

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## 'I'm a fan'

## Grohl's 'Storyteller' reveals his friends

By David Bauder

It's hard to think of a current musician so universally accepted into the rock 'n' roll fraternity as Dave Grohl.

The Foo Fighters frontman dines regularly with Paul McCartney. He wrote and recorded a pandemic-era song with Mick Jagger. Joan Jett read bedtime stories to his daughters. He formed a group with Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones. He hosted a party for AC/DC with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band as surprise entertainers.

An outgoing personality who takes his music more seriously than he does himself, Grohl naturally draws people in. Besides, how do you not like a guy who shows up at stage doors with a wide smile?

"I'm like the Labrador of rock 'n' roll," he says with a laugh.

Grohl had no shortage of material when he decided to spend much of his enforced downtime writing a book called "The Storyteller," which is on sale. Call it the typical tale of a high school dropout who becomes the drummer in Nirvana, then after unspeakable tragedy transformed himself into the singer, songwriter and guitarist for a band that sells out arenas.

And, at age 52, he still listens to his mom.

In fact, he counts his mother Virginia as one of his best friends. As he writes in "The Storyteller," she was influential in him joining Nirvana.

His time as the drummer in Screaming Trees, the Washington-area punk band that Grohl left high school to drum for, was winding down. But he was loyal, and conflicted when he got an invitation to come to Seattle in 1990 and jam with Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic.

"I called my mother and said, 'I'm not sure what to do,'" Grohl recalled in an interview. "I mean, these are my brothers. These are my friends. This was my band. And she said, 'sometimes you have to do what's best for you,' which was funny because her entire life was devoted to other people as a schoolteacher and a mother."

## Success

Grohl lived in a ragged apartment with Cobain as the band prepared material for what would be its breakthrough "Nevermind" album. He sensed when they left to record it that they'd never return to that apartment, but no one could anticipate their explosive success.

It proved too much for Cobain, who killed himself in 1994.

"I don't think anyone's entirely designed to make it out of a situation like that unscathed," Grohl said. "But I was lucky because I had Virginia, the state, and my mother. If I ever did feel like I was being swallowed by this thing, I would retreat to Virginia and I would go back to the old cul de sac where I grew up and have barbecues with my old friends ... and it really rescued me in a lot of ways."

Unlike Cobain, "I wasn't the one who had a microphone shoved in his face every five seconds. I could literally walk through the front door of a Nirvana show and not be recognized until I sat on my drum set, and so my experience with the band was very different."

Post-Nirvana, Grohl faced a career crossroads when offered a job as drummer in Tom Petty's Heartbreakers. Working for a musician he grew up listening to, in one of rock's best backup bands — it defined job security.

But he said no.

"Every time I sit down on a drum stool, I see Kurt," he recalled. "I had some kind of musical PTSD, and I was scared to let myself break down. When Tom Petty asked, I was not yet ready to go there."

Around the same time, he wrote and recorded the songs that would become the first Foo Fighters album. Rock 'n' roll is not exactly replete with drummers who step out from behind the kit and take up another instrument to become a bandleader.

What gave Grohl the confidence he could do it?

"It was the lack of confidence," he said. "I don't know too many people that strap on a bungee confident that they're going to survive the fall. That's why you do it. Just being unsure of yourself can be a great motivator. You know, I'm not sure I can do this. Let me see if I can. Let me prove myself wrong. So, yeah, it took me a decade to become comfortable as the frontman and singer of the Foo Fighters. Now, I love it."

## Message

He vividly recalls "the first day of the rest of my life," when, as a young teen-ager visiting his cousin in Chicago, he was taken to his first punk rock club.

Grohl grew up with posters of Kiss and Led Zeppelin on his bedroom walls, but they depicted a distant life.

"That just seemed unattainable," he said. "I thought, like, it's fun to dream, but I could never do that. And then I walked into this corner bar in Chicago and stood with my chest against the stage as a punk rock band played four chords and screamed in my face. I thought, that's more powerful than any record I've heard in my life."

This, he thought, was something he could be a part of.

The message that burns through "The Storyteller" is to those who watch him onstage now: Deep down, I'm just like you. I've worked hard to get where I am, but I obsessed over the same music you do. I'm a fan.

That thought also comes to mind when Paul McCartney is in Grohl's living room, banging out "Lady Madonna" on the piano to his kids.

Really. That happened.

It's what he has in common with McCartney, Jett or the musicians whose posters hang in innumerable bedrooms.

"Put two musicians in a room together and you'll find a fast friendship," he said. "You can sense the energy of a young kid falling in love with rock 'n' roll in front of their record player. I think that we all came from the same place — we fell in love with rock 'n' roll and without any sort of real career aspiration devoted our lives to it because it's what filled our soul." (AP)



Grohl



In this Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 file photo, a 3D re-production of Michelangelo's David is on display at the Italy's pavilion of the Dubai Expo 2020 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. One of the most talked about attractions at the world's fair underway in Dubai is a towering statue made of marble dust that's raising eyebrows just as its original form did more than 500 years ago. (AP)

## Art

## Artist wants HK sculpture back as deadline looms

## Expo shows just top of David statue

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Oct. 13, (AP) — One of the most talked about attractions at the world's fair underway in Dubai is a towering statue made of marble dust that's raising eyebrows just as the original did more than 500 years ago.

At Italy's pavilion, a 3D replica of Michelangelo's David stands tall, his gaze intense and defiant. For most visitors, though, David's head is all they will see as they tour the pavilion. Only VIPs with special access will be able to catch a view of the statue from head to toe while it's on display for the next six months at Dubai's Expo 2020.

The original David is nude and some visitors see the limited view offered as a form of censorship. Others say the way David is displayed at the Expo is a form of artistic expression.

"It is no coincidence that David is not seen from the bottom to the top, as it normally is, but it welcomes people by looking at them in the face," said David Rampello, the director of art at the Italian pavilion.

An art historian in Rome said choosing who can view the statue in full and who cannot creates a hierarchy.

"What the rich, the great and the good can see and what the ordinary folk can see shouldn't be two different things," said Professor Paul Gwynne, who teaches medieval and renaissance studies at the American University of Rome.

It took a team of Italian experts 40 hours of digital scanning to create the replica, made with what organizers describe as one of the world's largest 3D printers. Artists used filaments from recycled plastic material, then a mix of resins and marble dust to create it.

At its home in Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia since 1873, the original David draws gasps from onlookers to this day. Michelangelo's mastery and his passion for human anatomy, from the contracted muscles of David's abdomen to the flexing of his right thigh muscles, make the piece unforgettable for those looking up at the towering work of art.

In Dubai, those details get lost. David stands in the center of a narrow

octagonal shaft, presented from his chest up and surrounded by replicas of Roman columns. Visitors in the public area can see parts of David's torso if they lean over a railing.

The rest of his body sits inside a clear partition on the separate floor. His genitals and buttocks find themselves between the floors, though fully visible if an onlooker stands near the partition and peers up.

## Censorship

That position drew the ire of a La Repubblica reporter writing on Expo's opening.

"Why can't you see the whole body of the biblical hero, because you only see the head, the magnetic eyes staring at you silently? And where is the rest?" an article in the daily newspaper read, at one point referring to David's "beheading."

David's nudity has been part of a centuries-old debate about art pushing boundaries and the rules of censorship. In the 1500s, metal fig leaves covered the some parts of statues like David when the Roman Catholic Church deemed nudity as immodest and obscene.

Nudity even bumps up against mores in the modern era. Controversy erupted in 2016 when officials erected wooden panels to shield nude statues at Rome's Capitoline Museums during a visit by Iran's then-President Hassan Rouhani. That spurred some politicians to accuse the government of caving in to "cultural submission" though Rouhani himself thanked Italians as being "very hospitable people" when asked about the gesture.

In the wider United Arab Emirates, a few nude artworks can be seen at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, though the museum largely caters to more conservative pieces.

Expo visitor Calli Schmitz from Germany she said she didn't think the way the replica was displayed at the Expo did it much justice.

"I think it was not as exposed as it should have been," she said. "I think because of the gold everywhere, people did not really realize it was the

statue of David."

Italian visitor Ricardo Mantarano offered another take.

"It's a different way of approaching the same sculpture and putting it in another perspective," he said.

Dinara Aksyanova, a 31-year-old visitor from Moscow, however, wasn't as forgiving.

"Why was it only half? It makes no sense," she said. "The most interesting part is underneath."

## Also:

**HONG KONG:** A Danish artist is seeking to get back his sculpture in Hong Kong memorializing the victims of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown as a deadline loomed for its removal Wednesday.

Jens Galschiot said in an emailed statement that he had hired a lawyer and hopes he will be able to transport the sculpture out of Hong Kong "under orderly conditions and without it having suffered from any damage."

Hong Kong University last week demanded the removal of the "Pillar of Shame" sculpture by 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) on Wednesday.

The university lawyers sent a letter to an activist group, the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, saying the sculpture would be deemed abandoned if it were not taken away by that time.

Galschiot loaned "Pillar of Shame" to the group, which disbanded last month amid a crackdown on independent political activism in the semi-autonomous city. The sculpture has been in Hong Kong for 24 years.

China's leaders sent in the military to end pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, killing hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

The ruling Communist Party has squelched any public discussion or memorializing of the events in mainland China. For years, the only major memorial on Chinese soil was an annual candlelight vigil in Hong Kong, but authorities have banned the gathering for the past two years, citing COVID-19 concerns.



In this June 3, 1997, file photo, Danish artist Jens Galschiot, (right), supervises erection of the 'Pillar of Shame,' a bronze statue to mark the military crackdown of a pro-democracy student movement in Beijing in June 1989, at Hong Kong's Victoria Park. Galschiot is seeking to get back his sculpture in Hong Kong memorializing the victims of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown as a deadline loomed for its removal Wednesday, Oct. 13. (AP)



Perry



Tyga

## Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Rapper Tyga was arrested in a felony domestic violence investigation Tuesday, authorities said.

Tyga, 31, whose legal name is Michael Stevenson, was booked after a Tuesday incident in Hollywood, Los Angeles police said.

He was released after posting \$50,000 bond, jail records showed.

The arrest came after 22-year-old fashion designer Camaryn Swanson, his ex-girlfriend, posted images online of her face with a black eye.

"I've been emotionally, mentally and physically abused and I'm not hiding it," Swanson said in an Instagram story.

An email seeking comment from a representative for Tyga was not immediately returned.

The rapper was also previously in relationships with reality TV stars Kylie Jenner and Blac Chyna. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** The custom suits BTS wore for their Grammy Awards performance earlier this year are among the items that will be sold at a charity auction.

The seven-member K-pop group wore custom Louis Vuitton suits to perform their hit "Dynamite" during March's Grammys, the first time the megastars had performed at music's marquee awards ceremony.

A white and gold long sleeve dress worn by Dolly Parton and a silver dress Katy Perry performed in are among the other items that will be sold to benefit the Recording Academy's MusiCares, which helps provide health and other safety net assistance for those who need it in the music industry.

The sale, hosted by Julien's Auctions, will be held Jan. 30, 2022, during the runup to the Grammys.

Parton wore her dress in 2019 when she was honored by MusiCares. Perry performed "California Gurls" in the silver ensemble in 2010 during a concert spot-

lighting Grammy nominees.

Other items headed to the auction block include one of Jason Aldean's cowboy hats, a jacket worn by Lionel Richie during

his 2015 Glastonbury performance and guitars signed by Machine Gun Kelly and Metallica's James Hetfield.

Joni Mitchell has been announced as this



Jamie Lee Curtis, (far right), the star and executive producer of 'Halloween Kills,' poses with cast members Anthony Michael Hall, (far left), and Judy Greer, (second from left), and director/co-writer David Gordon Green at the premiere of the film, Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

year's MusiCares Person of the year and will be honored at a ceremony on Jan. 29.

After spending most of the pandemic in South Korea, BTS will give their first live performances at a series of show starting Nov. 27 at SoFi Stadium near Los Angeles. (AP)

**CODY, Wyo:** Rapper, music producer and clothing entrepreneur Kanye West has put his ranch and business properties in northwestern Wyoming up for sale.

The West Ranch, formerly known as Monster Lake Ranch, went on the market Monday for \$11 million. The property sprawls across six square miles (16 square kilometers) of open land and tree-studded hills and outcrops about six miles (10 kilometers) south of Cody.

The property features lakes, a lodge, commercial kitchen, equipment sheds, horse facility, corrals and go-kart track, according to the DBW Realty listing.

The listing came days after West listed his seven commercial properties in Cody for more than \$3.2 million, the Cody Enterprise reported.

The ranch, which leases additional land owned by the US government, listed for \$13.3 million before West bought it in 2019 though it's unknown how much he paid for the property. Wyoming law does not provide for public disclosure of real estate sale amounts. (AP)