



Brazilian singers Gilberto Gil and Chico Buarque (right), perform during the Lula Free festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 28. (AP)

Fashion

Fashion groundbreaker

80s designer Dapper Dan back in spotlight

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP) — In hip-hop's golden era, the artists responsible for rap's distinctive sound went to Harlem fashion designer **Dapper Dan** for the period's equally distinctive look.

Now the fashion groundbreaker, who spent more than two decades out of the public eye, is back.

He's got a partnership with Gucci and the likes of Beyoncé among those wearing his designs, like the logoed jacket that is part of her costumes in her current tour with her husband, Jay-Z.

It's a situation that Dapper Dan calls "amazing" and that observers say is a reflection of how hip-hop and street style have influenced global fashion, with him among the innovators.

The couturier, whose real name is Daniel Day, now has a new Gucci-sponsored workshop in a Harlem brownstone, not far from the now-closed 125th Street boutique that once clothed Salt-N-Pepa, Eric B. & Rakim and LL Cool J.

His operation now is a different one from the 24-hour-per-day shop that turned out custom-made jackets for those early rap superstars, but Dapper Dan said some things haven't changed.

As a young man with a reputation for sharp dressing, "my first intention was to transform myself through clothes," he said. "I took that same concept in opening up a store, transforming people. When Gucci came along, I saw the opportunity to do this element of transformation on a larger scale."

Original

Dapper Dan's outfits in the 1980s were original designs embossed with designer logos from Gucci, Fendi and Louis Vuitton among others — without the brands' permission.

He saw the pull of luxury and brand names and came up with the idea of putting the logos people coveted from bags and luggage on clothes to be worn.

"None of the big brands were making coats and jackets. That wasn't available," Dapper Dan said. That "left the whole field open for me."

His logo-draped fabrics also were used in everything from suits to car interiors, in styles and silhouettes that the labels themselves weren't even doing.

"This is kind of the story of hip-hop," said Erik Nielson, an associate professor at the University of Richmond, in Richmond, Virginia, who teaches African-American pop culture. "Dapper Dan took something that was there. He arguably made it better ... He showed the brands all these possibilities it's clear they had never really considered."

Dapper Dan insists what he was doing wasn't a knock-off. He wasn't like the people who were making counterfeit bags and belts. His creations were "knock-ups," he said. "I was creating things that when somebody wore it, they knew, 'Oh, no, Gucci doesn't even make pants and jackets and overcoats and things,'" at least not the way he was doing it.

By the late 1980s, when his clients also included Mike Tyson, who got into a fight with another fighter at Dapper Dan's store, the brands had started to bring their power to bear against him. There were legal orders and raids, including one by Fendi, whose lawyer for anti-counterfeiting efforts was Sonia Sotomayor, now on the US Supreme Court.

After his store closed in 1992 because of the legal pressures, he said, he went "underground," with private clients including Floyd Mayweather.

The Gucci partnership came about after Gucci's creative director, Alessandro Michele, put on the runway in May 2017 a jacket that was strikingly reminiscent of one Dapper Dan created in the 1980s using another brand's logo.

The move prompted social media furor from those who demanded credit go to Dapper Dan and critiqued the fashion house for celebrating a look its original designer had been chastised for creating.

Gucci said the jacket was an homage. But then it went a step further and reached out to Dapper Dan to see whether he would work with the brand officially.

The Gucci-Dapper Dan collection launched in mid-July, available in Gucci stores and online. It's inspired by Dapper Dan's work from the 1980s and includes track suits and jackets that echo pieces he made then with price points going as high as several thousand dollars.



Dan



Pvris perform during the Panorama Music Festival on Randall's Island on July 28, in New York. (AFP)



Lula



Lamar

Variety

RIO DE JANEIRO: Some of Brazil's most popular musicians called for jailed former president **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** to be freed in a concert Saturday in Rio de Janeiro attended by tens of thousands of people.

Da Silva, a leftist ex-president universally known as Lula, was convicted of corruption and money laundering, but his supporters say the sentence was politically motivated.

Saturday's festival in front of Rio's iconic **Lapa Arch** featured household names in Brazil like **Chico Buarque** and other Latin American musicians.

Da Silva's image could be seen everywhere: On shirts, bandanas and masks, while his animated image danced on screens next to the stage. In between sets, supporters broke out into chants of "Free Lula!" as organizers urged them to scream loud enough for da Silva to hear them from the southern city of **Curitiba**.

The former president was jailed there after his corruption conviction was upheld on appeal. He is one of many top politicians and business leaders to get brought down in the so-called "Car Wash" investigation. Launched in 2014, investigators uncovered a colossal corruption scheme in which construction companies used inflated state contracts to kick back millions of dollars to politicians and other officials.

Da Silva's 12-year sentence divided people in **Latin America's** largest nation, with his critics celebrating a victory against endemic corruption while supporters argue it amounts to a witch hunt against left-leaning parties and politicians.

Despite it all, da Silva remains one of Brazil's most popular politicians. He is currently leading polls for October's presidential race.

"Lula is the voice of the people," said **Tayna Sena**, a 22-year-old law-student who attended the concert. "The elites are scared because even when he's in jail, he can get more support than any other politician."

It's unlikely that he gets on the ballot, though that hasn't stopped him and supporters from campaigning. Brazil's Clean Slate law prohibits a convict whose appeal has been upheld from running for office.

Earlier this month, it briefly looked like da Silva might be freed when a lower court judge repeatedly ordered his release — only to be overruled each time.

"An election without Lula would be fraudulent," said 56-year-old doorman **Adelson Pereira**. (AP)

ZAGREB, Croatia: Oliver Dragojevic, one of the most popular pop singers in the former **Yugoslavia**, has died at 70.

Croatian media say Dragojevic died early Sunday in a hospital in his hometown of

Music

Campaign putting dent in entertainer's career

'I Admit' shows that Kelly hurting

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP) — Although Oronike Odeleye is the co-founder of the #MuteRKelly campaign, she is still excited about the embattled R&B superstar's new song, "I Admit."

Not because she is blasting it on her stereo — but because the release of the track confirms that the social media campaign she launched is working, and putting a dent in the entertainer's career.

On Monday, R. Kelly posted the 19-minute track "I Admit" to SoundCloud, singing about his battles and troubles, from allegations he has sexually abused women to his illiteracy to being sexually assaulted himself as a child.

While painting himself as a tragic figure wrongfully targeted, he also sings about loving "older and young ladies" and says his alleged victims were willing participants in his escapades.

Odeleye says to her, "I Admit" is not a sex song. "We're calling it a 19-minute true trafficking anthem."

"It's really more of the same victim blaming. It's more of the same denying. It's more of the same, 'It's not my fault. It's not my fault. It's everybody's fault,'" she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "While he's saying, 'I admit it' — he's actually not admitting anything."

Odeleye, an arts administrator in Atlanta and Kenyette Barnes, a social activist, launched #MuteRKelly last year as a financial boycott against the 51-year-old Grammy-winning performer, who is one of the record industry's best-selling artists of all-time, though his hit-making prowess has waned in recent years. He's written all of his own music — from inspirational songs like "I Believe I Can Fly" to raunchy titles like "Feelin' on Yo Booty" to feel-good anthems like "Step in the Name of Love." He also penned songs for Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Britney Spears, Celine Dion and many more.

R. Kelly, who was once acquitted of child pornography charges, appeared unbothered when articles claiming he

abused young women resurfaced over the last few years. His social media was filled with inspirational, humorous and musical posts, and he dismissed what he called his haters.

But when Spotify announced it would remove his music from its promoted playlists in May due to the company's new hateful conduct policy, the singer's management decry the move, saying R. Kelly "is innocent of the false and hurtful accusations in the ongoing smear campaign against him, waged by enemies seeking a payoff."

The release of "I Admit" makes Odeleye feel like they'd had a strong impact at hurting the singer's bottom line; R. Kelly acknowledges as much in his songs, saying he only tours to pay his rent, is broke and doesn't even own the publishing on his own songs.

Successful

"It shows that what we're doing is working. He had to very directly address the fact that we're being successful in getting his concerts cancelled. ... We've been successful in getting the ticket sales dwindling. We've been successful in getting promoters to stay away from him," Odeleye said.

"I Admit" was not released by the singer's label but put up on SoundCloud, where it's garnered more than 300,000 listens (the top track on the service has more than two million listens). It brought out of mix of emotions from people, from eye rolls to tears.

While other men have seen their careers suffer greatly in the #MeToo era, from political leaders to Oscar winners, some felt that R. Kelly, along with others in the music industry, was getting a pass: his hits were still in rotation on radio stations and even at weddings.

"If we look at Harvey Weinstein and Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose and these many examples of this overdue #MeToo Movement, those are patterns of behavior of the past, but what's happening with Kelly allegedly is predation right now in the present going unchecked,"

said Jim DeRogatis, the journalist who broke the story about the original allegations against Kelly more than a decade ago and has written extensively about R. Kelly's sexual abuse allegations since. (The singer even called him out on "I Admit.")

"I find that horrifying. And the parents are distraught, depressed, angry and don't know where to turn," he added.

Odeleye agreed, and said Kelly would "be in jail right now if we were talking about white girls."

"It's because it's about his victims, and his victims in the eyes of so many, they're worthless. They're not as important as any other group in America."

Despite several allegations and lawsuits against R. Kelly, he has faced no criminal investigations or charges since his acquittal on child porn charges in 2008.

(R. Kelly also raised eyebrows with his relationship with the late Aaliyah, who was teen when he produced her debut, "Age Ain't Nothing But A Number." The pair wed when she was 15, and he was 27; that union was quickly annulled and the pair never acknowledged that it even happened.)

The most recent allegation against R. Kelly was filed in May when 21-year-old Faith Rodgers accused the singer of sexual battery, knowingly infecting her with herpes and locking her in rooms for punishment. Rodgers said that "I Admit" is "disgusting."

"He's admitting all these things but asking for a pass. But am I surprised? Absolutely not because these are things I've known. And actually, a lot of what he says in the song is what he would tell women before getting with them. It's all a scheme, all a plan for sympathy," she said.

Rodgers said she met R. Kelly after a March 2017 concert in San Antonio. He flew her to New York to attend a show two months later, she said. She claims she was "mentally, sexually and verbally" abused her during a roughly yearlong relationship with the singer.

Split, a city on Croatia's Adriatic coast. He was diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago.

Dragojevic gained huge following in the former Yugoslavia with his romantic hits sung in a specific Dalmatian dialect of Croatia.

Dragojevic remained popular among former Yugoslavs even after the country broke up in a war in the 1990s. Media throughout the region have reported his death, describing Dragojevic as a "legendary singer."

Although highly popular in **Serbia**, he refused to stage concerts there after the bloodshed of the 1991-95 Croatian war for independence against the Serb-led Yugoslav army. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Kendrick Lamar is set to guest star on Starz's "Power" Sunday, but the show wasn't setting out to hook a big name when they landed him.



Jeff MacIntyre (left), Julia Seifer, and David Ono from ACB7 pose with the Emmy for medical news story — single report for "Losing Adam to Prion Disease" at the 70th Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards, at the Saban Media Center at Television Academy's North Hollywood, California headquarters on July 28. (AP)

"The Ain't was not a guest star," showrunner **Courtney A. Kemp** said about the character. "It wasn't an idea of ... trying to get more eyeballs. ... It was about here's an artist we respect, and he wants to come in."

During a panel for the Starz crime drama at the Television Critics Assn Saturday, Kemp credited executive producer **Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson** for being the one to mention that Lamar wanted to be on the show. Kemp then got on the phone with him to ask who he would want to play, a favorite questions of hers, she notes. For Lamar, the answer was that he did not want to play a drug dealer. (RTRS)

WARSAW: Tomasz Stanko, a Polish trumpeter, composer and prominent figure in avant-garde and free jazz for decades, died on Sunday at the age of 76, the Polish Jazz Association said.

Born in **Rzeszow** in southern **Poland** in 1942, Stanko made his debut in the late 1950s in **Krakow**. He later gained a global reputation playing alongside jazz luminaries such as drummer **Jack deJohnette** and bassist **Dave Holland**.

Stanko's early influences came from jazz trumpet icons such as **Miles Davis** and **Chet Baker**, but he was soon drawn primarily to the free-form jazz of **Ornette Coleman** and **Don Cherry**, and often recorded for the ECM label.

His first global bestseller was a 1997 album, *Litania*, a tribute to the music of Polish film music composer and jazz pianist **Krzysztof Komeda**, the record company ECM Records said.

"I am in shock ... (Stanko) was an absolute prophet, a great musician, and a consistent one," said **Michal Urbaniak**, a Polish jazz violinist and saxophonist. (RTRS)