

## SONG OF THE DAY



Fahad Al Sabah  
Staff Writer

**Song:** Ghosts  
**Artist:** Siobhán Donaghy  
**Album:** Ghosts  
**Genre:** Alternative  
**In short:** "Ghosts" is one of the most daring songs I have heard. The vocals are reversed so the lyrics are barely comprehensible, but who cares when the final result is a sublime song that's nothing like anything you've heard before?  
**E-mail your suggestions or feedback to** falsabah@alwatandaily.com

## BUZZ

Carrie Underwood pays a visit to *Jimmy Kimmel Live*

Always up for a promotional appearance, Carrie Underwood was spotted at the *Jimmy Kimmel Live* show in Hollywood on Thursday. The "Jesus Take the Wheel" singer gave quite a performance on the late night show, hoping to boost sales of her new album *Play On* that released earlier this month. Miss Underwood has been doing the talk show circuit as of late, with appearances on *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien*, and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" already this week. And coming up Dec. 7th, Carrie will be hosting *Carrie Underwood: An All-Star holiday Special* at 8pm on the FOX Network.

## Cameron Diaz: Sexy in Salzburg

Continuing work on her latest project, Cameron Diaz was spotted having a blast on the set of *Knight and Day* in Salzburg, Austria Thursday. The *Charlie's Angels* hottie looked to be in good spirits as she joked with the cast and crew in between scenes at Festspielhaus, also taking a few moments to wave to fans who were watching nearby. Up to this point, Cameron has been filming in Boston, Massachusetts and the Salzburg shoot is expected to last for about a week. Earlier this month, hundreds of local Austrians tried out for roles as extras. Miss Diaz stars alongside Tom Cruise in the new action comedy flick, under the direction of James Mangold. *Knight and Day* is scheduled for a Summer 2010 release.

## Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green: Furniture Flirts

Getting in some quality time with her boyfriend Brian Austin Green and his son Kassius, Megan Fox was spotted out and about in West Hollywood Thursday. The Jennifer's Body babe and her hunky beau were on the lookout for some new furniture at Cisco Home, checking out some beds, desks, and dressers. In related news, Megan recently revealed that as a little girl she was obsessed with *The Wizard of Oz* and wanted to be Dorothy. She explained, "I wanted to be Dorothy for many years of my life! Until I was about six, I would wear my hair in pig-tails and I think my grandmother made the costume - the little gingham checked jumper - and I had ruby slippers. I made my mom call me Dorothy. I wouldn't answer her or listen if she called me Megan 'cause that wasn't my name."

## Zac Efron: GMTV guy

Out for a promotional appearance, Zac Efron was spotted leaving the GMTV Studios earlier Friday in London, England. *The High School Musical* stud was drumming up interest in his new flick "Me and Orson Welles," and graciously stopped to sign autographs and take pictures with a few lucky fans. On Thursday, Zac was over in the Notting Hill neighborhood attending a special screening of the film at the Gate Cinema.

# End of an era: Oprah ending show after 25 years

CHICAGO: Oprah Winfrey announced Friday that her powerhouse daytime television show, the foundation of a multibillion-dollar media empire with legions of fans, will end its run in 2011 after 25 seasons on the air.

Winfrey announced the final date for *The Oprah Winfrey Show* during a live broadcast, according to her production company, Harpo Productions Inc.

Once a local Chicago morning program, the production evolved into television's top-rated talk show for more than two decades, airing in 145 countries worldwide and watched by an estimated 42 million viewers a week in the US alone.

"Oprah Winfrey is in a category of her own," said Robert Thompson, professor of television and popular culture at Syracuse University. "This is a great American story and like any great American story it's supersized."

A Harpo spokeswoman declined to comment Thursday on Winfrey's future plans except to say that *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, which has seen ratings slip seven percent from a year ago, will not move to cable television.

Winfrey, 55, is widely expected to start up a new talk show on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, a much-delayed joint venture with Discovery Communications Inc. that is expected to debut in 2011. OWN is to replace the Discovery Health Channel and will debut in some 74 million homes. An OWN spokeswoman declined comment Thursday.

CBS Television Distribution, which distributes *The Oprah Winfrey Show* to more than 200 US markets, held out hope it could continue doing business with Winfrey, perhaps producing a new show out of its studios in Los Angeles.

"We know that anything she turns her hand to will be a great success," the unit of CBS Corp. said in a statement. "We look forward to working with her for the next several



FILE - In this Sept. 9, 2004 file photo, talk show host Oprah Winfrey sits atop a Pontiac G6 outside her Chicago studios, surrounded by some of the 276 people from her audience who each received one of the new cars at the start of the show to celebrate the premiere of her 19th season. (AP)

years, and hopefully afterwards as well."

Winfrey's 24th season opened this year with a bang, as she drew more than 20,000 fans to Chicago's Magnificent Mile for a block party with the Black Eyed Peas. She followed with a series of blockbuster interviews - Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, exclusives with singer Whitney Houston and ESPN's Erin Andrews, and just this week, former Alaska governor, GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

As a newcomer, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

chipped away at talk king Phil Donahue's dominance. Later, turned to inspiration. The show covered ranged from interviews with the world's celebrities to an honest discussion about Winfrey's weight struggles.

"As the show evolved, it really kind of dressed up the neighborhood of the daytime talk show," Thompson said.

In 1986, pianist-showman Liberace gave his final TV interview to Winfrey, just six weeks before he died. In a 1993 prime-time special, Michael Jackson revealed he suffered from a

skin condition that produces depigmentation. Tom Cruise enthusiastically declared his affection for the much-younger Katie Holmes on the program in 2005 - and jumped on the couch to prove it.

In 2004, Winfrey unveiled her most famous giveaway, when nearly 300 members of the studio audience opened a gift box to find the keys to a new car inside. The stunt became a classic show moment as much for Winfrey's reaction - "You get a car! You get a car! You get a car! Everybody gets a car!" - as its \$7 million price tag.

The show also became a launching pad for Oprah's Book Club, which then launched best-sellers. The titles ranged from *Song of Solomon* and *Paradise* by Toni Morrison to Wally Lamb's *She's Come Undone* and Elie Wiesel's *Night*. For others, the selection backfired. *A Million Little Pieces* exploded in sales after Winfrey chose the James Frey memoir in fall 2005. Soon after, it was revealed as a fabricated tale of addiction and recovery, and Winfrey later chewed out Frey on her show.

"I call her 'Queen of the New Consciousness' because she did so many things to change lives, the books that she promoted," said hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons.

The loss of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* would be a blow to CBS Corp., which earns a percentage of hefty licensing fees from TV stations that use it - largely ABC affiliates. CBS Chief Executive Leslie Moonves told analysts two weeks ago that the contract with the show runs through most of 2011 and "if there's a negative impact, it wouldn't hit us until '12."

"Oprah's been a force of media and there's really no person you can look to out there who you could say, 'That's the heir apparent,'" said Larry Gerbrandt, an analyst for Media Valuation Partners in Los Angeles. Gerbrandt noted many stations build their schedules around Winfrey's show. -AP

## Lebanese diva accused of singing racist song

CAIRO: A famous Lebanese pop singer, who normally stirs controversy for her seductive dresses and provocative dancing, has now been accused of singing a song with racist lyrics that compares black Egyptians to monkeys.

Haifa Wehbe, considered by many as one of the sexiest women in the Arab world, has the minority Nubian community in Egypt distraught over her latest children's album "Baby Haifa" and the community's activists have launched several lawsuits over the lyrics. The Nubians took issue with a verse in the song "Where is Daddy?" in which Wehbe croons: "Where is my teddy bear and my Nubian monkey?" The line, Nubian representatives say, infers that members of the black Egyptian minority are monkeys. In November, they slapped separate lawsuits on the singer, her record label and Wehbe's Egyptian song writer.

"It may not be intentional racism on the part of the song writer, but it is still highly racist and offensive," said Motez Isaaq, with the Committee for Nubian Issues. Nubians come from the southernmost region of present-day Egypt, where a culture later known as Nubian first arose around 3,800 B.C. along the Nile and in northern Sudan. It was one of Africa's earliest black civilizations, complete with an independent kingdom.

Isaaq said that stereotypes of minorities are so entrenched that referring to them in popular culture media is frequently done unconsciously.

"We are one of the oldest civilizations on earth," said Isaaq. "Instead, our image is constantly perpetuated as the uneducated doorman or waiter."

Isaaq alleged that Nubians are discriminated against because of their darker skin, and stressed that the community still holds in painful memory the political oppression in the 1960s, when the



FILE - Lebanese model, actress, and singer Haifa Wehbe. (AP)

Egyptian government forced tens of thousands of Nubians to leave their homes and resettle elsewhere in southern Egypt, to make way for the building of the High Dam, 685 kilometers south of Cairo.

Wehbe has in the past tested the limits of a conservative Middle Eastern culture for her revealing outfits, suggestive lyrics and dancing. -AP

## Top SKorean model found hanged in Paris apartment

PARIS: A 20-year-old top South Korean model who was a fashion week regular in New York, Milan and Paris has been found hanged in her Paris apartment, a police official said Friday.

*Daul Kim* was found dead Thursday by her boyfriend, who alerted French police, the official said. He declined to be named in accordance with policy.

Paris police were working under the hypothesis that Kim committed suicide, he said. Kim's agent, Alessandra Bertoldini of the Next modeling agency, said the model's mother was arriving in Paris later Friday. She declined to elaborate.

Raised in Seoul and Singapore, Kim modeled in Asia before making her fashion week debut in Paris in 2007, modeling for top brands like Chanel, Dries van Noten and Maison Martin Margiela, among others, her Seoul agency, Esteem, said. She most recently appeared during Seoul fashion week in October.

Known for her thick mane of hair - sometimes dyed blond - and her quirky sensibility, the 178-centimeter model was celebrated for her sense of style. She was featured recently in a commercial for designer Christopher Kane's line of clothing for British retailer Topshop.

Kim also was an accomplished painter and video filmmaker who had a solo show of her artwork in Seoul.

Bloggers in South Korea mourned her death, speculating she felt the pressure of high-fashion modeling and a loss of identity.

In an Oct. 30 entry on her blog, Kim wrote she was "mad depressed and over-



FILE - Model Daul Kim

worked," and in another entry said "the more I gain the more lonely it is ... I know I'm like a ghost."

The last entry on her blog, dated Nov. 18, was titled "say hi to forever" and carried a video of the song "I Go Deep" by British singer Jim Rivers. -AP

## LATIN GRAMMY AWARDS:



Actress Marlene Favela (AFP)



US singer Alicia Keys (AFP)



Miss Nuestra Belleza Melissa Marty (left) and Martin Llorens (AFP)



Giselle Blonde (AFP)



Actress Kate del Castillo (left) and actor Aaron Diaz (AFP)