salesman from New York, and first-time visitor to Japan, said he had known about “Chushingura,” as the story of the 47 ronin is called, for a long time.

Overshadowing the temple with an apartment block is a “shame,” he said, after inspecting the graves through the wafting smoke of burning incense.

“This should be kept exactly the way it is,” said Masao Yamamoto, 64, a retired electronics engineer who came from Shizuoka in central Japan to see the graves, especially that of his favorite ronin, Horibe Yasubei, an orphaned master swordsman.

Horibe and other samurai, including 16-year-old Oishi Chikara, were ordered to commit seppuku, or ritual suicide by disembowelment, en masse. They had known that would be their end, because they had taken the law into own their hands to avenge the wrongful death of their lord.

What adds to the appeal, especially in conformist Japan, where the individual is often sacrificed for the team, is how they kept plans for revenge secret for nearly two years to avoid their plot being uncovered, and went about their daily lives, enduring taunts about cowardice.

Muta, the priest, calls it “the path to do the right thing.” Even today, everyone is searching for that path, whether you are a father, schoolteacher or politician, he said.





“Three hundred years ago, they forged ahead on that path,” he said.

On a snowy Dec. 14 in 1702, or so the historical legend goes, the ronin, since played by stars including Toshiro Mifune, Keanu Reeves and Kanzaburo Nakamura, donned makeshift armor and beating on drums stormed the palace of their powerful high-ranking enemy.

Later, the ronin paraded through the streets of Edo, as Tokyo used to be called, dangling the bloody head of their victim from a spear, to the cheers of onlookers who perhaps knew, even then, that the 47 ronin were destined to become eternal heroes.

Near their graves still stands the old well, where the head was washed before it was presented before the grave of their lord.

“I wonder what has happened to Japan that it can’t protect its own culture,” said Akane Yoshida, whose parents and grandparents run a sweet-sake shop by Sengakuji, and who leads the protests against the condo construction. “I am outraged.”

Sengakuji online: <http://www.sengakuji.or.jp/about-sengakuji-en>





TOP 10 SONGS

UMA THURMAN

FALL OUT BOY

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)

MARK RONSON

THINKING OUT LOUD

ED SHEERAN

BLANK SPACE

TAYLOR SWIFT

TAKE ME TO CHURCH

HOZIER

CENTURIES

FALL OUT BOY

LIPS ARE MOVIN

MEGHAN TRAINOR

**LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO
(FROM "FIFTY SHADES OF GREY")**

ELLIE GOULDING

HOMEGROWN

ZAC BROWN BAND

1989

TAYLOR SWIFT



A close-up, vertical shot of blonde hair with light brown highlights, filling the left side of the page. The hair is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, textured background.

TOP 10 ALBUMS

TITLE (DELUXE)

MEGHAN TRAINOR

1989

TAYLOR SWIFT

KIDZ BOP 27

KIDZ BOP KIDS

TITLE

MEGHAN TRAINOR

CHAPTER ONE (DELUXE)

ELLA HENDERSON

AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO

FALL OUT BOY

X (DELUXE EDITION)

ED SHEERAN

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY:

AWESOME MIX, VOL. 1

(ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

LEAVE YOUR LOVE - EP

TYLER CARTER

IN THE LONELY HOUR (DELUXE VERSION)

SAM SMITH





TOP

10

MUSIC VIDEOS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)

MARK RONSON

ELASTIC HEART

SIA

BLANK SPACE

TAYLOR SWIFT

ALL ABOUT THAT BASS

MEGHAN TRAINOR

SHAKE IT OFF

TAYLOR SWIFT

PARTY RULES

ELIZABETH LYONS

LIPS ARE MOVIN

MEGHAN TRAINOR

**THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS
(OFFICIAL VIDEO)**

SELENA GOMEZ

NIGHT CHANGES

ONE DIRECTION

CHANDELIER (DIRECTOR'S CUT)

SIA





TOP 10 TV SHOWS

EPISODE 2 (ORIGINAL UK EDITION)

DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASON 5

THE DEBATE

THE GOOD WIFE, SEASON 6

MADNESS

REVENGE, SEASON 4

CHAINS OF COMMAND

MADAM SECRETARY, SEASON 1

PUERTO READ-CO!

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA, SEASON 7

EPISODE 1 (ORIGINAL UK EDITION)

DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASON 5

THE HOLDOUT

ARCHER, SEASON 6

PAYBACK

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE, SEASON 2

OUR IDIOT BRIAN

FAMILY GUY, SEASON 13

AND THE RULE OF THREE

THE LIBRARIANS, SEASON 1



TOP 10 BOOKS

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

PAULA HAWKINS

AMERICAN SNIPER (ENHANCED EDITION)

CHRIS KYLE AND OTHERS

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

E L JAMES

SAINT ODD

DEAN KOONTZ

COLD COLD HEART

TAMI HOAG

GONE GIRL

GILLIAN FLYNN

UNBROKEN

LAURA HILLENBRAND

FATAL SCANDAL

MARIE FORCE

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

ANTHONY DOERR

BIG LITTLE LIES

LIANE MORIARTY





'The Dovekeepers' Brings Cote de Pablo Back to CBS

Cote de Pablo isn't coming back to "NCIS," but close.

The actress, who is starring in CBS' "The Dovekeepers," looked surprised to hear that the two-part movie is scheduled to debut in the time slot after the crime drama in which she played government agent Ziva David.

"Really?" de Pablo exclaimed after executive producer Roma Downey told the Television Critics Association about the March 31 scheduling.

De Pablo left "NCIS" in 2013 amid contract negotiations with the network, which prompted a social media outcry from her fans.

Downey, the former star of CBS' "Touched by an Angel," said airing "The Dovekeepers" first half after "NCIS" was intended to take advantage of de Pablo's outspoken base.

The hope is that de Pablo's followers will be "very noisy" in drawing attention to the movie, Downey said. The project, based on Alice Hoffman's 2011 novel of the same name, dramatizes the siege of the ancient desert fortress of Masada - now part of Israel - by Roman Empire troops.





The second part airs April 1.

In response to a question about what she's been up to, de Pablo replied, "I have been working," citing "The Dovekeepers" and the upcoming big-screen film "The 33," which includes Antonio Banderas and Juliette Binoche in its cast.

"I have been living, spending time with my family, which was very important to me," added the Chilean-born actress. "How can I tell stories if I'm not infused by life."

Downey, who has turned to creating programs with her husband, producer Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Voice"), said she initiated "The Dovekeepers" after visiting Masada and reading Hoffman's novel. The couple had a TV hit with 2013's miniseries "The Bible."

She was touched by the story of a persecuted people whose "courage was greater than fear," Downey said. The TV movie, which weaves fiction around the historical event, is primarily a love story, she said.

A dense, overlapping collage of Apple Magazine covers from various issues, creating a mosaic effect. The covers feature headlines such as "THE BIG NEXT PLAYER SHUTTERBUGS", "WWDC 2012", "iPhone 5", "Windows 8", "The New iMac", and "Angry Birds Star Wars". The Apple logo is prominently displayed on many covers.

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CONTACTS

Executive Director - dir@enewsmagazine.com
Relationship Management - crm@enewsmagazine.com
Magazine and Website Editor - editor@enewsmagazine.com
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ivan Castilho
Executive Director / Design Conception

CONTENT EDITOR

Malu Amarante
Content Editor

WRITERS

Benjamin Kerry (UK)
Gavin Lenaghan (UK)
Elena Lusk (US)

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