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*Microsoft
HoloLens*

Strides Into
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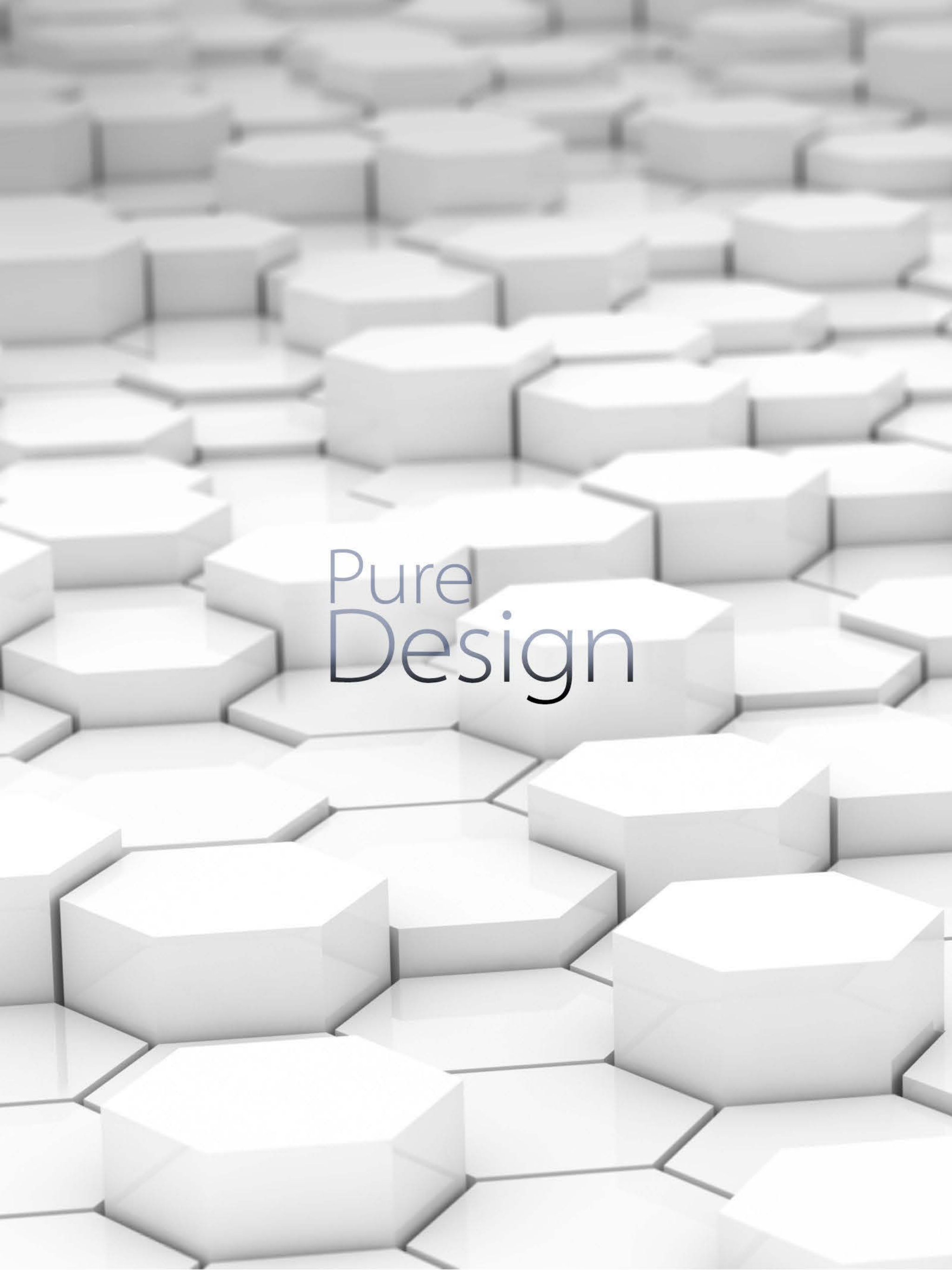
*SAG
Awards*

Win Sends 'Birdman'
Oscar Hopes Soaring



AMERICAN SNIPER

PRO-WAR OR ANTI-WAR?



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A Chupacabra in Japan? Depp Says it Came from his Suitcase

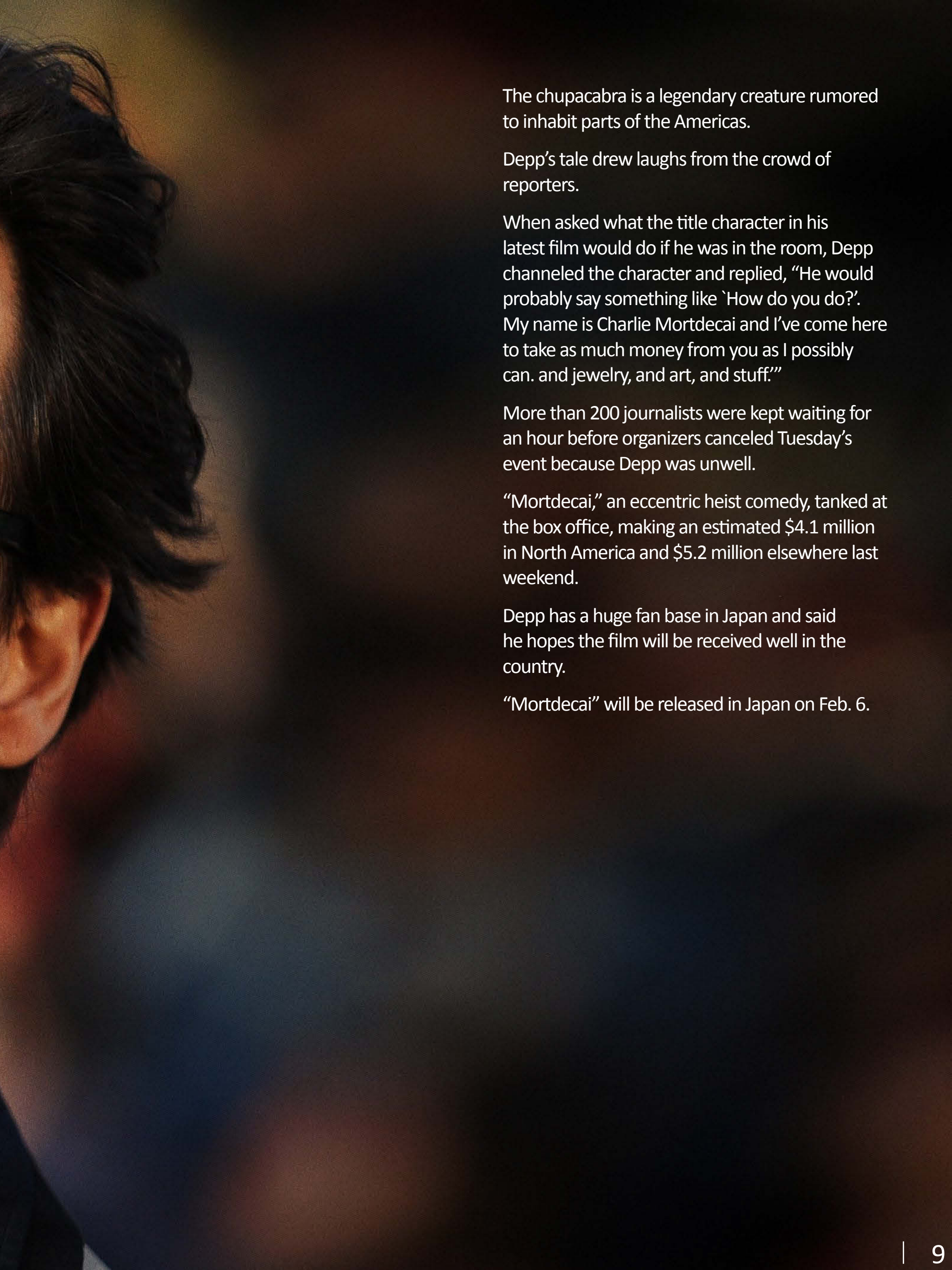
Johnny Depp has recovered from a cold. And a chupacabra attack.

The 51-year-old actor was all smiles while joking Wednesday with journalists in Tokyo about why he was a no-show at a news conference a day earlier. Depp explained he had been ill but said that wasn't the reason.

"I was attacked yesterday morning by a very rarely seen or experienced animal called 'chupacabra.' I fought with it for hours. They're very persistent, very mean. And I'm pretty sure it came into my suitcase. I threw him off the 23rd floor. So we'll never see him again. Thank you for understanding," he said.







The chupacabra is a legendary creature rumored to inhabit parts of the Americas.

Depp's tale drew laughs from the crowd of reporters.

When asked what the title character in his latest film would do if he was in the room, Depp channeled the character and replied, "He would probably say something like 'How do you do?'. My name is Charlie Mortdecai and I've come here to take as much money from you as I possibly can. and jewelry, and art, and stuff."

More than 200 journalists were kept waiting for an hour before organizers canceled Tuesday's event because Depp was unwell.

"Mortdecai," an eccentric heist comedy, tanked at the box office, making an estimated \$4.1 million in North America and \$5.2 million elsewhere last weekend.

Depp has a huge fan base in Japan and said he hopes the film will be received well in the country.

"Mortdecai" will be released in Japan on Feb. 6.

Kristen Stewart, Robin Wright Hit Politically-Minded Couture

“Twilight” star Kristen Stewart stunned crowds at Chanel’s Paris couture show Tuesday, revealing an edgy bob in a white Chanel sleeveless mini-dress that showed the 24-year-old is fashion savvy beyond her age. But the second day of spring-summer collections primarily belonged to couturier-cum-social psychologist Karl Lagerfeld. Chanel’s designer apparently happened upon a political solution and the perfect antidote to the Paris terror attacks: Flowers. Golden Globe-winner Robin Wright, meanwhile, rocked Giorgio Armani’s show in a demure black and gray menswear look - with a perfect menswear accessory, boyfriend actor Ben Foster - 15 years her junior.

Here are the tidbits and highlights from the 2015 haute couture collections, including show reports for Stephane Rolland, Armani Prive, and Chanel.

LAGERFELD’S POP-UP BOOK

Chanel’s shows are always the hottest ticket in town - a moment where ambitious Lagerfeld asks the earth in set design, and always gets his way.





Recent shows have included an imported forest, a spaceship, huge wind turbines, a supermarket, and even an entire boulevard.

So the initial feeling was one of disappointment when faced with Tuesday's rather bland couture set of a forest made of white paper. But it was, of course, a trick. As soon as the show began, dashing male models entered the catwalk area armed with watering cans. Lo and behold, the white paper flowers unfurled magically to spawn huge tropical colored blossoms, and vivid 3-D Venus flytraps opened. Guests had been transported into a flower pop-up book, which had taken six months to build.

"For people who don't like to read, pop up books are the best," quipped the ever-cutting couturier.

CHANEL'S 21ST CENTURY FLOWER WOMEN

There was a joyous feeling in the air at Chanel.

Perhaps it was to do with the fun surrealism of the sculpted papers flowers, or maybe it came from the clothes themselves: youthful, colorful, fresh and served with a twist of the freedom of the 1960s Sexual Revolution.

Circular stand up collars, A-line minis, bolero jackets and daringly low exposed midriffs defined many of the silhouettes - the latter first popularized in the West during the time of blond bombshell Brigitte Bardot.

"The new cleavage is the stomach," instructed Lagerfeld. Elsewhere there were flashes of other eras, reimagined. Hemlines often went south to the prudish pre-Sixties midcalf. Large-brimmed straw "picture hats" from the Fifties were given an imaginative twist with a black, tulle trim. Or cloche hats, embellished with feathers and beads came on long, loose fluttery silk gowns from the Twenties that were modernized with a trim at the hem.



Then there were the incredible, 3-D flower embroideries that evoked the set, billowing across shoulders or at the bottom of coats, resembling a couture gem mine.

Lagerfeld called it “the flower women of the 21st century.”

LAGERFELD INVENTS FLOWER WOMEN AS THERAPY FOR TERROR

It’s been a bleak time this January following Paris’ worst terror attacks in decades.

Eccentric Kaiser Karl says that the Chanel show was just the antidote.

“Especially after this dark, awful beginning to the year there was something like this needed.. There’s something about flowers,” he said by the giant paper pop-up garden.

“I’m lucky... I live in a very protected world (in fashion.) I can keep something like a dream reality but it’s not a reality of daily life,” he added, before reaching out for his trademark glass of coke zero that was being patiently held by a butler on a silver platter.

STEPHANE ROLLAND CONTINUES PARIS NUDE TREND

Kate Hudson flashed a buttock at Versace, Rick Owens showed male models’ genitals, and now couturier Stephane Rolland is at it, exposing a model’s breasts at his otherwise demure and fairy-like couture show.

The French designer’s spring-summer display explored his signature themes in a slightly more diaphanous direction than usual: Full skirts in gazar, oversized organic embroideries, and stylish column silhouettes that showed off the natural beauty of the silk fibers.





This season he forwent his go-to color, red, for a subtler palette with lashings of white.

Crinoline was used to great effect underneath diaphanous sheer tulle skirts, and, at the end, guests were amazed by a series of revealing ball gowns. One in black showed off the nipples - and the final number, a white deconstructed bridal gown with a crisscross structure, exposed the just-married model's never-ending legs. It may well have encouraged the best man to ogle.

ARMANI'S CELEBRITY-FILLED, ORIENTAL BAMBOO SHOW

Wright chatted and laughed with her "X-men: The Last Stand" actor partner, Foster, a relative newcomer on the red carpet circuit. They shared the Armani front row with actresses Paz Vega, Juliette Binoche and Kristin Scott Thomas, who has recently said she's quitting cinema.

In the gentle, 68-piece collection, it was all about Oriental musing for the octogenarian Italian couturier.

A set of haphazardly placed bamboo columns acted as catwalk obstacles for the models who filed by devastatingly stylishly (and slowly) in silk looks that featured bamboo prints and large statement Chinese sashes.

The delicate structure of the Orient was evoked in the jacket silhouette, which featured in nearly half of the catwalk looks. There was a notable, transparent quality to some of the voluminous culottes in gazar, or the almost watery bamboo-effect lace tops.



Kevin Spacey Skips Award Shows to Help Aspiring Arab Actors

Kevin Spacey skipped the Screen Actors Guild awards, which handed him a win for his wildly popular role on “House of Cards”, to watch 34 young actors from across the Arab world perform a play as part of his foundation’s Home Grown initiative supporting local talent.

The cast, all 25 years old or younger, hail from war-torn Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq and other corners of the Middle East. For many of them, the play marked the first time they had ever left their home countries or been given support to hone their craft.

Abduljabbar al-Suhili, 25, from Sanaa, Yemen, is returning from the intensive workshops held in the United Arab Emirates to a country without a president. Yemen has been plagued by power outages, al-Qaida attacks, rebel Houthi advances and widespread political instability. Dabbling in the arts is considered a luxury, and acting is not seen as a serious profession, he says. “The state bodies are preoccupied with the constitution, the transitional phase and security and stability because of the political situation there,” he said.





“This has impacted artists because we are unable to fulfill our ambitions in culture or artistic efforts on stage or in music. We have become concerned with earning a living.”

But for two weeks, al-Suhili had a chance to escape that. He and the other aspiring actors were flown to the emirate of Sharjah in the UAE in an all-expense-paid program with the nonprofit Middle East Theatre Academy, a joint initiative launched in 2011 with the Kevin Spacey Foundation (KSF) and Emirati businessman Badr Jafar, whose family runs a Sharjah-based petroleum and gas conglomerate.

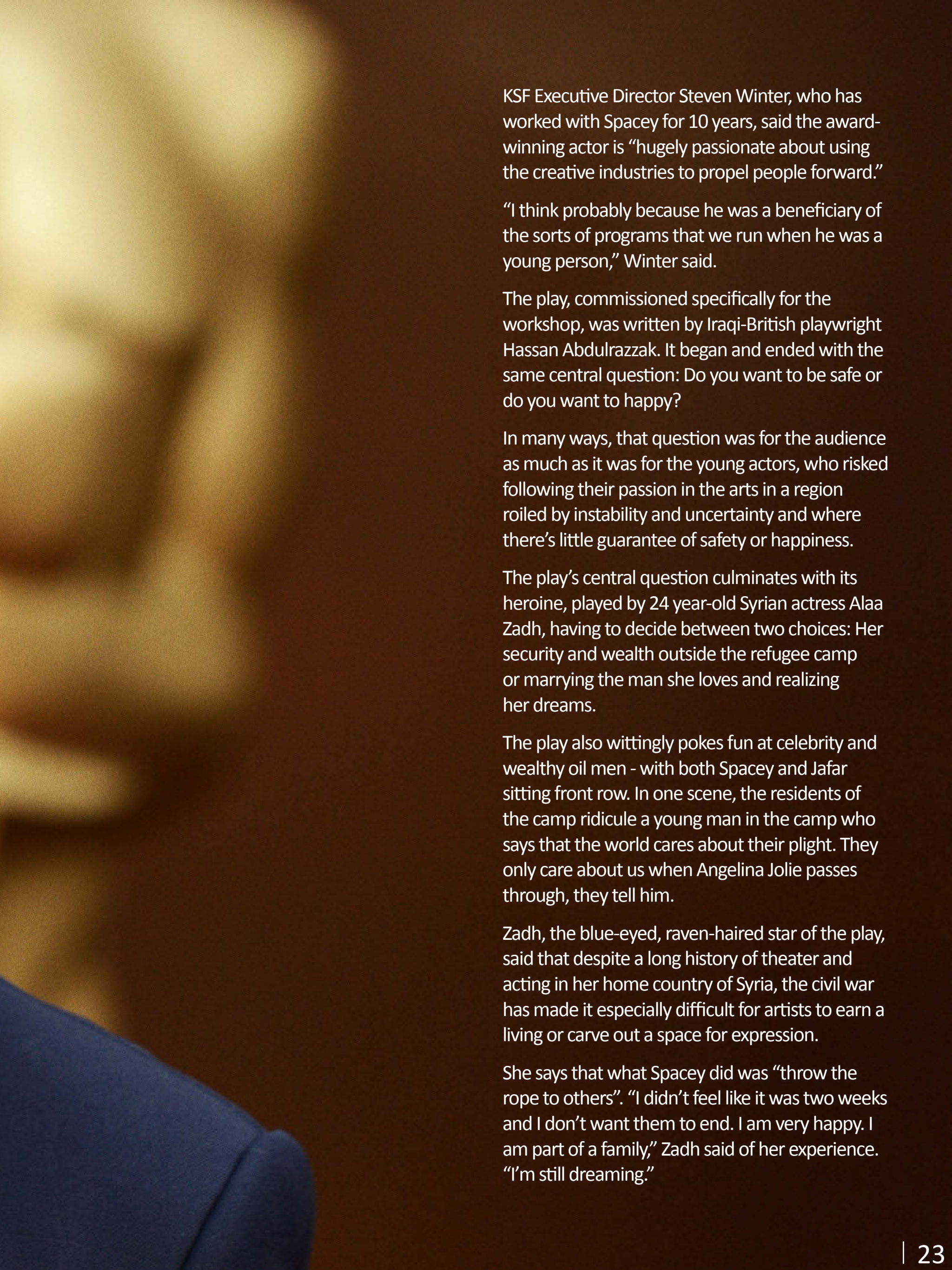
The actors were selected from a group of around 300 applicants for the first KSF Home Grown workshop to take place in the Middle East, with two previous workshops in the United States and United Kingdom.

After two weeks of training with professional acting coaches from KSF, the actors performed a play titled “Dhow Under the Sun.” The play is set in a fictional refugee camp where issues of poverty, corruption, love and hope form the narrative. With a two-night run, it premiered before an intimate gathering Sunday that included the ruler of the emirate of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi.

Before the opening night of the play, Spacey spent time coaching the young actors and gave them tips to take with them back home. When introducing the play, he told the audience that it was this kind of setting that helped him grow as an actor.

“Tonight is the kind of night that I grew up with, that I experienced very young because in my theater class I got to be part of many programs where I was brought together with other emerging artists, put on plays, did workshops,” he said. “Tonight we celebrate ... bringing together these young remarkable talents from so many different places as well.”





KSF Executive Director Steven Winter, who has worked with Spacey for 10 years, said the award-winning actor is “hugely passionate about using the creative industries to propel people forward.”

“I think probably because he was a beneficiary of the sorts of programs that we run when he was a young person,” Winter said.

The play, commissioned specifically for the workshop, was written by Iraqi-British playwright Hassan Abdulrazzak. It began and ended with the same central question: Do you want to be safe or do you want to happy?

In many ways, that question was for the audience as much as it was for the young actors, who risked following their passion in the arts in a region roiled by instability and uncertainty and where there’s little guarantee of safety or happiness.

The play’s central question culminates with its heroine, played by 24 year-old Syrian actress Alaa Zadh, having to decide between two choices: Her security and wealth outside the refugee camp or marrying the man she loves and realizing her dreams.

The play also wittingly pokes fun at celebrity and wealthy oil men - with both Spacey and Jafar sitting front row. In one scene, the residents of the camp ridicule a young man in the camp who says that the world cares about their plight. They only care about us when Angelina Jolie passes through, they tell him.

Zadh, the blue-eyed, raven-haired star of the play, said that despite a long history of theater and acting in her home country of Syria, the civil war has made it especially difficult for artists to earn a living or carve out a space for expression.

She says that what Spacey did was “throw the rope to others”. “I didn’t feel like it was two weeks and I don’t want them to end. I am very happy. I am part of a family,” Zadh said of her experience. “I’m still dreaming.”





Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett Among Duets Set for Grammy Awards

The Grammy Awards will feature a number of collaborative performances, including Lady Gaga with Tony Bennett and Adam Levine with Gwen Stefani.

The Recording Academy said Tuesday that Annie Lennox will also be paired with newcomer Hozier and Jessie J with Tom Jones at the Feb. 8 show in Los Angeles.

“Throughout the years, the Grammy Awards has paired musical icons with new, upcoming artists to give fans remarkable performances that can only be seen on our stage,” Recording Academy President and CEO Neil Portnow said in a statement. “This year is no different and, once again, promises to bring together unique musical worlds in innovative ways that blend genres and create new artistic boundaries.”



Gaga and Bennett's duet album, "Cheek to Cheek," is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album, where their competition includes Lennox. Hozier is nominated for song of the year for the hit, "Take Me to Church," while Jessie J is up for best pop duo/group performance for "Bang Bang" with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

Beyonce, Pharrell and Sam Smith are the Grammy leaders with six nominations apiece. They will all compete for the top prize, album of the year, along with Ed Sheeran and Beck.

Smith, Sheeran and Pharrell also will take the stage. Other performers include AC/DC, Madonna, Grande, Eric Church, Common, John Legend, Miranda Lambert and Usher.

The 57th annual Grammy Awards will air live from the Staples Center on CBS.

Online:

<http://www.grammy.com>



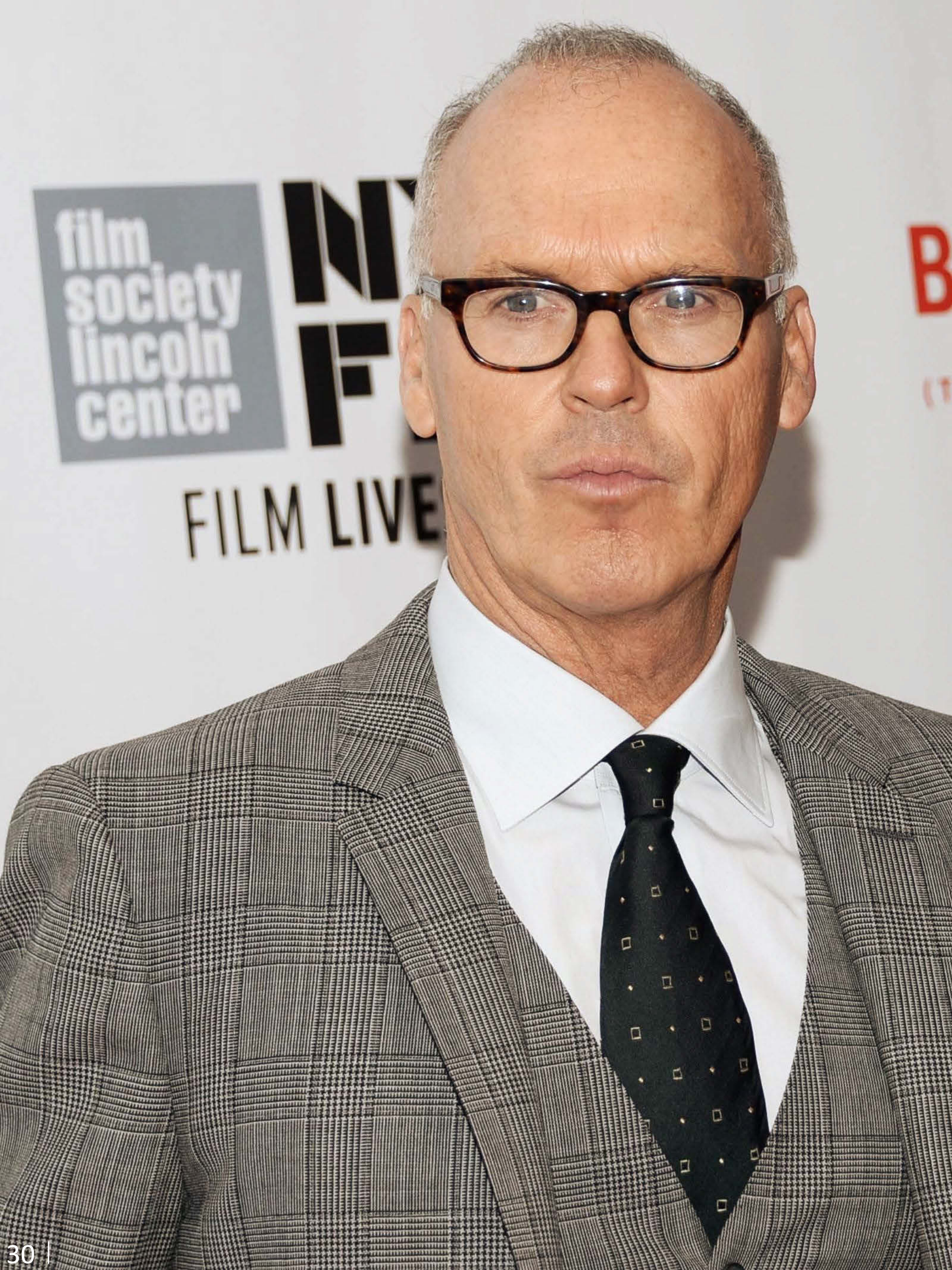


Sag Awards Win Sends 'Birdman' Oscar Hopes Soaring

Oscar hopes for “Birdman” got an enormous updraft over the weekend with big wins from the acting and producing guilds, possibly sending the comedy soaring over the perceived Academy Awards front-runner “Boyhood.”

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s elegantly crafted backstage romp won best ensemble Sunday night at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild, a day after it also won the top honor at the Producer Guild Awards. Both guilds are seen as highly predictive of which film will triumph at the Oscars, which will be held Feb. 22.

Richard Linklater’s “Boyhood,” the acclaimed indie made with the unprecedented real-life time-elapse of 12 years, has long held as the awards seasons favorite. But “Birdman” fills the role of a classic Oscar winner, like “Shakespeare in Love,” as a celebration of showbiz. Its fortunes look especially bright considering the last seven Producers Guild Awards winners have also won best picture at the Academy Awards.





“Actors love this movie for showing the courage actors have to kind of go out there and lay it on the line,” “Birdman” star Michael Keaton said backstage at the SAG Awards. He accepted the best ensemble award with his co-stars including Emma Stone, Edward Norton and Zach Galifianakis.

Yet Keaton also lost at the SAGs, held Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Instead, most outstanding actor went to “The Theory of Everything” star Eddie Redmayne, whose exceeding technical performance as Stephen Hawking has equally drawn raves. Looking down at his blue statuette - “this very wonderful skinny man,” he said - Redmayne dedicated the SAG Award to sufferers and victims of ALS.

The other Oscar favorites - Julianne Moore, Patricia Arquette and J.K. Simmons - all cemented their front-runner status in a glamorous, self-congratulatory ceremony that can serve as a test-run for acceptance speeches.

Moore, widely considered the best-actress favorite, won most outstanding actress for “Still Alice,” in which she plays an academic with early onset Alzheimer’s Disease. Accepting the award, she recalled an early lesson on the soap opera “As the World Turns,” in which she played twin sisters, good and evil.

“Then I realized it was super boring to act by myself,” said Moore.

Accepting the award for most outstanding supporting actor for his performance as a domineering jazz teacher in “Whiplash,” Simmons thanked all 49 actors who appear in the drama.

“All of us actors are supporting actors,” said Simmons, a veteran character actor. “Each of us is essential, completely crucial to the story because if there’s one false moment, the train comes off the rails.”





“Boyhood” star Arquette added the latest in a nearly uninterrupted string of supporting actress awards. “This little movie is about human beings and it’s about bringing real life onto the screen,” she said backstage. Because actors make up the largest portion of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the SAG Awards are considered one of the most telling Oscar previews. Individual acting winners usually mirror each other exactly, or very nearly. Last year, the top four winners - Matthew McConaughey, Cate Blanchett, Lupita Nyong’o, Jared Leto - all went on to win Academy Awards after first scooping up SAG awards.

The predictive powers of the SAGs have been more checkered in matching its top award with eventual best-picture Oscar winners. In the last six years, SAG best-ensemble and Academy Award best-picture winners have lined up three times (“Argo,” “The King’s Speech” and “Slumdog Millionaire”), while diverging just as often. Last year, the actors chose “American Hustle” over eventual Oscar winner “12 Years a Slave”; in 2011, they picked “The Help” over “The Artist”; and in 2009, “Inglourious Basterds” defeated “The Hurt Locker.” So Sunday’s SAG Awards made two things clear: the Oscar race will be a nail-biter that likely pits “Birdman” against “Boyhood”; and the other best source of drama will probably be Keaton and Redmayne vying for best actor.

Sunday’s show kicked things off with a pair of wins for the Netflix prison series “Orange Is the New Black,” honoring it as best ensemble in a comedy and naming Uzo Aduba most outstanding actress in a comedy series. Aduba won over a number of veteran stars, including Julia Louis-Dreyfus (“Veep”) and Edie Falco (“Nurse Jackie”).

Best ensemble cast in a drama series went to “Downton Abbey,” the second time the series has won the category.

Two actors who usually reside on the big screen won the SAG awards for performances in a miniseries or TV movie: Mark Ruffalo (for HBO's "A Normal Heart") and Frances McDormand (for HBO's "Olive Kitteredge"). Kevin Spacey ("House of Cards"), William H. Macy ("Shameless") and Viola Davis ("How to Get Away With Murder") also collected awards.

Davis thanked the producers of the legal dram "for thinking that a sexualized, messy, mysterious woman could be a 49-year-old, dark-skinned African American woman who looks me."

Debbie Reynolds, the "Singin' in the Rain" star, was honored with the SAG lifetime achievement award, which her daughter, Carrie Fisher, presented. The 82-year-old Reynolds embarrassed Fisher with a story, recalling that her bun in the famous musical led her to warn her daughter ahead of playing Princess Leia in "Star Wars."

"I said, 'Well, Carrie, be careful of any weird hairdos,'" said Reynolds. "So luckily George gave her two buns."

She also remembered one of her favorite films, 1964's "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

"In that movie I got to sing a wonderful song 'I Ain't Down Yet,'" said Reynolds. "Well, I ain't."









Complete List of Winners at 21st Annual Sag Awards

A complete list of winners at Sunday's 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards:

MOVIES:

Actor: Eddie Redmayne, "The Theory of Everything"

Actress: Julianne Moore, "Still Alice"

Supporting actor: J.K. Simmons, "Whiplash"

Supporting actress: Patricia Arquette, "Boyhood"

Cast: "Birdman"

Stunt ensemble: "Unbroken"





TELEVISION:

Actor in a comedy series: William H. Macy, "Shameless"

Actress in a comedy series: Uzo Aduba, "Orange is the New Black"

Comedy series cast: "Orange is the New Black"

Actor in a movie or miniseries: Mark Ruffalo, "The Normal Heart"

Actress in a movie or miniseries: Frances McDormand, "Olive Kitteridge"

Drama series cast: "Downton Abbey"

Actor in a drama series: Kevin Spacey, "House of Cards"

Actress in a drama series: Viola Davis, "How to Get Away With Murder"

Stunt ensemble: "Game of Thrones"





Sundance Watch: 'Cobain' Premieres, Women Talk Hollywood

The eNews Magazine is all over the Sundance Film Festival, from its premieres to the Hollywood glitz. Here's what they've seen and heard:

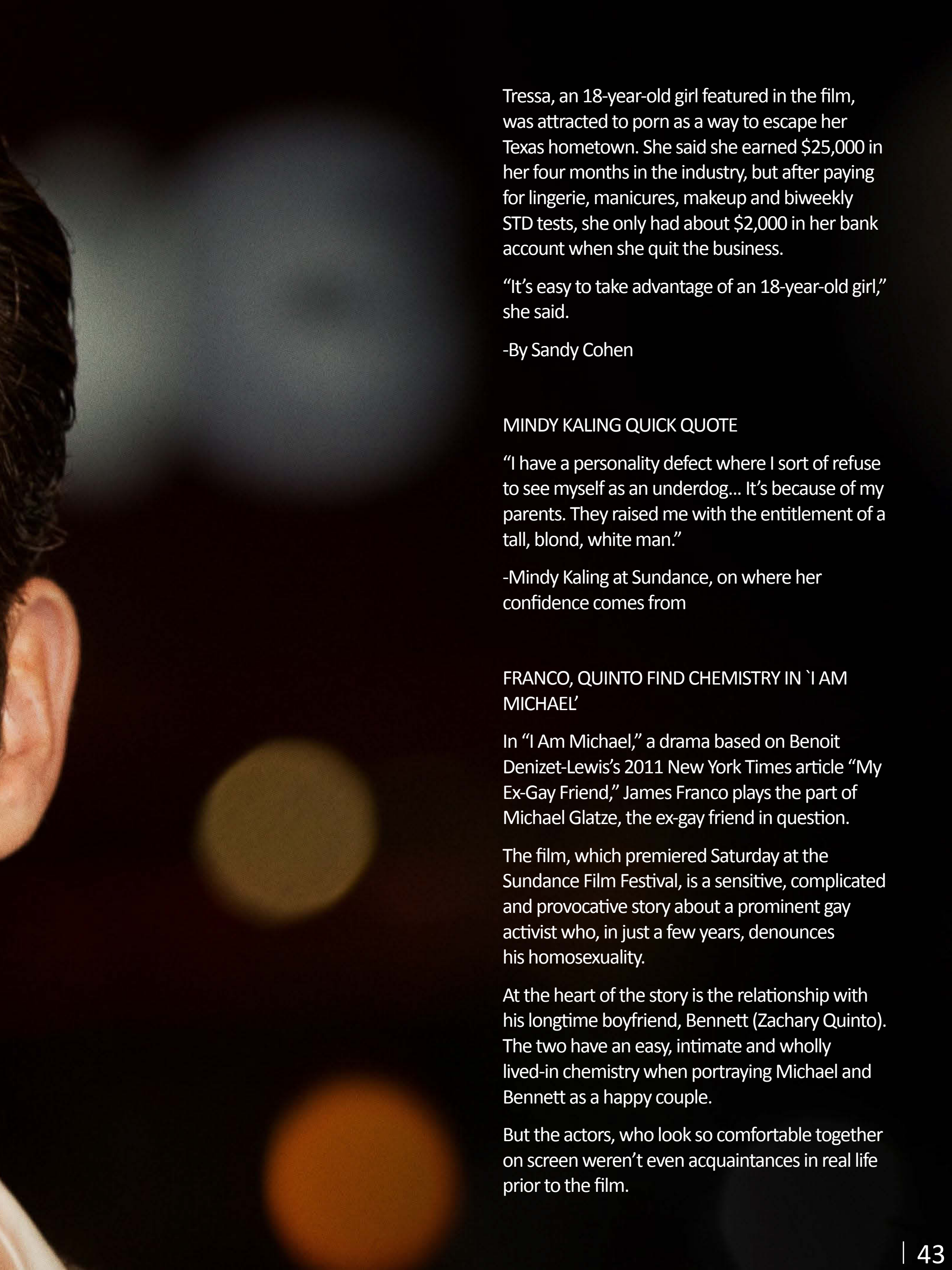
AMATEUR PORN SPOTLIGHTED IN 'HOT GIRLS WANTED'

"Teen" is the most searched term in online pornography, and thousands of young people enter the amateur porn industry every day, lured by promises of quick money and hopes for fame.

The disturbing world of amateur pornography - professionally produced films made to look like home movies - is exposed in the new documentary by Jill Bauer and Ronna Gradus, "Hot Girls Wanted," which premiered Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

Teenagers who have grown up in the age of the Internet have always known porn is easy to find. And as pop culture has become more and more sexualized, the taboo against sex on film has faded for them, the attitude being, "We're doing it anyway, why not get paid?"





Tressa, an 18-year-old girl featured in the film, was attracted to porn as a way to escape her Texas hometown. She said she earned \$25,000 in her four months in the industry, but after paying for lingerie, manicures, makeup and biweekly STD tests, she only had about \$2,000 in her bank account when she quit the business.

“It’s easy to take advantage of an 18-year-old girl,” she said.

-By Sandy Cohen

MINDY KALING QUICK QUOTE

“I have a personality defect where I sort of refuse to see myself as an underdog... It’s because of my parents. They raised me with the entitlement of a tall, blond, white man.”

-Mindy Kaling at Sundance, on where her confidence comes from

FRANCO, QUINTO FIND CHEMISTRY IN ‘I AM MICHAEL’

In “I Am Michael,” a drama based on Benoit Denizet-Lewis’s 2011 New York Times article “My Ex-Gay Friend,” James Franco plays the part of Michael Glatze, the ex-gay friend in question.

The film, which premiered Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival, is a sensitive, complicated and provocative story about a prominent gay activist who, in just a few years, denounces his homosexuality.

At the heart of the story is the relationship with his longtime boyfriend, Bennett (Zachary Quinto). The two have an easy, intimate and wholly lived-in chemistry when portraying Michael and Bennett as a happy couple.

But the actors, who look so comfortable together on screen weren’t even acquaintances in real life prior to the film.





"We met through the process of getting ready to shoot the movie," said Quinto on Sunday. "For me it was just a really clear entry to the character through his love for Michael and his unwavering commitment to trying to make their relationship work. I thought it was really well-crafted in terms of this intimacy they share and how it devolves into this maelstrom of really damaging emotional upheaval."

-By Lindsey Bahr

CHRIS PINE QUICK QUOTE

"I got into acting because I think the first play that I did I played 20 parts, so I think my whole concept of what acting was in the beginning was precisely that, getting the opportunity to disappear into multiple, multiple roles."

-Chris Pine at the Sundance premiere of "Z is for Zachariah," on big budget versus independent films

DUNHAM, KOHAN, WIIG, KALING WEIGH IN ON WOMEN IN HOLLYWOOD

Lena Dunham dreams of the day when a man might say, "It's impossible to get into Hollywood. It's an old women's network."

The creative force behind HBO's "Girls" shared the stage with "The Mindy Project" creator Mindy Kaling, "Bridesmaids" star and co-writer Kristen Wiig and "Orange Is the New Black" show-runner Jenji Kohan for a discussion on women in Hollywood Saturday at the Sundance Film Festival.

All said they realized early on that if they wanted to tell the stories they cared most about, they'd have to take the reins and do it themselves. And they found TV a far friendlier environment for female voices than film.





They hope their current successes help pave the way for other women with Hollywood dreams. All four rely on writing teams populated by mostly women, but they don't count men out.

"You shouldn't have to just limit yourself to one gender," Kohan said. "You want to work with whoever is the best at what they're doing."

-By Sandy Cohen

COURTNEY LOVE, FRANCES BEAN APPEAR TOGETHER FOR 'COBAIN'

Courtney Love and daughter Frances Bean made a rare public appearance together at the premiere of the documentary, "Cobain: Montage of Heck," at the Sundance Film Festival.

Love, the widow of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain, and Frances, their daughter and an executive producer on the film, have had a rocky relationship but presented a united front on the red carpet Friday.

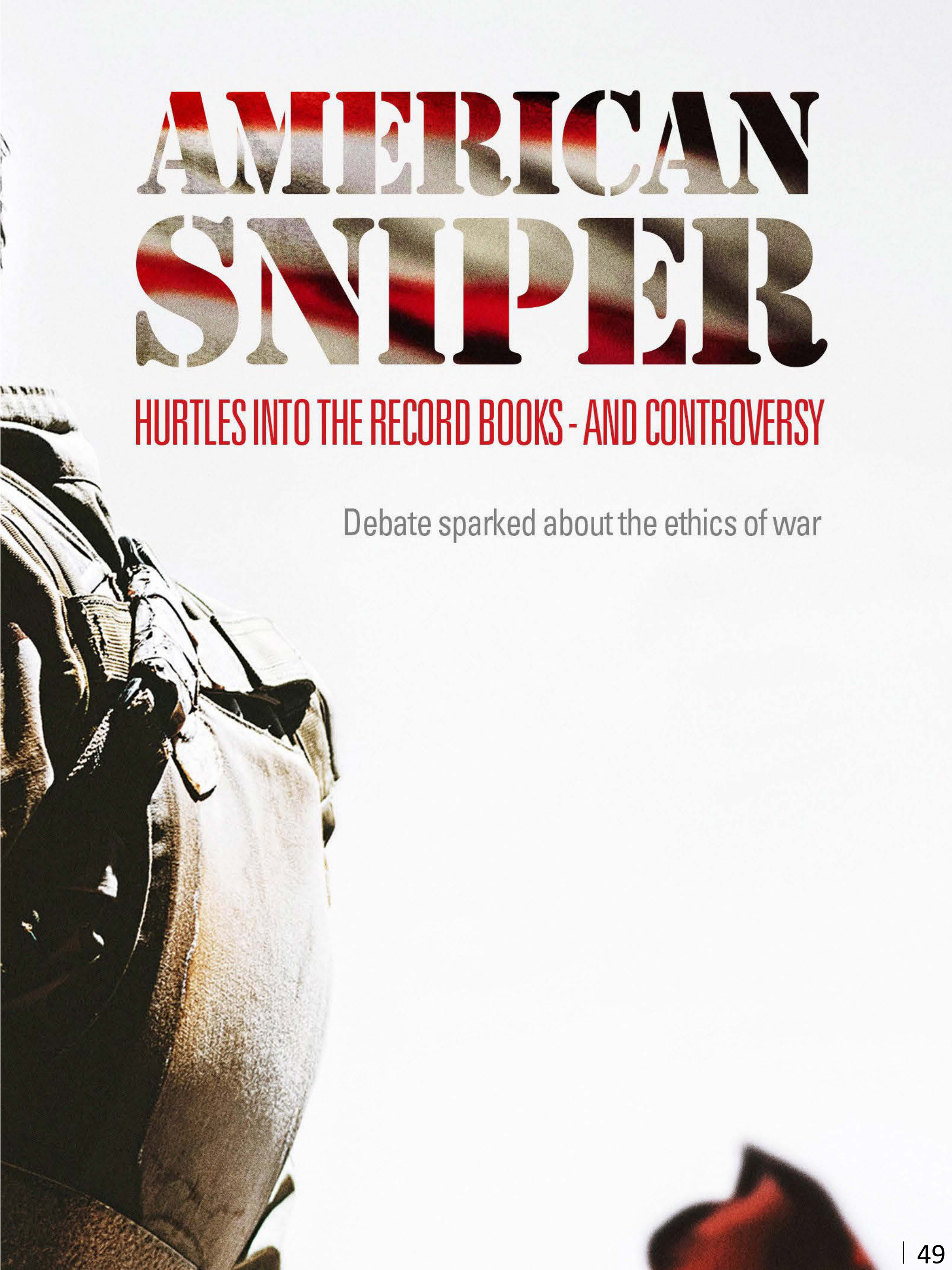
The film, directed by Brett Morgen, is the first authorized film about Cobain. Morgen says it took eight years to make it happen and he finished color correcting the movie less than a week ago. When he was finished he "went to the bathroom and cried for about 25 minutes."

"I wasn't crying because Kurt died," he said. "I was crying because I wasn't going to be able to spend time with him anymore. And for the last two years he's been everything in my life."

The movie premieres May 4 on HBO.

-By Alicia Rancilio





AMERICAN SNIPER

HURTLES INTO THE RECORD BOOKS - AND CONTROVERSY

Debate sparked about the ethics of war



WAR DRAMA SPARKS POLITICAL SKIRMISHES

To say that Clint Eastwood's latest biographical war drama film has been a commercial success would certainly be quite the understatement - in fact, it's already booked its place as a cultural phenomenon, and by some distance. The story of the late Chris Kyle, the deadliest marksman in U.S. military history, has certainly captured audience imaginations - not to mention causing more than a little political controversy.

Based on the 2012 book *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, the film sees Bradley Cooper cast as Kyle, a man who racked up 255 kills, 160 of those being officially confirmed by the Department of Defense. Sienna Miller also stars, as Kyle's wife Taya, to say nothing of such other represented acting talents as Luke Grimes, Kyle Gallner, Jake McDorman, Sam Jaeger and Cory Hardrict.

However, so much of the public discussion of *American Sniper* hasn't centered on the performances of the cast, or even necessarily the six Academy Award nominations that it received. Even the film's astonishing box office success, with more than \$200 million already grossed worldwide as of January 25, hasn't generated as much comment as the movie's political and ethical dimension surrounding the entire notion of armed conflict.







BEAMING REVIEWS FROM THE CRITICS

As you might expect from such a film that has already so excited mainstream audiences, the professional critics have certainly been raving about American Sniper. Just ask Nancy Chuda, who in a review for the Huffington Post Entertainment blog, declared that **"Cooper deserves an Oscar for more than just a brilliant portrayal... it's his best performance yet."**

Chuda said that she "couldn't speak or sleep after I witnessed Cooper's flawless interpretation of the spellbinding, mind bending career of Chris Kyle", while also praising Eastwood's direction, Jason Hall's script and Miller's "riveting portrayal of a Seal's wife".

There was similar praise forthcoming from The Hollywood Reporter's Todd McCarthy, who said that the film "feels very much like a companion piece - in subject, theme and quality - to The Hurt Locker." McCarthy concluded that the movie was Eastwood's "best in a number of years, as it infuses an ostensibly gung-ho and patriotic story with an underlying pain and melancholy of a sort that echoes the director's other works about the wages of violence."

Then, there was Variety's Chief Film Critic Justin Chang, **who in reserving praise for "an excellent performance from a bulked-up Bradley Cooper"** that hard-wired "the viewer into Kyle's battle-scarred psyche", commented that "this harrowing and intimate

character study offers fairly blunt insights into the physical and psychological toll exacted on the front lines".

QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE MOVIE'S WAR STANCE

As aforementioned, American Sniper was definitely popular - **its earnings of \$107.2 million during the four-day Martin Luther King weekend gave it the record for the biggest R-rated four day gross.** The movie's staggering takings also gave it the record of the highest opening for a film released in January, and it was also - naturally - the biggest opening of Eastwood's career and the second highest-grossing war film in North America.

For all of that, though, not everyone was a fan. With Kyle having served four tours of duty during the Iraq War and much of the movie **therefore charting one man's experiences of the armed conflicts of the post-9/11 "war on terror"**, there's no question of American Sniper's painful relevance today.

The movie has caused an intense debate to break out between the American political right and left, with the former seeing it as a patriotic celebration of a war hero that doesn't flinch in confronting the reality of the terrorist threat. More left-leaning observers, however, have largely regarded it as a glorification of an ill-justified war, dedicated to an unapologetic killer with an overly simplistic good-versus-evil attitude to the world.

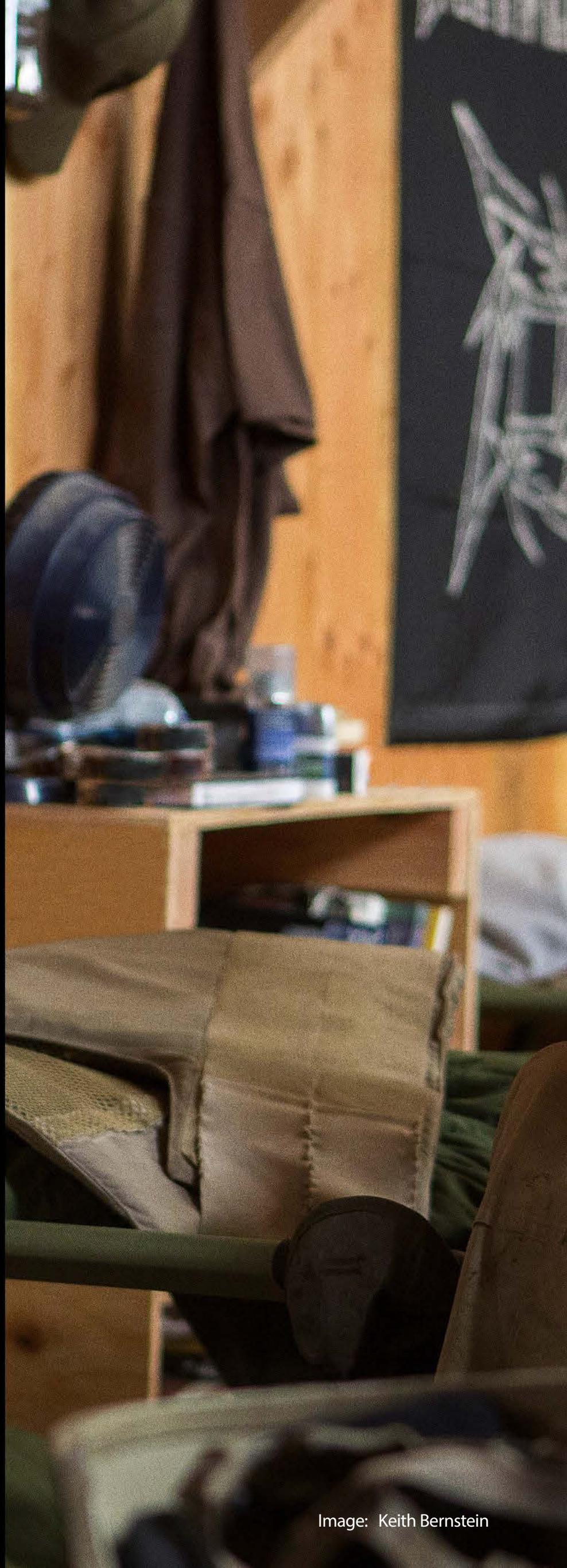


Image: Keith Bernstein





EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE A VIEWPOINT

The makers themselves, however, including Eastwood, Hall and Cooper, have expressed dismay in recent interviews at what they regard as misplaced attempts to read any particular political viewpoint into the film. They say that *American Sniper* is more just a portrait of a real-life Navy SEAL sniper and the effect that the Iraq War had on him.

Eastwood said to the *Toronto Star* that *American Sniper* "certainly has nothing to do with any [political] parties or anything... there's no political aspect there other than the fact that a lot of things happen in war zones." Meanwhile, Cooper told the *Daily Beast* that "for me, and for Clint, this movie was always a character study about what the plight is for a soldier... but I can't control how people are gonna use this movie as a tool, or what they pick and choose [to argue]."

Cooper was evidently right about that. The celebrity critics of *American Sniper* included Seth Rogen, **who tweeted that it "kind of reminds me of the movie that's showing in the third act of *Inglorious Basterds*"** - an apparent reference to Nazi propaganda. Following a heavy social media backlash, he was forced to issue a clarification stating that such a comparison was "something I would NEVER do", adding that "I've already explained that I enjoyed *American Sniper*."

A rather blunter assessment came from Michael Moore, or at least, that appeared to be the case, **as he made no explicit**







in which he declared that "My uncle [was] killed by [a] sniper in WW2. We were taught snipers were cowards." Kyle Becker, Senior Managing Editor at the conservative-leaning Independent Journal Review, responded that "While Chris Kyle sniped at enemy soldiers, Michael Moore has only sniped at the honor of slain heroes."

A MAJOR 'LEFT VERSUS RIGHT' BATTLE

It didn't take long for so many more people to pile into the debate about American Sniper. Fox News host Jedediah Bila **accused the left of politicizing the film rather than simply appreciating an American soldier's story**, suggesting that "If this was for a left-wing political cause - like global warming... even if it was the crappiest movie, they would throw their hands behind it because it's part of their political cause. It's all politics all the time."

Others to lash out at Rogen and Moore included Harris Faulkner and Andrea Tantaros, the latter describing the pair as "the left of the left of the left." Sarah Palin was another unsurprising right-wing participant in the debate, **complaining of "Hollywood leftists" who were "not fit to shine Chris Kyle's combat boots."**

However, Rogen and Moore also seemed to find agreement from many observers, such as New York magazine reviewer David Edelstein. **In a review entitled Clint Eastwood turns American Sniper into a Republican platform movie**, the writer bemoaned that "The people Kyle shoots always represent a



"savage, despicable evil," and the physical and mental costs to other Americans just comes with the territory." He also made reference to Eastwood's speech at the 2012 Republican National Convention.

THE CONTROVERSY SIMPLY DRAWS IN VIEWERS

Is American Sniper pro-war, anti-war or steadfastly neutral on the issue? Whatever the answer one may give to that question, there's no question that the controversy will simply stoke interest in the movie.

It's easy to see the film's place as the latest in a long line of artistic creations perhaps misinterpreted by the left or right, such as Bruce Springsteen's song "Born In The U.S.A.", which Ronald Reagan described during his 1984 presidential campaign as a "message of hope" on account of its rousing chorus, despite it actually being written from the perspective of a disgruntled Vietnam veteran.

As for American Sniper, we have no doubts that this particular debate will run and run. We have similarly little doubt about the film's status as very much 'one to watch' - whatever your political standpoint. ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan





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First Look: Sundance Doc Pulls Back Curtain on Scientology

“Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief” premiered Sunday at the Sundance Film Festival to a packed house - not with a star-studded red carpet, but with police protection.

A week before the premiere, the Church of Scientology took out full-page ads in the New York Times and Los Angeles Times claiming the documentary is filled with falsehoods.

Based on Lawrence Wright’s 2013 book of the same name, Oscar winner Alex Gibney’s film claims that the church routinely intimidates, manipulates and even tortures its members, tracing the rise of the religion and its founder, former science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, and his successor as head of the church, David Miscavige. Gibney also interviewed several former Scientology believers, including past executives.

Paul Haggis, the Oscar-winning director of “Crash,” left the church in 2009 after decades of membership.





"I was really stupid. I was part of this for 30 years before I spoke out," he says in the film. "I was deeply ashamed."

As Haggis climbed "the bridge" to the most enlightened levels of Scientology, he finally learned Hubbard's ultimate theory: That a tyrannical galactic overlord named Xenu dropped frozen bodies from millions of years ago into volcanoes, and those spirits attach themselves to modern people today. Scientology is the means of ridding the body and mind of those spirits to become "clear."

Another former member who left the church in 2013 said its approach is "like brainwashing."

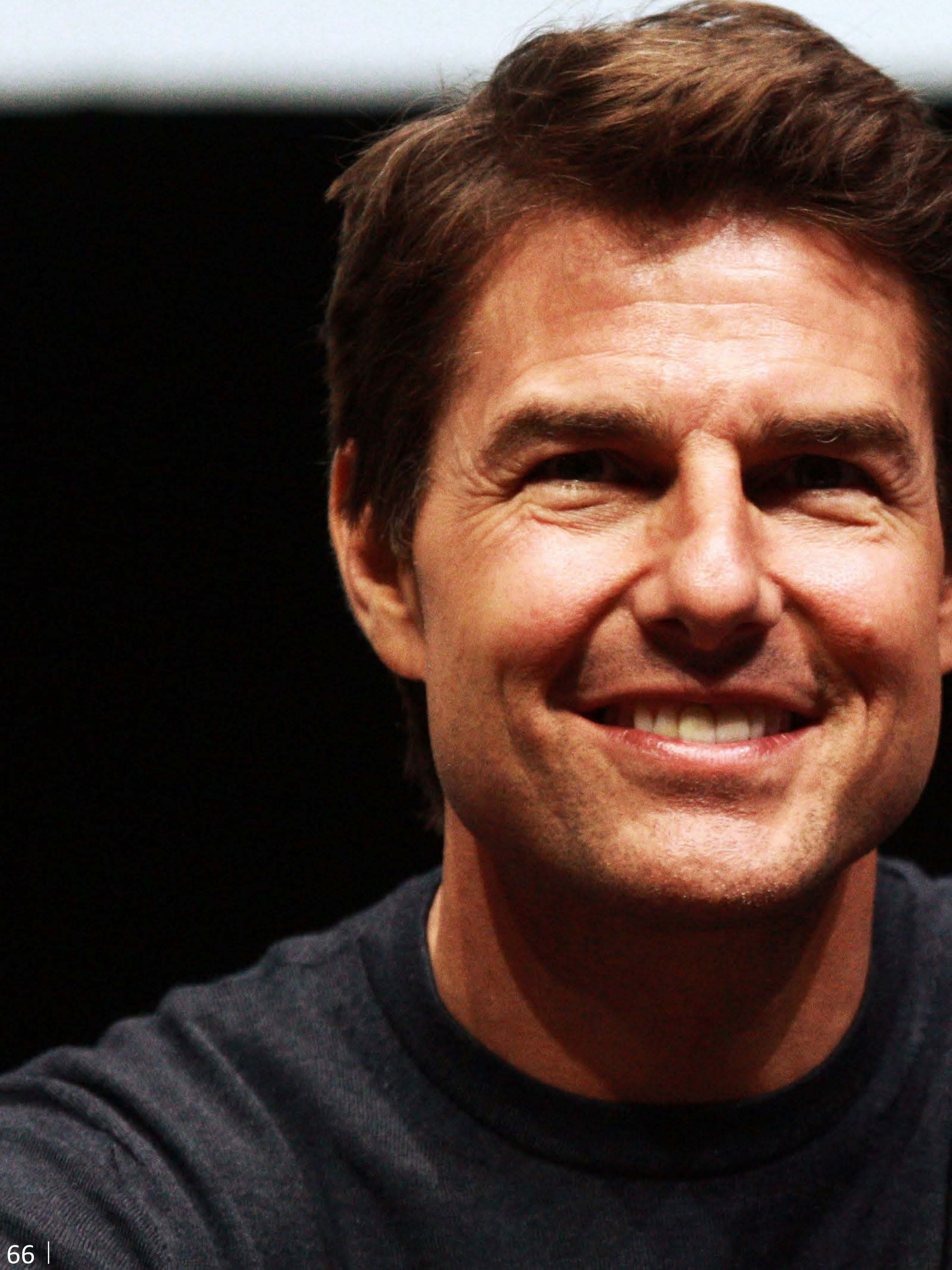
Several former church members featured in the film attended Sunday's premiere. Two said they were followed to Utah by Scientology investigators, who photographed them at the Salt Lake City airport.

The Church of Scientology released a statement Sunday that characterizes these former believers as "the usual collection of obsessive, disgruntled former Church members kicked out as long as 30 years ago for malfeasance, who have a documented history of making up lies about the Church for money."

The church says Gibney refused to meet with the 25 members it offered as sources. Gibney says the church declined all requests for interviews, as did Miscavige, John Travolta and Tom Cruise, both of whom are Scientologists.

The film traces Cruise's relationship with the church, and claims it intentionally broke up his marriage with Nicole Kidman because she was not a believer. Scientology's biggest celebrity spokesman was largely absent from the church during his nearly 10-year marriage to Kidman.

Members deemed to have somehow erred against the church were subject to degradation and torture, according to the film. They were





deprived of sleep, fed scraps and forced to do hard labor. Sometimes they were beaten. One man was required to mop a bathroom floor with his tongue.

Gibney and Wright said the church has threatened them with litigation. Former members said they've fared far worse: They've been slandered online, followed, filmed and seen their loved ones stalked and intimidated.

Former Scientology spokesman and senior executive Mike Rinder said he hopes the film will raise public awareness about the church's methods: "I would love it if the FBI, after seeing this film, said, 'We need to do something more energetic.'"



MICROSOFT **STRIDES INTO HEADSET** **MARKET WITH** **HOLOLENS**

HoloLens is Microsoft's answer
to Google Glass



A PROMISING NEW COMPONENT OF WINDOWS 10

We may have already known that Windows 10 was coming, but further details on the latest installment of Microsoft's so-long iconic operating system were always going to be welcome, and sure enough, we got some at an event in Redmond on Tuesday, January 20 that also brought rather less expected news... **that of a new addition to the headset market, HoloLens.**

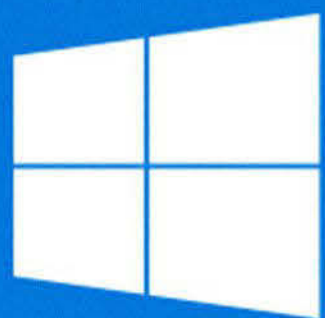
Before we go any further, though, we should stress that HoloLens isn't strictly a virtual reality headset; it is instead an augmented reality one, with a version of Windows 10, Windows Holographic, having even been created around it.

HoloLens doesn't immerse you entirely in a virtual environment, instead using transparent lenses to project images into your existing world. It creates holograms, in other words, although just before you get too excited about the idea of real life visual projections as made famous by the likes of R2 D2 and Star Trek doctors, you can't see the holograms unless you don the headset.

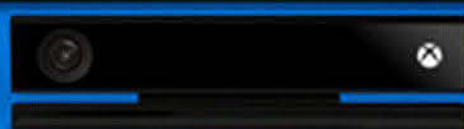
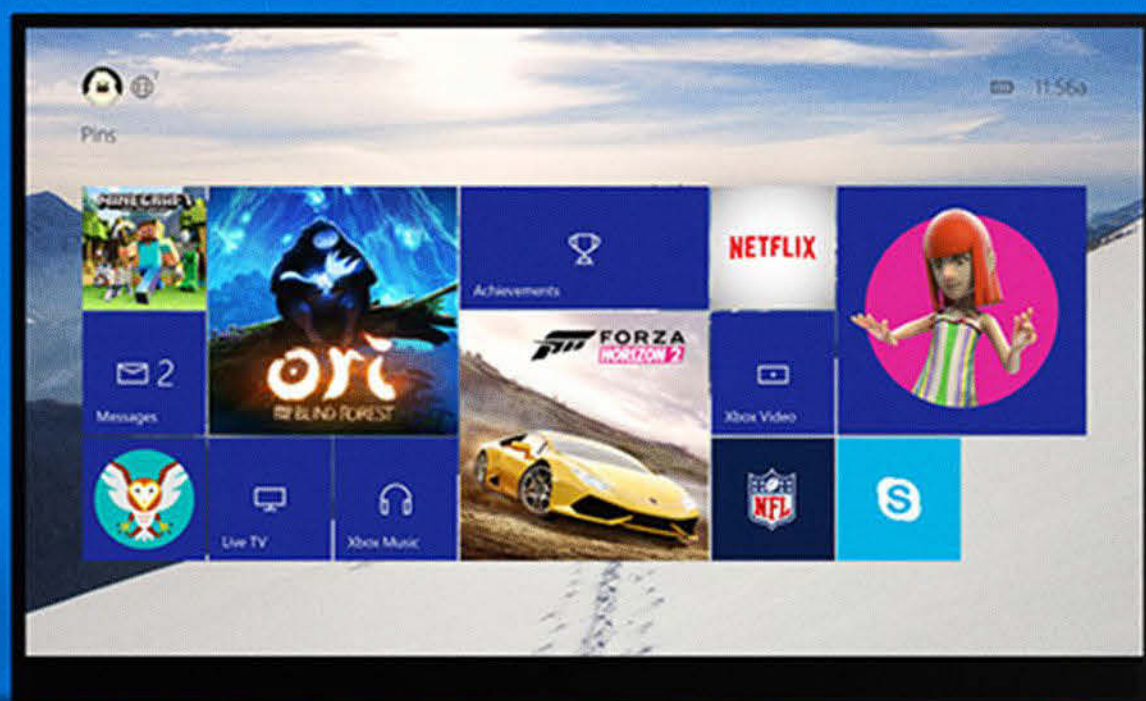
WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HOLOLENS

The official Microsoft HoloLens website is certainly instructive with regard to the new headset's aims and functionalities, and it's predictably bullish, too, **declaring that "The era of holographic computing is here... When you change the way you see the world, you can change the world you see."**





Windows 10





Life on the Island

Date Posted 10/18/2014



Hawaiian Flowers

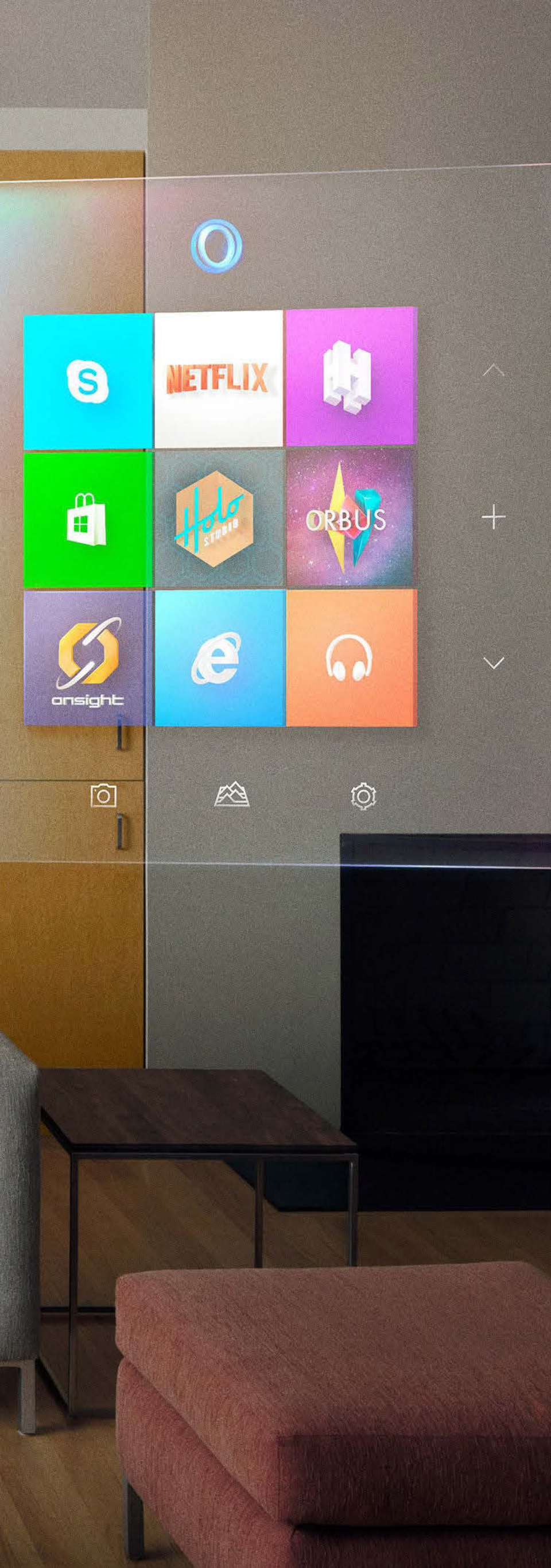
Date Posted 10/23/2014



Over

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Microsoft has promised that our world will be transformed by HoloLens' holograms, stating that "For the first time ever, Microsoft HoloLens brings high-definition holograms to life in your world, where they integrate with your physical places, spaces and things."

The corporation has said that it wants to use HoloLens to close the gap between our digital and 'real' lives, placing us at the center of a world where holograms blend with reality. We will apparently be able to "design and shape holograms", with the associated benefits for productivity and our all-round lifestyles.

Vital to the vision proposed for HoloLens is that there is no keyboard, mouse, tablet or PC screen - the headset is meant to replace them all. Interaction is clearly a major focus, with holograms able to be created, shaped and sized through mere human gestures. Your vision, voice and movements are all understood by the device, but it's also all intended to feel as natural and as seamless as possible.

AN IMPRESSIVE RANGE OF POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

A good way to think of HoloLens is not as merely the latest piece of 'wearable tech', but instead as a means of more effortless interaction with much of the technology that you are already familiar with. In theory, **you could use it for something as simple as word processing or browsing the Internet**, just as long as you create the necessary virtual displays.





For those possibly suffering from a failure of the imagination, Microsoft helpfully showed off a sizzle reel for Windows Holographic at the Redmond event, indicating just how great HoloLens could be for the likes of three-dimensional industrial design tasks and using your living room coffee table to devise voxel constructions akin to Minecraft.

As if that wasn't enough, we also got to see a HoloLens headset being used 'in the flesh', in conjunction with a new program named HoloStudio, which PC Gamer writer Wes Fenlon described as being "a bit like 'My First 3D Modeling Program'." Nonetheless, it was clear from the demonstration of this aspect of the device and the accompanying software just how easy it would be for the average user to put together something decent - in this case, a simple-looking quadcopter - with just a few elementary geometric shapes.

HOW HOLOLENS ACTUALLY WORKS

The images that you can see through these goggles are the created through the (thankfully painless) blasting of light into your eyes. As your movements are tracked and your gaze watched by the device, **you can easily interact with these 3D images by raising and lowering your finger in a 'midair click' gesture.**

It is thanks to the device's wealth of sensors that it can keep tabs on your movements and use the gathered information and colored glass layers to create images that you can both interact with and look at from different

Dad



angles. You might be presented with a virtual bike in your living room, for instance, that you can simply walk around if you would like to see the back of it.

HoloLens goes so much further than simply overlaying images over your 'real world' - there's more in-depth interaction than that. The device's in-built camera scours whatever room you enter, identifying tables, chairs and other objects and their exact location, so that 3D images can be projected on top of and even inside them.

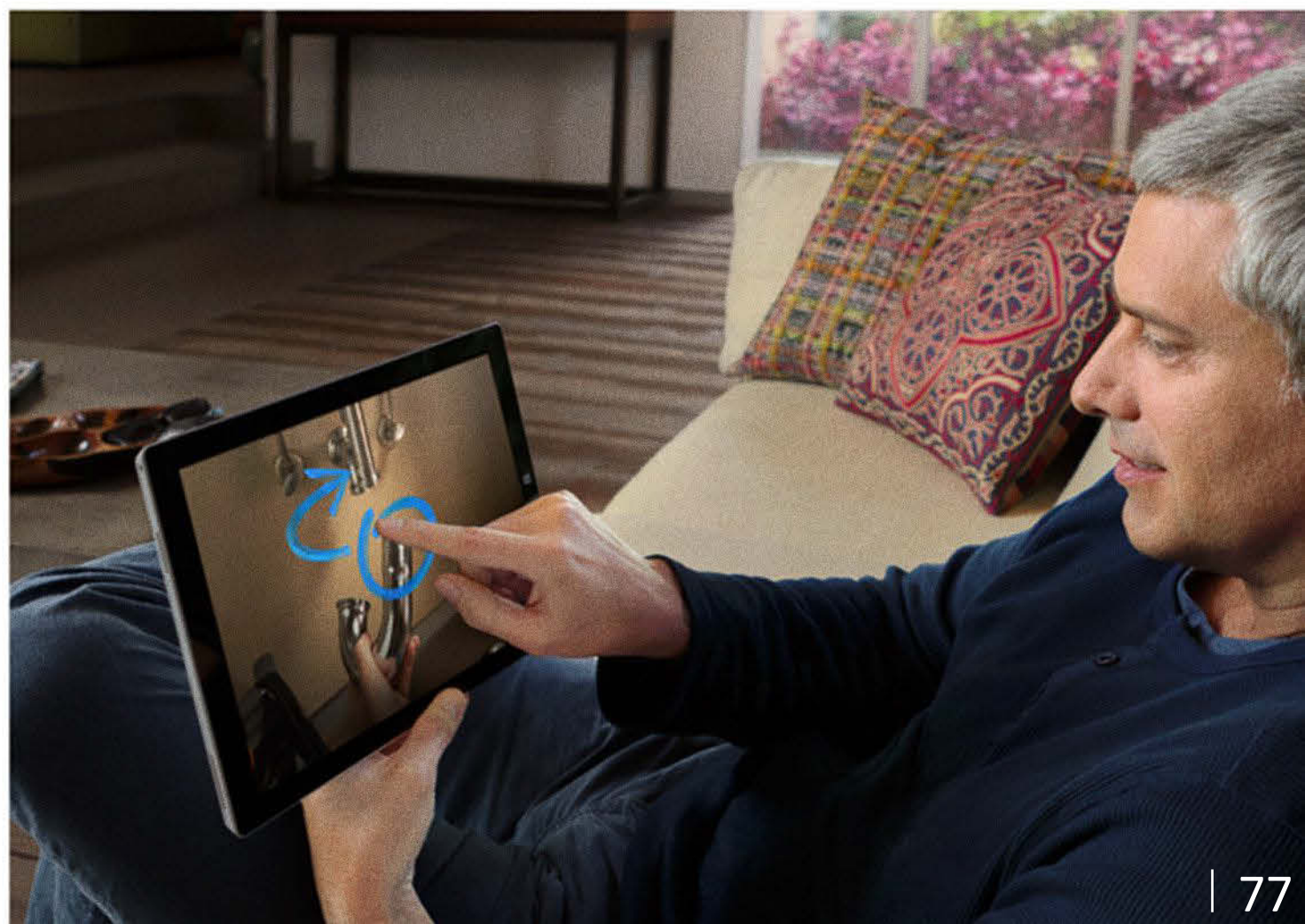
You could, for example, virtually chip away at your desk by tapping it, all while your actual desk remains perfectly intact. Or, if you're in a more destructive mood, what about placing some (very much virtual) dynamite on the table and blowing a (also very much virtual) hole in it?

Some might reasonably suggest that these are gimmicky functions, or at least, that is the case right now. It's the journey that such functions could take for more practical uses that really excites us.

GRADUALLY TURNING HOLLYWOOD INTO REALITY

Microsoft HoloLens is just the latest technology that is continuing to bring the outlandish creations of Hollywood into the homes of you and I.

Just think of 2002's *Minority Report*, which saw the use of transparent screens and sweeping, midair hand gestures by Tom





Cruise's character, Captain John Anderton. Fast-forward to 2007, and we got the first iPhone, which made hand and finger gestures via a touchscreen central to its legendary intuitiveness.

Other on-screen technological wonders that we are further away from seeing turned into an everyday reality include the transportation of people to imaginary cities by plugging computers into their brains - as seen in *The Matrix* - and the aforementioned energy fields and visual tricks of *Star Trek* which brought into being worlds that could be felt and touched.

RAVE REVIEWS SO FAR

Industry observers have certainly responded with a 'thumbs up' to what we know about HoloLens so far. Forbes contributor Andy Leather, for instance, described himself as "genuinely excited by HoloLens and what it could become... Microsoft has the playground to itself."

Nick Statt declared for CNET, meanwhile, that "Microsoft has a vision for the future, and it involves terms and technology straight out of science fiction", observing that HoloLens was "a sleek, flashy headset". The games industry consultant and creator of the *What Games Are* design blog, Tadhg Kelly, was also positive about the headset, **commenting that "I think Microsoft is onto something with the HoloLens."**

An even bolder statement of confidence in HoloLens was expressed in an article by





Timothy B. Lee for Vox, entitled It's not just hype: Microsoft's HoloLens really could be the next big thing. In it, he drew attention to a video Microsoft released about the HoloLens, "Possibilities", which showed developers praising the technology, including one who reckoned that "This is the next generation of computing. This is the next PC."

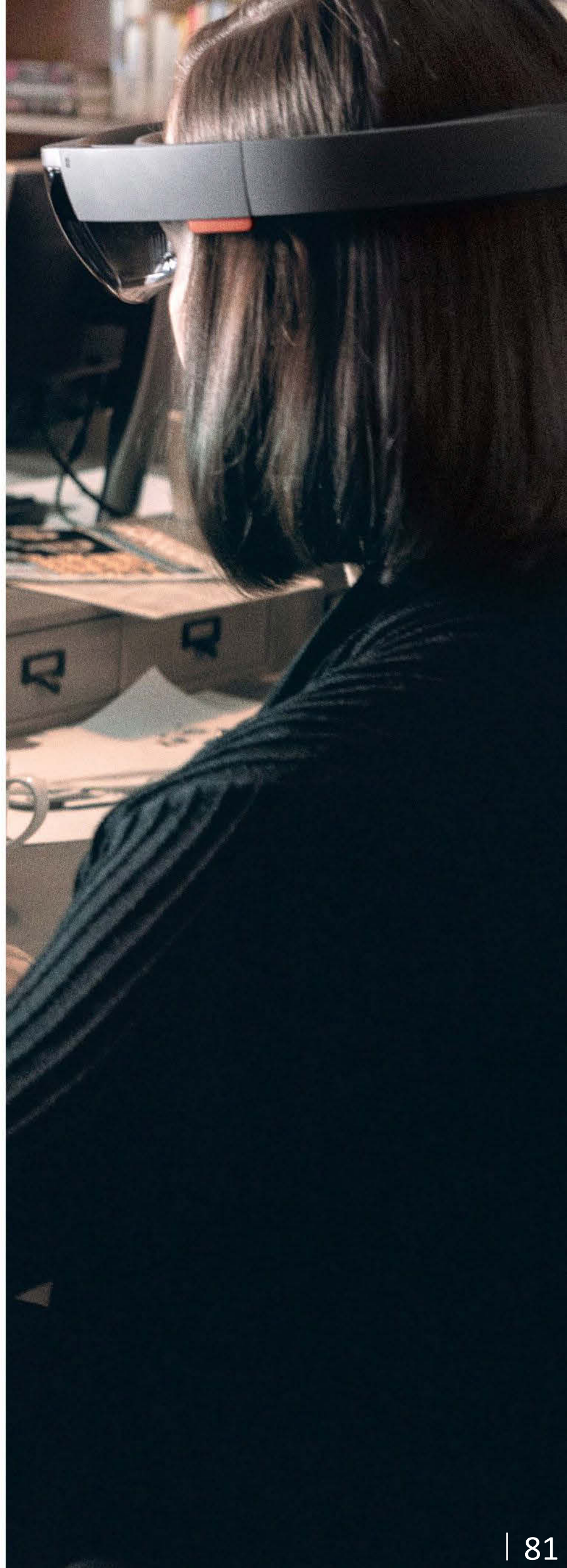
Such claims were always worth taking "with a grain of salt", according to Lee, who nonetheless suggested that "this one has a good chance of being true." He pointed out the late Steve Jobs' observation at the unveiling of the original iPhone that great new computing platforms were often defined by revolutionary user interfaces, as was the case for the mouse in the 1980s and the 2000s era of multitouch computing.

It seems, then, that Microsoft's HoloLens could just be the right technology at the right time. To give ourselves a better idea of that, however, we had to test it for ourselves.

HANDS-ON WITH MICROSOFT'S NEW HOLOGRAM DEVICE

Microsoft didn't use skydivers or stunt cyclists to introduce what it hopes will be the next big leap in computing technology. Instead, with its new HoloLens headset, the company is offering real-world examples to show how you might use three-dimensional digital images - or holograms - in daily life.

And that might be what it takes to get people to buy a computer they wear on their face.



I got a brief peek at what wearing the HoloLens could be like in different scenarios: performing a simple home repair, pretending to be a scientist studying the surface of Mars and exploring a colorful, animated game that added new dimensions to an unremarkable room.

Microsoft unveiled HoloLens at its headquarters this week, on the same day the company touted its upcoming Windows 10 software release. What I saw of the device seems unfinished, but it shows potential.

A CROWDED FIELD

Some of the world's biggest tech companies are working on wearable devices that aim to create realistic, three-dimensional representations of alien worlds or imaginary creatures.

Google's computerized eyewear, Glass, isn't technically a virtual-reality device, but it shows the challenges of winning consumer acceptance. Google introduced Glass in 2012 with a Vegas-style stunt that included mountain bikes and skydivers landing on the roof of a convention center. Last week, it suspended consumer sales after many people balked at the notion of wearing a digital camera and Internet-connected device on their head.

Meanwhile, Google has invested in a secretive start-up, Magic Leap, that's working on virtual reality. Samsung and Oculus VR - which Facebook bought for \$2 billion last year - are developing gaming headsets that





essentially block the wearer's view and replace it with an imaginary world. Smaller companies have developed headsets for industrial or business uses.

Microsoft's HoloLens was built by engineers who created the Kinect motion-sensing system for Xbox games. It projects a realistic image on a screen in front of your eyes, but the screen is transparent, so you can still see what's in front of you. The holograms respond to gestures and spoken commands, detected by cameras and other sensors in the device.

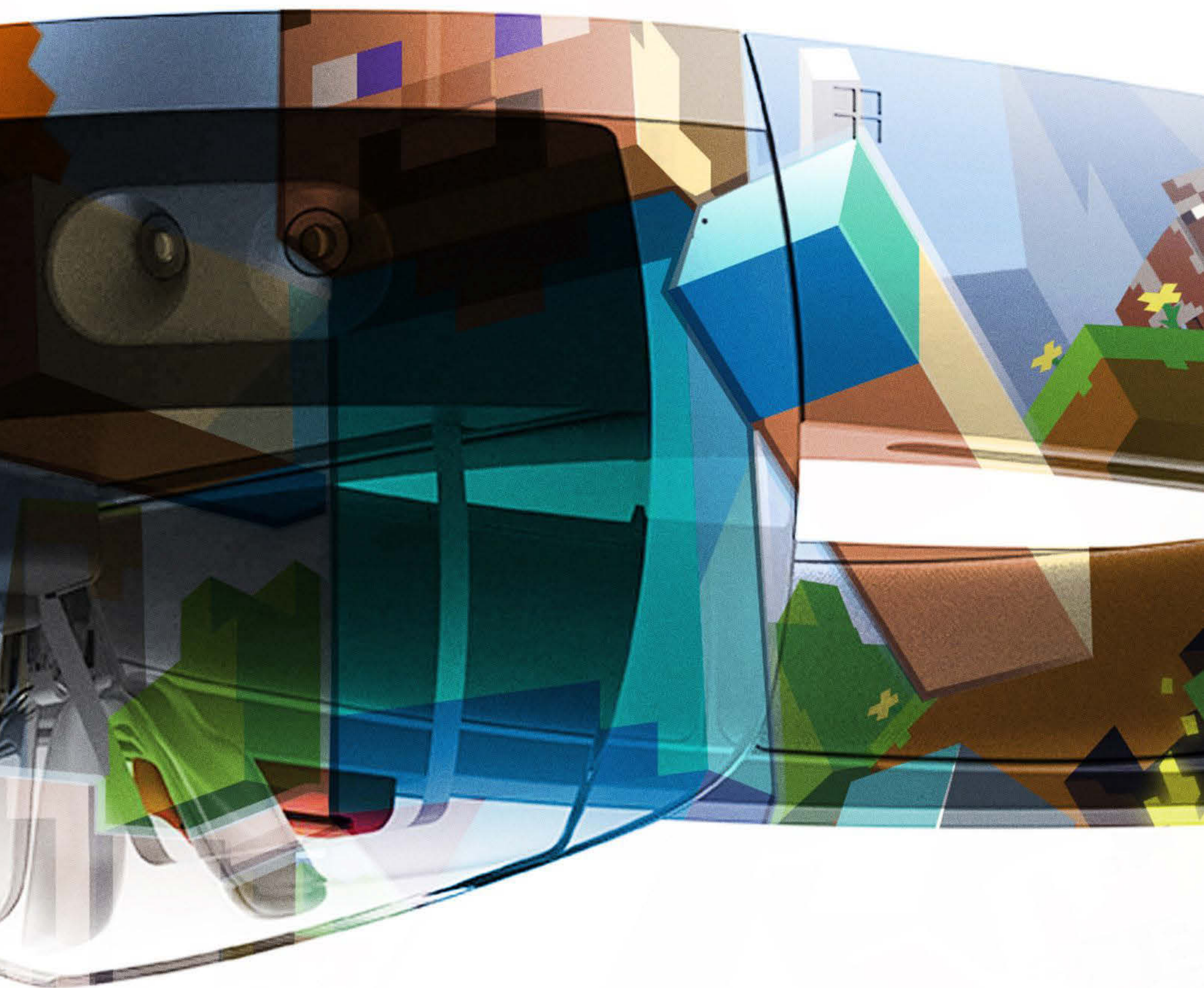
WALKING ON MARS

The most striking demonstration involved a project in which Microsoft partnered with scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. They've created a vividly realistic, three-dimensional landscape by knitting together photographs and data collected by NASA's Curiosity rover.

When I moved my head, the landscape shifted as if I was actually walking on the planet. I peered under a rock outcropping. I was joined by a digital avatar, playing the part of a JPL scientist. We spoke and used hand gestures to place digital markers on different rocks, in an exercise simulating how scientists might use the system to direct the rover's exploration.

A more whimsical demonstration involved the Microsoft-owned Minecraft game. In a small living room, the HoloLens projected three-dimensional structures and animated creatures on an actual coffee table. I summoned imaginary tools and blasted a





simulated hole in the room's actual wall - and was surprised to see cartoon bats fly out.

But another exercise brought home how useful the gadget might be. I was guided through the process of installing an electric light switch. I saw a woman who showed me a





Image: AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

series of sketches and talked me through each step. She was working in real time in another room, drawing sketches on a tablet computer and using Skype to talk with me. I could see the sketches, super-imposed over an actual wall outlet and protruding wires, while her face appeared to one side.

WHAT'S THE POTENTIAL?

Microsoft engineer Alex Kipman said the company has built programming tools so outside developers can use Windows 10 to create more holographic apps. Kipman called HoloLens "the next step" in moving "beyond today's digital borders." Meanwhile, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said virtual reality will be the next major wave in computing and communications.

Microsoft executives talked about other uses - from helping a surgeon learn a new operating technique to designing objects for 3-D printers. I could also see applications in the kitchen, classrooms and retail shops.

But it's not yet clear when HoloLens will be out, or how much it will cost. While executives showed off a sleek prototype, they used a heavier, clunkier version for up-close demonstrations. It had cumbersome straps, wires and extra gear stowed in a pouch around the wearer's neck.

Still, if Microsoft can produce a working product at a reasonable price, it might help move computing to another level. ■

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan





Debbie Reynolds Honored For Lifetime Achievement

Debbie Reynolds accepted the Screen Actors Guild's lifetime achievement award from her daughter Sunday night, and promptly embarrassed Carrie Fisher with a story.

The 82-year-old entertainer recalled having "a big, ugly bun" in her best-known movie, "Singin' in the Rain."

"I warned my daughter Carrie, be careful of any weird hairdo," Reynolds said she advised Fisher before playing Princess Leia in George Lucas' "Star Wars."

"Luckily, George gave her two buns."

Reynolds initially told the audience at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles that her favorite movie was "Singin' in the Rain," her first major co-starring role in 1952 with Gene Kelly.

But later she also called "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" her favorite. She received her only Oscar nomination for the 1964 film.

"I got to sing a song called 'I Ain't Down Yet,'" she said. "Well, I ain't."



The acerbic Fisher lovingly and bitingly celebrated her mother before turning over the mic.

“She has been more than a mother to me, not much, but definitely more,” Fisher said, noting her mother’s advice on interior decorating and her personal life.

Fisher narrated a video tribute to Reynolds, who has been in show business for 66 years. Her career began when she was signed by Warner Bros. after being crowned Miss Burbank at 16.

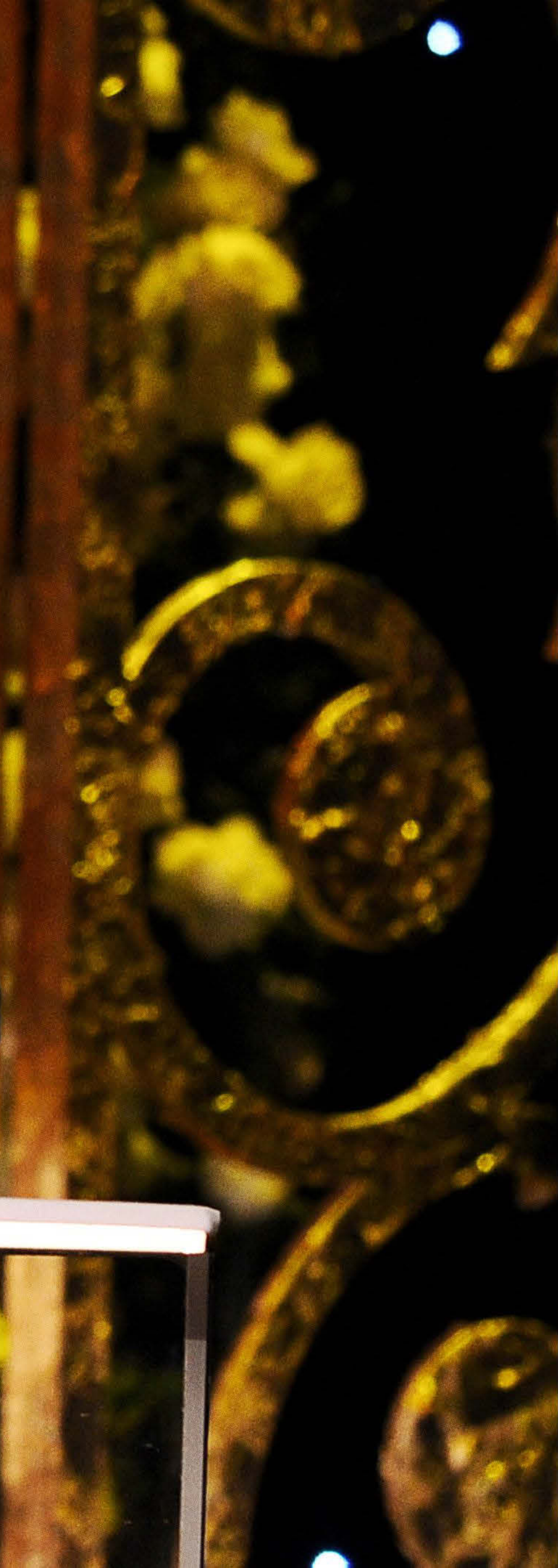
“Admittedly, I found it difficult to share my mother with her adoring fans who treated her like a member of their family,” Fisher said.

Reynolds did not appear backstage to speak with reporters.

Her most recent role came two years ago when she played Liberace’s mother in HBO’s “Behind the Candelabra.”

“I had the best teachers,” Reynolds said in recalling her career. “God gave us talent, so we’re so fortunate.”





Quotes from The Screen Actors Guild Awards

Quotes from Sunday night's 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles:

"If people are saying I'm the front-runner, that's a beautiful thing. It's more attention for the movie. I'm delighted to be the front-runner, may it all happen." - J.K. Simmons backstage on his status as the favorite to win the supporting-actor Oscar for "Whiplash."





“Twenty-eight. I had just gotten out of Julliard and thought I could conquer the world. I didn’t know better. I didn’t know life was going to be hard yet. I liked bathing in that ignorance.” - Viola Davis backstage on what age she would choose to stay.

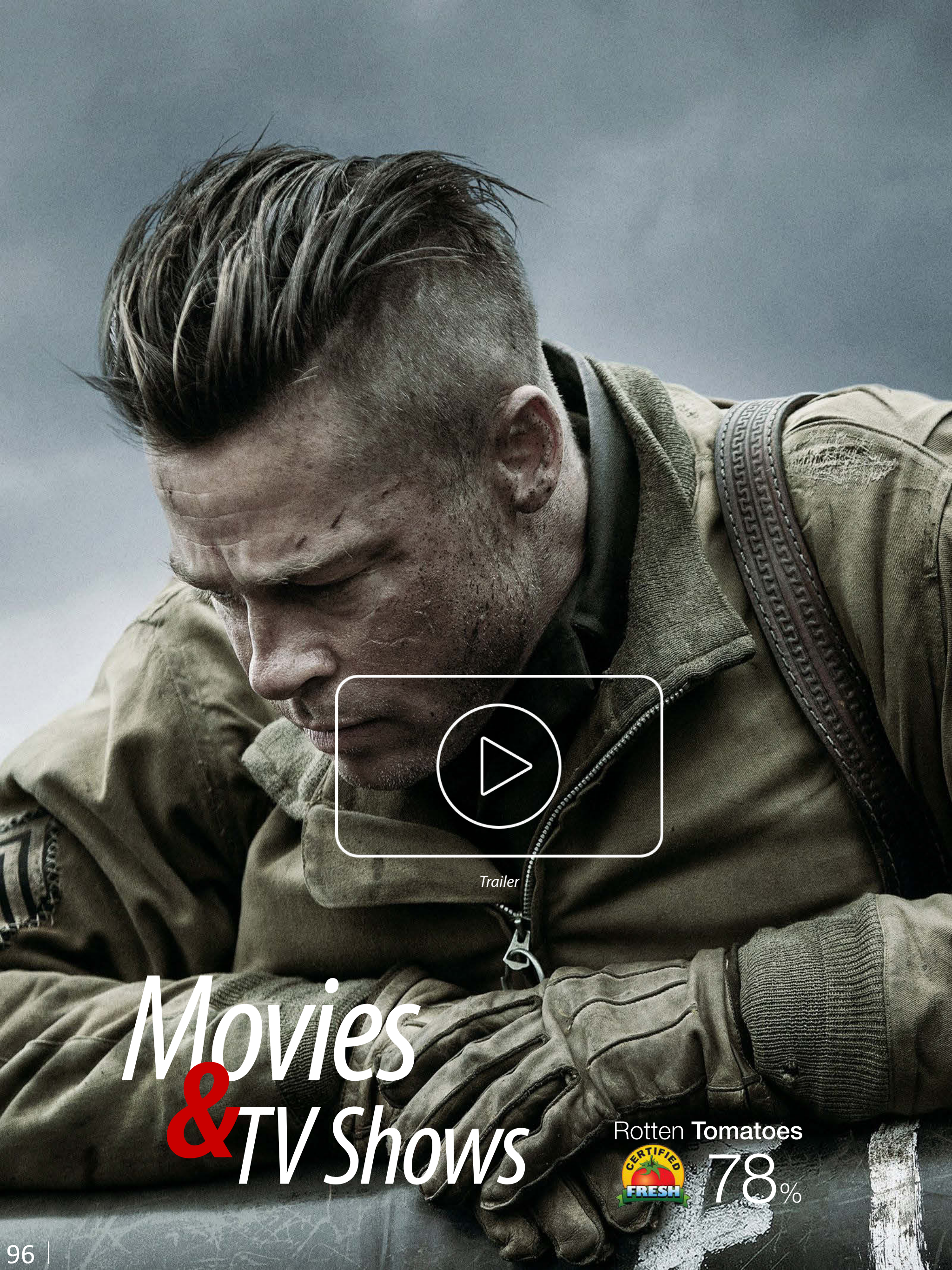
“She has been more than a mother to me, not much, but definitely more.” - Carrie Fisher, presenting the lifetime achievement award to her mother Debbie Reynolds.

“I can’t tell you what this means to me. I’m a fourth-generation actor. My family has been committed to acting for over a century, through feast or famine.” - Patricia Arquette, supporting actress winner for “Boyhood.”

“When I was 17 I decided I wanted to be an actor. ... I want to say to all you kids in the drama club, you kids are the real actors.” - Julianne Moore, leading actress winner for “Still Alice.”

“It’s all a bit overwhelming. It’s like a white noise of euphoria. It’s a very wondrous sensation.” - Eddie Redmayne, leading actor winner for “The Theory of Everything.”

“Actors love this movie for showing the courage actors have to kind of go out there and lay it on the line.” - Michael Keaton, who shared the cast in a motion picture award for “Birdman.”



Trailer

Movies & TV Shows

Rotten Tomatoes
 78%



iTunes Preview



by David Ayer
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2014
Price: \$17.99

★★★★★
694 Ratings

Fury

There has been no shortage of films about World War II down the years, but this one focuses on what happened to a few members of a U.S. tank crew - led by commander "Wardaddy" (Brad Pitt) - towards the end of hostilities in Germany. As if their latest mission wasn't deadly enough, they are also forced to take on a rookie, Norman (Logan Lerman) in their platoon.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The movie was directed by David Ayer, whose past works include 2012's *End of Watch*.
2. Ayer was influenced by the service of veterans in his family and by reading books like *Death Traps* by Belton Y. Cooper.
3. Other members of the cast included Shia LaBeouf, Michael Peña and Jon Bernthal.
4. According to Bernthal, Ayer **pushed the cast to behave as if "this was the last movie you were ever going to make."**
5. The film **grossed \$208,417,906 worldwide.**

See more in
iTunes





Interview with Logan Lerman

The Judge

In an unusually down-to-earth role for the 'Iron Man', Robert Downey Jr. plays a cynical big-city lawyer who reluctantly returns to his hometown following his mother's death. He even more reluctantly ends up helping out his father, a revered small-town judge (Robert Duvall), after the latter's involvement in a suspicious accident.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The Judge was directed by David Dobkin.
2. The movie also stars Vera Farmiga, Vincent D'Onofrio, Jeremy Strong, Dax Shepard and Billy Bob Thornton.
3. Duvall was nominated for multiple awards for his performance, including the Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild Award and Satellite Award for Best Supporting Actor.
4. Thomas Newman was also nominated for a Satellite Award for Best Original Score.
5. **Principal photography and shooting took place around Massachusetts, despite the film actually being set in the fictional town of Carlinville, Indiana.**



iTunes Preview



by David Dobkin
Genre: Drama
Released: 2014
Price: \$19.99

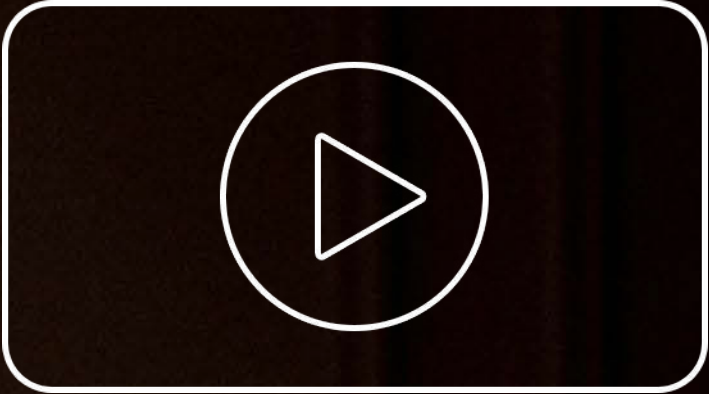
★★★★★
241 Ratings

Rotten Tomatoes
 47%



Trailer





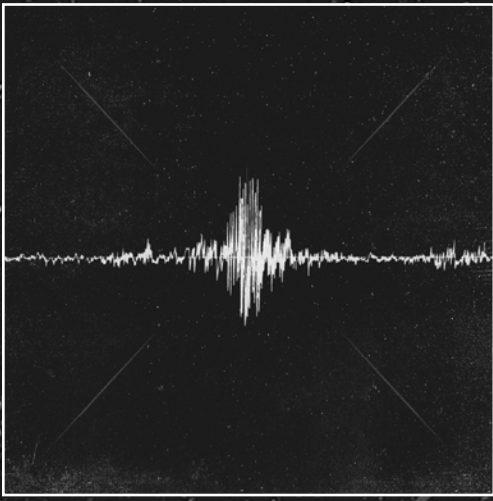
Interview with Robert Downey Jr.



We Will Not Be Shaken



Music



iTunes Preview



Genre: Christian & Gospel
Released: Jan 26, 2015
16 Songs
Price: \$14.99

★★★★★
290 Ratings

We Will Not Be Shaken (Live) [Deluxe Edition]

Bethel Music

Late summer 2014 saw the Bethel Music artist collective of the Bethel Church come together on a mountaintop north of Redding, California for an unforgettable evening of worship.

This live album and accompanying film was another result of that gathering, showcasing a series of inspirational new songs, including by several debut artists.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Bethel Music is the record label of the division of Bethel Church devoted to professional music production.
2. Bethel Church is a non-denominational megachurch that was established as an Assemblies of God congregation in 1954.
3. It has since grown to an estimated weekly attendance of more than 3,500 people.
4. Bethel Music has said that the new album's title track "**hails a message of promise in adversity and proclaims the victory we have in Jesus.**"
5. The label has added that We Will Not Be Shaken is "**an album of beautiful worship and powerful songs of declaration, hope and faith.**"

See more in
iTunes





We Will Not Be Shaken (Album) Promo

F.E.A.R.

Papa Roach

The platinum-selling hard rockers return with their eighth studio album to kick-start the new year. With a title standing for “Face Everything and Rise”, the track of that name having already been released as a single, F.E.A.R. looks set to be another big critical and commercial success for the boys from Vacaville, California.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The band’s formation began in January 1993, when lead singer Jacoby Shaddix and drummer Dave Buckner met on the football field at Vacaville High School and started talking about music.
2. The group’s current members are Shaddix, guitarist Jerry Horton, bassist Tobin Esperance and drummer and percussionist Tony Palermo.
3. Papa Roach’s major label debut was its triple-platinum-selling *Infest* album in 2000.
4. The F.E.A.R. sessions **reportedly marked the first time since *The Paramour Sessions* in 2006 that the boys had lived under the same roof.**
5. The album also showcases the talents of father-and-son super-producers Kevin and Kane Churko.



iTunes Preview



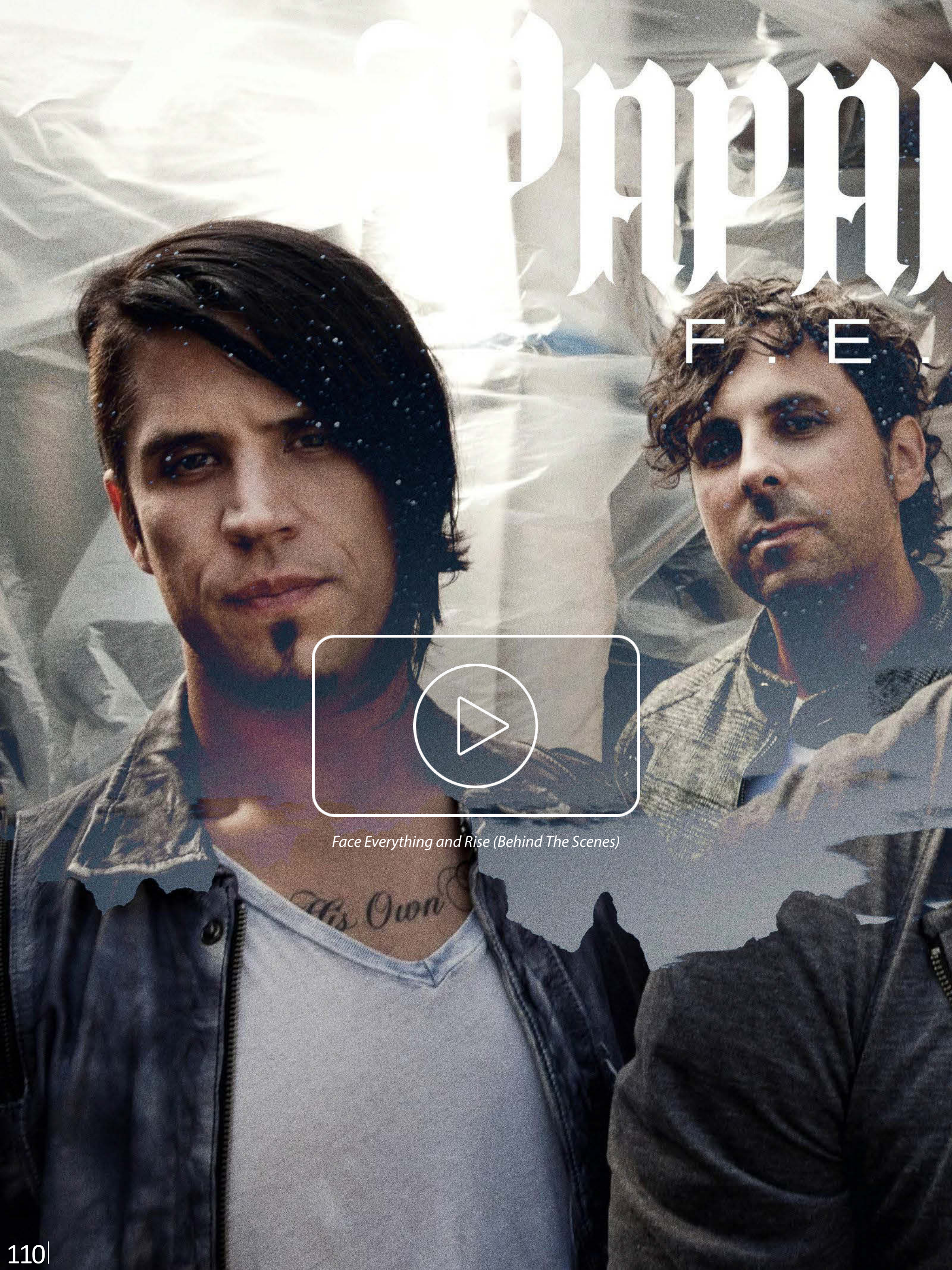
Genre: Rock
Released: Jan 27, 2015
12 Songs
Price: \$10.99

★★★★★
276 Ratings





Face Everything and Rise



Portrait

F.E.



Face Everything and Rise (Behind The Scenes)

A. R.





HOLLYWOOD



Seekers of The Hollywood sign Disrupt Nearby Neighborhood

Like pilgrims flocking to a holy shrine, they come from all over the world to pay homage, not to a deity but to something similar - the people they see on TV and in the movies.

They are the seekers of the Hollywood Sign, that symbol of the Land of the Rich and Famous. And just like those on pilgrimages to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome or the Acropolis in Greece, they press to get as close as they can to the immortality of fame that it represents.

Unlike visitors to other sites, however, Hollywood Sign seekers can't just take a bus or join a tour group. Arriving at the sign that towers magnificently over Los Angeles' skyline requires traipsing through a densely populated hillside neighborhood of 20,000 people, one dotted by multimillion-dollar homes located on steep, narrow, almost impassable canyon roads.

"There will probably be 10,000 of them here this weekend," said Guy Pohlman in a voice echoing a mixture of foreboding and disgust as he stood in front of his home just a few doors down from a once-secret back way to the closest hiking trail





to the sign atop a mountain peak in LA's sprawling Griffith Park.

"I've seen people stand on my wall to get a picture," Pohlman said. "I've seen them stand on my neighbor's garage. I've seen them stop in the middle of the street and stand on their cars. They block our emergency vehicles. They block our mail delivery."

Sometimes they get stuck at the top of Pohlman's narrow street and struggle to turn around without bashing into a neighbor's wall. Sometimes a resident comes out of a house to scream at them to go away.

But still they come.

"It's as if you want to touch the feet of the statues of the saints," pop-culture historian Leo Braudy said of what drives them. "There's a kind of desire to get something of that aura for yourself."

You can't quite touch the Hollywood sign, thanks to a protective fence, a bank of security cameras and the threat of arrest. But you can get close enough for a great photo, one of those poses where you pretend to be holding the sign aloft like Atlas carrying the world on his shoulders.

It's a fine souvenir to send home to let the folks know you've been to the land where the movie stars live. And the easiest way to do that is to drive right through one of their neighborhoods. It's a place called Hollywoodland that the sign, ironically enough, was erected in 1923 to promote when the homes were built.

The people moved in, the sign was abandoned, and like a cheap movie set, it began to fall apart. By the time the city got around to declaring it a landmark in 1973, it was falling down.

Eventually, a deep-pocketed coalition forked over the money to fix it, and in 1978, the nonprofit Hollywood Sign Trust was created to protect it.





In the years that followed, it became a Hollywood starlet of sorts, painted, face-lifted and beautiful - but unapproachable. It was just too difficult to find a canyon route to the sign. That changed when smartphones became popular, and residents say the neighborhood hasn't been the same since.

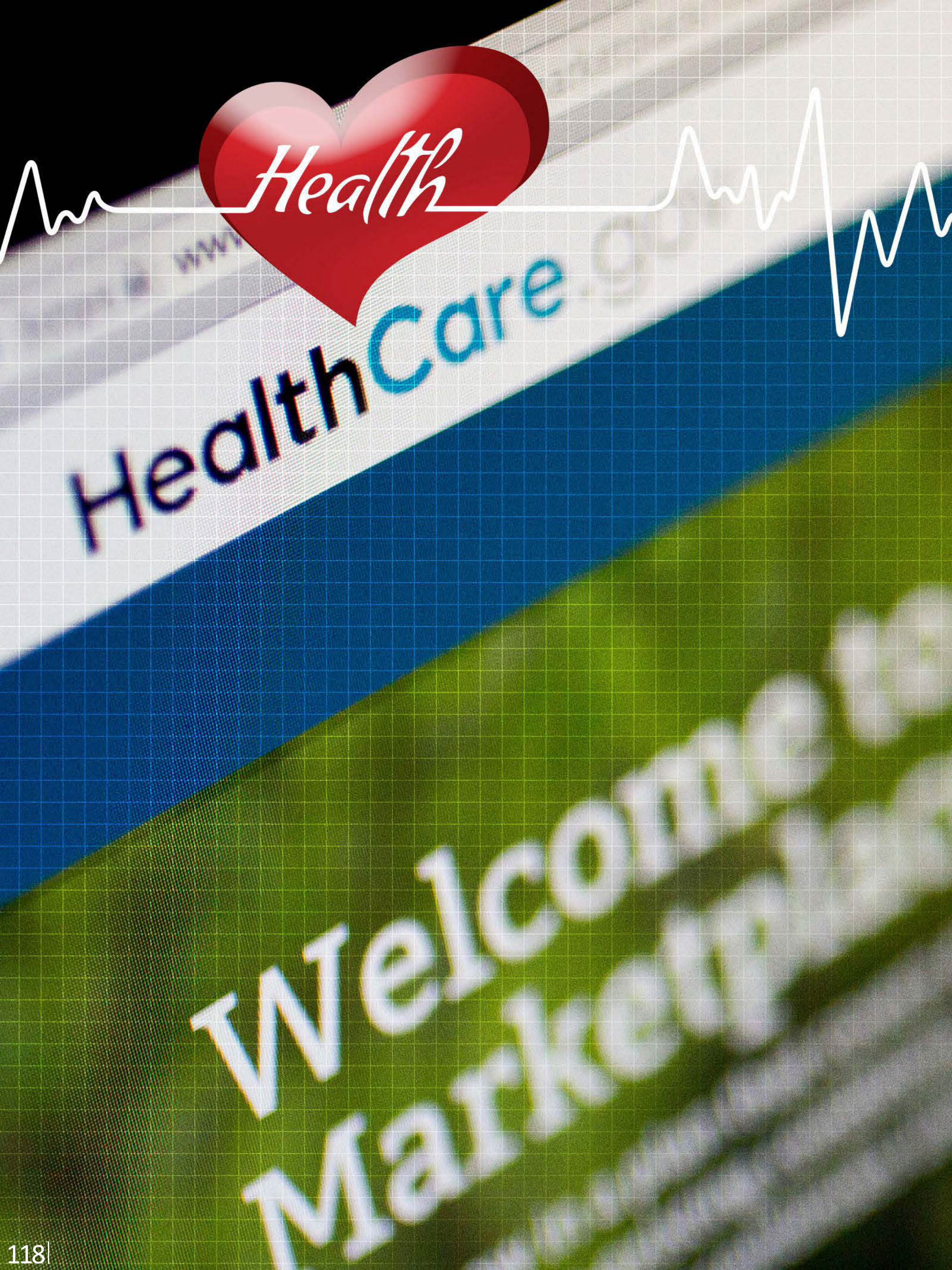
"Now you have Sally or Suri or whatever her name is and she tells you just how to get there," City Councilman Tom LaBonge, who represents the area, said of the directions-giving iPhone voice. Even worse, said Vincent Jeffords, who lives down the street from Pohlman, "If you Google 'Hollywood sign and hiking trails' on your smartphone, it will send you right here."

Indeed, doing so will even give you one website listing Pohlman's address - perhaps posted by the guy who stood on his wall - as the best place to take a picture. The city recently responded by restricting weekend parking to locals and putting up an electronic pedestrian gate to the trail's better known entrance. Now, people coming to see the sign on weekends must at least walk really far. LaBonge would like to see further parking restrictions and perhaps a shuttle service from the park. For his part, Pohlman says, he doesn't mind people walking through his neighborhood so long as they stay off his wall and don't trash his neighbors' property. He's come to accept that his home has become sort of a bivouac point.

Seemingly to prove his point, two young women suddenly emerge at his carport - sweaty, out of breath and asking for water.

Zeta Kearney, a wedding planner from the Spanish island of Ibiza, and her friend Elyse Smith, an oil trader from London, have just taken selfies at the sign, one of which will be on Kearney's Facebook page.

"It was great," Kearney says. "We had so much fun we're coming back tomorrow."



ADDED
PROTECTIONS
FOR
CONSUMER
INFORMATION
ON HEALTH
WEBSITE

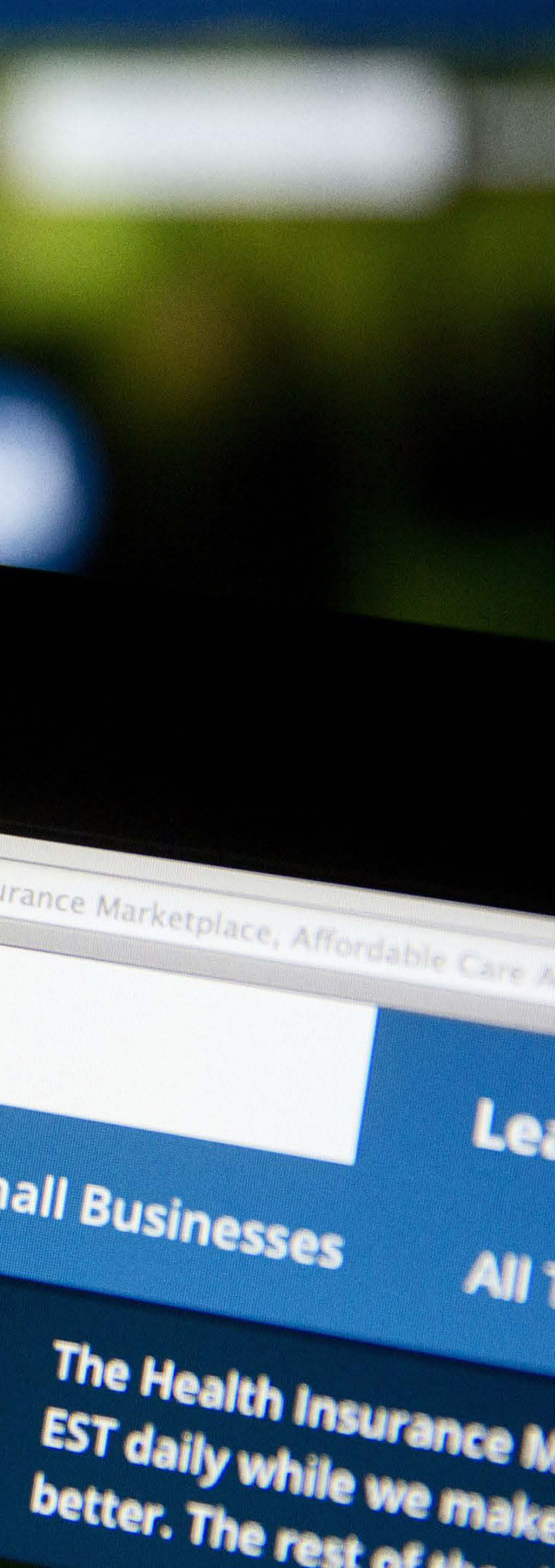


HealthCare.gov

Individuals & Families

Sm

Improving
HealthCare.gov



The Obama administration appears to be making broader changes to protect consumer information on the government's health insurance website, after objections from lawmakers and privacy advocates.

The Associated Press reported last week that details such as consumers' income and tobacco use were going to private companies with a commercial interest in such data.

AP also reported that a number of companies had embedded connections on HealthCare.gov, raising privacy and security issues for some tech experts.

An independent analysis of the health care website, released Saturday, showed that the number of embedded connections to private companies had dropped from 50 to 30.

Those changes accompanied another shift by the administration to curtail the release of specific personal information from the website. The AP reported that change Friday.

After failing to respond to interview requests, the administration posted a statement Saturday evening. HealthCare.gov CEO Kevin Counihan acknowledged that privacy questions have been raised, and added: "We are looking at whether there are additional steps we should take to improve our efforts. While this process is ongoing, we have taken action that we believe helps further increase consumer privacy."

Officials have said the sole purpose of embedded connections to private companies was to monitor HealthCare.gov and improve performance for consumers.

The episode could become a blemish on what's otherwise shaping up as a successful open enrollment season for the second year of expanded coverage under President Barack Obama's health care law.

Lawmakers continue to insist on a full explanation.

HealthCare.gov is used by millions to sign up for subsidized private coverage under the law, or to merely browse for insurance plans in their communities.

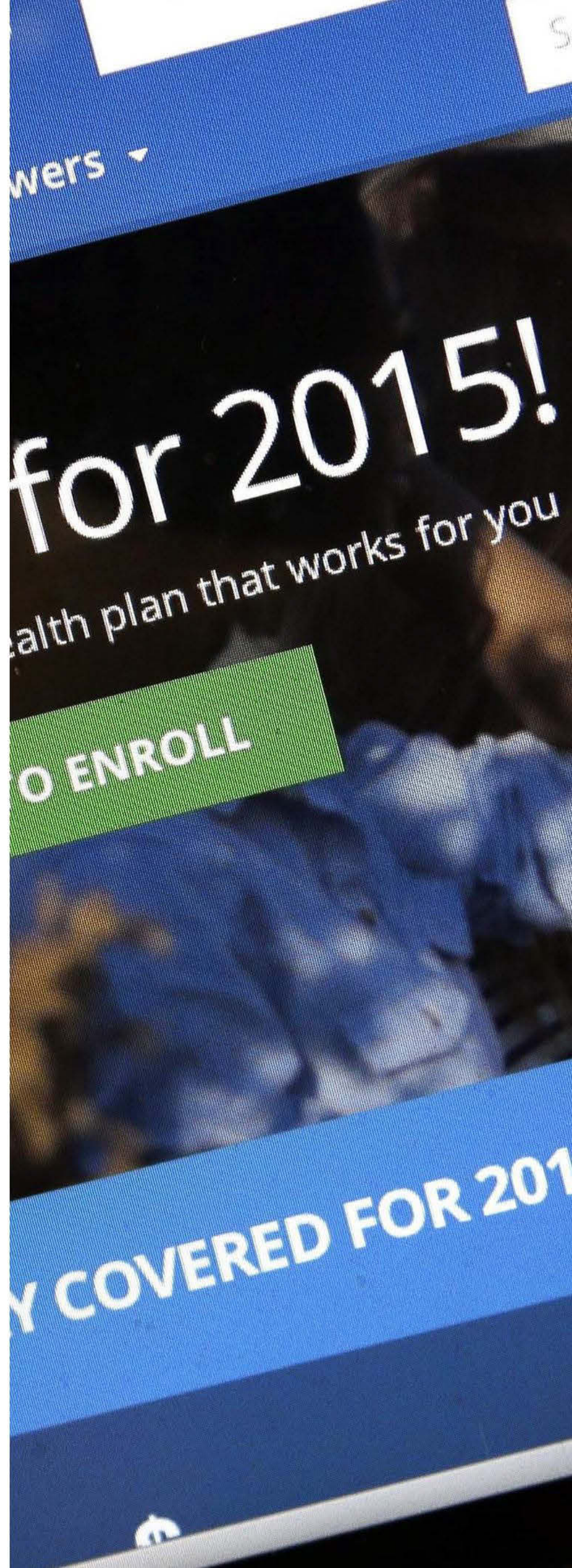
The changes by the administration mean that the website is no longer explicitly sending out such details as age, income, ZIP code, tobacco use and whether a woman is pregnant.

An independent tech expert said Saturday that a new analysis by his firm also found a sharp drop in the number of embedded connections to outside companies.

Mehdi Daoudi, CEO of Catchpoint Systems, which measures website performance, said that was down from 50 to 30 such connections. Catchpoint had previously analyzed the performance of HealthCare.gov for AP, and found the site was much improved. But Daoudi had raised questions about the high number of third-party connections.

Cooper Quintin, a staff technologist with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties group, said the changes are "a great first step," but more needs to be done.

For example, the health site should disable third-party tracking for people who enable the "do not track" feature on their web browsers.





LEARN HOW

5.



"HealthCare.gov should meet good privacy standards for all its users," he said.

Privacy advocates say the mere presence of connections to private companies on the government's website - even if they don't explicitly receive personal data - should be examined because of their ability to reveal sensitive information about a user.

Administration officials did not answer AP's questions about how the government monitors the outside companies. They only said that third parties must agree they will not use the information for their own business purposes.

HealthCare.gov

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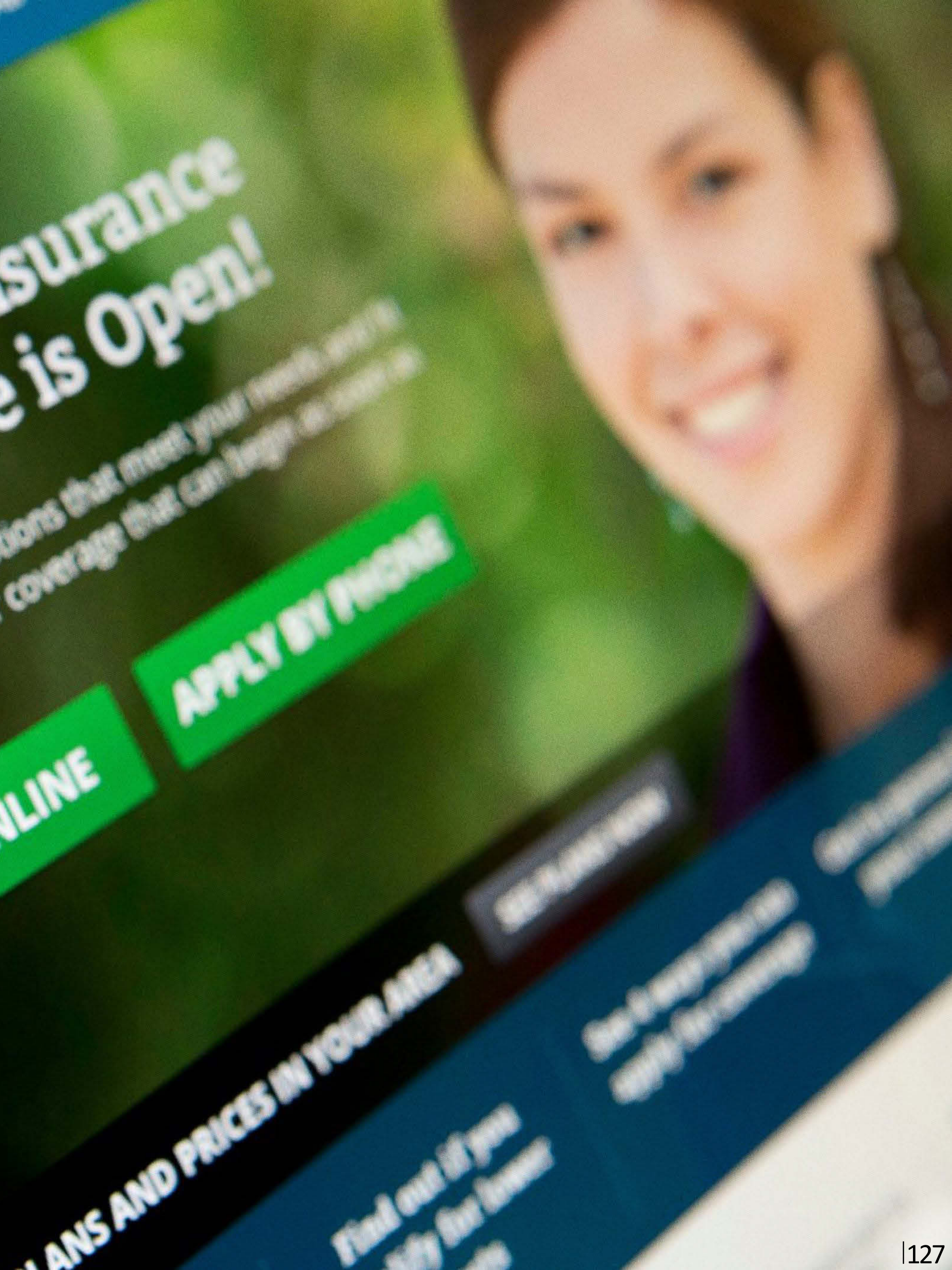


Third-party outfits that track website performance are a standard part of e-commerce. It's a lucrative business, helping Google, Facebook and others tailor ads to customers' interests. Because your computer and mobile devices can be assigned an individual signature, profiles of Internet users can be pieced together, generating lists that have commercial value.

The third-parties embedded on HealthCare.gov can't see your name, birth date or Social Security number. But they may be able to correlate the fact that your computer accessed the government website with your other Internet activities.

Have you been researching a chronic illness such as coronary artery blockage? Do you shop online for smoking-cessation aids? Are you investigating genetic markers for a certain type of breast cancer? Are you seeking help for financial problems, or for an addiction?

Google told the AP it doesn't allow its systems to target ads based on medical information.



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rates

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or by phone

Get a quote
online or by phone

After AP's first report, Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, called the situation "extremely concerning" for consumers. Grassley said Friday it's still unclear how consumers' information is being used and he wants a full explanation.

Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services had at first defended their information-sharing practices. There is no evidence that consumers' personal information was misused, they said.

The website's privacy policy says in boldface type that no "personally identifiable information" is collected by outside Web measurement tools. That is a term defined in government regulations, but other personal details were being allowed through.

HealthCare.gov is the online gateway to government-subsidized private insurance for people who lack coverage on the job. It serves 37 states, while the remaining states operate their own insurance markets. The privacy concerns surfaced just as the president was calling for stronger Internet safeguards for consumers, in his State of the Union speech.

The website was crippled by serious technical problems when it made its debut in the fall of 2013. This year it has worked much better, a marked contrast. The administration is aiming to have more than 9 million people signed up by Feb. 15, the last day of open enrollment.

But the privacy issues were a reminder that the website remains a work in progress, like the underlying law that created it.

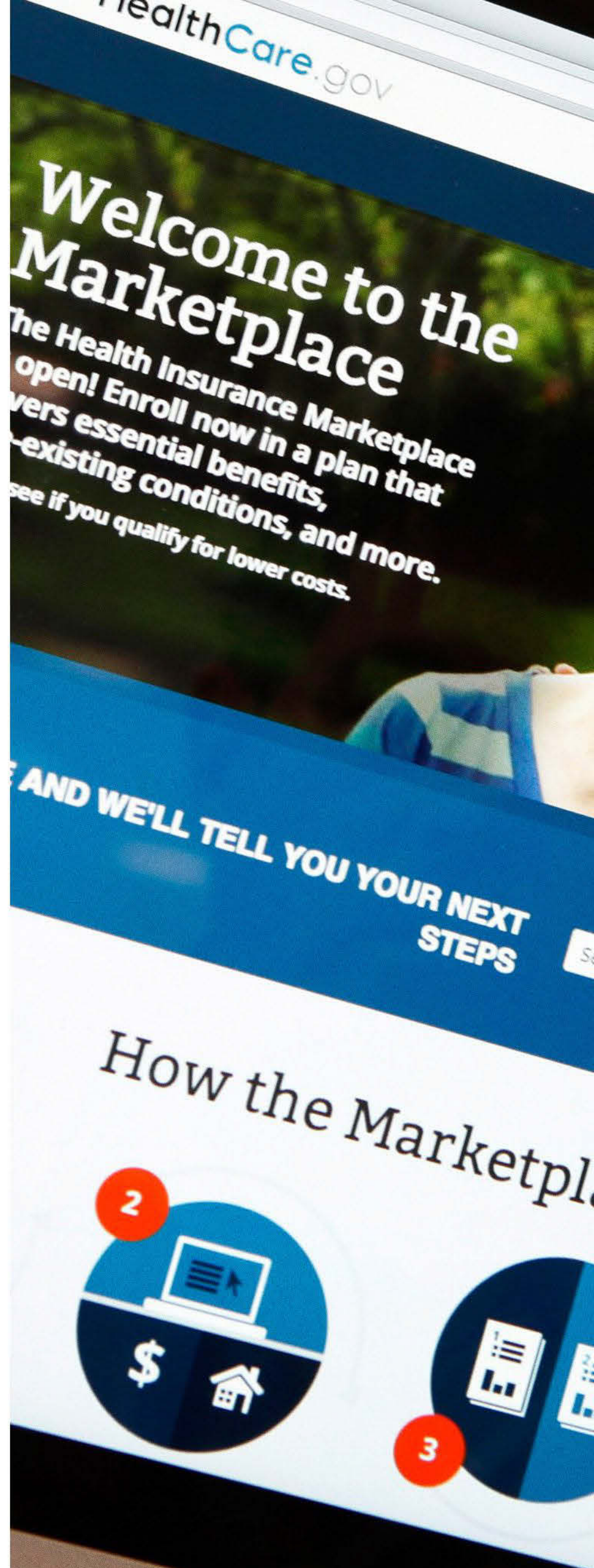


Image: Mike Segar



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HELP

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Small Business Owners

Select Your State

Face works

4







TOP

10 SONGS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)

MARK RONSON

FOURFIVESECONDS

RIHANNA AND KANYE WEST AND PAUL MCCARTNEY

THINKING OUT LOUD

ED SHEERAN

BLANK SPACE

TAYLOR SWIFT

TAKE ME TO CHURCH

HOZIER

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

ELLIE GOULDING

CENTURIES

FALL OUT BOY

LIPS ARE MOVIN

MEGHAN TRAINOR

SHAKE IT OFF

TAYLOR SWIFT

GHOST

ELLA HENDERSON





TOP

10 ALBUMS

1989

TAYLOR SWIFT

**WE WILL NOT BE SHAKEN (LIVE)
[DELUXE EDITION]**

BETHEL MUSIC

AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO

FALL OUT BOY

TITLE (DELUXE)

MEGHAN TRAINOR

X (DELUXE EDITION)

ED SHEERAN

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY:
AWESOME MIX, VOL. 1**

(ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

VULNICURA

BJÖRK

RPD

RICKY DILLON

MONTEVALLO

SAM HUNT

WE WILL NOT BE SHAKEN (LIVE)

BETHEL MUSIC





TOP 10

MUSIC VIDEOS

UPTOWN FUNK (FEAT. BRUNO MARS)

MARK RONSON

EVER BE

BETHEL MUSIC & KALLEY HEILIGENTHAL

BLANK SPACE

TAYLOR SWIFT

SHAKE IT OFF

TAYLOR SWIFT

ALL ABOUT THAT BASS

MEGHAN TRAINOR

ELASTIC HEART

SIA

LIPS ARE MOVIN

MEGHAN TRAINOR

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

SELENA GOMEZ

TIME OF OUR LIVES

PITBULL

7/11

BEYONCÉ





TOP

10 TV SHOWS

EPISODE 4 (ORIGINAL UK EDITION)

DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASON 5

KINDRED

REVENGE, SEASON 4

BEAUTIES IN THE FAST LANE

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA, SEASON 7

THE DEFENSE RESTS

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE, SEASON 2

EPISODE 3 (ORIGINAL UK EDITION)

DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASON 5

THIS LITTLE PIGGY

FAMILY GUY, SEASON 13

MENTALLY DIVERGENT

12 MONKEYS, SEASON 1

CURTAIN CALL

AMERICAN HORROR STORY: FREAKSHOW, SEASON 4

A DANGEROUS GAME

SONS OF LIBERTY

EPISODE 2 (ORIGINAL UK EDITION)

DOWNTON ABBEY, SEASON 5

Beauty
and the Beast

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

PRIVATE VEGAS

JAMES PATTERSON & MAXINE PAETRO

BETRAYED

MELODY ANNE

FIFTY SHADES DARKER

E L JAMES

BEAUTIFUL REDEMPTION

JAMIE MCGUIRE

GONE GIRL

GILLIAN FLYNN

IN HIS KEEPING

MAYA BANKS

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

ANTHONY DOERR

Diversity at Sundance Doesn't Carry Over to Hollywood

One of the most buzzed-about movies at this year's Sundance Film Festival is "Dope," a coming-of-age story about three outcasts in the inner city.

Written and directed by Rick Famuyiwa and featuring a diverse cast of actors, the film spawned a bidding war before domestic and international distributions rights were snapped up late Monday. But when Famuyiwa and his producing partners, including Forest Whitaker and Pharrell Williams, initially shopped the film around to Hollywood studios, no one bit.

"I don't know if there's a recognition on the part of those who make these decisions that we're living in a world that doesn't look like what's being reflected on screen," Famuyiwa said.

Two years ago, a similar bidding battle broke out over another film that premiered at the festival, "Fruitvale Station," Ryan Coogler's dramatization of the killing of Oscar Grant by police in Oakland, California. A year before that, "Selma" director Ava DuVernay was named best director at Sundance for her debut feature, "Middle of Nowhere," about a woman whose husband is sentenced to eight years in prison.







But while films by and about black people fare well at the independent festival, that success rarely translates to the Hollywood mainstream. “Whiplash” won the audience and jury awards at Sundance last year, and now it’s up for a best-picture Oscar. “Fruitvale Station,” however, won the same two prizes at Sundance, but didn’t get any Oscar attention. Studios will have to start paying attention - not only because of the backlash against the all-white Oscar nominations and snub of “Selma” director Ava DuVernay and star David Oyelowo, but because it’s just good business, Famuyiwa and others said.

“It could be why it’s getting harder and harder to get people into the cinemas and multiplexes,” Famuyiwa said, “because we’re just seeing a world that doesn’t reflect reality.” Sacha Jenkins, whose documentary about hip-hop fashion, “Fresh Dressed,” premiered at Sundance last week, suggests that Hollywood needs more executives of color, and they need to be granted the same room to fail and succeed as other studio honchos. “Like, just because I’m black or Latino or whatever, it doesn’t mean I’m the go-to guy for all things black and Latino,” he said. “Folks also need the opportunity to go beyond the box that you expect them to be in.”

The chief executives at the five biggest Hollywood studios are white men. Even with executives in place who are receptive to more diverse stories and storytellers, Hollywood studios still treat such stories as more the exception than rule, Famuyiwa said. “They’re stuck in ... old ways of thinking that the country and many other industries and businesses have already recognized and moved beyond,” Famuyiwa said. “I think there’s a sense sometimes when studios make these films that they’re doing favors or that it’s sort of a charity case - we’re doing it because it’s the right thing to do - but it’s just good business at this point.” Diverse voices and stories are an inherent part of an independent festival, said Sundance founder Robert Redford.



how
to
get
away
with

Murder



“We believe in diversity and freedom of expression is very much fundamental to us,” he said. “You see films here that are going to upset other people, but that’s OK. We will do everything in our power to keep (diversity) alive here.” The Sundance Institute intentionally seeks voices outside the mainstream with unique stories to tell. And its own research confirms that as the stakes go up - bigger budgets, bigger distributors - diversity goes down. “The pipeline of young talent interested in telling stories is there, but somewhere along the way, they fall out of the business equation, of getting that work made,” said Keri Putnam, executive director of the Sundance Institute. “So as money comes into the equation, diversity - whether it’s gender or racial and ethnic diversity - seems to step out.”

Multiplex movie going is also an issue, said Shaun Kosta, who released his first film, “The Republic of Two,” about a 20-something cohabitating couple facing the challenges of love, over the summer. As multiplexes replace independent theaters and movie going becomes more of an event, both exhibitors and ticket-buyers are less likely to take chances on unproven stories and storytellers.

“It comes down to proximity and what’s available,” he said. That’s where cinemas may be short-sighted. Famuyiwa cites some of today’s popular TV shows: “Orange Is the New Black,” “Empire,” “How to Get Away With Murder” - all of which feature diverse casts. “There’s a hunger out there for different types of stories, and I think there’s an audience that’s waiting and primed to accept a vision of America that looks like what they see when they walk out of the door each day,” Famuyiwa said. “We’re a country of many different cultures, and that’s always what has made this country stand out.

“It almost feels like making diverse movies is the most American thing you can do.”

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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