

# CELEBS



## Actor McConaughey seeks to patent image to protect from AI

AFP | Los Angeles

**A**ctor Matthew McConaughey has filed recordings of his image and voice with US patent authorities to protect them from unauthorized usage by artificial intelligence platforms, a representative said Wednesday.

Several video clips and audio recordings were registered by the commercial

arm of the just keep livin Foundation, a non-profit created by the Oscar-winning actor and his wife Camila, according to the United States Patent and Trademark Office database.

Many artists are increasingly concerned about the uncontrolled use of their image via generative AI since the rollout of ChatGPT and other AI-powered tools.

Several US states have adopted legislation that serves as consumer

protection against certain AI systems and deepfakes, but much of this applies mainly to malicious use or commercial purposes.

Only a few, notably Tennessee's ELVIS Act passed in 2024, offer more targeted protections for artists against AI-generated cloning or impersonation.

A few actors have taken legal action to assert their rights. Among the most notable is Scarlett Johansson, who sued the image-generating app Lisa AI in 2023 for creating an AI-generated

avatar in her likeness for an advertisement without her consent.

McConaughey's approach is novel in that he is taking the lead in protecting his image and voice.

The star of "Interstellar" and "Dallas Buyers Club" is no opponent of generative artificial intelligence.

He has acquired a stake in ElevenLabs, a startup specializing in AI voice modeling, and the company has created an AI audio

version of McConaughey -- with his permission.

Attorney Kevin Yorn, who represents McConaughey, said the aim of filing with the patent office was "to make sure that our clients have the same kind of protections that their businesses have."

"The second part is to make sure that our clients are able to capture some of the value that is being created with this new technology using their voice and likeness," he added.

Matthew McConaughey

Emilia Clarke

## Emilia Clarke had breakdown after Game of Thrones

Bang showbiz | Los Angeles

**E**milia Clarke had a "full mental breakdown" after Game of Thrones ended.

The 39-year-old actress shot to fame playing Daenerys Targaryen in the fantasy drama series from 2011 to 2019 and she admitted she was grateful for the COVID-19 pandemic because it gave her the time to reflect on a decade which had also seen her suffer two brain haemorrhages and her dad pass away in 2016.

She told the New York Times newspaper: "It was the first time in my professional life that I stopped.

"I had a full mental breakdown. It was almost as if the timing of the pandemic was bang on...

"It forced me to answer some questions I probably could have put off answering for another 10 years...

"[During the show] there was never any time to

stop and consider the meaning of it. I never had the foresight to think, 'You're going to want to take a minute.'

The Last Christmas actress admitted she is unlikely to ever star in another fantasy project.

She said: "You're highly unlikely to see me get on a dragon, or even in the same frame as a dragon, ever again."

And Emilia was hesitant to take on her latest role, as Bea in spy series Ponies, because she was concerned about the "commitment".

She said: "I was definitely, like, 'A lead in a TV show? I know what that commitment feels like.'

But the actress knew things would be different because she was given the choice of which of the two main characters she wanted to play.

She noted: "I felt like they were giving me a voice, which doesn't always happen."

Emilia admitted she felt she had very little control in the early days of her career.

## Pete Davidson launches podcast series on Netflix

Bang showbiz | Los Angeles

**P**ete Davidson is launching a new podcast series.

The 32-year-old comedian is set to host a weekly video podcast filmed inside his home, with The Pete Davidson Show premiering on Netflix on January 30.

Pete - who enjoyed huge success as a cast member on Saturday Night Live - told Tatum: "Netflix was the home of one of my first stand-up specials, so it

felt right to bring the podcast there, too. It's me and my friends talking about anything and everything. It's going to be a great time."

The upcoming series will mark Pete's forth collaboration with Netflix, having previously made Pete Davidson: Turbo Fonzarelli and Pete Davidson: Alive from New York, as well as hosting and curating Pete Davidson Presents: The Best Friends in 2022.

Meanwhile, Pete previously revealed that he's found the focus on his personal life to be "traumatic".

The comedian has dated a host of famous women, including Kim

Kardashian, Ariana Grande, Kaia

Gerber, Margaret Qualley, and

Phoebe Dynevor, but Pete felt frustrated that people often knew him for his high-profile love life, rather than his comedy talent.

Pete - who recently welcomed his first child, a daughter, with girlfriend Elsie Hewitt - said on The Breakfast Club: "It just got to a point where I was ... I got really tired of my whole career just being like my personal life. And living through that is it's sort of traumatic. Like not to be like lame, but like it's traumatic to live in your own crap all the time."

Pete Davidson

## Ariana Grande reveals Mac Miller 'encouraged her to be herself' in rare tribute to her late ex

Bang showbiz | Los Angeles

**A**riana Grande says Mac Miller "encouraged her to be herself" as she moved into music.

The Wicked actress has recalled her experiences leaving Nickelodeon sitcom Sam and Cat as she started working on her 2013 debut album Yours Truly, and her late ex-boyfriend - who she dated from 2016 to 2018

- encouraged her to "shed that character" and move on.

Speaking on The Hollywood Reporter's Awards Chatter podcast, she said: "I've never talked about this, but actually Malcolm, whom you might know as Mac, encouraged me to be myself. "And that it was OK to kind of shed that character, and embrace my brown hair, and make R&B-influenced pop music and separate and do the brave thing."

"I never said that. But it was a

great influence, I'm so very grateful for that."

She featured Miller on her lead single The Way, as a nod to the influence he had on her music.

She added: "Not only because he was so perfect for the song, but I also felt like I had him to thank for finding my sound."

Ariana and Miller split just six months before he died in an accidental overdose aged 26 in September 2018, and she has paid tribute to him over the years.

In 2020, she told Apple Music:

"I think that nothing mattered more to him than music ever."

"And he was the kind of person who woke up and rolled into the studio, tumbled out of bed, into the studio next door."

"Nothing was more important. Talk about losing track of time and forgetting to eat, remind yourself to take care of yourself and be a person."

"He was a person who gave literally every single second of his thought and time and life to his music."

Ariana also pointed to the "many incredible and different bodies of work" he left behind.

She had previously reflected on the grief she felt when he passed, acknowledging that while their relationship wasn't "perfect", she still thought he was "the best person ever".

She told Vogue magazine in 2019: "By no means was what we had perfect, but, like, f\*\*\*. He was the best person ever, and he didn't deserve the demons he had."

