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#### Coming to a Theater Near You: Esports

Competitive gaming is ready for its close-up.

The Electronic Sports League and live event broadcaster BY Experience announced plans Tuesday to bring a series of live esports events to 1,500 to 2,000 movie theaters around the world.

The "Esports in Cinema" series will launch in July with the debut of an esports documentary from filmmakers Christine O'Malley and Patrick Creadon, followed by live competitive gaming and a Q&A session in front of a live studio audience.

The event will be broadcast from the ESL studio in Burbank, California, on July 23 for North American and Latin American audiences and from the ESL studio in Cologne, Germany, on July 28 for European and Asian audiences.





"I think this documentary and the broader partnership is symbolic of how far we've come," said ESL managing director Ralf Reichert in a statement. "When we started out, I dreamt about us filling stadiums, but I never entertained the idea of filling cinemas."

BY Experience plans to broadcast "ESL One Cologne 2015," the league's "Counter-Strike: Global Offensive" tournament, to be held Aug. 22 and 23 at the Lanxess Arena in Cologne, Germany. The company is also expected to broadcast three to four other ESL events.

"The in-cinema broadcasts will afford esports fans an unprecedented opportunity to get together in their communities to enjoy several high-profile events throughout the year, as part of a global shared experience," said BY Experience copresident Julie Borchard-Young. "Cinemas provide the optimal setting for spectators to watch their favorite players and teams compete across an array of gaming titles, broadcast live on a 70-foot cinema screen in surround sound."

It's the first foray into gaming for BY Experience, which has broadcast such live events as David Bowie concerts and Metropolitan Opera productions in movie theaters.

Last year, theater chain Cinemark beamed Riot Games' "League of Legends" world championships into theaters in Plano, Texas; Evanston, Illinois; and Bellevue, Washington.

Over the past 10 years, esports has evolved from a niche genre of gaming to a lucrative sport capable of drawing tens of millions of spectators both online and in person to such arenas as Los Angeles' Staples Center and Seoul's World Cup Stadium.

The ESL was founded in 1997 and is the largest esports league with more than 5 million registered players.

Online: http://www.esportsincinema.com













New research boosts hope that a highly anticipated, experimental class of cholesterol drugs can greatly lower the risk for heart attacks, death and other heart-related problems. The government will decide this summer whether to allow two of these drugs on the market.

People taking one of these drugs had half the risk of dying or suffering a heart problem compared to others who were given usual care - typically one of the statin drugs such as Lipitor or Zocor, doctors found. Many people cannot tolerate statins or get enough help from them, so new medicines are badly needed.

The results are "really impressive and very encouraging" for the new drugs, said one independent expert, Dr. Judith Hochman of NYU Langone Medical Center.

The studies were published online Sunday by the New England Journal of Medicine and discussed at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Diego.

They are fresh analyses from older studies designed to look at how much the drugs lower cholesterol, so they can only suggest that the drugs also lower heart problems, not prove that point. Definitive studies will take about two more years, so the federal Food and Drug Administration will be deciding the drugs' fates with only results like this in hand.

The drugs are evolocumab, which Amgen Inc. wants to call Repatha, and alirocumab, which Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Sanofi SA have named Praluent. They lower LDL or bad cholesterol more powerfully and in a different way than existing drugs, by blocking PCSK9, a substance that interferes with the liver's ability to remove cholesterol from the blood. Side effects remain a question, though, especially on thinking, confusion and memory - problems the FDA has already voiced concern about and asked the companies to track.





The problems affected only 1 or 2 percent of patients and may be temporary, but they were twice as common among people taking one of the new drugs and need to be closely monitored as studies continue, said Dr. Anthony DeMaria, a University of California at San Diego heart specialist and past president of the American College of Cardiology. As a patient facing potential side effects, "the last one I want" is one that affects the brain, he said.

Dr. Eric Topol, a cardiologist at Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California, said the new results show "an unquestionable signal" of a potential safety issue. More side effects typically turn up once a drug is approved and used in a wider population, he said.

Two other heart experts - Drs. Neil Stone and Daniel Lloyd-Jones of Northwestern University in Chicago - wrote in the medical journal that "it would be premature to endorse these drugs for widespread use" until the definitive studies are done in a couple of years. Other drugs that initially seemed good failed when put to the most rigorous test, they wrote.

Still, the results so far suggest that the drugs "appear to be on track" to be important new medicines, they wrote.

Dr. Clyde Yancy, cardiology chief at Northwestern University in Chicago and a former American Heart Association president, agreed.

"Science has revealed a brand new approach to treating cholesterol," and there is "reasonable enthusiasm" it will be a big boon to patients, he said.

Online:

Cholesterol info: http://tinyurl.com/2dtc5vy

Heart facts: http://circ.ahajournals.org/

content/127/1/e6

## 'Cinderella' is Belle of The Box Office with \$70.1m Debut

"Let It Go" may be Walt Disney's anthem these days, but "Everything's Coming Up Roses" might be the more accurate theme song for the Disney juggernaut.

Disney's recent streak continued over the weekend with the \$70.1 million North American debut of its traditional, sumptuously costumed fairy tale adaptation "Cinderella," according to studio estimates Sunday. Interest in the film, directed by Kenneth Branagh and starring Lily James of "Downton Abbey," was boosted by a "Frozen" short, "Frozen Fever," that played before the feature.











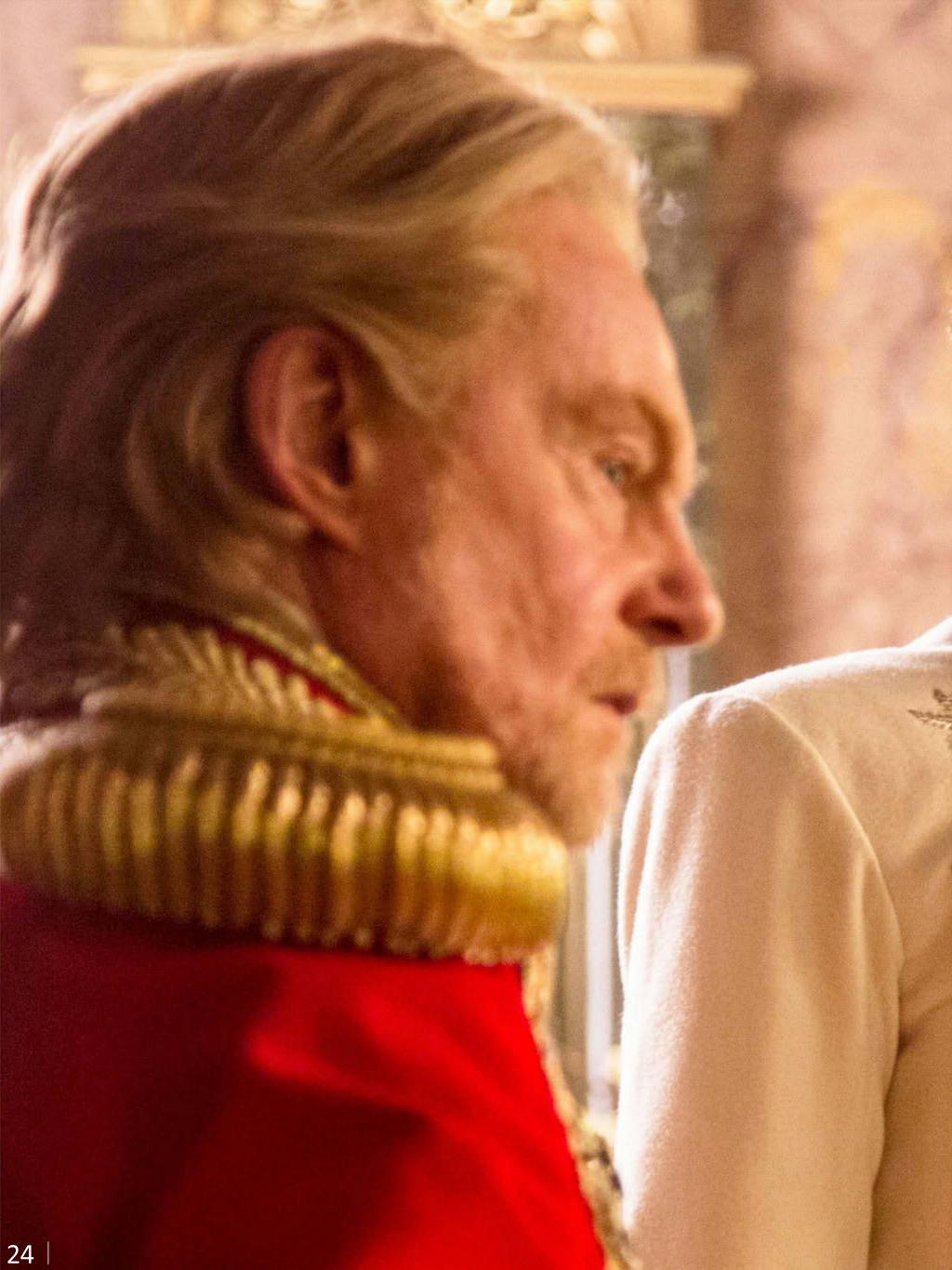
Disney's box-office surge has been propelled partly by the so-called "halo effect" of "Frozen," a sequel to which Disney announced last week. But it's also been driven by the appeal of seeing Disney cartoon classics turned into live-action fantasies. "Cinderella" follows previous live-action hits like "Maleficent" (whose May 2014 debut of \$69.4 million "Cinderella" narrowly bested) and "Alice in Wonderland."

The holiday release "Into the Woods," from the Stephen Sondheim musical, added to the liveaction trend, and many more are on the way. "The Jungle Book," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Dumbo" are all coming in live action, as is a sequel to "Alice in Wonderland."

Disney has also found big profits in capitalizing on female moviegoers, who made up the largest chunk of "Frozen" and "Maleficent" fans. The audience for "Cinderella" was 66 percent female, Disney said.

















The success of "Cinderella," which cost about \$95 million to make, was international. It made \$62.4 million overseas, including \$25 million in China. Disney could also celebrate "Big Hero 6" becoming the top-grossing worldwide animated release of 2014; the Oscar-winner has made \$633 million globally.

With Disney's high-priced but lucrative ownership of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar, the studio will be flexing its strength throughout 2015 with releases like "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Inside Out" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

"Disney is just a well-oiled machine that is firing on all cylinders right now," says Paul Dergarbedian, senior media analyst for box-office data firm Rentrak. "It's about this Disney umbrella which encompasses these incredible crown jewel brands they have. 'Cinderella' is just the latest example."

While Disney was flexing its might, the powers of another box-office force, Liam Neeson, were checked. Neeson's latest thriller, "Run All Night," a New York crime saga co-starring Ed Harris, opened with \$11 million for Warner Bros.

The film's poor performance marks the weakest debut for the "Taken" star as an action film lead. Dergarbedian noted Neeson's appeal is strongest in PG-13 rated films (all three "Taken" films, "Non-Stop"), while weaker in R-rated releases like "Run All Night" and last year's "A Walk Among the Tombstones."

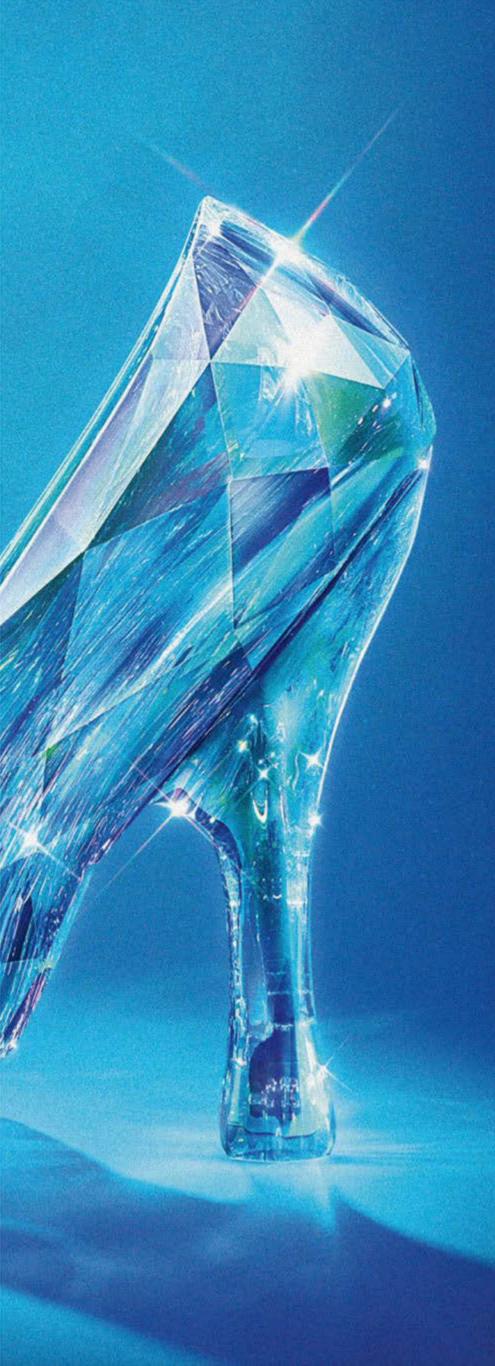
Last week's top film, the sci-fi thriller "Chappie," from "District 9" director Neill Blomkamp, slid to fifth with \$5.8 million for Sony Pictures.

In limited release, the critically acclaimed independent horror film "It Follows" earned a robust \$163,000 on just four screens.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

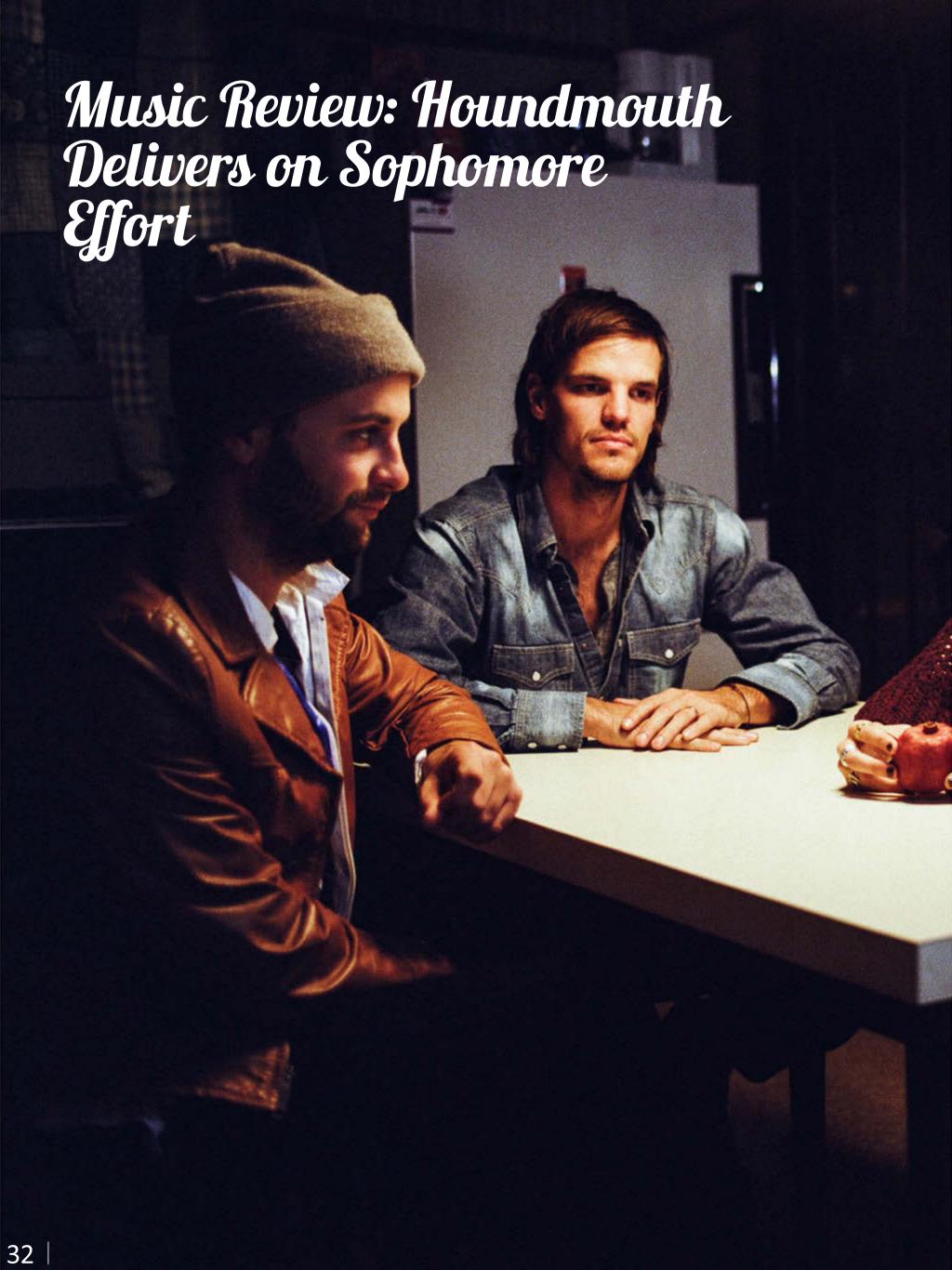
- 1. "Cinderella," \$70.1 million (\$62.4 million international).
- 2. "Run All Night," \$11 million (\$6.6 million international).
- 3. "Kingsman: The Secret Service," \$6.2 million (\$13.7 million international).
- 4. "Focus," \$5.8 million (\$13.5 million international).
- 5. "Chappie," \$5.8 million (\$13.6 million international).
- 6. "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," \$5.7 million (\$4.1 million international).
- 7. "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water," \$4.1 million (\$4.3 million international).
- 8. "McFarland, USA," \$3.7 million.
- 9. "American Sniper," \$2.9 million (\$8 million).
- 10. "The DUFF," \$2.9 million.





Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

- 1. "Cinderella," \$62.4 million.
- 2. "Big Hero 6," \$17 million.
- 3. "Kingsman: The Secret Service," \$13.7 million
- 4. "Chappie," \$13.6 million.
- 5. "Focus," \$13.5 million.
- 6. "Jupiter Ascending," \$8.7 million.
- 7. "Fifty Shades of Grey," \$8.3 million.
- 8. "American Sniper," \$8 million.
- 9. "Run All Night," \$6.6 million.
- 10. "From Vegas to Macau II," \$5 million.









Houndmouth, "Little Neon Limelight" (Rough Trade Records)

Get on the Houndmouth bandwagon while you can. This band is going places.

The four-piece band's sophomore effort, "Little Neon Limelight," is so full of taut songwriting, engaging harmonies and hypnotic playing that it warrants comparisons to the legendary group The Band.

Houndmouth, like The Band, effortlessly shifts from organic songs that sound like they grew straight up from the earth and were just waiting for someone to pick, to straight-out rockers that beg to be turned up to 11.

They can also dial it back for plaintiff ballads like "For No One" and "Gasoline," displaying a range that makes it hard to believe they've been together for less than five years.

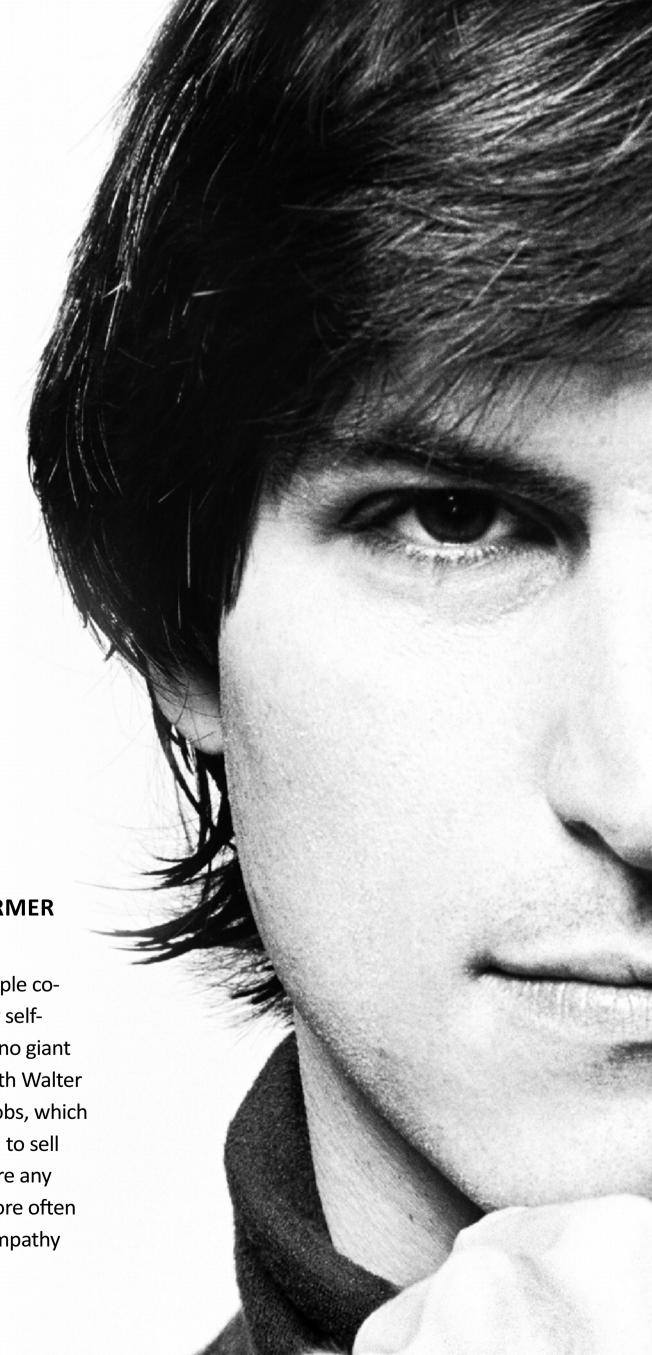
All four members of Houndmouth share vocals, with keyboardist Katie Toupin stealing the show on the standout track "Otis" about the death of Otis Redding. And on "My Cousin Greg," Houndmouth taps into a road weariness that's also a central part of The Band's ethos: "If you want to live the good life," they sing, "then you'd better stay away from the limelight."

Houndmouth's "Little Neon Limelight" more than deserves the limelight. ght.



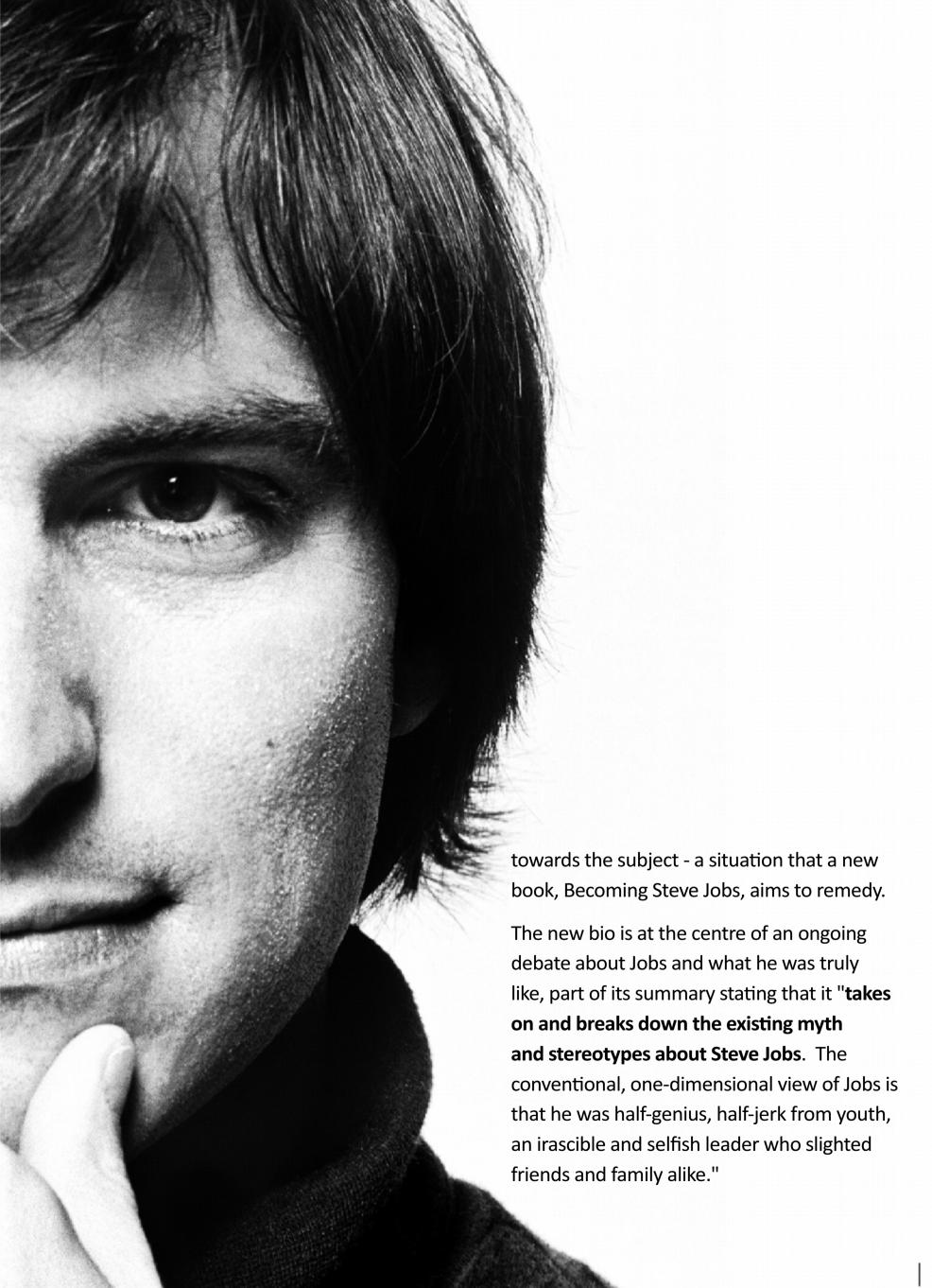
Becoming Steve Jobs aims to 'set the record straight'

BOOK THROWS FRESH LIGHT ON GENIUS/JERK DEBATE

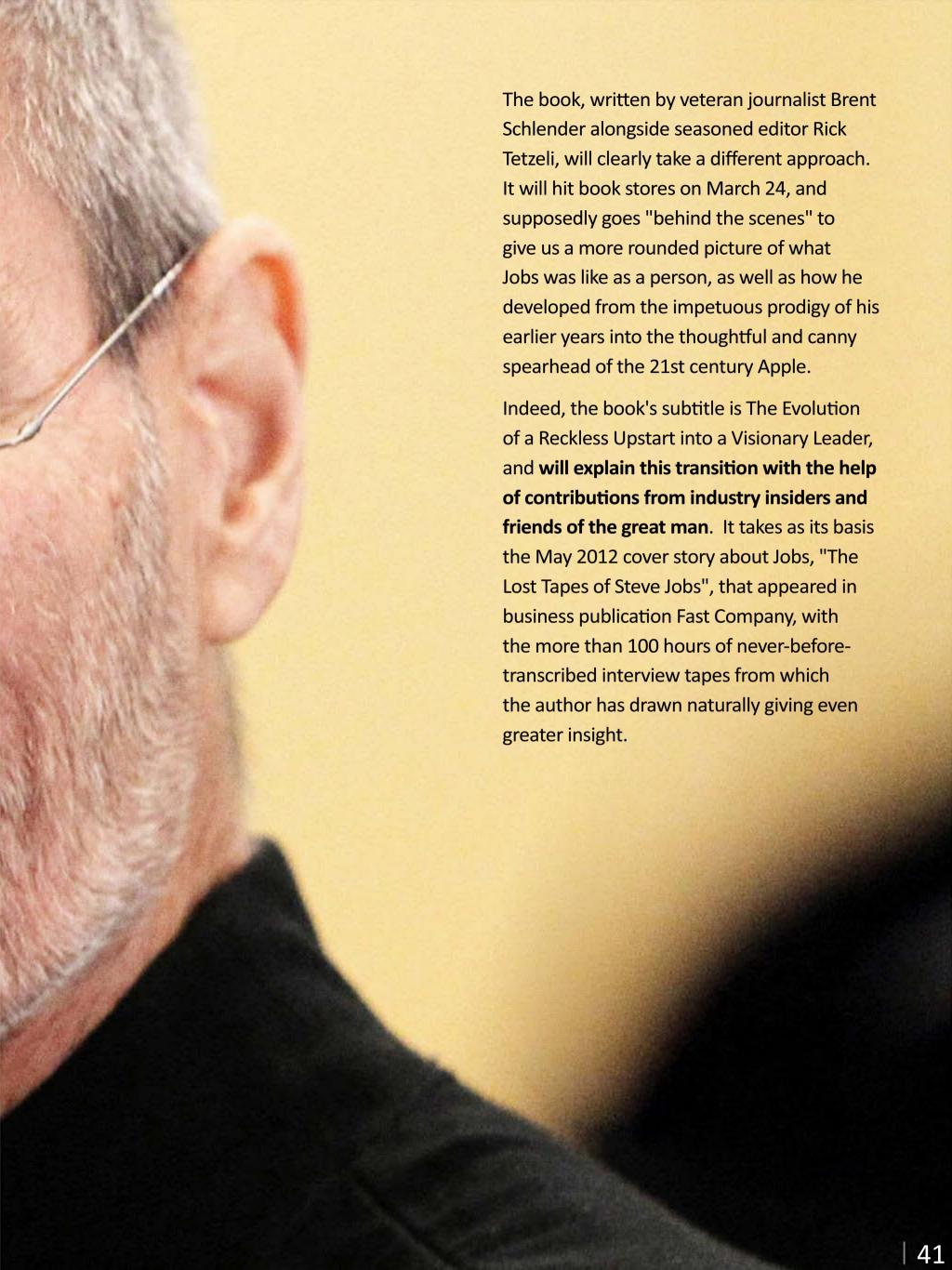


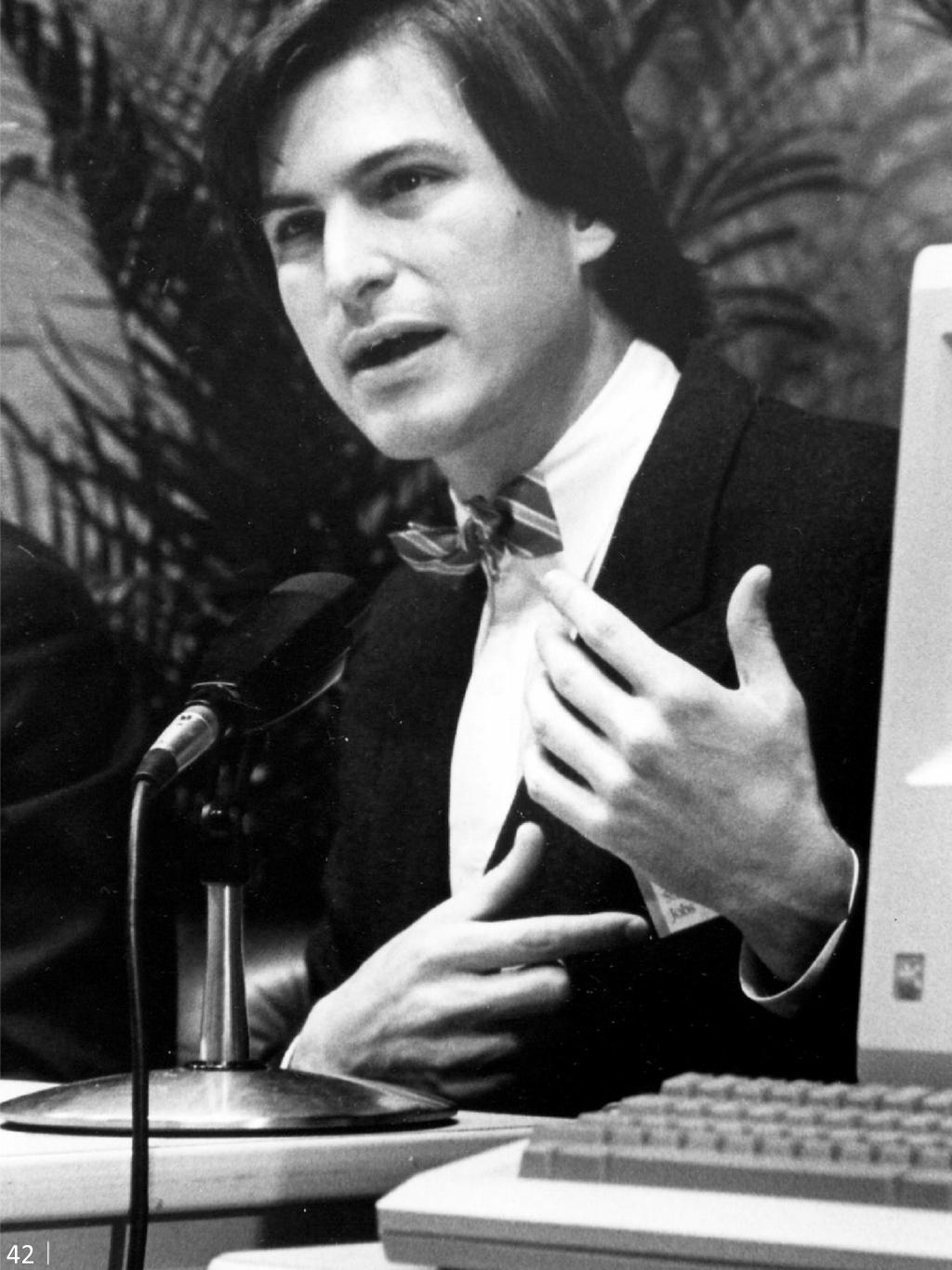
### BOOK HAS BLESSING OF FORMER COLLEAGUES

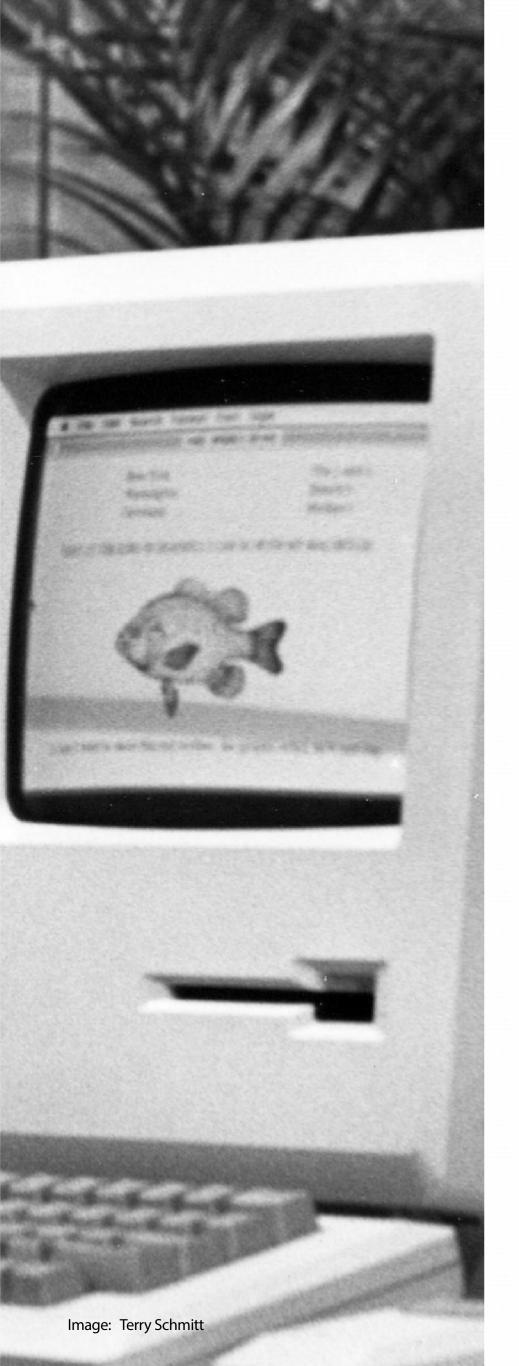
What kind of man was the late Apple cofounder and CEO, Steve Jobs? Any selfrespecting follower of the Cupertino giant is sure to be intimately familiar with Walter Isaacson's landmark book Steve Jobs, which was released in 2011 and went on to sell millions of copies. However, if there any criticism of it that has surfaced more often than any other, it is of a lack of sympathy











#### THE BACK-STORY OF A BOOK

The news of any new book about Jobs will always beg the question: why? After all, Isaacson's Jobs was a commercial, if not uniformly critical smash, spending two years on the New York Times bestseller list. It was authorized by Jobs himself, and remains a work of reference for anyone who wants to understand great leadership and one of Silicon Valley's great success stories.

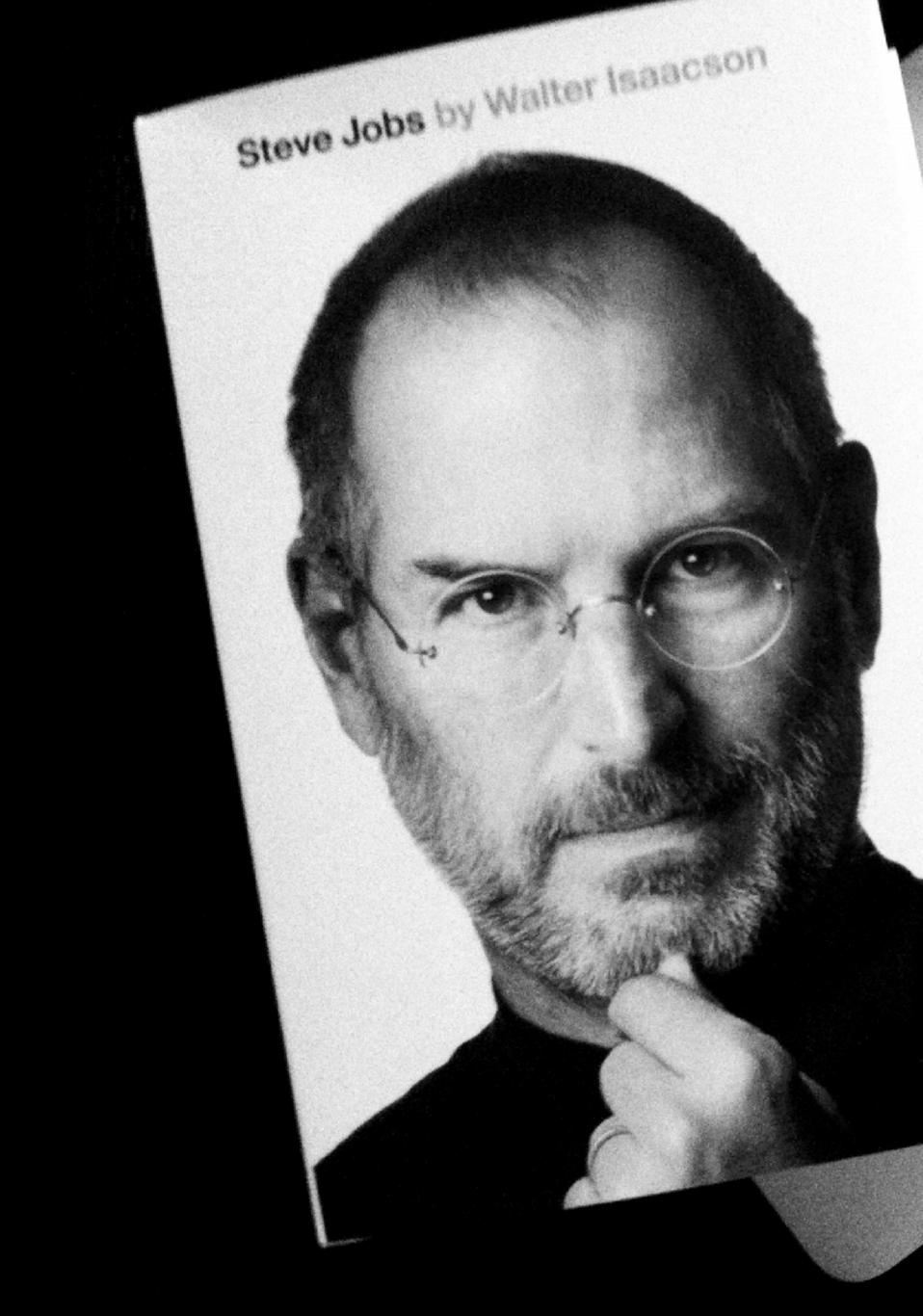
But not everyone was a fan. Even as the book was being written, some key Jobs associates - still mourning their friend's death and concerned at the haste with which the biography was being prepared for release - hesitated to talk to Isaacson. Many stories therefore remained untold in the tome that hit store shelves in October 2011, with arguably the most crucial years to the making of Jobs - his late 1980s and early 1990s stint away from Apple - left distinctly shortchanged.

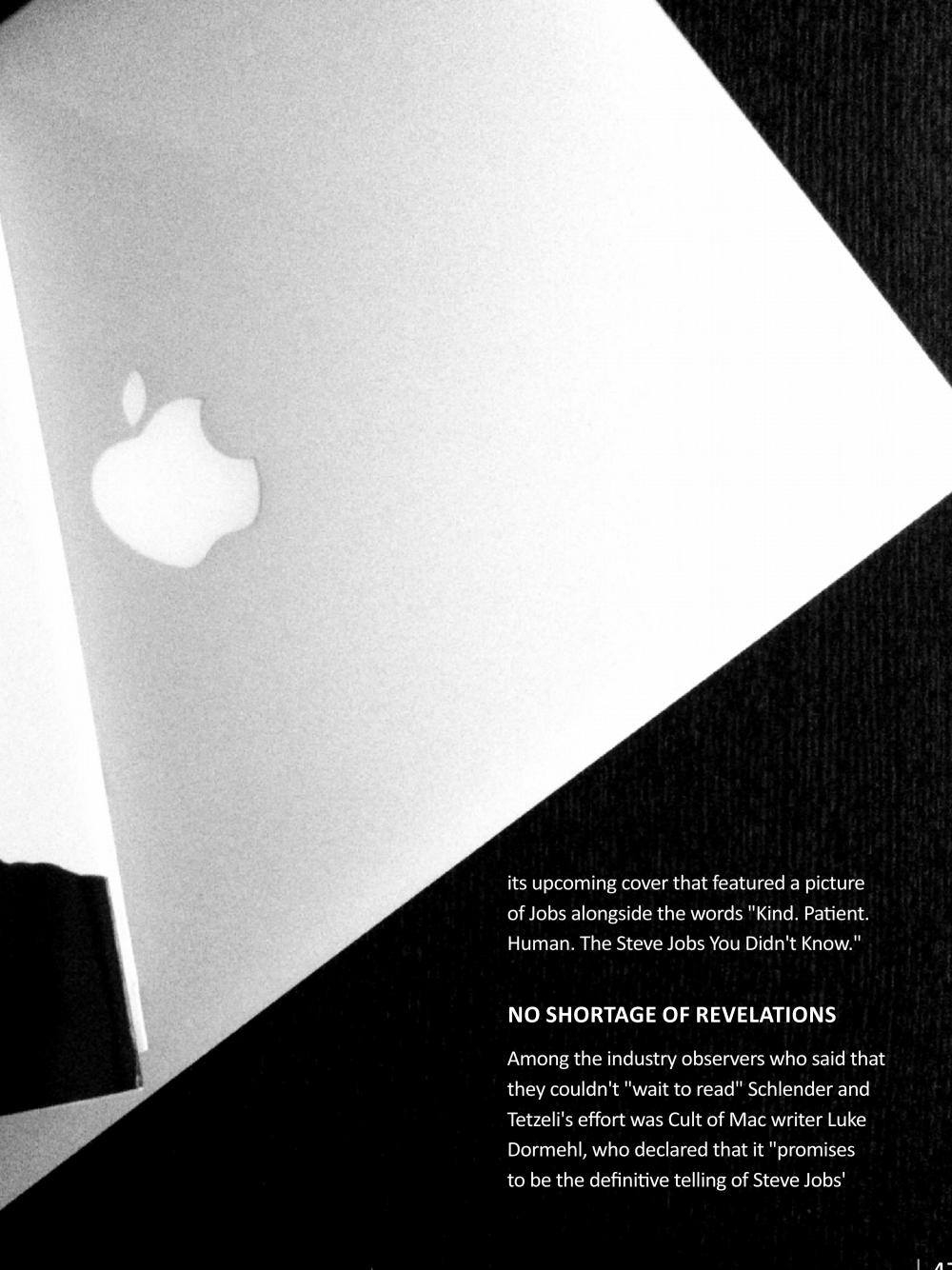
Criticism of the book was also forthcoming from the very top of Apple - Jobs' successor as CEO, Tim Cook, who bemoaned it as doing "a tremendous disservice" to the man he knew. He added that "it was just a rehash of a bunch of stuff that had already been written, and focused on small parts of his personality. You get the feeling that [Steve's] a greedy, selfish egomaniac. It didn't capture the person."

Much of the pre-release talk about the new book has therefore been about its status as a "rebuttal" of Isaacson's tome, Fast Company playing this up when it showed a preview of

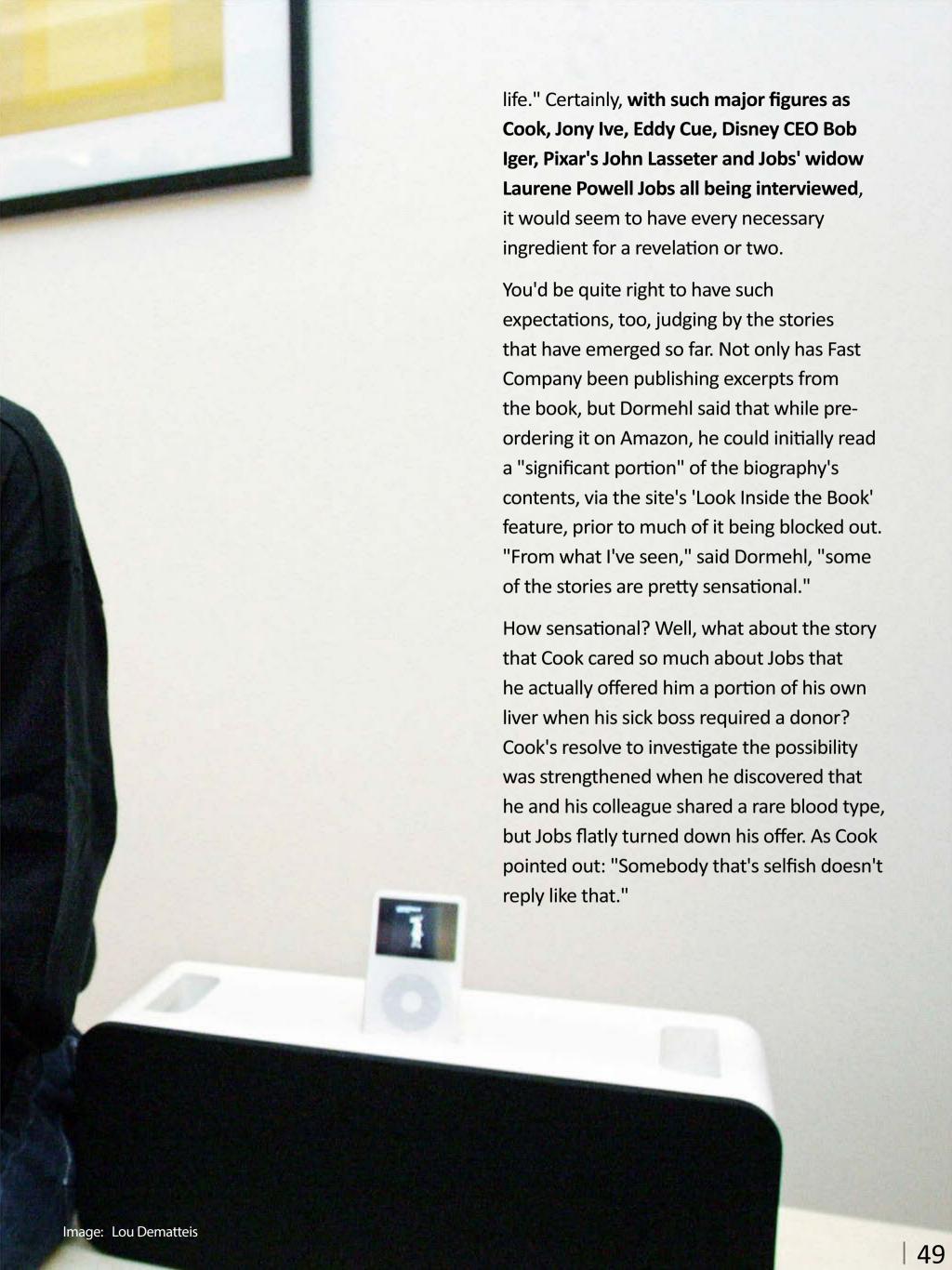












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But it's just one of what looks likely to be many surprising and in some cases, shocking stories from the book. For example, the suggestion of Apple buying Yahoo! has been made various times down the years, but the new book is the first to indicate that it was given serious consideration by Jobs and Iger. Such a move would have certainly given Apple a significant stake in the search business.

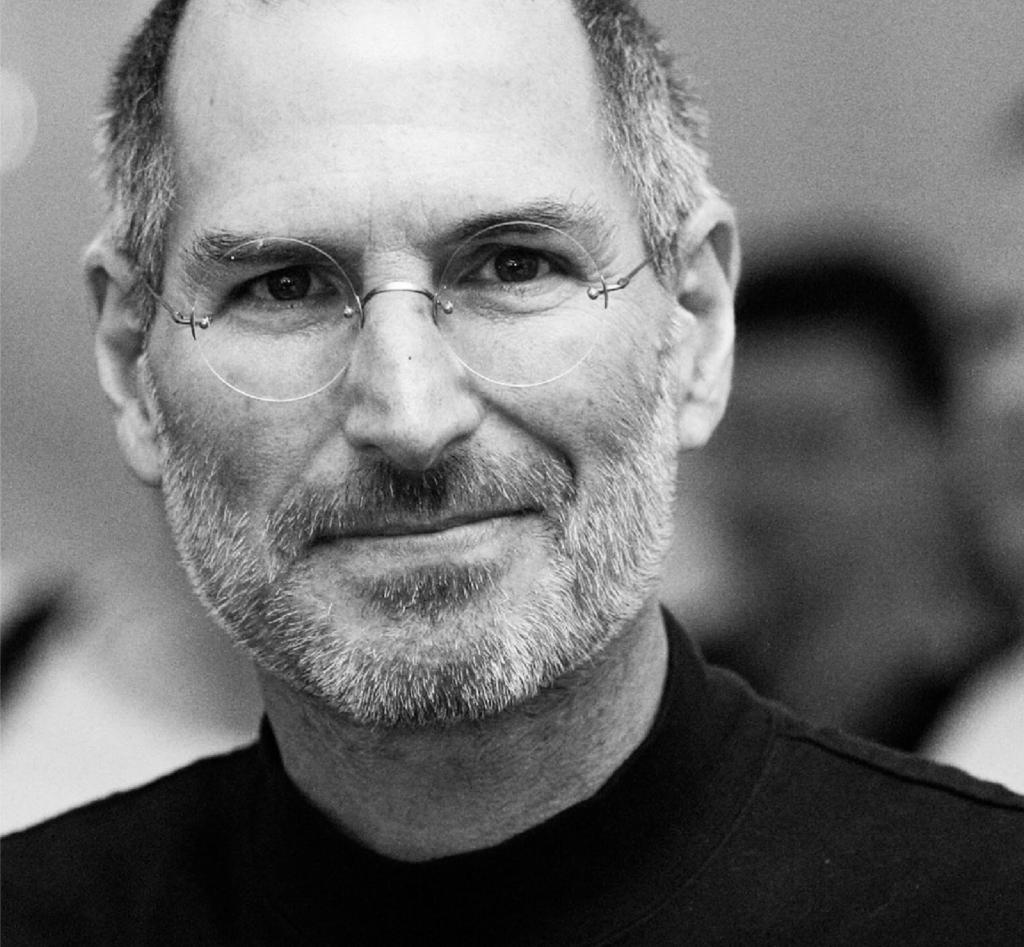
Then, there was the tale about Ive's first meeting with Jobs when the latter made his return to the company that he co-founded in the late 1990s. This is one of the key points of departure from the claims made from Isaacson's book, Jobs having apparently said to Ive that "I just don't like television. Apple will never make a TV again."

#### WHY BECOMING MAY PROVE THE DEFINITIVE STEVE JOBS BOOK

Dormehl declared that "having read a significant chunk of the book, I'm excited about diving in and reading it start-to-finish", adding: "Unlike Isaacson, Schlender and Tetzeli understand technology, which means you won't find the myriad technical errors that littered the previous biography and raised doubts about that book's quality. Schlender and Tetzeli also let their interview subjects speak at length, rather than cherry-picking short comments, which makes Becoming Steve Jobs a valuable and unique resource."

Certainly, many readers will also look forward to its more in-depth look at Jobs' stint at NeXT, the company that he founded and ran during





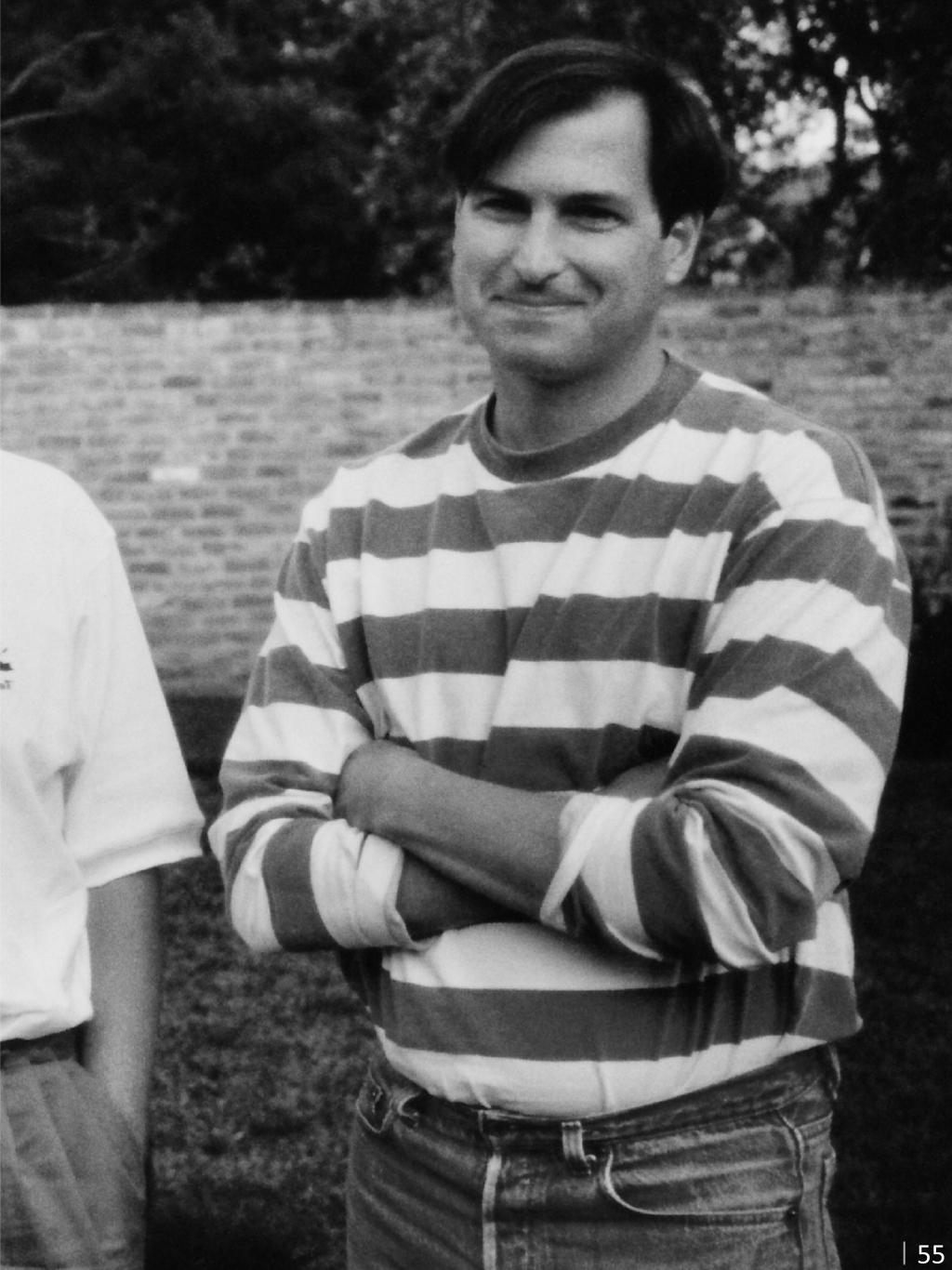
his 1985-1996 exile from Apple. But if there's one thing that augurs almost as well for Becoming Steve Jobs as its actual contents in its quest to become the definitive Jobs book, it's the fact that the right noises seem to be coming from the one-time Jobs colleagues who had so little regard for Isaacson's bio.

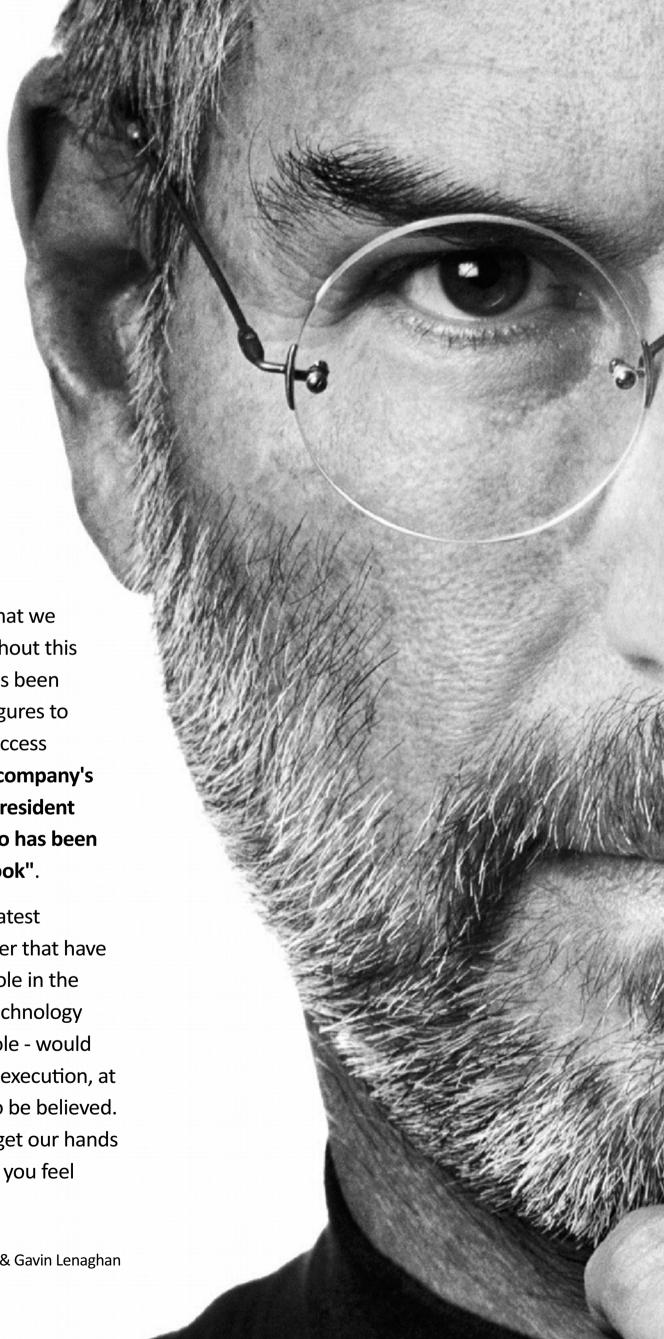
Cue, for example, who is currently Apple's Senior Vice President, hailed the upcoming biography as the first book about Jobs to

"get it right", adding that it was the "best portrayal" of his old associate. He made his comments as part of successive tweets that also criticized the new documentary Steve Jobs: Man in the Machine, which he said was "an inaccurate and mean-spirited view of my friend. It's not a reflection of the Steve I knew."

Of course, there may also be many reasons not to release a new Steve Jobs book - not







least the great number of ones that we have had in recent years. Throughout this time, comparatively little light has been shone on the other interesting figures to have contributed to the Apple success story - from Ive and Cook to the company's "unsung hero" and senior vice president of Operations, Jeff Williams, who has been described as "Tim Cook's Tim Cook".

However, any objections to this latest contribution to the reams of paper that have discussed Steve Jobs' immense role in the history of Apple and the wider technology sector - even leadership as a whole - would seem to be overruled by its wise execution, at least if all indications so far are to be believed. We can barely wait ourselves to get our hands on the book, and we're sure that you feel exactly the same.

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan



# 2 Judges on New Zealand's X Factor' Removed for 'Bullying'





Husband and wife "X Factor" judges Natalia Kills and Willy Moon were removed from the New Zealand version of the show Monday after their comments on a contestant were seen as bullying.

Kills said she was "disgusted" at how much singer Joe Irvine had copied her husband in the cleancut style of his hair and dark suit. She called him a "laughing stock" and said she was embarrassed to sit in his presence.

Moon joined in the tirade, saying it felt cheap and absurd and "like Norman Bates dressing up in his mother's clothing."

The audience mostly booed the judges' commentary, which Irvine handled well, saying he thought "he looked good."

Mediaworks, which owns broadcaster TV3, posted news of the firings on its website Monday, describing the comments as "completely unacceptable."











In remarks attributed to CEO Mark Weldon, the broadcast owner said "X Factor" judges are expected to provide critiques of performances, but "we will not tolerate such destructive tirades" and that Kills and Moon were leaving the show immediately.

TV3 tweeted a statement saying: "TV3 does not condone bullying and are currently on-site with Joe who is doing well."

New Zealand's Human Rights Commission welcomed the media company's response. "I'm glad to see Mediaworks decided to not be a bystander and to publicly condemn bullying abuse," Commissioner Susan Devoy said in a statement.

The show aired Monday night with two of the four judges' seats empty, and fans voted to retain Irvine on the show.

## No Reservation for Lange in Next 'Horror Story'

Jessica Lange is passing up a "Hotel" stay.

The Emmy-winning star of the first four seasons of "American Horror Story" announced Sunday she would not be returning for the fifth in the FX anthology series, which will be subtitled "Hotel."

Committing to each season "is a huge investment," Lange said on the arrivals line of the PaleyFest tribute to the fourth "Horror Story" entry, "Freak Show."







Continued Lange, "I've done four great characters. It's enough." The "Hotel" cast will include Lady Gaga, who announced her participation in late February. Actors ("The Normal Heart") and Cheyenne Jackson ("Glee") will also join the "Hotel" cast. "American Horror Story: Hotel" is set to premiere in October.







"I don't specifically say that they're married but they are," Newman explained from her home just outside Northampton, Massachusetts. "I don't know where I could have smoothly inserted that into the text. That's not what the story is about. The story is really about Heather."

Heather was Newman's first picture book and is certainly her most well-known. The latest edition, out this month, is from Candlewick Press, with illustrations by Laura Cornell replacing those of Diana Souza.

Newman wrote the story in 1988 after a chance encounter in Northampton with Amy Jacobson, a lesbian mom who was looking for reading material that better reflected her life with her partner - now wife - and their young daughter - now grown.

"Every step I was educating people about our family because there was nothing else," recalled Jacobson. "If I hadn't done it somebody else would have found an author. The book needed to happen."

Newman, a full-time writer and poet at the time, chronicles Heather's love of all things "two," including her moms, one a doctor and the other a carpenter. When Heather joins a home-based play group - changed to "school" in the new version - she is saddened when teacher Molly reads the children a story at nap time focused on a daddy.

As the children chime in with their fathers' occupations, Heather bemoans, "I don't have a daddy," when asked what hers does for a living. The original story has her tearing up as she wonders if any other family looks like hers. The update has the children chiming in with the work of their mommies AND daddies, and it eliminates Heather's tears.

The process of getting Heather published in 1989 was a slow one.

"After I wrote the book I sent it to many, many publishers. Small presses, large presses. Children's book presses told me to try lesbian presses.





Lesbian presses told me to try children's book presses. Nobody was really interested," Newman said.

There were about 50 turndowns. That's why she co-published the book with a friend who had a desktop printing business. The two found an illustrator and financed the endeavor mostly from \$10 donations, promising each contributor a copy from the 4,000 they printed up.

Soon, writer and businessman Sasha Alyson came knocking. He had just put out another picture book, "Daddy's Roommate," about a divorced father who lives with his same-sex partner, when he spotted Heather in a Cambridge, Massachusetts, bookshop and offered to take it on.

Heather quickly took off and the repercussions - for both Newman's book and "Daddy's Roommate" by Michael Willhoite - were big.

Opposition to the books in New York City, primarily among members of one local school board in Queens, contributed to the downfall of schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez. He had defended them as optional reading for elementary school classrooms in a broader "Children of the Rainbow" curriculum intended to encourage teachers to better embrace diversity.

Both books landed at the center of a federal court battle in Wichita Falls, Texas, after Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church, waved them around during a sermon on "Sodom and Gomorrah" and blasted them as anti-God and unsuitable for children.

He and other opponents took to checking the books out of the local library without return, only to have supporters drop off new copies for loan. The City Council, on a 4-3 vote, decided to take the issue to those with valid library cards, allowing for 300 to demand the books be moved from the children's section to an adult shelf. A judge deemed the effort unconstitutional and the city didn't appeal.









"He said your hometown is about to be the laughingstock of Western civilization," Horany said.

That barely touches the trouble encountered by "Heather Has Two Mommies" in hot spots around the country. Newman said it was banned, burned and even defecated upon by a library patron in Ohio. It was among the nation's most challenged books in libraries for a good part of the `90s.

"It's the book that brought to the forefront the issues, the conflicts, over what materials concerning GLBT identity, lifestyles should be available to young kids," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director for the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom in Chicago. "It was a time when we were really first acknowledging what we call the culture wars now, and the idea that there would be books actually acknowledging that families headed by same-sex parents existed."

In 1992, the town of Fayetteville, North Carolina, was divided on whether Heather should remain in the public library. Opponents nearly defeated an \$11.4 million bond issue to build five new library branches, running a newspaper ad that declared:

"Cumberland County Library takes the lead in pursuit of legitimizing homosexuality. Can prostitution, bestiality or incest be far behind?"

The referendum passed by a slim 316 votes.

"It's been a long 25 years," Newman laughed.







### iTunes Preview







by Ridley Scott Genre: Action & Adventure Released: 2015 Price: \$14.99



# Exodus: Gods and Kings

Legendary director Sir Ridley Scott turns the story of the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt in a less divine, more secular direction that places the emphasis on the awe of nature - as epitomized by the seven Deadly Plagues. A remarkable tale of human hardship and triumph starring Christian Bale as Moses, and Joel Edgerton as the bad pharaoh Ramses.

### **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** Other cast members include John Turturro, Aaron Paul, Ben Mendelsohn and Sigourney Weaver.
- **2.** The film loosely interprets the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt, as led by Moses and related in the Book of Exodus.
- **3.** The music for the film was by Spanish composer Alberto Iglesias.
- **4.** The film was denied release in some parts of the world, including Morocco, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, on religious grounds.
- 5. The movie grossed \$267,281,936 worldwide.





## Top Five

The comedy great Chris Rock scored one of his biggest critical hits in the film world with Top Five, owed in large part to his own acting, writing and directing. It sees Rock taking on the role of New York City comedian and film star Andre Allen, who is forced to confront his past and comedic career after an interview with journalist Chelsea Brown (Rosario Dawson).

### **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** Top Five also stars such big names as Gabrielle Union, J. B. Smoove and Romany Malco.
- 2. The movie premiered at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival on September 6, 2014.
- 3. The film grossed \$25,434,291 worldwide.
- **4.** It was once intended that **the film would be called Finally Famous**.
- **5.** The film received three nominations at the 20th Critics' Choice Awards, for Best Comedy, Best Actor in a Comedy (Rock) and Best Actress in a Comedy (Dawson).



iTunes Preview



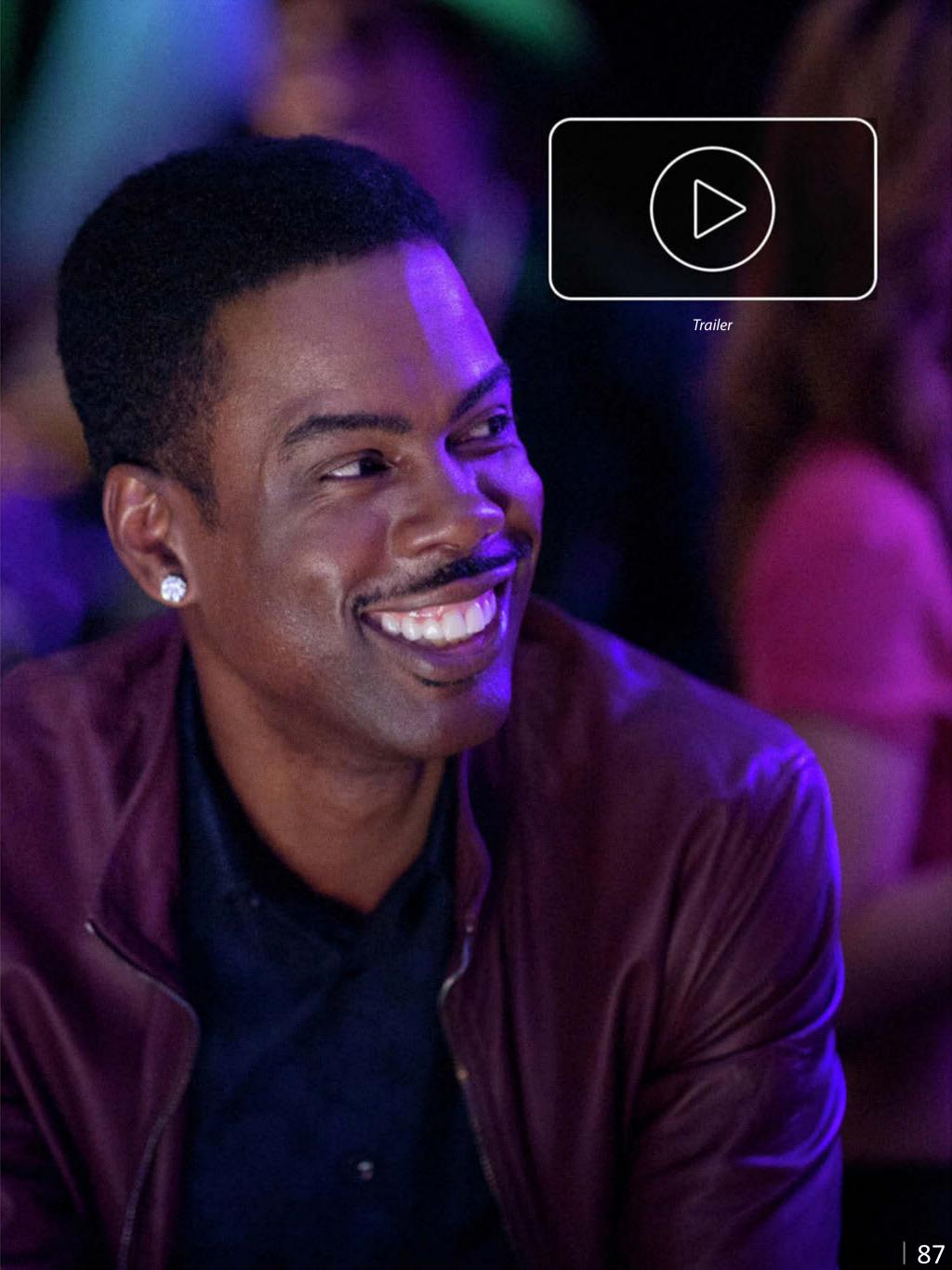




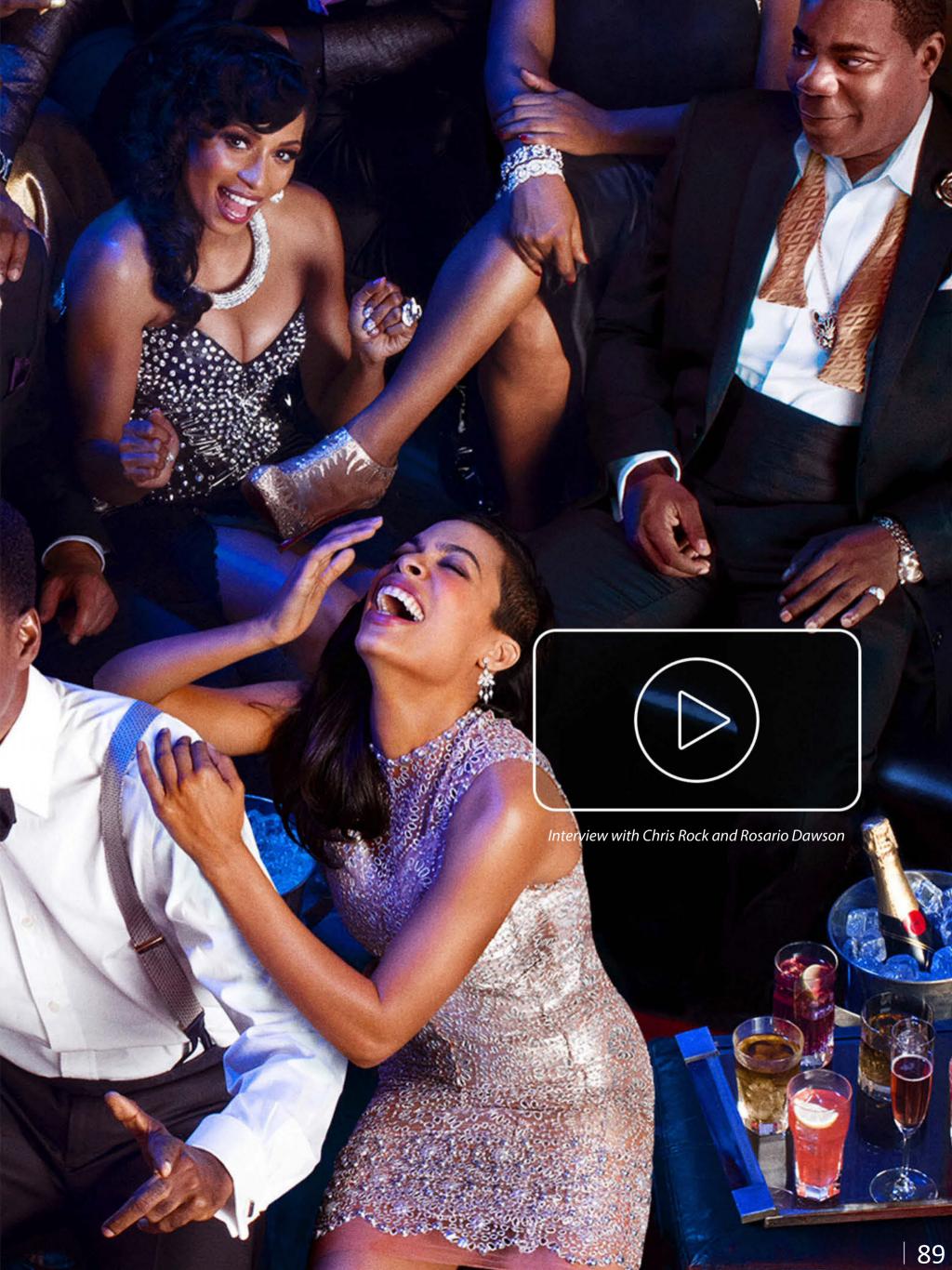
by Chris Rock Genre: Comedy Released: 2014 Price: \$14.99

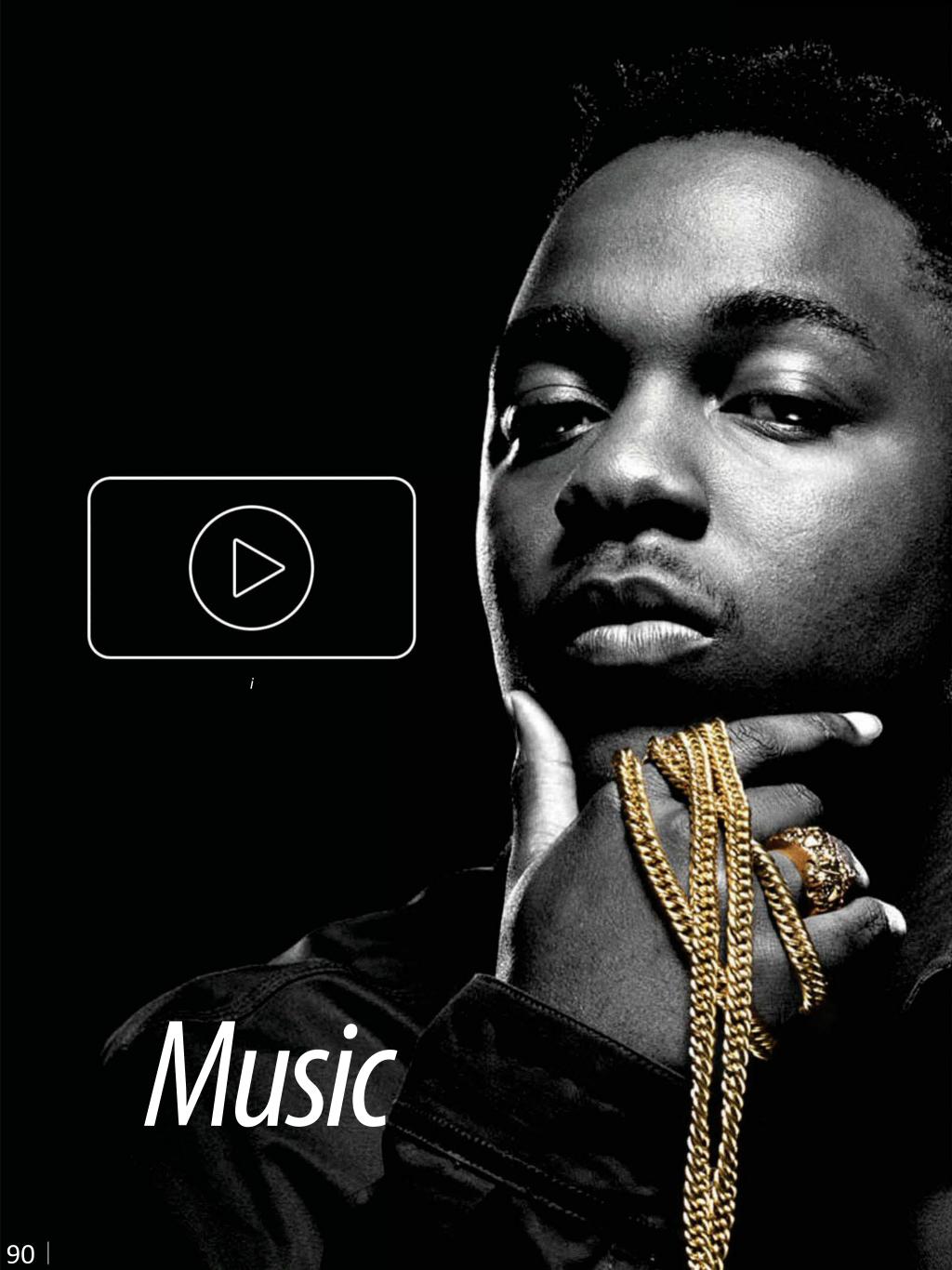


Rotten Tomatoes











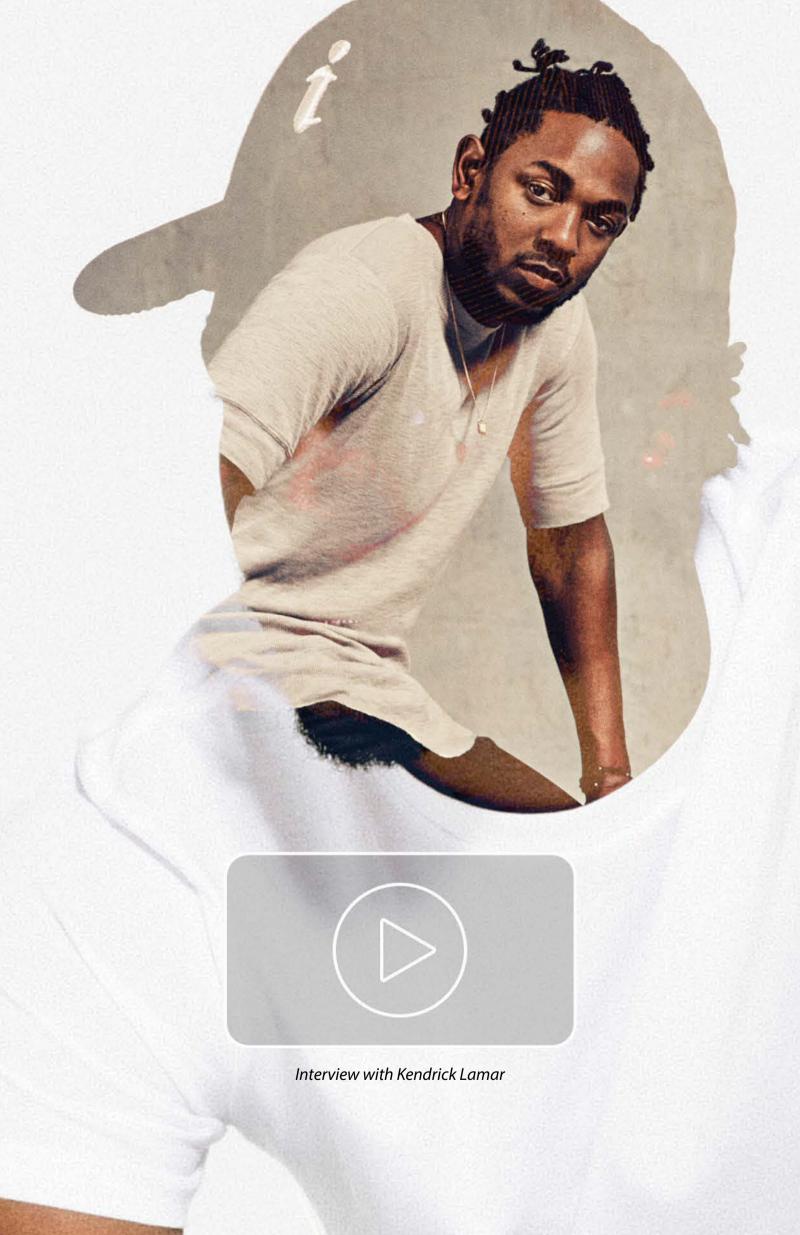
# To Pimp a Butterfly Kendrick Lamar

To Pimp a Butterfly may only be Kendrick Lamar's third studio long-player, following his major-label debut, 2012's good kid, m.A.A.d city, but he already has some serious fame to grapple with on this uncompromising and deeply affecting new album, which sees him working alongside such producers as Dr. Dre, Terrace Martin and Thundercat.

#### **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** Kendrick Lamar Duckworth was born in Compton, California on June 17, 1987.
- **2.** good kid, m.A.A.d city delivered the Top 40 hits "Swimming Pools (Drank)", "Bitch, Don't Kill My Vibe" and "Poetic Justice".
- 3. Lamar has described his latest album as "honest, fearful and unapologetic".
- **4.** The album's title was a play on Harper Lee's novel, To Kill a Mockingbird.
- 5. Lamar has said of that association:

  "Just putting the word 'pimp' next to
  'butterfly'... It's a trip. That's something
  that will be a phrase forever. It'll be taught
  in college courses I truly believe that."





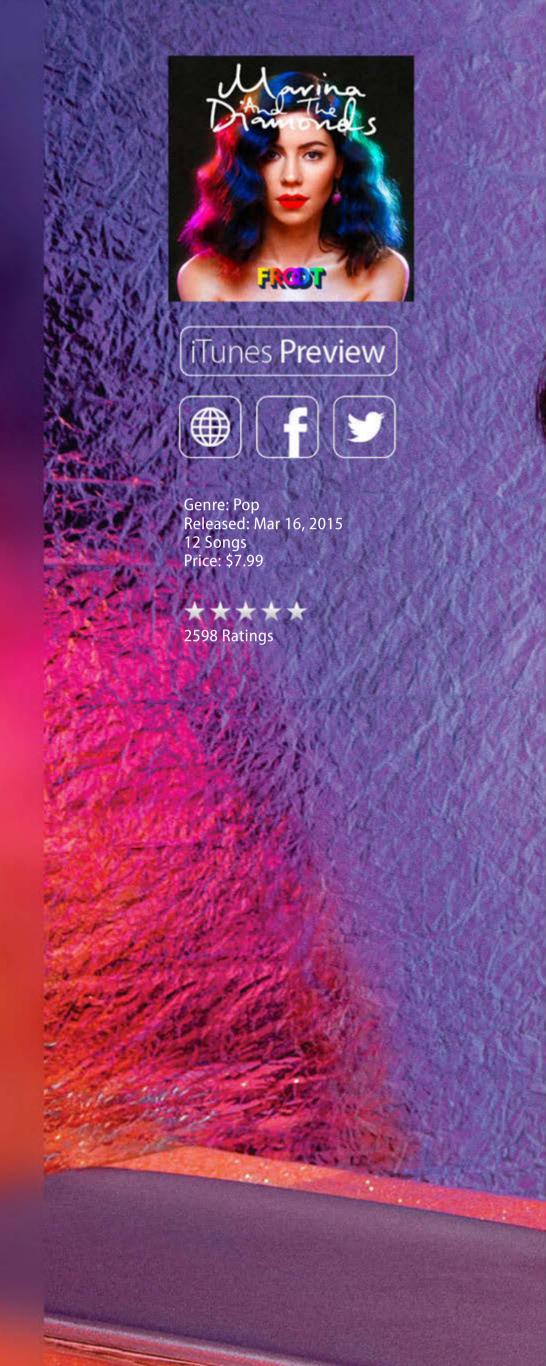
## **FROOT**

### Marina and The Diamonds

Welsh singer-songwriter Marina Diamandis - professionally known as Marina and The Diamonds - knew at an early stage how she wished to approach her third studio album project. The album that became FROOT was produced by just two people, Diamandis herself and David Kosten, as opposed to the rotating cast that had handled her previous effort.

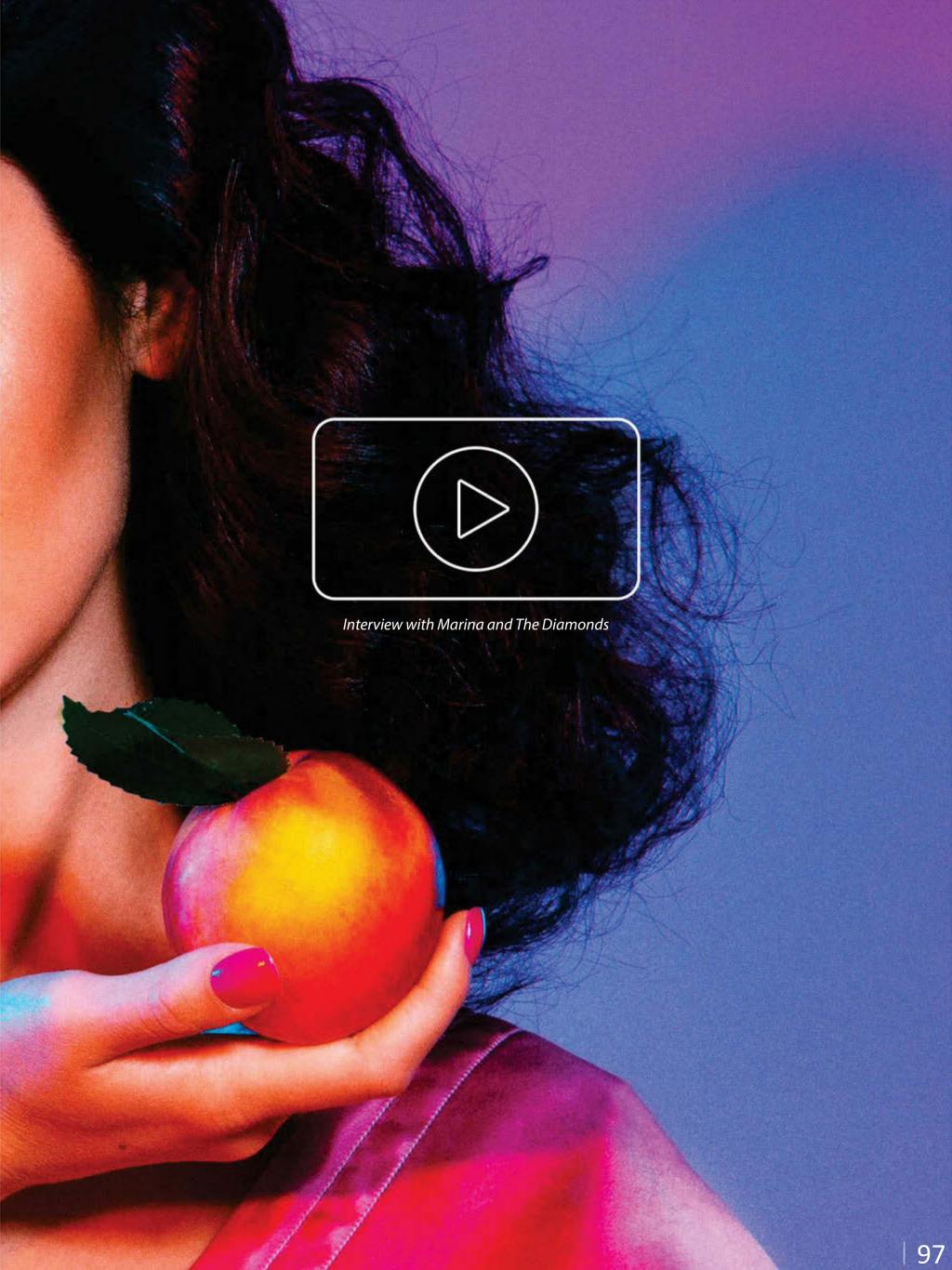
#### **FIVE FACTS:**

- **1.** Marina Lambrini Diamandis was born in Brynmawr, Blaenau Gwent, Wales on October 10, 1985.
- **2.** She came to prominence in 2009, when she was ranked in second place in the BBC's Sound of 2010 poll.
- **3.** Her debut studio album, The Family Jewels, was released in 2010.
- **4.** She is associated with the genres of indie pop, indie rock, new wave and electropop.
- **5.** FROOT's release was brought forward from its previously intended April 3 date due to album content leaks.





































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THE DISTANCE

THE WALKING DEAD, SEASON 5

IT'S ALL MY FAULT

How to Get Away With Murder, Season 1

THE WANDERER

VIKINGS, SEASON 3

THE NIGHT LILA DIED

How to Get Away With Murder, Season 1

**HERO** 

BETTER CALL SAUL, SEASON 1

STARING AT THE END

GREY'S ANATOMY, SEASON 11

**CONNECTION LOST** 

Modern Family, Season 6

INTENT

SUITS, SEASON 4

THEM

THE WALKING DEAD, SEASON 5

THE INTIMACY ACCELERATION

THE BIG BANG THEORY, SEASON 8





THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
PAULA HAWKINS

FIFTY SHADES DARKER E L James

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY EL James

FIFTY SHADES FREED E L James

**A THOUSAND ACRES**Jane Smiley

AMERICAN SNIPER
CHRIS KYLE AND OTHERS

FIFTY SHADES TRILOGY BUNDLE E L JAMES

THE NIGHTINGALE Kristin Hannah

**STILL ALICE**LISA GENOVA

**GONE GIRL** GILLIAN FLYNN





Here's some good news: The daffy ethos of "30 Rock" lives again in "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt." And why shouldn't it, since this new Netflix comedy (with its 13 episodes now available for streaming) was spawned by "30 Rock" co-creators Tina Fey and Robert Carlock?

Even better news: "Kimmy" is redolent of its own special quirkiness, even as it occupies the same Manhattan turf where "30 Rock" romped for seven rollicking seasons - and as it brings back "30 Rock" alum Jane Krakowski with her guarantee of laughter.

In the title role of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," Ellie Kemper ("The Office") plays a wide-eyed, plucky young woman who claims New York as her new home after being sprung from 15 years' captivity in the so-called "Indiana Mole Women" cult.

Though a bit behind the times (she fantasizes about a concert pairing Michael Jackson with Whitney Houston) and uninitiated in big-city life, Kimmy quickly finds an apartment (with Carol Kane as her eccentric landlady), a roommate (recurring "30 Rock" player Tituss Burgess as a flamboyant musical-star wannabe), and a position as nanny for wealthy Jacqueline Voorhees' bratty son and mouthy stepdaughter.





Jacqueline is played by scene-stealer Krakowski as a trophy wife who fears her luster has tarnished in her often-absent husband's eyes.

A former flight attendant on the make, "She's now turning the age of her husband's first wife when he ditched HER for Jacqueline," says Krakowski with a sympathetic chuckle.

Jacqueline is desperately self-obsessed and vain. When Kimmy lends encouragement with "Listen to your gut," Jacqueline replies indignantly, "I don't HAVE a gut!"

But she strikes a marked contrast with Jenna Maroney, the shamelessly ambitious TV personality Krakowski played on "30 Rock." Jenna was hilariously blind to her many shortcomings, oblivious to her second-rate career and talent.

"Jacqueline is so much more vulnerable at her core than Jenna ever was," says Krakowski. "Like Kimmy, who was locked in a bunker for 15 years, Jacqueline has been kept in her own gilded cage, and she hasn't found happiness there. Beyond the humor and jokes, she's a dark, rich character to play."

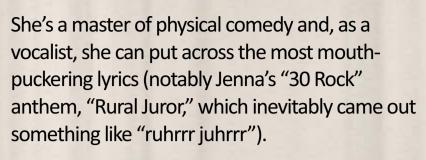
For someone so brassy and commanding on the screen, Krakowski in person is surprisingly pixyish, a charming blond sprite. Over an icedtea-and-lemonade at a favorite lunch spot near her Manhattan home, she bears no signs of her status as a show-biz veteran, a multitalented threat whose film debut was as a youngster in "National Lampoon's Vacation," who from 1997 to 2002 was a regular on the groundbreaking legal dramedy "Ally McBeal," and along the way became a two-time Tony winner singing and dancing in such Broadway hits as "Grand Hotel," "Company," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Nine" and "Starlight Express," for which she added nightly roller-skating marathons to her list of accomplishments.

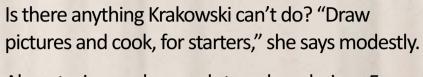












Also: staying cool around stars she admires. For instance, she speaks of getting goose-bumpy among the glitterati at the recent "Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary" gala.

"I've got to figure out a way to get over that awkward hump," she muses.













### The Rebellious Women of 'Insurgent' Break The Action Mold

On the surface, "Insurgent," with its dystopian setting and teenage heroine, might just seem like another by-the-numbers young adult tale. Look a little closer and it's clear that this second installment isn't merely capitalizing on a popular genre, but, with its half dozen female leads and supporting characters, actually represents a subtle subversion of what audiences have been taught action films should be.





When women lead up action-driven films and franchises, it's usually one exceptional gal against the world. Here, they're all over the place, serving as leaders, radicals and rebels, each wildly diverse, complicated, charismatic and flawed in their own unique way.

"Insurgent," out Friday, picks up shortly after the events of the first film, and finds Tris (Shailene Woodley) exposed as a statewanted "divergent," or someone who doesn't fit into the five designated factions, and on the run from Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the controlling, ruthless leader whose goal is to extradite Tris's kind from the society.

Still shaken from the violent deaths of her parents and friend in the first film and on a path to self-actualization, Tris encounters a number of adults hoping to mold her in their image, including franchise newcomers Johanna (Octavia Spencer), the stoic Amity leader with the mysterious scar on her face, and Evelyn (Naomi Watts), a factionless revolutionary with cryptic motives who also happens to be the estranged mother of Tris's boyfriend Four (Theo James).

Credit for populating the world with strong female characters goes to author Veronica Roth, who saw "Insurgent" as a chance to really flesh out the environment around Tris.

"It was very intentional for me that most of the leaders in Tris's world would be women, and not necessarily the good guys all the time," said Roth on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles.





"I think it's equally important to have female villains. When people notice that there's not a lot of representation in a particular area they try to make those characters holy symbols that are pure and good. That does a disservice to women," she said.

Producer Lucy Fisher was particularly delighted by the sheer number of significant moments between the female characters, noting that the film easily passes the Bechdel Test (meaning there must be at least one scene where two female characters with names discuss something other than a man).

"She has a scene with each woman saying,
'I'm not going to be who you want me to be',"
said Fisher, who, along with husband and
co-producer Douglas Wick is often driven to
female-centric projects.

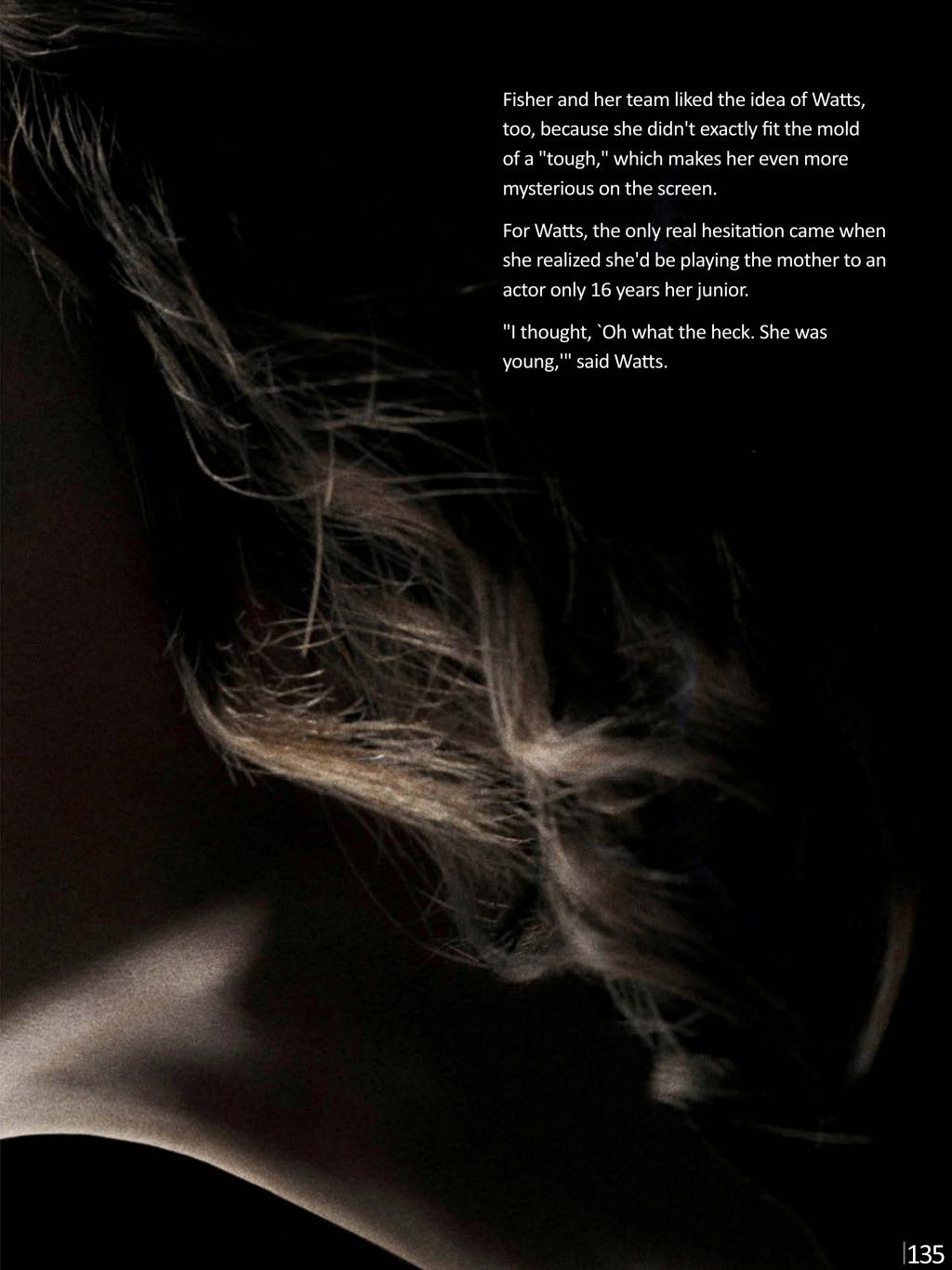
"We like female empowerment," she said, adding that they did try to get a woman in the director's chair, before ultimately deciding on German filmmaker Robert Schwentke.

Despite Johanna's limited on-screen time in this film, Spencer said it was a no-brainer to join the project. Not only was she a fan of the book, but she and Roth had met and bonded at a book event years earlier.

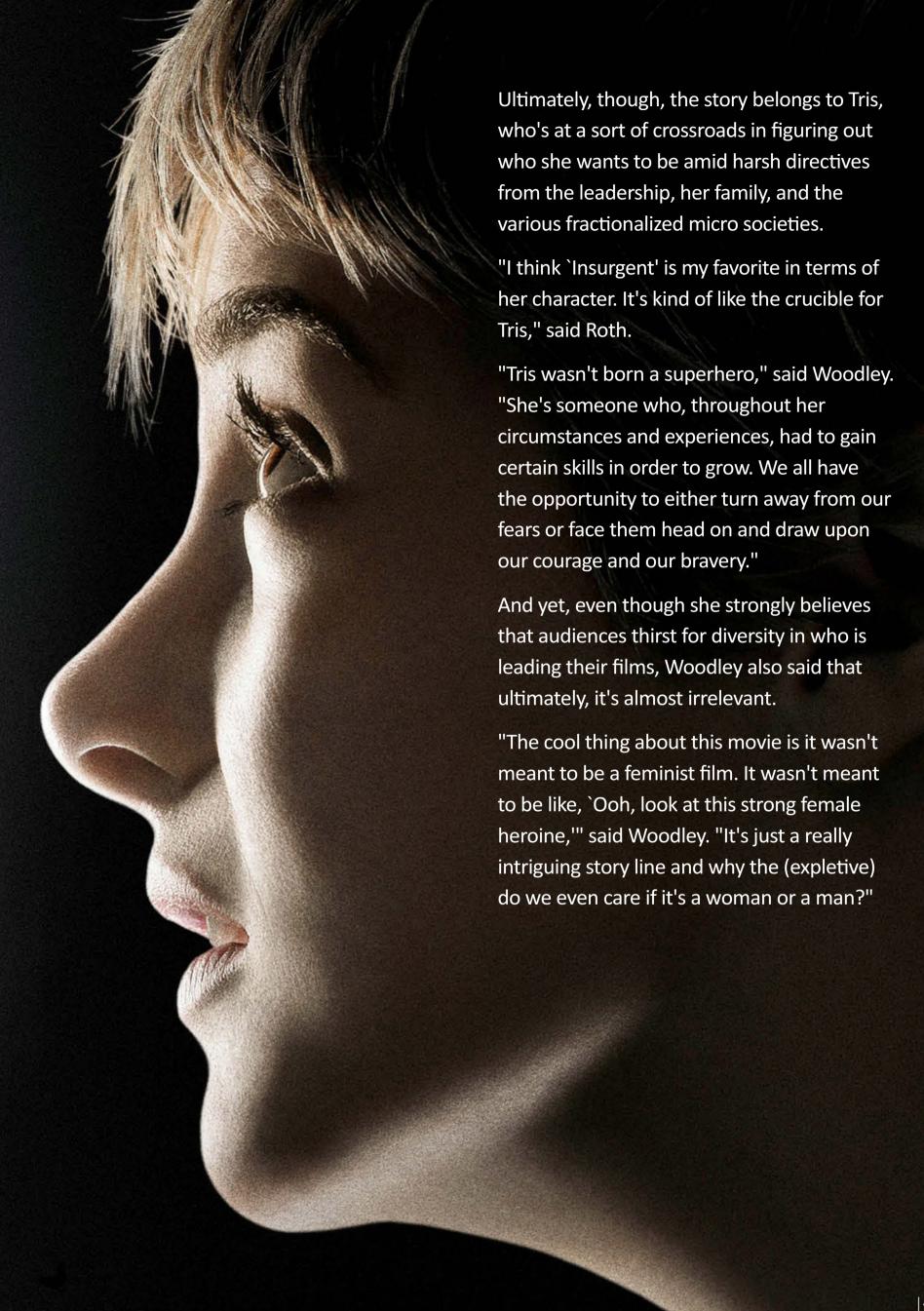
"I kind of stalked her," said Spencer with a laugh.

"We talked about (Spencer) and the question of race came up because she's not written as African American but to us it seemed like a great idea," added Fisher. Unexpected casting informed most of their decisions surrounding the characters in the franchise.













Given that conformity is the scourge of the "Divergent" series and much of its young-adult ilk, it's a shame that the films, including the new "Insurgent," do so little to stray from well-worn YA paths.

For a series that waves the banner of individualism, they make a poor case for it. Instead of throbbing with a teenage spirit of rebellion - or things like youthful wildness, humor or sex - the two "Divergent" movies are curiously content to eke out a rigid, lifeless fable in drab futuristic environs.

The answer, here, to the question of what are you rebelling against isn't "Whaddya got?" but the slightly less visceral "An elaborate, highly metaphorical dystopian system of militaristic control."

But even faint, fantastical whiffs of teen insurrection carry enough potency to drive feverish young audiences. Why? Much of it has to do with the stars.

Say what you will about YA movies, but they've been an efficient star-making machine that's produced Jennifer Lawrence, Kristen Stewart and Shailene Woodley. We should be happy to have them: good actresses all, who easily lead their respective films over their male counterparts.

The YA men aren't as fine a bunch but here include the hunky Theo James and the excellent Miles Teller. Predictably providing "Insurgent" with its only lively, comedic moments, Teller looks as if he didn't get the note that all must be sullen and serious.

A quick summary. Based on Veronica Roth's trilogy of best-selling novels, the "Divergent" films are set in a walled, post-apocalyptic Chicago, where survivors are ritualistically sorted into five factions. Every 16-year-old is tested for which faction suits them, and then must choose one and remain there forever.

Tris (Woodley) chose Dauntless, who are known for their bravery and, it seems, their proclivity for train hopping. But her test revealed her to be "divergent" - someone who has no dominant characteristic but a plethora - and this makes her uncontrollable. In "Divergent," Tris came to embrace her fate, find a boyfriend in Dauntless leader Four (James, who has a natural chemistry with Woodley) and stop a plot by the city's overlord, Janine (Kate Winslet) to make zombies of its citizens.

"Insurgent," the full name of which is the suitably clunky "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," finds the tale largely spinning its wheels and features many redundant confrontations. Along with an underground revolutionary leader played by an underused Naomi Watts, Tris and Four organize a revolt against Janine.

Allegiances are in constant flux; Teller's sarcastic operator switches sides with the wind. The plot (which includes Tris' brother, played by Ansel Elgort and Jai Courtney's burly enforcer) progresses less in a forward motion than in a repetitive cycle of escapes, surrenders and rescues, often taking place in the same hallways. Executions at gunpoint





and frequently threatened suicide add to the cheery atmosphere.

Much of the drama of "Insurgent" takes place in a virtual reality in which Tris frequently faces various simulation challenges, forcing her to reconcile her guilt in the death of her parents, as seen in the first installment. These "sims" are where "Insurgent" flashes its fanciest effects, but this dream state just further removes the film from any tangible reality. "Insurgent" is already an allegorical fantasy.

The way of many YA adaptations is to make the first film cheaply and then, once its popularity has been proven, boost the production value in subsequent sequels. That's the case with the 3-D "Insurgent," where director Robert Schwentke ("R.I.P.D.") takes over for "Divergent" helmer Neil Burger. The result is a bigger, glossier and better made action film with less embarrassing fight choreography. But any appeal still depends entirely on the talent of its cast.

The final "Divergent" book will be split into two movies, a future that is indeed a little dystopian. Much brighter, though, are the blossoming careers of Woodley and Teller, who were best together in the indie "The Spectacular Now." Movies, thankfully, come in factions, too.

"The Divergent Series: Insurgent," a Roadside Attractions release, is rated PG-13 for "intense violence and action throughout, some sensuality, thematic elements and brief language." Running time: 118 minutes. Two stars out of four.









Jussie Smollett, one of the stars of Fox's primetime soap, "Empire," says he counts his mom as one of the super fans of the series.

"She calls me every single Wednesday and I know that we have to stay on the phone at least for 30 minutes to an hour of just hearing her break down what (Taraji P. Henson's character) Cookie did, what the brothers did, which song was her favorite, you know? So, yeah, it's fun. It's good fun," said the actor at Monday's premiere of the movie "Insurgent" in New York.

On "Empire," Smollett plays Jamal Lyon, the middle son to a music mogul, played by Terrence Howard and his ex-wife, Cookie Lyon, who was recently released from prison after serving 17-years for dealing drugs.

Jamal's an aspiring singer-songwriter who also happens to be gay, which his father can't accept. He's also the moral compass of the series.

The show has managed to climb in the ratings each week and will wrap up its 10-episode first season with a two-hour finale on Wednesday (at 8 p.m. EDT.)

Smollett, 31, says he hasn't been able to wrap his mind around how much his life has changed in just a few months, and he hopes he never does.

"In a way ... I kind of hope that I don't realize all that's happening. I hope that I still wake up every day the same man wanting to work hard and do something really, really awesome, you know? And just get paid to do what I love, which is awesome."

He realized the show was a hit when he was bombarded at a grocery store by a group of elderly women who recognized him.













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