

# Singer-songwriter Frampton looks back in a gentle memoir

By Mark Kennedy

**P**eter Frampton, "Do You Feel Like I Do?" (Hachette Books) When Peter Frampton was a child, he busted his father on Christmas morning giving him an acoustic guitar dressed as Santa. "And from 3:30 in the morning on Christmas when I was 8 years old, I haven't stopped playing since."

So recalls the singer-songwriter and guitarist whose album "Frampton Comes Alive!" became a monster hit in the mid-1970s in his new memoir, "Do You Feel Like I Do?"

The breezy and polite look back follows an important musical figure's rise in the 1960s, triumph and fall in the '70s and resurrection in the '80s. It's a tale of talent, mismanagement, drugs, loss and redemption.

"Who else has had the career arc, the crazy ups and downs, that I've had?" he writes. "I've been to the moon and back without a rocket. But I've always managed to stay optimistic."

Frampton finds himself at fascinating moments in rock 'n' roll history, a pal of both Eric Clapton and Mick Jagger, aided by David Bowie and, at one point, a potential member of the Rolling Stones. He hung out with The Kinks and recorded with Small Faces.

He was dangled out a fourth floor window by Keith Moon and John Entwistle from The Who. He was serenaded by Eddie Van Halen. He was friendly with Beatles. "I have to say your knees do buckle a bit the first time you meet 'one,'" he writes.

A profile emerges of an earnest and perfectionist musician — "I'm my own worst critic" — who suffered long-term clinical depression and was a binge drinker. Frampton explains how he came to champion the talk box and how he had three wives.

Frampton began his career as the lead singer and guitarist for the Herd at age 16 and then co-founded Humble Pie. His good looks turned him into a heartthrob. He calls his looks the "bane of my existence" and "it always got in the way."

## Success

He was enjoying some modest success as a solo artist when he followed up his four studio albums with a double live album, buoyed by the hits "Show Me the Way" and "Baby, I Love Your Way." (He did his first bump of coke while making that live LP.)

Frampton's prose often suffers from an inability to recognize the wheat from the chaff, spending three times as much time on a few performances with the Cincinnati Ballet as it does on his

times with Jagger. He also has an odd lack of curiosity, often ending an anecdote with "I don't know what happened there" or "I don't know why."

His inner guitar geek is on display as he peppers his memories with references to gear — P90 type pickups, Studer 2-track, 3M M79 24-track analog machine. He reveals that he wore satin pants because each pair sold helped fuel his girlfriend's drug habit. But he's remarkably diplomatic — bland even — describing his contemporaries.

What was Keith Moon like? "Keith was a lovely man — not when he was out of it, but the rest of the time he was a lovely guy, a very warm person." What about Jimi Hendrix? "He wasn't just good, he was amazing."

He's a compelling figure on the way down, when he was urged to push out an album too soon to capitalize on "Frampton Comes Alive!" Writes Frampton: "It was so hurtful when everything crashed" and "I should have used the word 'no' a lot more."

He ends the book with his battle with inclusion body myositis, a progressive muscle disorder which threatens to weaken his fingers and, in turn, silence his guitar. But he faces it with the optimism he's always managed. (AP)

Music

## Variety



This image released by NBC shows Sterling K. Brown in a scene from "This Is Us." Season five which debuted Tuesday and will address the pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement. (AP)

## Television

Actor finds his balance in when to speak out

# I can relate to Pearson: Brown

By Alicia Rancilio

**S**eason five of NBC's "This Is Us," debuted Tuesday and viewers will get to see the Pearson family as they navigate both the pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement. Sterling K. Brown, who plays Randall Pearson, says he can relate to how his character — a Black man who was adopted into a white family — feels in the aftermath of the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, as his white TV relatives look to him on what they should do to make him feel better.

Brown says he received "tons of phone calls from white friends saying, 'What can I do? Let me know? Is there something I should be doing?' and it's like, 'Guys, I appreciate where your heart is, I really do, but I've got like every other white person calling me saying this. I need you to go pick up 'White Fragility' (by Robin DiAngelo.) I don't know. Do what you've got to do, but I kind of just need a break. You don't realize you're inundating me, in a very sweet way, but I'm still trying to figure out what my next step is.' It's hard enough to represent yourself rather than represent all of Black America," he said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Brown spoke about becoming a celebrity who people suddenly want to hear from, his hiatus in quarantine and appearing in "A West Wing Special to Benefit When We All Vote," as a former "West Wing" super fan. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

**AP:** What does it feel like to be someone who people want to know your opinions?

**Brown:** There was this Dave Chappelle joke about how people always want to know what celebrities have to say and MTV interviewed Ja

Rule about 9/11. And I'm like, 'Am I Ja Rule now? Is this what's happening to me?' But I do feel like silence in the face of inequality is complicity, and I don't want anyone to think I think the status quo is OK. So there is some pressure to have something to say. You want to inform yourself to what's going on in the world, have an opinion and be able to defend yourself.

**AP:** This is a somewhat recent shift for you, too.

**Brown:** For the first 14, 15 years of my career it was just show up, say your lines and then you go home. Now, in the past five-six years it's been like, 'Well, what do you think?' But, don't cry for me Argentina. Sometimes the best comment you can make is to have no comment. Don't speak about things you're not as versed in.

**AP:** What was your long hiatus from "This Is Us" like when you're usually working on other projects?

**Brown:** It was the longest break I've had in six years. I was home so much to the point where my oldest son (9-year-old Andrew) got a little annoyed with me. He was like 'Dude, you're always around.' I was like, 'This is cool, right? Let's play some Madden.' He was like, 'Uh, I'm trying to do this Fortnite thing with my friends.' And the baby Amare, he's not a baby, he's 5. But he was full of joy and sunshine. We just graduated from the balance bike to the big bike. My wife and I had a wonderful time but in that, a wonderful, difficult time. When you're used to going away and coming back, you have a rhythm. And when that rhythm was broken it was a little like, 'Why are you here?' 'Why are YOU here?' And then we realized 'Oh, man. We kind of missed each other a little bit.'

**AP:** Did you watch a lot of TV?

**Brown:** So much. It's an occupational necessity. You're in too many rooms with people you want to collaborate with. If you don't know their work, then you don't have anything to say. But it also works well for someone who has been addicted to the medium since the days of yore.

**AP:** Let's discuss "The West Wing" special for HBO Max. What was that experience like for you? (Brown played chief of staff Leo McGarry, a character originally portrayed by the late John Spencer.)

**Brown:** Tommy (Schlamme) and Aaron (Sorokin) called me and they were like, 'We were wondering if you would play the role of Leo.' I'm like, 'You know I'm 44-years-old.' And they're like, 'Yeah, OK, no problem.' And the fact that I was even asked was a tremendous offer. Like, honestly, that was my show, you know? It's a perfect example of the kind of art where it doesn't necessarily show a reflection of the way life as it is, but life as it could be, you know, an idealized version or something like it. And, it's acting crushes that I've had for years. I'm now sharing a space with these people. It exceeded expectations because Martin Sheen is 80 years old. That old Jed Bartlett shows up and he is ice cold. He has the most lines in the episode by far and he's talking about chess moves and people in India who introduced things and just tricky stuff and he was like (snaps his fingers three times.) I was like, 'Oh, so this is what's happening.' And like everybody else saw and they're like, 'Yeah, we're not going to let the president just blow us all away.' So everybody started rehearsing their scenes by their trailers outside with their PPE on. I didn't have much to do in the episode but I was like, 'Can I just sit in the audience and watch?' I was like a kid in a candy store. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Several Fox News Channel on-air personalities were exposed last week to someone on a private plane who later tested positive for COVID-19, leading the network to take extra precautions this week.

The network said in a memo to staff members on Monday that there had recently been "a few" positive coronavirus tests among its employees, leading to their quarantine.

At least one person who tested positive was on a flight that ferried Fox personnel to New York from Nashville, Tennessee, the site of last week's final presidential debate, according to The New York Times, which first reported the development.

Fox cited privacy concerns in not identifying who had tested positive or was exposed. However, the network's top news anchors, **Bret Baier** and **Martha MacCallum**, anchored Fox's debate coverage from Nashville on Thursday, and commentators **Dana Perino** and **Juan Williams** were also on site.

Fox News Media President **Jay Wallace** was also on the flight, the Times said.

Baier, speaking on colleague **Brian Kilmeade's** radio show on Monday, said all precautions are being taken.

"I've tested negative three times now and I'll be doing the show from home this week," he said. "And we'll be in preparation for Election Day." (AP)

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**MURFREESBORO, Tenn:** Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Popular Music is hosting an online conversation on the life and legacy of **Jimi Hendrix**.

The conversation features Department of Recording Industry professor **Mike Alleyne**, author of the 2020 book "The Essential Hendrix: An A-Z Compendium," according to a news release from the school. Also featured is **Katie Rainge-Briggs**, a doctoral candidate in MTSU's Public History Program and a curatorial resident at the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville.

Hendrix briefly served in the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, the sprawling Army base on the Kentucky-Tennessee border, before moving to Nashville at the

beginning of a career cut short by his early death. A video of the MTSU conversation, called "Jimi Hendrix: A-Z," will be available at <http://mtsu.edu/popmusic>. (AP)

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**OSHKOSH, Wis:** Two of Wisconsin's biggest annual music festivals are shutting down for good following COVID-related



Hendrix



Wallace

cancellations this summer.

The company that puts on the 25-year-old Country USA and the 9-year-old Rock USA in Oshkosh said this week it plans to file for bankruptcy. The events have featured such headliners as **Blake Shelton**, **Keith Urban** and **Ozzy Osbourne** in recent years.

**Neenah-based** Hypervibe canceled this year's festivals in

June. Ticketholders tell WLUK-TV they've been trying to get their money back. **Drew Rodgers**, of **Berlin**, filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all ticketholders, but says he isn't optimistic.

In a note posted to both events' Facebook pages Monday, Hypervibe said the cancellations were too much for the company to absorb.

"We are heartbroken by the events which have caused this horrible situation," the post said. "We also care about our loyal patrons, for without them, there wouldn't have been so many years of these great events. We are trying to do right by our loyal supporters and get you a refund, to the extent possible, quickly and equitably." (AP)