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## International press celebrated Zeina Dabbous's experience

The Lebanese Canadian Artist Zeina Dabbous is preparing for many upcoming projects under LOYAC Performing Arts Academy "LAPA". Zeina also expressed her happiness to present an art workshop with artist Amira Behbehani soon. The American 123 ART newspaper celebrated Zeina's activities with LOYAC Performing Arts Academy "LAPA" and had an interview with her, where she said: "As a self-taught artist, I believe in the journey of self-discovery through art, as well as emphasizing conceptualization. Creativity starts with an idea, and that should be the most important factor."

Zeina said that she benefited from her multicultural upbringing, which was positively reflected in her distinguished artistic work in addition to her keenness to repre-

sent women in her work, she said: "The evolution of my figurative and portrait work to embody women was, in the beginning, a subconscious effort. Slowly, as I experimented with this new work, I would gravitate towards women's representation and empowerment with more intent whatever the project. My message in my work is to showcase women's beauty, femininity, and above all their power and strength. Much of my work reflects women in isolation striking a strong pose. This is a clear intent that I believe women derive their strength from themselves; that invisible force women possess seemingly by instinct is something I always want to reflect in my artwork."

When asked about the biggest challenges she faces in her career, she said that Maintaining her true identity in her art-



Photos show the Lebanese Canadian Artist Zeina Dabbous.

work and not succumbing to more popular styles. She said: "I overcome this challenge by reminding myself how I harshly oppose artists that are just copying each other and are not being strong enough to create their own identity".

As for her advice to young artists, she

said: "They need to push themselves out of their comfort zones; to create artworks or participate in projects that challenge them or have themes that normally do not interest them, in order to learn new skills. Had I not done the same, I would not be the artist I am today nor would I have a strong knowledge of what my identity is or even know how to reflect that in my artworks".

It is known that Zeina Dabbous is a Lebanese Canadian visual artist and head of the Fine Arts Department at LAPA. She is a creative person with her own artistic sense that can be noticed when viewing her work at first glance, and this distinct sense is what led her to exhibit, sell and publish many of her works on the largest international platforms.



## In Algeria, ancient history provokes modern controversy

The erection of the statue of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh in Algeria in anticipation of the Berber new year has caused a storm on social media among Algerians and Egyptians alike. Local authorities in the town of Tizi Ouzou, Kabylie, commissioned the four-meter-plus statue of the Pharaoh Sheshonq I-Chachnaq, in the Berber language from two young artists and it was unveiled on Friday, according to local media. The pharaoh reputedly had Berber heritage. "I venture that we are displaying a flippancy in the face of history by taking the step of erecting a statue of an Egyptian pharaoh on the premise of his vague Berber origins and of whom we know little," swiped Djamel Allilat on Facebook.

On Twitter, the hashtag "Chachnaq is Egyptian" trended among citizens of both nations, as the net users insisted that the ancient ruler's history was the purview of

ancient Egypt and not the Maghreb. Historian Fouad Soufi told AFP Chachnaq was "one of the most significant generals in Egyptian pharaonic" history. "He took power around 945 BC amid a succession crisis and the foundation of a dynasty." While he is credited with Berber origins, he was "completely Egyptianized and turned towards Palestine", Soufi added. The date of January 12, 950 BC, was chosen by Berber activists as the starting point of their calendar, on the basis that it was believed to be Chachnaq's accession date. But his enthronement is "difficult" to pin down, noted the historian, who described both the chosen day and year as "arbitrary". Celebrations of the Berber new year were muted this year due to restrictions imposed to control the spread of the novel coronavirus. — AFP

## ROMANIAN DIRECTOR SNUBS AWARD TO PROTEST CRISIS FACING FILM INDUSTRY

Romanian director Alexander Nanau, who won global praise for a documentary about a 2015 fire disaster, on Tuesday spurned a national award to protest the crisis facing the film industry in his country. Romania had promised aid for cinemas and the film industry like the help extended to the hospitality sector during the coronavirus pandemic but has yet to fulfill that pledge. "It would be hypocritical on my part to accept this award while the film industry is in a state of clinical death", Nanau wrote in a letter to President Klaus Iohannis. The 41-year-old was to receive the Cultural Merit medal on January 15, Romania's Day of Culture.



In this file photo Romanian-born German director Alexander Nanau poses after he was awarded with the 2016 Prix France Culture des Etudiants (2016 France Culture Students Prize) for his documentary film "Toto si surorile lui" (Toto et ses Soeurs - Toto and his Sisters) on the sidelines of the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes. — AFP

Nanau's documentary, "Collective" recounts the corruption and incompetence in Romania's healthcare system in the aftermath of a fire in a Bucharest nightclub killed 64 people in 2015. The director urged Romanian authorities to "implement concrete solutions to save this sector" warning that "most production houses, independent theatres, cinemas and distribution companies will already be closed when the health crisis comes to an end". Romania's culture ministry on Tuesday said Nanau's assertions were "ill-disposed and baseless", adding that his documentary received state subsidies amounting to around 300,000 euros (\$ 364,000). "Collective" is Romania's entry for this year's Oscars and is considered a strong candidate in the Documentary Feature category. It has already won the European Film Award prize for best documentary, while the US National Society of Film Critics awarded it the best foreign language film prize. Former US President Barack Obama included "Collective" on his list of favorite films from 2020. — AFP

## Beyonce named most inspiring female star for body positivity

Beyonce has been named the most inspiring female celebrity for body positivity. A survey carried out by yoghurt brand Activia found that the 'Halo' hitmaker and the likes of Lizzo, Adele, Rebel Wilson, Jameela Jamil and Chrissy Teigen are the stars people find most empowering when it comes to body acceptance. In 2018, Beyonce, 39, opened up about how she changed her approach after putting "pressure" on herself to look how society says she should. She shared: "After the birth of my first child, I believed in the things society said about how my body should look. I put pressure on myself to lose all the baby weight in three months, and scheduled a small tour to assure I would do it. Looking back, that was crazy. I was still breastfeeding when I performed the Revel shows in Atlantic City in 2012. After the twins, I approached things very differently."

'Strictly Come Dancing' host Tess Daly - who is a spokesperson for Activia - is also included in the Top 10 and spoke of the importance of being "kinder to ourselves". The 51-year-old presenter said: "We've given up enough over the last year so we need to be kinder to ourselves and look at all of the ways that we can improve our overall wellbeing. I know that when I look after my gut, I feel better for it so I am hoping to use my own experience to encourage people not to overlook it and look at the small changes you can make that will improve your gut health." The study also found 33-year-old Hollywood star Zac Efron - who loves to pose shirtless for selfies - to be the top body positive male celebrity.

The list also features Harry Styles, Sam Smith, Chris Pratt, James Corden and Jonathan Van Ness. Elsewhere, the research revealed the body part people love the most is their legs. While over half (65 per cent) of the adults surveyed said they felt confident in their body and a quarter plan to look after their gut health

in 2021. Sarah Dossett, Marketing Director at Activia said: "We believe that this year people shouldn't focus on losing their gut but learning to love it instead. We are passionate about happy guts and know the impact it can have on our overall wellbeing and in turn body positivity. We're thrilled that the research has come back so strong at a time when many re-evaluate their goals and we hope that we can continue to support our customers this way."



Beyonce

## Top 10 celebrities to inspire body positivity for women:

Beyonce  
Giovanna Fletcher  
Serena Williams  
Adele  
Rebel Wilson  
Tess Daly  
Lizzo  
Jameela Jamil  
Chrissy Teigen  
Nadia Sawalha

## Top 10 celebrities to inspire body positivity for men:

Zac Efron  
Joe Wicks  
Chris Pratt  
Olly Murs  
James Corden  
Robbie Williams  
Sam Smith  
Craig David  
Jonathan Van Ness  
Harry Styles —BangShowbiz

## Riz Ahmed recently got married

The 38-year-old actor let slip that he recently tied the knot after explaining he decided to stay in California after finishing a recent work project because it is where his "wife's family" is from. Riz appeared on Louis Theroux's podcast 'Grounded' when he made the revelation, prompting the broadcaster to say: "You mentioned a wife and I feel very embarrassed to say I didn't realize you were married! His guest replied: "Not very long actually, I think it's the first time I've ever mentioned it in an interview. So, congratulations on this incredibly exciting scoop!"

The 'Night Of' star admitted he doesn't talk about his personal life very much because he doesn't think it's "relevant" to his career, but felt it was a good idea to speak about losing family members to coronavirus in the hope it would help people take the pandemic more seriously. He said: "I mean, I guess I don't really feel it's generally that relevant so I don't really delve into my personal life or my dating history or even family life much and to be



Riz Ahmed

honest the main reason I decided to share more publicly about my uncle and aunt who passed away, because I felt like there are a lot of people who weren't taking COVID seriously. "So I felt like talking about it and saying hey look, this is a real thing, it's affected me and my family."

"You know, talking about it, a spoken word piece that touched on that as well. Yeah, I guess I'm, I don't feel like it's that necessary to go hey here's everything that's happening in my life." Riz was previously romantically linked to writer and filmmaker Anya Raza and she accompanied him to the 2018 Golden Globe awards. Radio 4's 'Grounded with Louis Theroux' is available now on BBC Sounds.

—Bang Showbiz

## GIGI HADID'S BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO 'ZADDY' ZAYN MALIK



Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik

Gigi Hadid has thanked Zayn Malik for "making [her] a mamma". The 25-year-old model - who gave birth to the couple's daughter in September - shared a touching tribute to the 'Pillowtalk' hitmaker on his 28th birthday on Tuesday, nicknaming her partner "Zaddy baba". Alongside a photo of the couple dressed up and a drawing of Zayn holding a baby, she wrote on Instagram: "Team No Sleep! Happiest birthday to our Zaddy baba. So special. Love you long time, thank you for makin me a mamma to the best girl ever [smiling emoji] Wish you the best every single day.(sic)" Gigi also shared photos from the former One Direction singer's celebrations on her Instagram Story, which included a number of arcade games, sweet treats in a retro gaming theme, dozens of balloons, and confetti and party hats adorned with Zayn's face.

Zayn's birthday came a day after the family celebrated Gigi's mother, Yolanda Hadid's big day on Monday. Gigi wrote

on Instagram earlier this week: "Celebrated mamma's bday tonight @yolanda.hadid. "Every year, I think I couldn't love, look up to, or learn from her more-and then I do. She's the best mom and Oma we could ever ask for. So blessed. I LOVE YOU, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. Wishing you the best year.(sic) Her mom replied: "I love you baby, thank you for a beautiful dinner at home." Yolanda used her own account to reflect on her birthday and hailed her granddaughter as the biggest "blessing" in her life. Originally sharing a photo of the tot's face, which she quickly removed and changed for a different photo of herself and the baby, she wrote: "My birthday blessings... When I woke up this morning and counted all my blessings in life this little Angel was ranked #1. It's a whole new feeling, I'm feeling.... a part of my heart I didn't know existed....(sic)". — Bang Showbiz

## Teigen gets Legend's song lyrics tattooed down her spine

Chrissy Teigen has had John Legend's lyrics tattooed down her spine. The 'Lip Sync Battle' star paid a visit to tattoo artist Winter Stone aka Daniel Winter to have the title of 'Ooh Laa' etched down her back, and documented the process in a video she shared to Instagram. The three-minute clip largely features footage of the tattoo, but midway through, John asked his wife if she remembered the first time she heard the song, which features on his seventh studio album 'Bigger Love', but she didn't. She said: "I don't remember! I remember the first time I heard 'All of Me', I remember the first time I heard...honestly, most of your songs. But not this one." John replied: "I remember. It was in our bedroom. We had to test run it to make sure it worked. It worked. "We actually played it on repeat the first time. It was a good conversation starter." Winter Stone also shared a photo of Chrissy's tattoo tribute to her husband.

He wrote alongside the black and white image: "What a blessing to honor

Chrissy with this ooh laa tattoo down her spine. "John wrote this sexy song for her so naturally she should have it tattooed on her right?!?! And if you haven't heard BIGGER LOVE John's new album: listen it's so good!(sic)" Chrissy's new tattoo comes shortly after the 35-year-old star - who has Luna, four, and Miles, two, with husband John Legend - had her nose pierced twice. The brunette beauty had to repeat the process because the first attempt didn't work. Posting a clip on Instagram, Chrissy wrote: "Second time's the charm." The model explained last month how she had got her nose pierced during her holiday in St. Barts, although it quickly healed up and fell out "immediately" after she had it done. Alongside a picture of her nose pierced, she wrote on Twitter: "So I did this today and it immediately fell out and healed the second she left because she did it wrong lmao." She continued: "Like how do you do it wrong? It's a hole, through the nose. It's like jerry seinfeld's bobsledding joke.—Bang Showbiz



Chrissy Teigen and John Legend