In this May 24, 2016, file photo, Dixie Chicks, from left, Emily Robison, Natalie Maines and Martie Maguire, wave to the crowd as they perform in New York. The Dixie Chicks are adding more concerts to their US tour that starts this summer. The band announced yesterday that nine more dates in September are being added to their US tour, including stops in Louisville, Kentucky; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and New Orleans. The Grammy-winning country group starts the tour on June 1 in Cincinnati and wraps on Oct. 10 at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

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Dixie Chicks add dates to US tour

LGBT inclusion in films static, diversity drops, study says

Hollywood remains static in its portrayal of LGBT characters in 2015, but the racial diversity of those characters hit a new high, according to the findings of GLAAD’s annual study. It is a survey released yesterday by the advocacy group, 17.5 percent of last year’s films from the seven major studios contained characters who were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Through unchanged in total percentage from last year, the racial diversity of the LGBT characters has plummeted. Last year 32.7 percent of the LGBT characters portrayed in the 126 films were people of color. This year, it is down to 25.3 percent.

Increased scrutiny of its diversity

The revelation comes at a time of increased scrutiny around the inclusion of people of color in Hollywood films, following a second year of all-white Oscar nominees in the acting categories and a damning USC report on diversity in the industry. Many times, too, the LGBT characters are used as a punchline, targets, or the butt of a joke. "The unconscionable truth is that for every major Hollywood studio that produced films last year, there was at least one that did not have a single LGBT character." -GLAAD

The report provides LGBT-focused synopses on many of the films counted, and many which were not, giving explanations as to why portrayals were positive or negative, or lambasting films for their "sexist" behavior.

Going forward, an "adequate" grade will no longer be acceptable, according to the report. Next year GLAAD will hold the studios to a higher standard with the use of a five-star scale. The studio’s art house divisions, like Focus Features and Fox Searchlight, fared better overall. Of the 46 films surveyed, 22 percent were LGBT-inclusive, up from 10.6 percent last year with releases like “The Danish Girl,” “Grandma” and “Chi-Raq.”

Notable 2015 films like the romance “Carol” and the disaster film “Straight Outta Compton” were given a failing grade because none of the films counted, and many which were not, giving explanations as to why portrayals were positive or negative, or lambasting films for their "sexist" behavior. Going forward, an "adequate" grade will no longer be acceptable, according to the report. Next year GLAAD will hold the studios to a higher standard with the use of a five-star scale. The studio’s art house divisions, like Focus Features and Fox Searchlight, fared better overall. Of the 46 films surveyed, 22 percent were LGBT-inclusive, up from 10.6 percent last year with releases like “The Danish Girl,” “Grandma” and “Chi-Raq.”

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Cosmo editor writing guide to modern love

Cosmopolitan Editor-in-Chief Joanna Coles is working on a “no-nonsense” guide to some very old subjects in a very new world: sex and intimacy.

Harpers, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers said yesterday that it plans to release a book by Coles in 2018. The book currently is untitled. According to Harper, Coles will take on what she considers a “new sexual revolution” and offer advice for how to find “sustaining love” when all the rules have changed.

The 54-year-old Coles has been Cosmopolitan’s editor-in-chief since 2012. She says in a statement issued through Harper that she is drawing upon hundreds of conversations with young women to “suggest some guidelines” that can be used “for surviving the digital disruptions to our love lives.”

The Titanic and WWII inspire Brian Eno’s ‘The Ship’

Brian Eno combines ambient textures with distancing vocals and a thrilling cover of a Lou Reed tune on “The Ship,” a powerful, challenging and gloomy recording that ends in bright resolution. Eno draws from what he sees as similar historical events, the sinking of the Titanic and World War I, and his idea that “the hubris of our over-grown power contracts with the paranoia that we’re permanently and increasingly under threat.” The album’s 21-minute title cut reflects the soundscape of the ocean’s depth before Eno, singing like a Byzantine choir of foghorns, delivers the eulogy. Later, ghostly voices depict the aftermath, how it is now just “waves, after wave, after wave, after wave.”

The second track, “Fickle Sun,” has three sections. The transition from “The Ship” is initially smooth, the tragedy on the sea also enveloping the balladists. Eno’s register rises, his voice sounding the land where “all the boys are going down, falling over one by one” and humans are “turning back to play.” Darkness and sound clash evoke the combat and a horrified survivor repeatedly recounts “When I was a young soldier.”

At the close, a bright light shows through the ocean and across the Front - a sumptuous, harmony- drenched version of The Velvet Underground’s “I’m Set Free.” It’s about release, but it has a catch - “I’m not free to find a new balance.” Eno keeps us up in the dark for most of “The Ship” and it’s tainting. There’s hope, however, that this chaos of hubris and paranoia can be broken.

Radiohead social media goes blank, raising album hopes

Radiohead’s social media profiles went blank yesterday as speculation mounted that the Brit-folk band was about to release a new album. All posts, pictures and details from the band’s Twitter and Facebook accounts were deleted, along with tweets by lead singer Thom Yorke.

Radiohead is known for a sense of mystery in its music and life around the world from May 20 and will play eight festivals later in the year. The band has not released any details of its new album other than to confirm it has been in the studio. The new album would be the band’s ninth, following 2011’s The King of Limbs and 2007’s In Rainbows. Radiohead has said more than 30 million albums since its release but that in 2010, some Radiohead fans in Britain have received a mysterious leaflet in the post which said “The Long Lost Paparazzi That Give Me The Kiss When You Live” it was embedded with a ring associated with the band.

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