

BUZZREPORT

TELEVISION

LeBlanc handed keys to Top Gear

LONDON — The BBC says former Friends star Matt LeBlanc has signed a two-season deal to host its popular car show Top Gear. LeBlanc will front the program when it returns for a 24th season in 2017.

LeBlanc was one of two hosts when Top Gear was relaunched in May after the loss of its long-standing team of presenters. His co-host Chris Evans quit in July after the show drew lacklustre ratings and lukewarm reviews.

Top Gear became a global hit for Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. They left last year after Clarkson punched a producer in an off-set fight.

LOST BOYS STAR

Feldman facing legal action

LOS ANGELES — Corey Haim's mother has threatened her late son's actor friend Corey Feldman with legal action, celebrity website TMZ.com says.

Corey Haim died of natural causes including heart problems and pneumonia at age 38 in 2010 and his Lost Boys co-star Feldman has made controversial claims since his death, suggesting Haim was a victim of sexual abuse as a Hollywood child star.

ART

Prized posterior up for award

LONDON — A model train and bare buttocks are among artworks nominated for the prestigious Turner Prize.

Work by four shortlisted artists went on display Monday at London's Tate Britain gallery. The show includes Michael Dean's scrap-metal sculptures, Helen Marten's collage-based works, Josephine Pryde's model of a graffiti-covered train and Anthea Hamilton's surrealist sculptures, including a 10-metre-tall model of a man's naked posterior.

— Postmedia Wire Services

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Persian-flamenco fusion made possible in Vancouver



The Garage

LOCAL MUSIC WITH TOM HARRISON

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Flamenco and Persian poetry shouldn't meet, but in Farnaz Ohadi they have.

Somehow, Ohadi beautifully merged her Iranian culture with her interest in Spanish music on the album *Bird Dance*, which will be heard in concert Saturday at the Blueshore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts.

"About four or five years ago, I started thinking about mixing the Persian language with flamenco music," Ohadi said. "I thought it couldn't be done. The Persian language is so gentle and flamenco is so aggressive.

"No one had tried to merge them — flamenco and Persian. No one had attempted to merge the rhythms."

Several factors changed her mind. There was her experience of an Iranian woman making a dramatic move to Vancouver that she had put into song and her growing involvement in flamenco music and dance. Her story and a desire to push musical boundaries reached a peak in 2012 at a concert that tested the waters.

"The response was overwhelming," she says. "For the first time, it felt like an art form. It was coming from within."

So she embarked on two years of intensive study, hired two vocal coaches and lined up a mixture of "world" musicians, some from the flamenco scene who didn't know anything about Iranian culture.

"I can't express how free I feel," Ohadi said.

Blueprint celebrates 19 years in the turbulent Vancouver music biz. It started by presenting warehouse parties and now runs or does business with 300 clubs and mounts three music festivals. From underground dance promoters to an entertainment, lifestyle and events management company, Blueprint no doubt has seen and survived many changes. It celebrates its 19th anniversary with three nights of shows, the culmination of which is Oct. 8 at the Pacific Coliseum.

Youngblood is the winner of the Allan Slaight Juno Master Class. The project of Alexis Young, she'll be flown to Toronto for five days of learning all things related to the music business Oct. 24-28.



Farnaz Ohadi has merged her Iranian culture and interest in Spanish music on the album *Bird Dance*. — PNG FILES

■ The Fox Cabaret hosts an end-of-tour show by The Tourist Company, Nov. 26. The LP *Apollo* is due Oct. 21.

■ Eddy D and The Sexbombs are the spinoffs of The Liquor Kings and have released a first album.

■ Adrian Glynn releases his second album for Light Organ Records. Maybe the album title — *morelightthannolight* — is an accidental reference to Glynn's label. The LP is out Oct. 14; a followup gig at The Emerald is Oct. 27.

■ Riding a high profile, White Lung has released yet another video from its *Paradise* album, *Sister*.

■ You're fired! Didn't Donald Trump say that? He has said much more stupid things since then on his presidential campaign. He's ripe, then, for parody. Thus The Trumps, a local band whose first single is *Let's Make Rock 'n' Roll Great Again*. Its song is not going to do it. It lacks development and becomes monotonous. Nice, well-intended sentiment, though.

■ Al Hovden has received a mix of his George Harrison tribute *When You Were Here* and is very happy with it. The mix comes courtesy of his patron, the mysterious Five, who has paid for everything and used his international contacts. One day, Five's identity will become clear and there will be proof of his existence.

■ Did You Die's Richie Felix Alexander has teamed with Sara Baar to form Dream Girl. First single is 88.

CD of the week

As suggested by the title, *No Filter*, Michael Kaeshammer's 11th album, is not obscured by a concept nor does it struggle to meet an objective. Everything comes pouring through naturally. This means horn arrangements that recall those of Allen Toussaint, a rollicking keyboard style rooted in New Orleans' many legendary players, a simple roots awareness comparable to The Band and an honesty in Kaeshammer's writing and singing. Starting energetically with *Letter From The Road* and finishing with the reflective *Sunset* implies diversity yet *No Filter* is cohesive — united by an idea not to curb the influences that have shaped his agile piano playing.

Gigs

■ Caroline Mark Trio (Friday, Bozzini's)
■ Darby Mills (with Kirsten Nash, Friday, Blue Frog)

■ Sex With Strangers (launch sixth LP, Discourse, Saturday, Fox Cabaret)

■ Reid Jamieson (Sunday afternoon, Cottage Bistro)

■ Ladies Sing The Blues (Oct. 7, Edgewater Casino)

■ Dino DiNicolò (back at the Deep Cove Brewery, Oct. 15)

■ Prism (Oct. 20, Cascades Casino)

■ Hannah Georgas (Nov. 2, Commodore)

■ Bif Naked (Nov. 2, Blue Frog)

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