

# CELEBS

## celebs



Beyoncé

### Beyoncé delights fans with stylized visual album

AFP | New York

Pop royalty Beyoncé released her much-hyped visual album "Black Is King," an aesthetically ambitious video billed as a companion to her 2019 album of songs inspired by Disney's live-action remake of "The Lion King." The highly stylized visual narrative released on the Disney Plus streaming platform runs an hour and 25 minutes and, akin to "The Lion King," tells the story of a young boy who navigates an onerous world, finding himself far from

his family.

The work is an ode to the black experience rife with vibrant imagery celebrating the African diaspora, an aesthetic exploration of black history, power and success that also references colonialism, economic disparity and racism.

Beyoncé had described the work as a "labour of love," that now serves "a greater purpose" than its original role as a companion piece to "The Lion King: The Gift," given the current sociopolitical climate.

Mass anti-racism protests ignited following the police killing of a black man, George Floyd, in May as the coronavirus pandemic ravages the United States, disproportionately infecting people of colour.

"Many of us want change," Beyoncé wrote on Instagram, rare personal words from the guarded celebrity.

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**I believe that when Black people tell our own stories, we can shift the axis of the world and tell our REAL history of generational wealth and richness of soul that are not told in our history books**

BEYONCE

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#### Lush visuals

Powered by lush visuals and Beyoncé's soaring vocals, "Black Is King" places heavy emphasis on notions of family and motherhood along with more philosophical threads of origin and legacy.

A-listers including the superstar's hip hop mogul husband

Jay-Z, actress Lupita Nyong'o, jack-of-all-trades Pharrell Williams and model Naomi Campbell all feature in the production.

Beyoncé's mother Tina Knowles-Lawson and former Destiny's Child bandmate Kelly Rowland also make appearances, as well as daughter Blue Ivy and rare footage of her twins, Rumi Carter and Sir Carter. The film follows Beyoncé's venerated 2016 visual album "Lemonade," which emphasized black womanhood against the backdrop of America's heritage of slavery and culture of oppression.

Since that Grammy-winning work Beyoncé has prized the visual at the forefront of her art, no longer focused on dominating the pop charts.

Simultaneously one of music's most private but most-watched stars, the 38-year-old uses her massive social media platform to curate her image and promote her work imbued with broad social commentary on topics including

gender and race.

But Beyoncé also has faced criticism, especially from outside the United States, for deploying what some call stereotypical visuals of "African tradition" -- face paint and feathers, for example.

Many social media users noted that Disney Plus is not accessible in African nations, and that while Beyoncé has performed some shows on the continent, her tours haven't included dates there in years.

"Someone with the range must unpack how our beloved queen Beyoncé is reducing blackness and Africanness to aesthetics and the western imaginations of our existence," tweeted one user, Paballo Chauke.

"They must also speak about how it's now profitable to do such gimmicks."

Still, the Bey Hive -- Beyoncé's legion of ardent fans -- voiced elation over the release of "Black Is King," which quickly became a top trending hashtag.

### Billie Eilish releases new song 'My Future', an ode to future self

ANI | Los Angeles

Singer Billie Eilish released her much anticipated new song 'My Future' and it is all about learning to accept oneself and who you are becoming. The 'Bad Guy' singer shared the information about her new song on Instagram and posted a brief clip from the official music video.

"MY FUTURE SONG AND VIDEO OUT NOW OUT NOW OUT NOOOOOW," the Grammy-winner wrote.

The three-minute and 28-second-long video featured a cartoon illustration of Billie, who is seen pondering about her life amid a rainy, dull landscape.

"Cause I'm in love with my future, can't wait to meet her," croons the singer as the second half of the video becomes bright, with sunlight hitting and greenery flourishing all around.

'My Future' track marks the 18-year-old singer's first new single since her record-breaking 'Bond' theme for the much-anticipated spy-thriller 'No Time To Die'. The star who made history in this year's Grammy is the youngest artist

**YOU KNOW WHAT**  
Billie Eilish set the stage of the 62nd Grammy Awards on fire as she stole the major big titles. Her debut album, 'When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?' led her to Grammy history when she swept the four big awards



Billie Eilish

ever to write and record a Bond theme.

Earlier in March, the singer considering safety precautions of her fans postponed her 'Where Do We Go?' world tour until further notice.

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Her debut album, 'When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?' led her to Grammy history when she swept the four big awards.

### Courtney Cox to reprise 'Scream' role in film reboot

Fox | Los Angeles

Courtney Cox is returning for the next iteration of the famed "Scream" film franchise.

The "Friends" star confirmed that she will reprise her role as news reporter Gale Weathers in an Instagram post.

"I can't wait to see this face again," Cox posted of the iconic black-and-white mask that has seen many Halloween nights over the course of its four films that began in 1996 and have grossed more than \$600 million in the global box office.

Also slated to return for the fifth installment is Cox's ex-husband David Arquette as Dewey Riley.

"I am thrilled to be playing Dewey again and to reunite with my Scream family, old and new," Arquette previously said in a statement, according to The Holly-

wood Reporter. "Scream has been such a big part of my life, and for both the fans and myself, I look forward to honoring Wes Craven's legacy."

Cox appeared in all of the previous "Scream" films, released in 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2011 respectively.

"We can't imagine 'Scream' without the iconic Gale Weathers and are so incredibly thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to work with Courtney," Radio Silence, the filmmaking arm behind the reboot told the Deadline. "We're absolute mega fans of her work and we're so excited to join her in the next chapter of the 'Scream' saga!"

Filming on the all-new "Scream" is set to kick off later this year in Wilmington, N.C.



Courtney Cox

### Aniston extends birthday wishes to Kudrow

ANI | Los Angeles

Actor Jennifer Aniston wishes to her 'Friends' co-star and long-time pal Lisa Kudrow, who turned 57.

The duo and the rest of the show's cast have remained friends since the show ended its run in 2004, and the actors have occasionally been spotted together.

To make her good friend's day special, Aniston hopped on to Instagram late Thursday and shared some pictures and videos of Kudrow, as she wished her a happy birthday. Sharing a goofy throwback picture of the two, Aniston wrote on Instagram stories, "Happy birthday my sweetest floosh".

While in another picture, the 51-year-old star is seen sharing a hug with Kudrow and wrote 'I love you' alongside.

The 'Just Go With It' actor also shared two videos, where Kudrow is seen sharing a stage with singer Taylor Swift. The duo is seen singing Kudrow's famous comedy song 'smelly cat' from the show.

#### SUDOKU

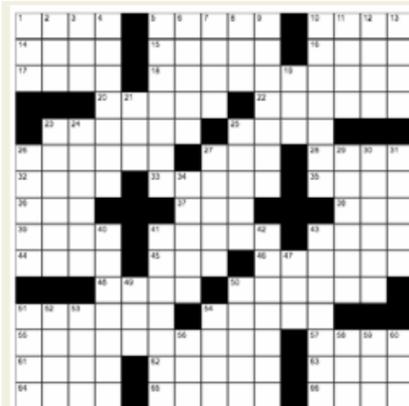
2			6					8
		7	1		3			2 4
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		2	5	6	8			
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#### Yesterday's solution

8	2	4	7	9	3	1	5	6
6	1	7	4	5	8	9	3	2
5	9	3	2	6	1	7	4	8
2	6	1	3	7	5	8	9	4
9	4	8	1	2	6	5	7	3
7	3	5	8	4	9	6	2	1
4	5	2	6	8	7	3	1	9
3	8	9	5	1	2	4	6	7
1	7	6	9	3	4	2	8	5

**How to play**  
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

#### CROSSWORD



#### Across

1- Goes back; 5- Stage items; 10- All-male; 14- Harvest; 15- Competitor; 16- Tent stick; 17- Airline to Tel Aviv; 18- Covent Garden, for one; 20- Western; 22- Song leader in a synagogue; 23- Fingerless hand cover; 25- The \_\_\_ the limit; 26- Weights; 27- Farm female; 28- Toward the mouth; 32- "That smart!"; 33- English royal house; 35- Do followers; 36- Marseilles Mrs.; 37- Vietnam's \_\_\_ Dinh Diem; 38- Lilliputian; 39- Insect stage; 41- Hound's trail; 43- Trace; 44- Humble homes; 45- Paving material; 46- African antelopes; 48- Hit the mall; 50- Edits; 51- Become visible; 54- Fleet; 55- Excessive; 57- Roundish projection; 61- Gossip; 62- Short letters; 63- Goes wrong; 64- Tolkien tree creatures; 65- Give; 66- Cease;

#### Down

1- Bard's "before"; 2- \_\_\_ canto; 3- Noise made by a sheep; 4- Stain; 5- Expression of objection; 6- Grow to maturity; 7- Above; 8- Hole number?; 9- Shirker; 10- Underwriter; 11- Advertise boastfully; 12- What's more; 13- Will of "The Waltons"; 19- Cut and dried grass; 21- Packed away; 23- Hawaiian dress; 24- Commence; 25- Faint; 26- Pizazz; 27- Gardening tool; 29- Reverse; 30- Recompense; 31- Eats to a plan; 34- Remove a covering; 40- States; 41- Hoarding; 42- Storm; 43- Manipulates; 47- Maui memento; 49- If I \_\_\_ a Hammer; 50- Devoured; 51- White House staffer; 52- Nabokov novel; 53- Dessert wine; 54- Pro follower; 56- And not; 58- Meal crumb; 59- Friend in the 'hood; 60- Uncommon sense;

#### Yesterday's solution

L	E	A	S	T	F	S	T	O	P	U	S	A
O	S	C	A	R	L	O	I	R	E	N	A	G
P	E	E	T	E	I	N	E	R	T	S	E	
M	A	I	L	B	A	G	C	H	I	L	L	
E	N	D	A	L	L	H	A	I	F	A		
A	S	I	D	E	M	A	R	T	Y	R	D	O
R	O	O	P	E	S	O	S	T	A	M	I	
A	N	T	I	P	O	D	A	L	T	A	R	A
S	T	R	E	A	T	C	O	G	E	N	T	
S	H	T	E	T	L	P	O	L	A	R	I	S
S	T	O	O	L	A	I	R	S				
O	O	N	U	S	A	G	E	T	O	S	C	A
A	R	E	D	I	V	O	T	O	N	I	O	N
R	E	D	E	L	E	G	Y	Y	A	R	N	S