

Celebrities detail coronavirus stories in their own words

By Christi Carras
Los Angeles Times

“Not bad at all.”
“A turbo-charged flu.”
“The hardest experience of my life.”

Those are just a few phrases celebrities have used to describe their wide-ranging experiences battling the novel coronavirus.

Throughout March and April, several stars — including Pink, Tom Hanks, Idris Elba, Daniel Dae Kim and more — have gone public with coronavirus diagnoses and offered some insight into their respective symptoms, or lack thereof. Some, like Elba, have been largely asymptomatic, while others, including CNN newscaster Chris Cuomo, have had a tougher fight with the respiratory illness.

Several entertainers, including singer John Prine, playwright Terrence McNally, Fountains of Wayne frontman Adam Schlesinger and “The Nun’s Story” actress and author Patricia Bosworth, have died of complications related to the respiratory illness.

Here’s a sampling of celebrity COVID-19 accounts, from “freaky” to “very mild.”

Pink

“There have been many nights where I cried, and I have never prayed more in my life,” the “So What” singer, who tested positive along with her 3-year-old son, said during an Instagram video chat. “At one point I heard myself saying, ‘I thought they promised us our kids would be OK.’ And it’s not guaranteed. There’s no one who is safe from this.”

“(My son has) had a fever for three weeks and diarrhea and then constipation and then throwing up and pale and listless and lethargic and all the things that scare the bejesus out of you as a mama.”

Chris Cuomo

“This virus came at me — I’ve never seen anything like it,” the CNN anchor said on “Prime Time,” describing the effects of body-quaking “rigors.” “Yeah, I’ve had a fever, you’ve had a fever. But ... it was like somebody was beating me like a piñata. And I was shivering so much that ... I chipped my tooth.”

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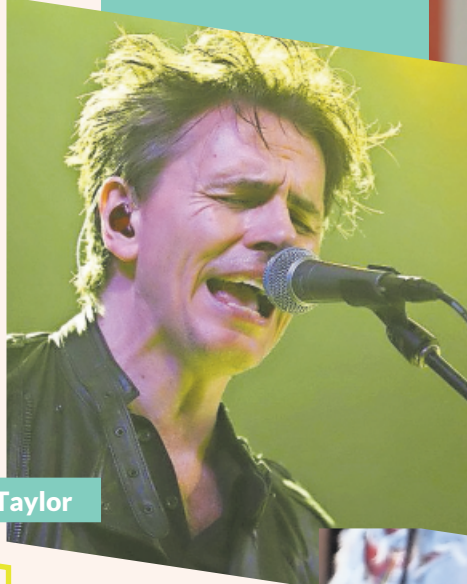
Christopher Cross



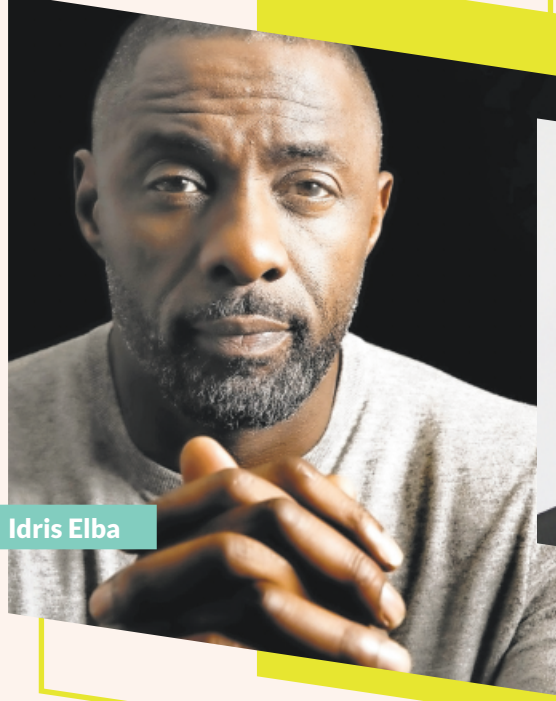
Placido Domingo



Daniel Dae Kim



John Taylor



Idris Elba



Colton Underwood



Pink



Michael Loccisano / Getty Images / TNS
Tenor Andrea Bocelli performs in 2017 in New York.

Bocelli will sing live from Italy on Easter

Performance will be streamed on YouTube

By Dorany Pineda
Los Angeles Times

Andrea Bocelli is here to make your Easter Sunday more uplifting with “a message of love, healing and hope” as the world grapples with a global health crisis.

The Italian opera legend will give a concert Sunday in the historic Duomo cathedral in Milan, Italy, and it will be live-streamed on YouTube. The cathedral is closed to the public amid the coronavirus pandemic, so Bocelli will perform to an empty venue.

Cathedral organist Emanuele Vianelli will be Bocelli’s sole accompaniment, and together they will perform spiritual songs such as “Ave Maria” and “Sancta Maria.”

“Bocelli: Music for Hope” is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. in Italy, which is noon Central time. The live performance will be seen exclusively on Bocelli’s YouTube channel.

“On the day in which we celebrate the trust in a life that triumphs, I’m honored and happy to answer ‘Sì’ to the invitation of the City and the Duomo of Milan,” said Bocelli in a statement Tuesday. “I believe in the strength of praying together; I believe in the Christian Easter, a universal symbol of rebirth that everyone — whether they are believers or not — truly needs right now.”

“Thanks to music, streamed live, bringing together millions of clasped hands everywhere in the world, we will hug this wounded Earth’s pulsing heart, this wonderful international forge that is

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Streaming service Quibi off to strong start

Tops Disney+ and Netflix in downloads

By Wendy Lee
Los Angeles Times

MILLBRAE, Calif. — Quibi, the new Hollywood streaming service, had a promising launch on Monday, with a surge of downloads catapulting it to become one of the most popular entertainment apps, according to San Francisco app analytics firm App Annie.

The startup ranked second for U.S. entertainment apps for the iPhone from 3 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, App Annie said. The No. 1 app

during that time period based on the number of hourly app downloads was video sharing app TikTok. Placing below Quibi in third place was Disney+, followed by Netflix and Hulu, the analytics firm said.

On Sunday, the top five entertainment iPhone apps were TikTok, followed by Disney+, Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime Video, App Annie said. When Quibi launched on Monday morning, Amazon wasn’t part of the top five.

“It’s a strong start for a brand new app with-

out an established brand or content like Disney+,” said Amir Ghodrati, director of market insights for App Annie.

App Annie said the number of downloads was not immediately available. Sensor Tower, a San Francisco firm that tracks app data, said Tuesday that it estimates more than 300,000 mobile phone users in the U.S. and Canada installed the app on Monday.

Sensor Tower compared Quibi to HBO Now, which launched in April 7, 2015, with 45,000 installs, and to Disney+, which launched

in the U.S. and Canada on Nov. 12 with 4 million installs.

“Quibi’s release figures were bolstered by a lengthy preorder period, effectively front-loading a significant number of downloads into its launch day,” wrote Randy Nelson, head of Sensor Tower’s mobile insights, in a blog post.

Quibi, which streams programs in segments of 10 minutes or less, charges \$4.99 a month for programming with ads and \$7.99 without ads. The service started on Monday with 50 shows, including movies told in chapters like the



Travis Cox / Quibi
A home featured in Quibi’s “Murder House Flip.”

Sophie Turner thriller “Survive” and the prank show “Punk’d.”

The company has raised \$1.75 billion and advertised in prominent places, including a Super Bowl ad that cost \$5.6

million. The service launched at a time when more consumers are sheltering at home to avoid spreading the coronavirus,

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