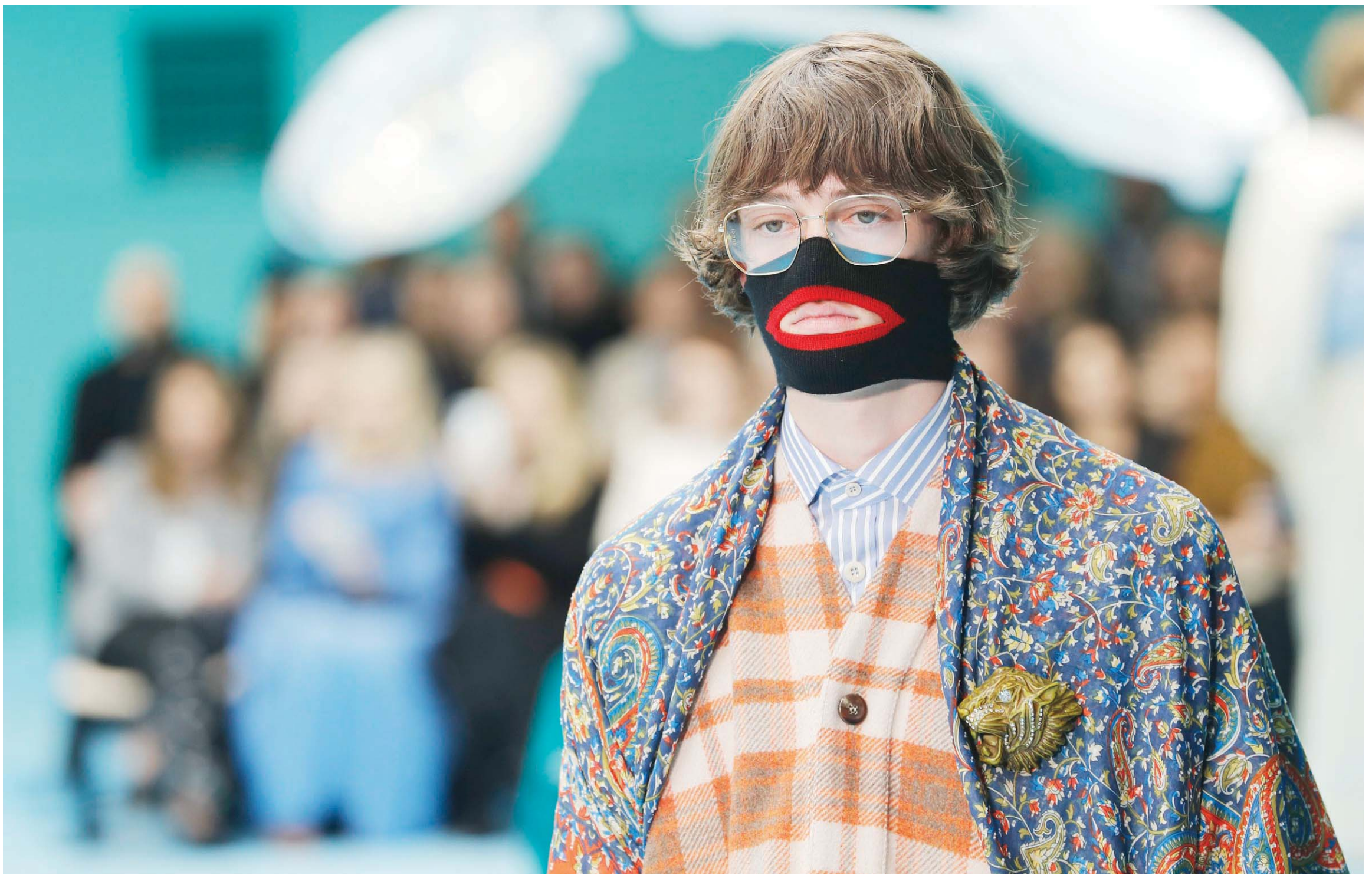




People & Places

ENTERTAINMENT



In this Feb 21, 2018 file photo, a model wears a creation as part of the Gucci women's Fall/Winter 2018-2019 collection, presented during the Milan Fashion Week, in Milan, Italy. Luxury fashion got a whole lot of blowback when the brands lined up social media posts to show solidarity with Black Lives Matters protests. Global fashion brands have faced racial backlashes in the past, notably in the wake of scandals like the Gucci knitwear recalling blackface, Prada's Little Black Sambo bag charm and Dolce&Gabbana's anti-Asian comments. (AP)

In Brief

NEW YORK: Dwayne Johnson will host and Shakira, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson will perform on a globally broadcast concert calling on world leaders to make coronavirus tests and treatment available and equitable for all.

The advocacy organization Global Citizen and the European Commission announced Monday that Global Goal: Unite for Our Future — The Concert will air on June 27.

Other artists performing in isolation include Usher, Justin Bieber, Coldplay and Chloe x Halle.

The concert will also feature appearances from Billy Porter, Charliize Theron, Chris Rock, Kerry Washington, Salma Hayek and David Beckham.

It will be broadcast on NBC in the US and other television stations, radio stations, websites and streaming outlets around the world.

"The event aims to lift up the global community that is tackling equitable access to healthcare, and other enormous injustices facing our world," Johnson said in a statement.

Organizers say the show is not a fundraiser, but is instead intended to draw awareness to the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on marginalized communities. (AP)



Johnson

GATLINBURG, Tennessee: A visitor attempting to slide across a suspension bridge that hangs 140 feet (43 meters) over a valley in Tennessee cracked a glass panel in the structure's middle section, according to park officials.

The pedestrian bridge located near the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg was temporarily closed for repairs Monday after the action left "noticeable cracks" in the top layer of a 5-foot-wide (1.5-meter-wide) piece of glass, officials with SkyLift Park said in a statement.

The guest was attempting a "baseball-style slide" when they chipped the panel with a metal object on their clothes, despite posted rules that ask visitors not to run, jump or bounce on the attraction as a safety precaution, representatives said.

Officials added that the glass has multiple layers of protection and neither the structural integrity of the bridge, or any guests were ever in danger. (AP)

'People have the fire under their bottoms'

Luxury fashion challenged to confront racism



In this on Feb 10, 2019 file photo, Munroe Bergdorf attends the Prabal Gurung Runway Show held at Spring Studios during New York Fashion Week, in New York. (AP)

Original animation by Peter Jackson

LOS ANGELES, June 22, (AP) — Weta Digital, the Academy Award-winning visual effects company that made "The Lord of the Rings" and "Avatar" possible, is making original animated content for cinemas and streaming for the first time in its 25-year history. The company also said Thursday that Prem Akkaraju had joined the New Zealand-based shop as CEO.

Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh, the married filmmaking team behind "The Lord of the Rings" and majority stakeholders in the company, plan to write, produce and direct several of the projects for Weta Animated.

"We are huge fans of animated storytelling in all of its forms, but it can be a long, protracted, and often costly way to make movies," Jackson said in a written statement. "That's, in part, why we have created this company — to change the model and open the doors to filmmakers and storytellers who might not otherwise be given the chance to show what they can do."

'Entirely original'

'Rings' actor Holm passes

LONDON, June 22, (AP) — Ian Holm, a versatile British actor whose long career included roles in "Chariots of Fire" and "The Lord of the Rings" has died. He was 88.

Holm died peacefully last Friday morning in a hospital, surrounded by his family and carer, his agent Alex Irwin said in a statement. His illness was Parkinson's-related.

"His sparkling wit always accompanied a mischievous twinkle in his eye," Irwin said. "Charming, kind and ferociously talented, we will miss him hugely."

Holm appeared in scores of movies big and small, from costume dramas to fantasy epics. A generation of moviegoers knows him as Bilbo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies.

He won a British Academy Film Award and gained a supporting-actor Oscar nomination for portraying pioneering athletics coach Sam Mussabini in the hit 1982 film "Chariots of Fire."

His other movie roles included Father Cornelius in "The Fifth Element," android Ash in "Alien," a smooth-talking lawyer in "The Sweet Hereafter," Napoleon Bonaparte in "Time Bandits," writer Lewis Carroll in "Dreamchild" and a royal physician in "The Madness of King George."

Royal Shakespeare Company artistic director Gregory Doran called Holm "one of the RSC greats."

"Ian was entirely original. Entirely a one-off," Doran said. "He had a simmering cool, a compressed volcanic sense of ferocity, of danger, a pressure cooker actor, a rare and magnificent talent. There's a great spirit gone."

Holm was married four times and had five children.



Holm

MILAN, June 22, (AP) — When luxury fashion lined up social media posts to show solidarity with Black Lives Matters protests, brands got a whole lot of blowback.

Transgender model and actress Munroe Bergdorf jumped on L'Oreal's #BlackoutTuesday posts to accuse the beauty brand of hypocrisy for having fired her three years ago when she complained about racism in strong language. US actor Tommy Dorfman, who appears in a recent campaign for Salvatore Ferragamo, called out the Italian luxury brand for what he called a "homophobic and racist work environment."

And ordinary Instagram followers piled on, challenging fashion houses to do more than post a black square on their virtual real estate, to instead make runways, magazine covers, boardrooms and creative studios living showcases of diversity.

Global fashion brands have faced racial backlashes in the past, notably in the wake of scandals like the Gucci knitwear recalling blackface, Prada's Little Black Sambo bag charm and Dolce&Gabbana's anti-Asian comments.

The US protests against systemic racism, which are spreading around the globe, are also putting the spotlight on the fashion world in its role as a cultural beacon, and emboldening insiders — some with lucrative deals that often assume their discretion — to speak up.

"People have the fire under their bottoms," said Tamu McPherson, an American content creator based in Milan who collaborates with top luxury brands. "Their stories are strong and their voices are being heard. If they industry ignores them, they can be kept accountable. Every-



In this photo taken on June 16, American content creator Tamu McPherson sits on the sofa at her home in Milan, Italy. (AP)

one is sharing, and corroborating, their stories."

McPherson has been working with luxury brands in Milan, Paris and New York since 2013, contributing to digital campaigns, story-telling and in-house diversity training.

"In seven years, I am still one of the only black people invited into those spaces. That is unacceptable," said McPherson, who urged racial inclusion in a letter posted June 6 on her "All the Pretty Birds" website, in which she described the fashion industry as "steeped in racism, anti-Blackness and white privilege."

"For years, they did not want to listen. Now they are listening because of the pandemic and the shocking murders we could all pay attention to, because there were not any distractions. This is the moment," she said.

Ferragamo courted criticism when it responded to the protests with a post that said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion."

Dorfman shot back that people at the fashion house "have said heinous, transphobic, body phobic and racist things directly to me. I called them out every time and they promised to change."

A person close to Ferragamo said that the brand is committed to inclusivity, noting that it features models of all colors in its runway shows. Nearly half of Ferragamo's Fall 2020 runway models were of diverse races.

The pushback against the industry has had some early results. Bergdorf, who was sacked as L'Oreal UK's first openly transgender model in 2017 for decrying "the racial violence of white people," has now accepted a role as consultant on the UK Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board to help "influence and inform the brand." The offer came after she highlighted the hypocrisy of the beauty company's June 1 statement that it "stands in solidarity with the Black community, and against injustice of any kind ... Speaking out is worth it."

The Fashion Spot, which has been tracking diversity on runways and magazine covers, has reported progress since launching its surveys in 2015. The Spring 2020 season had the highest level of diversity on runways in the four main fashion cities of Paris, Milan, New York and London, at 41.5 percent, only to dip for the Fall 2020 shows, to 40.6 percent. That remains an improvement from 17 percent in the website's inaugural survey for Spring 2015.

New York and London have led in diversity, while Paris and Milan tend to lag, according to the Fashion Spot's data.

Hollywood evolves with drive-in premiere

LOS ANGELES, June 22, (AP) — Dave Franco says the drive-in premiere for his directorial debut was "perfect" but admittedly "a little weird."

The 35-year-old actor found himself at the center of Hollywood's evolving response to the coronavirus pandemic Thursday as he premiered his directorial debut "The Rental" to more than 1,300 people at the Vineland drive-in theatre in Southern California.

Joined by stars including wife Alison Brie, Dan Stevens and Sheila Vand, he took off his mask to pose for photographers in the center of a massive parking lot, then answered questions via Zoom from his car after the

film ended.

It beat a traditional, more buttoned-up red carpet event, Franco said.

"It didn't feel like there was a spotlight on me or the cast. It felt more like this communal experience where everyone was just excited to get out of their homes and, you know, let loose with a group of fellow movie lovers. It was perfect," he said in an interview Friday.

Franco says Brie calmed him down about the shortcomings of an outdoor screening: patchy audio over the FM radio and ambient light drowning out darker sections of his horror thriller "The Rental."

editor's choice

