

VIRTUAL LIFE

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING

What's new in the arts

Celebrating 50 years of Queen with 50 weeks' worth of free clips

BY DAVID L. CODDON

We've all got a list of those bands we wish we'd seen in concert but never did. At the top of mine would be **Queen** with Freddie Mercury. It's hard to believe it'll be 30 years this November since the passing of Mercury, he of arguably the most distinctive voice in rock 'n' roll history. The 2018 biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" was a diverting reminder of Mercury's talent, but a new clips show on Queen's official YouTube Channel honoring the group's 50-year anniversary is a gift for fans that will keep on giving — for 50 weeks.

"Queen The Greatest" episodes are free to watch every Friday beginning at 5 a.m. Pacific time. Unfortunately, they're only three or four minutes long, which is unsatisfying, though series producer Simon Lupton packs each one with a lot of content: music, of course, but also archival concert footage, photos and interviews. The episodes will proceed

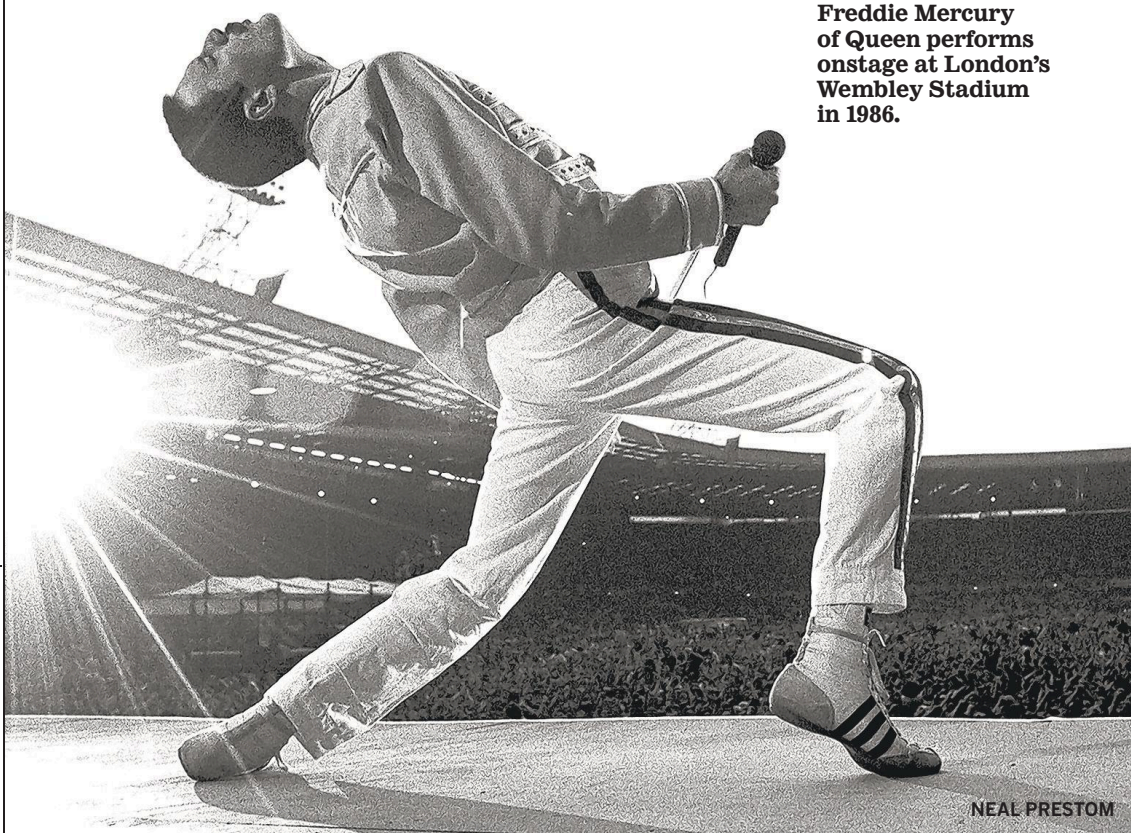
in chronological order and are framed around a different Queen song each week. The debut on March 19 took us back to the band's early days, to 1973, and the breakthrough single "Keep Yourself Alive." Besides hearing portions of the song, we learn that composer Brian May intended it to be "slightly ironical, but it's very difficult to take it as ironical." Performance shots are interwoven with anec-

dotes about the song and about where Queen was at the time.

All very interesting, but just as you get into it, it's over. Have to wait for Episode No. 2. Oh well.

That hit the Queen YouTube Channel on Friday. bit.ly/queen-greatest

Freddie Mercury of Queen performs onstage at London's Wembley Stadium in 1986.



NEAL PRESTON

UCTV

University of California Television (UCTV) is making a host of videos available on its website (uctv.tv/life-of-the-mind) during this period of social distancing. Among them, with descriptions courtesy of UCTV (text written by the UCTV staff):

"Tales of Human History Told by Neanderthal and Denisovan DNA": It's well known that as anatomically modern humans dispersed out of Africa, they encountered and mated with other hominins such as Neanderthals and Denisovans. The ability to identify and excavate extinct hominin DNA from the genomes of contemporary individuals reveals considerable information about human history and how those encounters with Neanderthals and Denisovans shaped the trajectory of human evolution. Princeton University's Joshua Akey explains how catalogs of surviving hominin lineages reveal insights into hybridization, shows that gene flow was widespread in both time and geography, and presents new evidence of an early out-of-Africa dispersal of modern humans.

"The Talmud as Icon": The Babylonian Talmud is a post-biblical Jewish rabbinic text, written in a hybrid of Hebrew and Aramaic, that is part scripture and part commentary. It is often ambiguous to the point of incomprehension, and its subject matter reflects a narrow scholasticism that should not have broad appeal; yet the Talmud has remained in print for centuries and is more popular today than ever. Northwestern University scholar and author Barry Scott Wimpfheimer describes the book's origins and structure, its centrality to Jewish law, its mixed reception history, and its golden renaissance in modernity as an iconic symbol of Jewishness.



"Sleep, Inflammation and Metabolism": Proper sleep is crucial for promoting good health, and research has documented the powerful influence of sleep disturbance on the risk of infectious disease, the occurrence and progression of several major medical illnesses, and the incidence and severity of depression. Aric Prather is an expert in the study of stress resilience, inflammation, depression, sleep and longevity. He examines the biological mechanisms of sleep disturbance with an emphasis on the implications of antiviral and proinflammatory immune responses for chronic infectious, inflammatory, and neuropsychiatric diseases. Prather also discusses therapeutic interventions as effective strategies to improve sleep.

Coddon writes the Union-Tribune's Arts+Culture Newsletter, which is published every Thursday. Portions of that newsletter are published in this column. To get the newsletter in its entirety, sign up for it at sandiegouniontribune.com/utartsculture.

THEATER

The film adaptation of playwright Kemp Powers' "One Night in Miami," for which he wrote the screenplay, earned Powers an Oscar nomination. Having really enjoyed it, I looked forward eagerly to streaming a staged reading of Powers' new play "Christa McAuliffe's Eyes Were Blue."

It's not fair to compare one work by a playwright to another, but this Center Theatre Group presentation suggests that some smoothing out is in order. The staged reading was filmed at L.A.'s Kirk Douglas Theatre last November. (It can be streamed for \$10 through April 4.) Its premise is an intriguing one: Bernard ("Bear") and Steven ("Sevvy") Gentry are twins, though the former is Black and the latter White. The contrasting direction of their lives and deterioration of their sibling relationship are the basis of this play's dramatic tension. Add a former racist schoolmate who becomes a judge presiding over the incarcerated Bernard's fate and the stakes rise even higher.

But neither the performance of Jovan Adepo as Bernard nor the taut direction by Jennifer Chang can overcome a script that attempts to tread too much territory in 75 minutes. The narrative connection between Bernard and the fate of space shuttle Challenger astronaut McAuliffe feels forced, and we never really get a firm grasp of what the troubled young man wants, or needs, most. centertheatregroup.org

VISUAL ART

The incredible story of a local legend, Nathan Harrison, is told in words, photographs and excavated artifacts in a new exhibition from the San Diego History Center titled "Nathan Harrison: Born Enslaved, Died a San Diego Legend." (For more on the Nathan Harrison exhibition, see my story on E6.)

Harrison, a freed slave who had been brought to California during the Gold Rush era, ultimately settled on Palomar Mountain, becoming not only the first Black homesteader in San Diego County but a celebrity to tourists who made the trip up the mountain to visit him.

For now, the exhibition can be explored virtually. When the Balboa Park-based History Center opens next month, you'll be able to experience up close the re-creation of the cabin Harrison lived in and many of the artifacts uncovered by San Diego State professor and archaeologist Seth Mallios and his team of student excavators over the course of eight summertime digs. Harrison's story is not only a personal odyssey but a contextual look at race and ethnicity in the 19th and early 20th centuries. sandiegohistory.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

As I watched **Art of Élan's "Open Air"** concert streaming on the evening of March 16 from the San Diego Museum of Art's May S. Marcy Sculpture Garden in Balboa Park, I couldn't help wishing I'd been there in person: the music (performed by the Hausmann Quartet and members of the San Diego Symphony); the surrounding sculptures; the California Tower in the distance; the sliver of moon overhead. Someday, right?

In the meantime, this 74-minute performance can be enjoyed in your home for \$10 (or for free if you're an SDMA member). In a program that includes works by Terry Riley, Hannah Lash and Jonathan Bailey Holland, the best is saved for last: the lovely five-movement piece "Make Prayers to the Raven," composed by environmental activist John Luther Adams. The suite, written for violin, harp, cello, flute and percussion, is a fitting complement to the serenity of Balboa Park, especially in the moonlight. artofelan.org



CAKEWATCH

Today: Harmonica player Charlie McCoy ("Hee Haw") is 80. Actor Dianne Wiest is 75. Country singer Reba McEntire is 66. Actor Alexandra Billings ("Transparent") is 59. Rapper Salt of Salt-N-Pepa is 55. Actor Tracey Needham ("The Division," "JAG") is 52. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 54. Director Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour") is 52. Actor Vince Vaughn is 51. Rapper Mr. Cheeks of Lost Boyz is 50. Actor Ken L. ("The Parkers") is 48. Singer-songwriter Matt Nathanson is 48. Guitarist Dave Keuning of The Killers is 45. Actor Annie Wersching ("24") is 44. Actor Julia Stiles is 40. Singer Lady Gaga is 35. Musician Clayton Knight of Odesza is 33.

Monday: Comedian Eric Idle is 78. Composer Vangelis ("Chariots of Fire") is 78. Singer Bobby Kimball of Toto is 74. Actor Bud Cort ("Harold and Maude") is 73. Actor Brendan Gleeson ("Harry Potter") is 66. Actor Marina Sirtis ("Star Trek: The Next Generation") is 66. Actor Christopher Lambert ("Highlander") is 64. Singer Perry Farrell of Porno for Pyros and Jane's Addiction is 62. Comedian Amy Sedaris is 60. Model Elle Macpherson is 58. Actor Annabella Sciorra ("Law and Order: Criminal Intent") is 57. Director Michel Hazanavicius ("The Artist") is 54. Singer-harmonica player John Popper of Blues Traveler is 54. Actor Lucy Lawless ("Xena: Warrior Princess") is 53. Country singer Regina Leigh of Regina Regina is 53. Country singer Brady Seals is 52. Actor Megan

Hilty is 40. Keyboardist PJ Morton of Maroon 5 is 40.

Tuesday: TV personality Peter Marshall is 95. Actor John Astin is 91. Actor Warren Beatty is 84. Drummer Graeme Edge of the Moody Blues is 80. Musician Eric Clapton is 76. Actor Paul Reiser is 65. Rapper MC Hammer is 59. Actor Ian Ziering ("Beverly Hills 90210") is 57. **Singer Tracy Chapman is 57.** TV personality Piers Morgan is 56. Drummer Joey Castillo (Danzig, Queens of the Stone Age) is 45. Rapper Tony Jones is 42. Actor Fiona Gubelmann ("The Good Doctor") is 41. Actor Katy Mixon ("Mike and Molly") is 40. Country singer Justin Moore is 37. Actor Tessa Ferrer ("Grey's Anatomy") is 35. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 30. Rapper NF is 30.

Wednesday: Actor William Daniels ("St. Elsewhere," "Boy Meets World") is 94. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 87. Actor Shirley Jones is 87. Musician Herb Alpert is 86. Actor Christopher Walken is 78. Comedian Gabe Kaplan ("Welcome Back Kotter") is 77. Guitarist Mick Ralphs of Bad Company and of Mott



Stone Age) is 55. Actor Donna D'Errico ("Baywatch") is 53. Singer Celine Dion is 53. TV personality Richard Rawlings ("Fast N' Loud," "Garage Rehab") is 52. Actor Mark Consuelos ("Riverdale") is 50. Actor Bahar Soomekh ("Saw" films) is 46. Actor Jessica Cauffiel ("Legally Blonde" films) is 45. Singer Norah Jones is 42. Actor Fiona Gubelmann ("The Good Doctor") is 41. Actor Katy Mixon ("Mike and Molly") is 40. Country singer Justin Moore is 37. Actor Tessa Ferrer ("Grey's Anatomy") is 35. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 30. Rapper NF is 30.



Singer Celine Dion turns 53 on Tuesday.

BRIAN PURNELL

The Hoopie is 77. Actor Rhea Perlman ("Cheers") is 73. Actor Robbie Coltrane ("Harry Potter" films) is 71. Actor Ed Marinaro ("Hill Street Blues," "Sisters") is 71. Guitarist Angus Young of AC/DC is 66. Bassist Bob Crawford of The Avett Brothers is 50. Actor Ewan McGregor is 50. Actor Erica Tazel ("Queen Sugar," "The Good Fight") is 46. Rapper Tony Yayo is 43. Actor-musician Kate Micucci ("Raising Hope," comedy duo Garfunkel and Oates) is 41. Actor Brian Tyree Henry ("Atlanta" "Book of Mormon") is 39. Actor Melissa Ordway ("The Young and the Restless") is 38. Jazz trumpeter Christian Scott is 38. Guitarist Jack

and Allen Hughes ("Menace II Society," "Dead Presidents") are 49. **MSNBC host Rachel Maddow is 48.** Actor David Oyelowo ("Selma," "The Butler") is 45. Actor Sam Huntington ("Superman Returns," "Jungle 2 Jungle") is 39. Actor Taran Killam ("12 Years a Slave," "Saturday Night Live") is 39. Actor Matt Lanter ("90210") is 38. Singer Hillary Scott of Lady A (formerly Lady Antebellum) is 35. Drummer Arejay Hale of Halestorm is 34. Actor Asa Butterfield ("Hugo," "Nanny McPhee Returns") is 24.

Friday: Actor Linda Hunt is 76. Actor Sam Anderson ("Lost," "ER," "Perfect Strangers") is 74. Singer Emmylou Harris is 74. Actor Pamela Reed is 72. Drummer Dave Robinson of The Cars is 72. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 60. Actor Christopher Meloni ("Law and Order: Special Victims Unit") is 60. Singer Keren Woodward of Bananarama is 60. Country singer Billy Dean is 59. Actor Clark Gregg ("Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," "The New Adventures of Old Christine") is 59. Actor Jana Marie Hupp ("Ed") is 57. Guitarist Greg Camp (Smash Mouth) is 54. Guitarist Tony Fredianelli of Third Eye Blind is 52. Actor Roselyn Sanchez (TV's "Grand Hotel," "Without a Trace") is 48. Actor Pedro Pascal ("Game of Thrones") is 46. Actor Adam Rodriguez ("Criminal Minds," "CSI: Miami") is 46. Actor Michael Fassbender ("Shame," "Inglourious

Basterds") is 44. Keyboardist Jesse Carmichael of Maroon 5 is 42. Actor Bethany Joy Lenz ("One Tree Hill") is 40. Singer Lee Deweyze ("American Idol") is 35. Country singer Chris Janson is 35. Actor Drew Van Acker ("Training Day," "Pretty Little Liars") is 35. Actor Jesse Plemons (TV's "Fargo," "Breaking Bad") is 33.

Saturday: Actor Marsha Mason is 79. Singer Wayne Newton is 79. Singer Tony Orlando is 77. Singer Richard Thompson is 72. Bassist Curtis Stone of Highway 101 is 71. Guitarist Mick Mars of Motley Crue is 65. Actor Alec Baldwin is 63. Actor David Hyde Pierce ("Frasier") is 62. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 60. Singer-guitarist Mike Ness of Social Distortion is 59. Singer Sebastian Bach (Skid Row) is 53. Actor Jennie Garth ("Beverly Hills 90210") is 49. Actor Adam Scott ("Parks and Recreation") is 48.



is 39. Singer Leona Lewis is 36. Actor Amanda Bynes is 35. Actor Rachel Bloom ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend") is 34. Actor Hayley Kiyoko ("CSI: Cyber") is 30. Bassist Sam Kiszka of Greta Van Fleet is 22.

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