

Kanye West is back with controversy, shoes, and new music

by Aidan Adams-Campeau

Humor Editor

After a relatively quiet period in the wake of his May 2014 marriage to Kim Kardashian, Kanye West opened up 2015 by releasing a track from his new album, *Only One*, which featured Paul McCartney on keyboard. Since that time, the public has seen much more of West's recent creative activity, notably at his Feb. 12 fashion show that revealed his footwear collaboration with Adidas, the Yeezy Boost. The fashion show, which streamed live to theaters in cities around the world, counted among its attendees Alexander Wang, Rihanna, Jay Z, North West, and Anna Wintour. As West's visions of clothing appeared on row after row of models, droning horn notes emanated through the space, another track from the artist's upcoming album, *Wolves ft. Sia and Vic Mensa*, was unveiled as West stepped momentarily into the fore.

In the aftermath of West's fashion show, the Yeezy Boosts quickly sold out their initial limited release, though they have since been restocked. West has also spoken adamantly about his desire to bring the price point of the shoes, initially \$350, down to a more affordable level in the near future. A lookbook giving a more extensive glimpse of West's

forthcoming clothing line beyond footwear has also recently leaked.

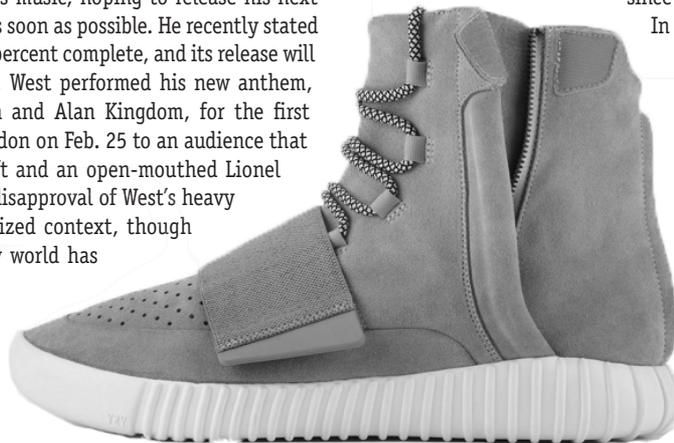
Besides his successful strides in the fashion world, West has been dedicating renewed focus to his music, hoping to release his next album, titled *So Help Me God*, as soon as possible. He recently stated that the album is about eighty percent complete, and its release will not be announced beforehand. West performed his new anthem, *All Day ft. Theophilus London and Alan Kingdom*, for the first time at the BRIT Awards in London on Feb. 25 to an audience that included a dancing Taylor Swift and an open-mouthed Lionel Richie. Richie later voiced his disapproval of West's heavy use of the n-word in a normalized context, though he acknowledged that the new world has accepted this usage.

West stirred up further controversy at the Grammy's when he approached the stage in symbolic disapproval of the Album of the Year award going to Beck

rather than Beyoncé. Many were critical of his comment that Beck and the Grammy's should "respect artistry," and West himself has since softened his stance on the incident.

In an interview with Zane Lowe, the rapper suggested that "everyone has the right to be wrong." In the same conversation, West discussed his recent evolution, from the intensely egotistical Yeezus era to his new state, which he describes as the role of a humble servant.

Whatever one's personal feelings towards Kanye West, the world continues to unambiguously benefit and evolve as a result of his creative output, and new work on both music and fashion horizons seems sure to arrive shortly.



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EFFICIENTLY PROCRASTINATE WITH LYLE'S NETFLIX GUIDE

by Danika Lyle

News Editor

We all know the feelings of sadness, happiness, and confusion that come with finishing a TV show. Then comes the inevitable thought, "What's next?" Here are a list of suggested TV shows to binge watch on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu after you finish your favorite shows.

If you like goofy, comedic TV shows like *Brooklyn Nine Nine*, then you will also like:

The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: this Netflix original is produced by comedy goddess Tina Fey who lives up to her reputation with this new show. The story follows Kimmy Schmidt, a girl who has been living in an apocalypse safety bunker for fifteen years and is now experiencing the outside world for the first time. Kimmy tries to make it in New York City with no money, an unemployed roommate, and no knowledge of the modern world.

Community: this show follows an unlikely group of friends enrolled



at Community College. The show is hilarious as well as moving at times, and it's your chance to see Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, act as the innocent Troy Barnes.

If you like buddy sitcoms like *Friends*, you'll also like:

How I Met Your Mother: Like *Friends*, *How I Met Your Mother* is a sitcom centered around a group of friends living in New York City. *How I Met Your Mother* is filled with more iconic

characters, including the infamous Barney Stinson, played by Neil Patrick Harris. *How I Met Your Mother* aired nine seasons, each with 24 21-minute episodes, and all of them are on Netflix.

New Girl: *New Girl* focuses on the lives of several roommates in Los Angeles. Like *Friends* and *How I Met Your Mother*, the characters are unique and their interactions are extremely entertaining. Zooey Deschanel stars as Jessica Day, a friendly and slightly eccentric elementary school teacher. Three out of four seasons of *New Girl* are on Netflix, and each episode is around

21 minutes long.

If you like *Sherlock*, you'll like:

Peaky Blinders: This little known but extraordinarily good show



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is about British gangsters in the aftermath of World War I. The historical context and the show's anti-hero protagonist combine to form a riveting plot and a beautiful show.

Leverage: While not one of the most sophisticated shows, it is always good fun. A team of thieves, hackers, grifters, and hitters commit Robin Hood style crimes to

fight evil corporations and companies and help the underdog win.

White Collar: A former art forger is caught and strikes a deal with the FBI to help him catch other criminals in return for some degree of freedom. He is not yet ready to abandon his criminal lifestyle, but his fast talking charm and cocky willingness to bend, if not outright break, the rules often takes him farther than lawfulness and honesty ever would.

Vikings: Though this show is in a very different vein, the narrative of the anti-hero reoccurs. The main character may be a viking that enjoys pillaging and killing, but his fearless attitude and intelligence, as well as his unconditional love for his family, make him a protagonist worth supporting.

Hopefully these eight shows will help you move on from one show to the next, happy binge-watching!

Gaye family sues Thicke

by Rowyn van Miltenburg

National Editor

On Tues., March 10, a federal jury found Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke's hit song "Blurred Lines" infringed on the late R&B singer Marvin Gaye's popular song "Got to Give It Up." The decision awarded Gaye's three children with nearly \$7.4 million.

The trial, which lasted more than a week, analyzed the similarities between the two songs. Gaye's children, Nona, Frankie, and Marvin Gaye III, say they immediately recognized similarities between their father's hit and the 2013 song. Williams, Thicke, and rapper T.I., whose legal name is Clifford Harris Jr., were all brought to court, as they are the song's credited writers; however, only Williams and Thicke were found guilty.

"Blurred Lines" was number one on the Billboard single charts for ten weeks in a row, and was also nominated for record of the year at the 2013 Grammys. According to court documents, "Blurred Lines" has earned close to \$16.5 million in profits. Thicke and Williams

received \$5.6 million and \$5.2 million respectively.

Both Thicke and Williams appeared in court to contest the accusation. Thicke played the piano and even sang in court to defend "Blurred Lines" as an original work. While on the stand, he also admitted he was intoxicated and high when the song was written and during interviews about the song. Thicke also confessed he tried to take credit for "Blurred Lines," even though Williams primarily authored the piece.

While listening to both of the song's bass lines, Williams even admitted, "It sounds like you're playing the same thing." He also testified that he only realized the connection to Gaye's song

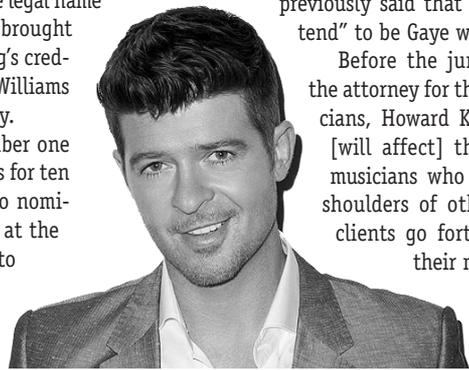
after the fact, and that, even though he grew up listening to Gaye's music and admired him "beyond words," he would never copy the musician's work. Williams went on to say that the songs share "feel-not infringement."

The Gaye children's attorney, Richard Busch, warned jurors, "Keep in mind, these people are professional performers." He also turned to several past statements made by Thicke and Williams referencing the late singer. In multiple interviews Thicke said he told Williams that they should write something like "Got to Give It Up." Williams has previously said that he was "trying to pretend" to be Gaye while writing the song.

Before the jury began deliberating, the attorney for the "Blurred Lines" musicians, Howard King, told jurors, "This [will affect] the creativity of young musicians who hope to stand on the shoulders of other musicians. Let my clients go forth and continue to do their magic."

King's statement emulates what many are concerned about - future restrictions on creativity. Many celebrities were surprised by the verdict and have since voiced their opinions. Country singer and American Idol judge Keith Urban said, "I was shocked, honestly. Seems more like a sound and a feel and a style and a genre and an era, none of which can be copyrighted." Singer Nick Lachey also commented, "If you can be inspired by something and do something that's similar and have a jury rule that you ripped it off, that's kind of a scary thing."

Following the verdict, Thicke, Williams, and T.I. released a statement saying the verdict "sets a horrible precedent for music and creativity going forward."



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Oliver usurps Comedy Central Throne

By Cole Potter

Web Editor

With the recent finale of the *Colbert Report* and the apparent end to John Stewart's dynasty on the *Daily Show*, America requires a new late night comedy news show to take up the incredibly immense burden that these two brilliant programs will leave behind.

Colbert's successor, *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore* has enjoyed relative success and has added a much needed African-American voice to late night news programming, but its more perspective-focused, roundtable form of discussion fails to fulfill the void of comedic investigative journalism that was the *Daily Show's* trademark. While both the *Report* and the *Daily Show* were always comedic satire first, they both delved into factual investigation of contentious issues, and strove to bring the public's attention to complicated stories. While the *Nightly Show* does a terrific job of describing the nuance of today's issues through multiple guests' opinions and histories, it misses the mark on supplying real factual information to its audience. The show seems to enjoy laughing at its own jokes more than attempting to portray the "news" through a comedic lens. That is not to take away from the show as a whole, but it does not come anywhere near assuming the role of the *Colbert Report*, as it was marketed to do.



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While Stewart's replacement has not yet been announced, a *Daily Show* veteran has already begun to fill his shoes on another program, and perhaps perform Stewart's job better than he ever could.

John Oliver, a longtime writer on the *Daily Show* and brief stand in for Stewart during his hiatus in the summer of 2013, is currently in his second season of his own HBO program, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, and has so far obtained better critical reviews than the *Daily Show* ever received. The key difference between his show and all of

his predecessors is the "complete creative freedom," that HBO affords him, and the ability to delve into longer, satirical and informative pieces without fear of commercial interruption. Oliver's show currently runs for thirty minutes every Sunday night, and tackles everything from Russian space sex geckos, to Ayn Rand's legitimacy in the twenty first century, to the importance of American net neutrality. Oliver is both wildly silly and soberingly explanatory in his material, and perfectly embodies Colbert's wit along with Stewart's important and newsworthy structure. If you do not have a subscription to HBO, the show has a YouTube channel which updates every Monday with the highlights of the previous night's program and is definitely worth a watch.

When the current kings of news comedy step down, the crown will be held safe in the hands of John Oliver.