

## People &amp; Places



Sarah McLachlan performs at the Juno Awards in London, Ontario on March 17. (AP)

## Film

## Film 'Shadow' big winner

## 'Shoplifters' scoops best picture at AFA

LOS ANGELES, March 18, (RTRS): Zhang Yimou's highly stylized period epic "Shadow" was the numerical winner at Sunday's Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong. It bagged four technical awards. But the major prizes went to Japanese and Korean filmmakers.

**Kore-eda Hirokazu's** "Shoplifters", a Japanese drama about a family surviving on shoplifting, was named best picture. The film had been the surprise Palme d'Or winner at the Cannes festival last year, but has since won wide acclaim and achieved record scores at the Japanese and Chinese box office. "Shoplifters" also won best original music with Japanese music pioneer Hosono Haruomi's score.



Hirokazu

South Korean director Lee Chang-dong ("Secret Sunshine", "Peppermint Candy") won the best director prize for the psychological drama "Burning", which Lee also co-wrote as an adaptation of a Murakami Haruki short story. Going into the ceremony, "Burning" was the favorite, having been nominated in eight categories. Lee was also presented with a lifetime achievement award, to which Lee responded that he did not deserve the title, and that he was still very young.

Japanese actor Yakusho Koji ("Babel", "Memoirs of a Geisha") was the media's darling at the event held at the TVB studios. Yakusho was mobbed by the media the backstage after winning best actor for his role in crime thriller "The Blood of Wolves" and a special prize for excellence in Asian Cinema. He said he was surprised by the big win and jokingly said he would use the two awards as dumbbells to train his arm muscles.

Tsukamoto Shinya won best editing for his drama "Killing". The Japanese actor-director paid tribute to his long-time creative partner, musician Ishikawa Chu, who passed away during the production of "Killing".

The best actress prize went to Samal Yeslyamova for her role in drama "Ayka", a film co-produced by five countries. Yeslyamova said shooting began just five days after giving birth to her child.

Hong Kong actress Kara Wai claimed the AFA's best supporting actress for the second time – also her third AFA award – for her role in the transgender drama "Tracey". Wai plays the wife of a transgender woman.

Hong Kong's Ma Kwong-wing won best production design for his breathtaking aesthetics in "Shadow". These drew their inspiration from classical Chinese ink paintings.

The film's costume designer Chen Minzheng was also a prize winner on Sunday. The best cinematography award went to Zhang's long-time collaborator Zhao Xiaoding, who makes his debut as a feature director later this year. Yang Jiang and Zhao Nan together won the best sound award.

Chinese auteur Jia Zhangke won best screenplay for "Ash is Purest White". Zhang Yu, who plays a leukaemia patient in Chinese comedy "Dying to Survive", won best supporting actor after losing the title at Golden Horse in Taiwan.

Hong Kong writer-director Oliver Chan Siu-kuen won the hearts of the jury with "Still Human", a drama about a relationship between a Filipina maid and her disabled employer, played by Anthony Wong Chau-sang. Chan went home with the best new director award. The nine member jury was led by actress-director Joan Chen and Japanese star Ken Watanabe.

Chinese actor Johnny Huang Jingyu, who plays a young sniper in Dante Lam's propaganda action blockbuster "Operation Red Sea", was named best newcomer. The film also won the award for 2018's highest grossing Asian film.

Celebrating the centenary of Korean cinema was one of the highlights at last night's AFA. But instead of just looking back, the event also had high expectations for the future of Korean cinema. South Korean actor Park Seo-jun ("Midnight Runners", "The Chronicles of Evil") was presented the AFA Rising Star award. Singer-songwriter, Kim Jae-joong collected the AFA Next Generation award.

## Music

## John plans memoir

## ALS patient 'makes' music

TOKYO, March 18, (RTRS): The music booms and lights flash as Masatane Muto, a wheelchair-bound disc jockey, uses his eyes to put on a show at a recent Tokyo music festival.

Muto, who lost the use of his hands to Lou Gehrig's Disease, wears a pair of high-tech glasses connected to an app that controls music-mixing software.

"Through my performance, I hope to show that everybody should be given the chance to express themselves," Muto, 32, told Reuters Television after performing at the J-Wave Innovation World Festa.

Muto was a 27-year-old advertising executive when he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease – a progressive neurological disease in which patients gradually lose control of most of their muscles, though mental function remains unimpaired.

The disease, which gained prominence in 2014 through the "Ice Bucket Challenge" global video fundraising campaign, is terminal, with most patients dying within three to five years of their diagnosis. There is currently no treatment.

On the train home after his diagnosis, Muto vowed to make the rest of his life as innovative and creative as possible.

He quit his job and founded the group "WITH ALS" to raise awareness of the disease and help other patients live their lives to the fullest.

Muto dreamed of being a disc jockey and tracked down the latest technology to make it happen.

Now a radio personality, he performs as a disc and video jockey under the moniker "EYE VDJ", mixing music with smart eyewear that detects his eye movements and allows him to use an app connected to music-mixing software.

A three-point sensor on the nose pad of the JINS MEME glasses detects subtle electronic changes in the surrounding skin which are caused by blinking or movement of the eyes.

The eyeglasses sell for 27,300 yen (\$245) a pair, cheaper than many other eye-tracking devices. The source code for JINS MEME has been released to the public in the hope that others will find their own ways of using it, Muto said.

"ALS is thought to be an incurable

disease, but I believe hope is now growing for ALS patients to pursue their lifestyle and quality of life with the help of technology," he said.

Muto said his next dream is to perform at the opening ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.

"By then I may be bedridden, but I can perform with the help of technology and the support of many people," he said.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Elton John has announced his first-ever autobiography, set to hit bookshelves this fall.

"My life has been one helluva roller coaster ride and I'm now ready to tell you my story, in my own words," the singer tweeted last week. "My first and only official autobiography will be released October 2019."

The legendary singer and songwriter is working with publisher Macmillan on the book, which will be the first – and Macmillan adds "the only official" – autobiography of the Grammy winner (an unauthorized biography made headlines when it was released back in 2007). John will co-author his new book with Alexis Petridis, the longtime music critic for the UK newspaper the Guardian.

"I'm not prone to being a nostalgic person. I'm often accused of only looking forward to my next gig or creative project," John shares. "It's come as quite a surprise how cathartic I am finding the process of writing my memoirs."

Macmillan says the book will give audiences a "no-holds-barred account" of the often controversial and flamboyant singer's life, along with a glimpse into how many of his most popular songs came to be.

"Elton's life transcends classification and his wildly readable, deeply human story will speak to anyone and everyone, everywhere," says Macmillan managing director Anthony Forbes Watson. "We look forward to making Elton the biggest worldwide publishing event of 2019."

John, who is currently in the middle of his "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour, has said that this will be his last time on the road, as he looks forward to more time at home with husband David Furnish and their two children, while pursuing projects outside of music.

problematic students. "Voice" is currently in post-production for tentative release at the end of May. (RTRS)

**LOS ANGELES:** Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson will return to the air on two TV shows that had been put on hold for a sexual misconduct investigation.

The National Geographic Channel said in a statement that Tyson's "StarTalk" will return to the air in April with the 13 episodes that remain in the season.

Late last November, National Geographic Networks and Fox said they would examine reports that Tyson behaved in an inappropriate manner toward two women. Friday's statement did not address the complaints or investigation.

A message with a representative seeking from Tyson wasn't immediately returned. (AP)

## Obit

## 'ME influence'

## Dale, surf guitar pioneer, is dead

LOS ANGELES, March 18, (AP): **Dick Dale**, whose pounding, blaringly loud power-chord instrumentals on songs like "Miserlou" and "Let's Go Trippin'" earned him the title King of the Surf Guitar, has died at age 81.

His former bassist Sam Bolle says Dick Dale passed away Saturday night. No other details were available.

Dale liked to say it was he and not the Beach Boys who invented surf music – and some critics have said he was right.

An avid surfer, Dale started building a devoted Los Angeles fan base in the late 1950s with repeated appearances at Newport Beach's old Rendezvous Ballroom. He played "Miserlou", "The Wedge", "Night Rider" and other compositions at wall-rattling volume on a custom-made Fender Stratocaster guitar.

"Miserlou", which would become his signature song, had been adapted from a Middle Eastern folk tune Dale heard as a child and later transformed into a thundering surf-rock instrumental.



Dale

## Style

His fingering style was so frenetic that he shredded guitar picks during songs, a technique that forced him to stash spares on his guitar's body. "Better shred than dead," he liked to joke, an expression that eventually became the title of a 1997 anthology released by Rhino Records.

Dale said he developed his musical style when he sought to merge the sounds of the crashing ocean waves he heard while surfing with melodies inspired by the rockabilly music he loved.

He pounded rather than plucked the strings of his guitar in a style he said he borrowed from an early musical hero, the great jazz drummer Gene Krupa.

"Dale pioneered a musical genre that Beach Boy Brian Wilson and others would later bring to fruition," Rolling Stone magazine said in its "Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll" adding "Let's Go Trippin'" was released in 1961, two months ahead of the Beach Boys' first hit, "Surfin'".

The magazine called Dale's song "the harbinger of the '60s surf music craze." Although popular around Southern California, Dale might have remained just a cult figure if surfing had not exploded in worldwide popularity during his peak creative years.

When the first of a series of "Beach Party" movies made to cash in on the phenomenon was released in 1963, it included Dick Dale and the Del-Tones performing "Secret Surfing Spot" as teen heartthrob Annette Funicello danced on the beach.

Dale had released his first album, "Surfer's Choice", a year earlier. He followed it with four more over the next two years while appearing in several "Beach Party" sequels and other surfer movies.

Other popular Dale songs included "Jungle Fever", "Shake-N-Stomp" and "Swingin' and Surfin'".

## Invasion

His star dimmed after the Beatles led music's British invasion onto the pop charts in 1964 and his record label dropped him. His career also was sidelined by a battle with cancer in the 1960s and a serious foot infection in the 1970s that was the result of a surfing injury.

His musical influence was profound and included guitar virtuosos Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan and movie director Quentin Tarantino, who selected Dale's "Miserlou", as the theme song of his 1994 film "Pulp Fiction". That helped pull the guitarist back into the pop-culture spotlight.

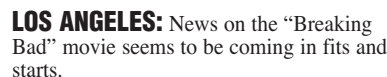
Dale himself had begun to launch a comeback with the 1987 film "Back to the Beach", which reunited Funicello and her co-star Frankie Avalon as a middle-aged couple returning to their old surfing haunts. He teamed up with Vaughan to record the classic surf instrumental "Pipeline" for that film, earning the pair a Grammy nomination.

In 1993 he released "Tribal Thunder", his first album of all new material in nearly 30 years. He followed it with "Unknown Territory" the following year.

Dale continued to tour into his 80s, in part he said to pay the medical bills that advancing age was saddling him with. Having beaten cancer in the 1960s, he suffered a serious recurrence in 2015.

Born Richard Anthony Monsour in Boston on May 4, 1937, Dale moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1954, where he immediately fell in love with surfing and the electric guitar.

## Variety



2019 Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee Corey Hart poses for photographers backstage at the Juno Awards in London, Ontario on March 17. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** News on the "Breaking Bad" movie seems to be coming in fits and starts.

At the Sun Valley Film Festival, series star Aaron Paul didn't confirm whether he was involved in the upcoming movie sequel, which will first air on Netflix and then AMC, as Variety reported in February, but did indicate that he was open to reprising his role as Jesse Pinkman.

"Rumors are funny – I once heard a rumor that I was being cast as Han Solo," Paul said to a packed house at the fest's Coffee Talk event, which was sponsored by Variety. "I haven't heard anything about the 'Breaking Bad' movie but if there is one and it comes together I'd love to be a part of it." "If it were to happen, yes, I would love to do it."

It's unknown if Bryan Cranston, who played main character Walter White in the series, will appear in the film. (RTRS)

**LOS ANGELES:** Freddie Prinze Jr has boarded the Nancy Drew pilot which is in the works at the CW. Variety has learned.

He will play Nancy's father, Carson Drew, who is described as a dynamic attorney who has become estranged from Nancy following the recent death of his beloved wife – but his attempts to reconnect with his daughter run aground when Nancy's murder investigation reveals unsettling secrets from Carson's own past.

The show is set in the summer after Nancy's high school graduation, with the 18-year-old poised to leave her hometown for college. However, when a family tragedy holds her back another year, she finds herself embroiled in a ghostly murder investigation – and along the way, uncovers secrets that run deeper than she ever imagined.

Prinze Jr is best known for playing Zack Siler in the 1999 romcom "She's All That", and Ray Bronson in the 1997 slasher flick "I Know What You Did Last Summer". He also played the straight-laced Fred Jones in two live-action "Scooby-Doo" movies in the early 2000s. (RTRS)

**LOS ANGELES:** Hong Kong and Taiwan-based group Just Creative will use this week's FilMart to launch "Be Water, My Friend", one of the year's biggest movies from Greater China. The drama is currently in production with Chow Yun-fat in the lead role as a pathological gambler who finds a way to communicate with his autistic son.

The film is directed by Hong Kong's Anthony Pun ("Extraordinary Mission") from a script by Felix Chong ("Project Gutenberg"). Ronald Wong, who shares multiple credits with Chong, produces the pic, which has a budget approaching \$40 million. (The film title is borrowed from a Bruce Lee quotation, which many people interpret as encouraging flexible thinking.)



Paul



Prinze Jr