

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Fonda, Tomei to take the stage in Bombay version of 'Vagina Monologues'



TOMEI

BOMBAY, India (AP) — Jane Fonda and Marisa Tomei are joining Indian and Pakistani actresses in performances of "The Vagina Monologues" on a Bombay stage to mark Monday's International Women's Day, the movie stars said.

"Violence comes in many forms and affects women all over the world," said Fonda, who is to appear in three performances.

She and Tomei are taking part in a series of worldwide events organized by the nonprofit V-Day Foundation, led by "The Vagina Monologues" playwright Eve Ensler to raise money and awareness about violence against women. Fonda said that despite her film success, money and fame, she took the back seat in all three of her marriages.

"Behind the closed doors of my marriage, I would give up all my power. I would silence my own voice to be accepted," the 66-year-old said. "My whole life was about pleasing my man."

Fonda was last married to billionaire media mogul Ted Turner. They wed in 1991 and divorced 10 years later. Tomei, 39, described having performed in "The Vagina Monologues" in the United States as a liberating experience.

"It's important to honor the point of view of the other half of the population and hear the voices of those who are not normally heard," she said.

Former NFL star to vie for seat on Essex County Township Council

MONTCLAIR, N.J. (AP) — New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan has a different kind of victory in mind: a seat on the local Township Council.

Strahan, 32, said Sunday that he'd seek an at-large seat on the gov-

erning body in this Essex County community. The election is scheduled for May 11, and his campaign platform will emphasize preserving historic structures, improving recreation areas and controlling development.

He and his wife, Jean, moved here four years and have restored a 1906 Georgian mansion in the township's Upper Montclair section.

Strahan has been active in several local and national charitable causes, including the Starlight Children's Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and Housing Enterprises for the Less Fortunate.

Several decades into music, Bowie to enter new musical experimentation phase



BOWIE

TOKYO (AP) — David Bowie, pushing 60, says he's headed for another experimental phase.

Speaking in Tokyo to start this week's Japan leg of his world tour, Bowie said he's stripping down his act to try out some new approaches.

"I'm heading for another period of experimentation," he said. "(I'm at) a time when I'm collecting myself before I break all my own rules."

The iconic artist has gone through various personas during his more than three-decade career — Ziggy Stardust, the Thin White Duke, Philadelphia soul man, avant-garde rocker.

Now, he said, he wants to focus on his songwriting and singing. "It's probably the simplest tour that I've ever done," he said, dressed in gray cargo pants and a hooded sweat shirt. "This is very stripped down. It's really not working with theatrics at all."

The tour is Bowie's first world tour since 1995. He released his latest album, Reality, last September.

The 57-year-old said it's harder to get his music heard these days, especially on radio stations, because of his age. But he added that he enjoys seeing life get simpler as he ages.

"I was quite scared of getting old in my 40s," he said. "But as I approach 60 ... you learn to embrace getting older."

Country music singer Travis' tour bus hits ditch in eastern Pennsylvania

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A tour bus carrying country singer Travis ran into a ditch in eastern Pennsylvania, but no one was injured.

The 45-foot, customized bus careened into a driveway Sunday afternoon and then went into the ditch on state Road 590 near Lakeville, Pa., said Elizabeth Travis, the singer's wife.

The Traveses and driver Jeff Davis were the only ones on the bus. After two tow trucks pulled the bus from the ditch, Travis continued to a performance Sunday night two miles away at a Caesar's resort in Pennsylvania.

"It was scary," Elizabeth Travis said in a telephone interview. "The machine went flying across the bus into the corner. We were very lucky."

American Film Institute honors Keaton with AFI Star Award for comedy



KEATON

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Diane Keaton won the AFI Star Award on the final night of the 10th Comedy Arts Festival.

"Simply being awkward, scared and wrong is what figure I have in romantic comedy," Keaton said, accepting the award from the CEO of the American Film Institute, Jean Picker Firstenberg.

Throughout her 30-plus career Keaton has grown up in front of audiences, portraying an ingenue in Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," a single mother in "Boo!" a jilted wife in "The First Wives Club" and in 2003, a 50-something writer who bares all in "Something's Gotta Give."

On Saturday, the 58-year-old actress thanked Nancy Meyers — the writer-director and producer of "Something's Gotta Give" who was also the moderator at the AFI ceremony — for offering her this comeback role. Keaton said in an industry in which women's parts in Hollywood are relegated to "babe, district attorney and 'Driving Miss Daisy,'" she was "thrilled" to have this opportunity to play someone in her mid-50s who gets the job.

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