

GUESS WHAT?



AP/CHRIS PIZZELLO

Michael Douglas near end of throat cancer treatment

LOS ANGELES: Oscar-winning actor Michael Douglas has almost completed a grueling eight weeks of chemotherapy and radiation to treat advanced throat cancer, his publicist said.

Douglas, 66, has one more treatment left this week and then "no further treatments are scheduled," the publicist Allen Burry told *People* magazine.

"He's really happy about it ending," Burry added.

The star of two *Wall Street* movies announced in August that he had stage 4 throat cancer but that doctors were optimistic about the outcome.

Burry said that Douglas, who was pictured this week walking his daughter to school in New York City, will need a six-week recovery period followed by periodic check-ups.

Douglas, who is married to British actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, won an Oscar for playing scheming broker Gordon Gekko in 1987 movie *Wall Street* and reprised the role in the sequel *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* which was released last month. — Reuters

Juliette Lewis 'banged up' but okay after car crash

LOS ANGELES: Actress Juliette Lewis was hospitalized briefly after a car in which she was riding was involved in a collision, but she is now home and resting, her spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Lewis, whose movie credits include *Natural Born Killers*, was returning home Wednesday night from an event for her upcoming movie *Conviction* when a sedan in which she was riding was hit broadside by another car, which fled the scene.

"Ms. Lewis went to the hospital to be checked out and is a bit banged up and sore but otherwise thankfully okay. She is now resting at home," her representative said in a statement.

— Reuters



AP/CHRIS PIZZELLO

Justin Timberlake prefers vinyl to MP3s

BERLIN: Justin Timberlake says he thinks vinyl records sound better than digitalized tunes.

The 29-year-old pop musician and actor told German newspaper *Frankfurter Rundschau* on Thursday that he loves putting on records featuring oldies from the Beach Boys and early Beatles, claiming they "sound warmer" and "more vintage" than digital versions.

Still, the singer acknowledges that MP3 files are handy for selling his own songs online.

Timberlake currently stars as Napster founder Sean Parker in *The Social Network*, a biopic about Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg. Napster clashed with the music industry over illegal sharing of music files. But Timberlake expressed sympathy for his character, saying he believes Parker really didn't harm the record labels. — AP



AP/THIBAUULT CAMUS

DEBORAH GABINETTI

Putting Indonesia on film

Bruce Emond

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

During a Jakarta media gathering for the upcoming 4th annual Balinale International Film Festival, festival co-founder and director Deborah Gabinetti listens intently to fellow Bali Taksu Indonesia Foundation member Christine Hakim.

As the internationally acclaimed Indonesian actress embarks on a colorful tangent about shooting the film *Eat, Pray, Love* and how it will showcase Indonesia's filmmaking opportunities internationally, the American gently nods and smiles in agreement.

A longtime resident of Indonesia, first in Jakarta in the early 1990s before moving to Bali 12 years ago, Gabinetti is a veteran of the marketing world and knows the importance of getting the message across, hitting the salient points and making the audience sit up and take notice. It is at the core of her activities with the festival, which aims to introduce Indonesia's potential to international filmmakers.

"Indonesia is perhaps the most diverse location in the world, there is very little visual background that cannot be provided for any action or era," Gabinetti said. "And being so vast and geographically and culturally diverse means the country has a wealth of untapped resources, hidden filming locations and a talented pool of creative individuals."

The Balinale International Film Festival, with Gabinetti working with partner Inneke Indriyani since 2007, has been the sounding board to spread the word.

"I always believed that a film festival creates a positive image of a destination and that one on Bali would expose the island and Indonesia's many potential film locations

to the global film industry," she said.

In the first year, the women started small, reaching out to local filmmakers and past acquaintances for permission to use their films, and trying in the process to network and gain recognition on the international film festival circuit.

But a chance encounter with Christine Hakim on a Bali-Jakarta flight added another dimension to the festival. Gabinetti says she has always believed in fate.

"We spent the 1.5-hour flight talking about the festival and she passionately shared her ideas about the local film industry and the benefits of bringing film projects to the country."

The three women formed the Bali Taksu Indonesia Foundation with these shared aims, and in the past few years the festival has gained in prominence, Gabinetti says.

"Now we have many films submitted from around the world, and the festival is gaining a reputation as the caliber of films grows. With this comes a networking arena for international filmmakers and the potential for future productions. We not only have created this arena for others, but the festival is now being looked at as a platform of interest for upcoming films and filmmakers."

Eat, Pray, Love, which will open this year's festival on October 12, is another chapter in the festival's story. Gabinetti said she flew to Los Angeles when she learned that Plan B Entertainment had bought the rights to Elizabeth Gilbert's book. Producers reportedly weighed using other locations to substitute for

Bali, and Gabinetti says it was crucial to get them to experience Bali first-hand.

Five months later, executive producer Stan Wlodkowski called to express interest in a visit, and the festival with the support of the Culture and Tourism Ministry scheduled his trip to coincide with the second Balinale.

"He had the opportunity to meet the local film industry, see quality Indonesian films and visit the Bali locations featured in the book. We knew that once we got him here we had him hooked, but it meant us taking the first step."

A month later, Wlodkowski returned with other important members of his team to scout locations and determine the logistics of shooting.

One film will not be a thriving industry make, of course, and the focus on Bali may lead some to think that the famed island will continue to get the lion's share of close-ups. Gabinetti counters that the festival has always been about showcasing Indonesia in its entirety, with promotions at international film industry events, trade shows and film festivals, whether it is for feature films, documentaries, TV series or commercials.

The smooth filming of *Eat, Pray, Love* in Bali is reaping benefits, she adds.

"This is a small industry and word is already out that we were able to successfully service a major motion picture. Scripts are being sent, and several projects are in serious discussion."

Gabinetti's experience in the film



COURTESY OF DEBORAH GABINETTI

world, and also in Indonesia, would be worthy of its own screen treatment. A native of Springfield, Massachusetts, she loved acting from an early age.

She went to New York City in the early 1980s to pursue her acting dreams, but realized her true talent was on the other side of the camera, beginning as a casting director.

A few years later, a director friend was set to shoot a movie in Jakarta, and Gabinetti says she joked to him to call her if he needed help. As luck would have it, he did — and Gabinetti has been in Indonesia ever since.

"I was overwhelmed by Jakarta," she said. "Although I had come from a big city, the smells, the sounds and the people were all so foreign to me, every day was such a challenge. Slowly I met some Indonesians who became lifelong friends, they remain an extremely important part of my life."

In 1998, during the Asian economic crisis, job opportunities became harder to come by and Gabinetti de-

decided to move to Bali, crossing over from the stereotyped expat spheres of the stressed-out Jakarta to that of the laid-back Balinese.

"Bali was a place of escape during holidays, but I never thought I would make it my home, just that it would be temporary until I could move back to Jakarta. That never happened."

Like Mr. Right-seeking author Gilbert, Gabinetti was entranced by the island. She says that living in Bali has given her a newfound focus, outside of her own needs, although naturally a big part of it remains squarely on film.

"Personally, I want to continue to grow through the experiences that the festival gives me, the interactions I have with those involved, and to see Balinale become a player on the international film circuit," she said.

The Balinale 2010 International Film Festival runs until Oct. 17.

TONI BRAXTON

Grammy Award winner files for second bankruptcy in LA

Anthony McCartney

ASSOCIATED PRESS/LOS ANGELES

Toni Braxton has filed for bankruptcy a second time, citing millions of dollars in debt and financial problems exacerbated by a heart condition that forced her to cancel a series of Las Vegas shows.

The filing will likely result in the six-time Grammy Award winner having to sell some of her assets to pay off debts listed in court records as ranging between US\$10 million and \$50 million.

Her attorney, Debra Grassgreen, said in a statement the filing will al-

low Braxton to pay off tax debts, sell heavily indebted property in Atlanta and still care for her children.

Braxton has had high-profile health issues in recent years. In 2008, she was forced to cancel a series of Las Vegas shows after experiencing chest pains that were later diagnosed as microvascular angina. Later that year, she performed on the ABC series *Dancing with the Stars* but missed the finale while recovering from removal of a benign breast tumor.

Grassgreen said the Vegas show cancellations left Braxton, 43, saddled with debts from which she could not recover.

The singer and her company Lib-

erty Entertainment filed for bankruptcy Sept. 30, court records show. The filing was first reported Thursday by celebrity website TMZ.

"This was a very difficult decision for Ms. Braxton," Grassgreen said. "However, after months of trying to work out an acceptable arrangement with her principal creditors, she determined that the only way to assure that she could meet her tax obligations and provide for her two small children was to commence these bankruptcy cases."

Braxton has assets worth up to \$10 million, her filing states. She previously filed for bankruptcy in 1998.

Grassgreen's statement said Braxton is currently in good health.



JP/RICKY YUDHISTIRA

Known for songs such as *Un-Break My Heart* and *Breathe Again*, Braxton sued Lloyd's of London, which had insured her for the Las Vegas performances in case they had to be canceled. The insurer denied her claim, stating she had a pre-existing condition, and court re-

ords show the case was dismissed on Sept. 20.

Braxton's spokeswoman Jennifer Mercer said the case was "settled to the satisfaction of all parties".

Grassgreen said the bankruptcy will not prevent Braxton from future performances.

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA

Acclaimed Peruvian author wins Nobel literature prize

Karl Ritter and Malin Rising

ASSOCIATED PRESS/STOCKHOLM

Peruvian Mario Vargas Llosa won the 2010 Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday as the academy honored one of the Spanish-speaking world's most acclaimed authors and an outspoken political activist who once ran for president in his tumultuous homeland.

Vargas Llosa, 74, has written more than 30 novels, plays and essays, including *Conversation in the Cathedral* and *The Green House*. In 1995, he won the Cervantes Prize, the most distinguished literary honor in Spanish.

He is the first South American winner of the prestigious 10 million kronor (US\$1.5 million) Nobel literature prize since Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez won in 1982 and the first Spanish-language writer to win since Mexico's Octavio Paz



AP/BEBETO MATTHEWS

in 1990.

"I am very grateful to the Swedish Academy. It is totally unexpected, a real surprise," Vargas Llosa told reporters in New York. "I think it is, for any writer, a great encouragement, a recognition of a world."

The Swedish Academy said

it honored him for mapping the "structures of power and [for] his trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt and defeat." Its permanent secretary, Peter Englund, called him "a divinely gifted storyteller" whose writing touched the reader.

"His books are often very complex in composition, having different perspectives, different voices and different time places," Englund said. "He is also doing it in a new way, he has helped evolve the art of the narration."

Peru's president, Alan Garcia, praised Vargas Llosa for his "eminent intelligence" and "libertarian and democratic spirit."

"[This award is] an enormous act of justice that in truth we have been waiting for since our youth," Garcia said.

In the past six years, the academy had rewarded five Europeans and one Turk with the literature Nobel, sparking criticism that it was too Eu-

ro-centric. Last year's award went to German writer Herta Mueller.

The Swedish Academy has also previously been accused of favoring left-leaning writers, although the 16-member panel says its decisions are made on literary merit alone.

"I thought that the academy was not recognizing me but all Latin American literature," said Vargas Llosa, who had been mentioned as a possible Nobel candidate for many years.

He has previously won some of the Western world's most prestigious literary medals and his works have been translated into 31 languages, including Chinese, Croatian, Hebrew and Arabic.

His writing is almost universally admired in Latin America but his gradual shift from the left toward an embrace of free-market capitalism has put him at odds with much of the hemisphere's intellectual elite.

Vargas Llosa has feuded with Venezuela's leftist President Hugo

Chavez and often tosses barbs at Cuba's Fidel Castro. He irritated his centrist friend Paz, the late Mexican Nobel literature laureate, by playfully describing Mexico's political system — which was dominated at the time by a single party — as "the perfect dictatorship."

In a famous 1976 incident in Mexico City, Vargas Llosa punched out former friend Garcia Marquez, whom he would later ridicule as "Castro's courtesan." It was never clear whether the fight was over politics or a personal dispute and the two have reportedly not spoken in decades.

Vargas Llosa emerged as a leader among the so-called "Boom" or "New Wave" of Latin American writers, bursting into the literary scene in 1963 with his groundbreaking debut novel *The Time of the Hero (La Ciudad y los Perros)*, which builds on his experiences at the Peruvian military academy Leoncio Prado.