

Royal funeral offers chance for William, Harry to reconcile

LONDON, April 15, (AP) — When Prince Philip's funeral takes place on Saturday, it will be more than a focal point for national mourning. Many will also be watching for any signs of reconciliation between Prince Harry and the royal family, especially with his elder brother Prince William.

It will be the first time that Harry comes face-to-face with the royal family since he and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, stepped away from royal duties last March and moved to California with their young son, Archie.

While that departure caused a huge rift in the monarchy, family relations took a further dive last month when Harry and Meghan gave a candid interview with US talk show host Oprah Winfrey. Among other revelations, Harry confirmed rumors that he and his brother had been growing apart, saying "the relationship is 'space' at the moment" — though he added that "time heals all things, hopefully."

Harry also told Winfrey that his father, heir to the throne Prince Charles, was not accepting his calls for a time.

And the couple threw a bombshell by revealing that an unnamed member of the royal family had expressed concern about "how dark" their child's skin color might be due to Meghan's biracial heritage. Days after the explosive racism accusations were aired, William shot back, telling reporters that his was "very much not a racist family."

In spite of the tensions, Saturday's funeral will almost certainly remind the brothers of their shared grief at another royal funeral more than two decades ago — when, as young boys, both walked behind their mother Princess Diana's coffin in 1997.

On Saturday, Harry, 36, and William, 38, are both expected to join

other senior royals and walk behind their grandfather's coffin, as the funeral procession makes its way through Windsor Castle.

Many observers believe that Philip's funeral will provide an ideal opportunity for "The Firm" to show a united front to the world and for the royal brothers to smooth over tensions. Philip, who had been married to Queen Elizabeth II for more than seven decades, died last week at 99.

"They shared emotion. They share grief at the present time because of the death of their grandfather," former Prime Minister John Major, who was appointed the princes' guardian after Diana's death, told the BBC this week.

"I hope very much that it is possible to mend any rifts that may exist," he added.

But Angela Levin, Harry's biographer, said it would be inappropriate for the royals to talk about their personal issues in the run-up to the funeral. It would take time to heal the hurt after the Winfrey interview — and that won't happen if Harry rushes back to the U.S. afterward, she added.

"I absolutely think it would be wrong to be all about themselves before the funeral. And I think that it's wrong to imagine that they're going to pour out their hearts and give each other a hug, when so much has happened in the year and William has had to take on so much more responsibility," she told the AP.

(The brothers have had contrasting roles and personalities from birth, though in recent years those differences have increasingly come to the fore.)

As the younger brother to a future king — the so-called "spare" to

the heir — Harry had far fewer responsibilities and a reputation as the party prince before serving in the army and settling down in his 30s. He found success and enjoyed popularity in Britain with the Invictus Games, the sporting event he founded for disabled and wounded members of the military.

Yet his place in the monarchy became further diminished with the birth of William's three children, who bumped him down to sixth in line to the throne.

It was clear from at least 2019 that Harry wanted a break from the constraints of the monarchy to craft his own narrative. That year Harry and Meghan separated from the Royal Foundation, originally set up as the brothers' joint charitable venture, so they could have their own platform.

The princes' separate statements this week in tribute to Philip reflected their personalities and differing styles. While William's stated that he and his wife Kate will "continue to do what (Philip) would have wanted and will support The Queen in the years ahead," Harry's tone was much more informal and light-hearted.

The younger brother praised Philip for being "authentically himself" and thanked him for his "dedication to Granny." He also wrote: "While I could go on, I know that right now he would say to all of us, beer in hand, 'Oh do get on with it.'"

Still, Levin said the brothers had enjoyed an incredibly close bond from childhood and she hoped the time would come for them to reconcile their differences.

"Harry said to me when I was interviewing him for my biography, he said that William is the only person he can really trust," she said.

People

Variety

Features

ARABO TIMES
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 16-17, 2021



This image released by IFC Films shows Sebastian Stan, (left), and Denise Gough in a scene from 'Monday.' (AP)

Film

Lead pair display intoxicating chemistry

Arresting, beautiful rom-com in 'Monday'

By Jocelyn Noveck

MMonday. Ugh. The very word emits a chill. Monday means back to school, or work. Nose to the grindstone. Party's over.

Friday, meanwhile, is the opposite vibe. What's great about Friday is that, unlike Saturday and certainly Sunday, it signals the beginning of fun. Friday means you have lots of time — Monday's a mere twinkle in the distance.

Now there's an entire movie, "Monday," by writer-director Argyris Papadimitropoulos, based on this concept. The story of an intoxicating love affair slowly inching toward some sort of reckoning with reality, "Monday" should really be called "Mostly Friday," because most of what we see transpires in that phase: the beginning of a relationship, when we willfully ignore any warning signals.

"Monday" takes some patience. It's arresting at times, and beautiful, even seductive, mainly due to the chemistry between its leads, Sebastian Stan and Denise Gough, who spend a lot of time together. (Stan recently promoted the movie by teasing a shot of his nude backside on Instagram. This will not hurt the film's chances.)

But Papadimitropoulos doesn't say a whole lot here or offer much of a lesson. This may not be a fatal problem, but it can feel trying; better to watch this film on a Friday, when you have no reason to rush through life.

Speaking of intoxicating, our setting is Greece. In the summer. This is where we meet thirty-something American immigration lawyer Chloe (Gough, an Irish actress better known for her accomplished stage work), who's spending one last night on the Athens club scene before returning stateside. Chloe is nursing a bad breakup; it's time to go home and start a new job.

But then she meets Mickey, also American, a

DJ and jingle writer who's been living in Athens for years. Mickey is charismatic and charming — a man-boy who's clearly gotten by on these assets for a long time. They meet on the dance floor.

The next morning, they wake up on the beach. The cops take them down to the station. In handcuffs, they introduce themselves to each other by name for the first time. Ah, young(ish) love.

The cops let them go, and Mickey gives Chloe a lift home. It would all end here, except she lost her bag, with her keys. She ends up traveling to a dreamy island with him for a party. And soon, they're hooked. Chloe gets as far as the security line at the airport, but he races there and pulls her back at the last moment.

If it's a bit hard to believe a woman like Chloe — smart, with a meaningful career — would drop everything (and halfway through security!), well, we're willing to suspend disbelief. After all, it IS Friday. In fact that first chapter is called "Friday," as is the next, and the next, and the next.

Escape

And these two can't keep their hands off each other. They have sex everywhere, including in a flatbed truck on a side street in daylight. But fisures slowly appear. An old friend of Mickey's comes to visit and tells him, "You're only happy when you're failing." Mickey's ex, meeting Chloe, calls him "a baby." This concerns her, but the magnetic field of their attraction is apparently too intense to escape.

At the same time, there's a worrying undercurrent that maybe it's not all about chemistry — maybe these two are using each other for reasons they'd prefer not to acknowledge. One of them actually verbalizes this, but it's pretty far into the game.

"Monday" has an artsy, improvised feel, but also falls prey to some pretty standard rom-com

tropes. Running to the airport to catch someone just before they board a plane, for example, seems right out of a Richard Curtis film. The same goes for someone grabbing the mic at a random wedding to make a clumsy, drunken pronouncement of love.

What saves scenes like this is the fact that Gough is so genuine a performer, you really want to see how her Chloe will handle things. As for Stan, he has enough raw appeal to make you empathize, if not totally buy, Chloe's willingness to hang around.

As the relationship goes, so goes the film. The beginning is fun — for the characters, and for us. By the time we see the word "Monday" appear onscreen, we've already felt the oncoming chill. As Dorothy might say: "Toto, I've a feeling it's not Friday anymore."

"Monday," an IFC Films release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America "for sexual content, nudity/graphic nudity, drug use, and pervasive language." Running time: 116 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: In "Mayor," director David Osit profiles local government in a land typically seen through a national lens. Osit trails **Musa Hadid**, the charismatic and mustachioed mayor of the Palestinian city of **Ramallah**, as he tirelessly deals with many of the issues of any municipality — can Ramallah brand itself like, as one advisor mentions, **Minnesota's** "Land of 10,000 Lakes"? — while wrestling with the more extreme, geopolitical issues endemic to the **West Bank**. It's a funnier film than you'd imagine, as Osit observes the sometimes farcical, sometimes painful plight of a beset community that proves that, at least in Ramallah, not all politics are local. "Mayor" began streaming on the Criterion Channel. (AP)

NEW YORK: ABC named **Kim Godwin** as its news division president on Wednesday, making her the first Black woman to be the top news executive at a broadcast network.

Godwin has been second-in-command at CBS News, which learned Wednesday that its own division president, **Susan Zirinsky**, is stepping down after two years on the job.

Godwin has worked at CBS News since 2007, after running local broadcast news operations in New York, **Los Angeles**, **Dallas** and **Cleveland**. She replaces **James Goldston**, who announced in January that he was leaving.

"Throughout Kim's career in global news organizations and local newsrooms, she has distinguished herself as a fierce advocate for excellence, collaboration, inclusion and the vital role of accurate and transparent news reporting," said her new boss, Disney general entertainment content chairman **Peter Rice**.

Godwin was not made available for an interview.

She joins a division that has been outwardly humming along. "World News Tonight," anchored by **David Muir**, is in first place and been widening his ratings lead. "Good Morning America" is the most popular news show in the morning.

Last summer, however, ABC News cut ties with its executive in charge of talent and recruitment after an investigation revealed she had made racist comments and had a rough management style.

It's the type of issue that might have tipped the balance in favor of candidate to lead the news division coming from the outside instead of the current ranks.

Rick Kaplan, a longtime network news executive who was running the "CBS Evening News" when Godwin was hired in 2007 to be a producer there, praised ABC's decision. He described Godwin as "a very centered, smart person who loves to talk about the news."

"She's not coming in there thinking everything needs to be saved," he said. "ABC doesn't need saving, like CBS didn't need saving. She has respect for the institution. Every network has its own culture, and if you don't have

respect for the culture" it can be trouble, he said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Colton Underwood, the former football tight end who found fame on "The Bachelor," has revealed that he is gay.

"I've ran from myself for a long time. I've hated myself for a long



Underwood



Godwin

time," Underwood told "Good Morning America" on Wednesday. "And I'm gay. And I came to terms with that earlier this year and have been processing it. And the next step in all of this was sort of letting people know."

Underwood tried out briefly for a handful of NFL teams before his professional football career ended in 2016. Three years later, he won

over **Cassie Randolph** on Season 23 of "The Bachelor," a show centered on a single bachelor who is asked to select a wife from a pool of romantic interests. Underwood and Randolph never married.

"Every LGBTQ person's journey to discovering and accepting their authentic self is different, and Colton Underwood's decision to share his truth with the public

reminds us that there is no set timeline for coming out," said **Anthony Allen Ramos**, head of talent for GLAAD.

"Given the large and loyal fandom who know Colton from 'The Bachelor,' his coming out and discussion of his faith will hopefully open eyes to the millions of out and proud LGBTQ people who are also people of faith." (AP)