



by Monée Fields-White
THE GRIO

(GRIO) - In a career that spanned more than five decades and three musical genres, Tina Turner revolutionized the music industry, earning herself the well-deserved title “the Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

Turner died Wednesday at 83.

“Tina Turner, the ‘Queen of Rock’n Roll’ has died peacefully today at the age of 83 after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland,” according to a statement in Rolling Stone. “With her, the world loses a music legend and a role model.”

Turner won a dozen Grammy awards, sold more than 100 million records worldwide, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a Kennedy Center Honor. She was twice inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame — once with ex-husband Ike Turner in 1991 and most recently in 2021 in honor of her luminous international superstar solo career.

Orchestrating one of the greatest comebacks in

Tina Turner, the queen of rock and roll, dies at 83



music, she set out on a path that was on her terms. “I had a dream. My dream [was] to be the first Black rock ‘n’ roll singer to pack [stadiums] like the [Rolling Stones],” Turner recounted in the 2020 HBO documentary, “Tina,” which explored her triumphs, struggles and traumas.

Journalist Kurt Loder, who co-wrote her best-selling 1986 memoir, “I, Tina: My Life Story,” said her voice combined “the emotional force of the great blues singers with a sheer, wallpaper-peeling power that seemed made to order for the age of amplification.”

Daphne A. Brooks, a scholar of African American studies, wrote in The Guardian that Turner set

a new path for Black female artists in an industry “that had long marginalized and overlooked the pioneering contributions of [Black] women and then remade herself again at an age when most pop musicians were hitting the oldies circuit. Turner’s musical character has always been a charged combination of mystery as well as light, melancholy mixed with a ferocious vitality that often flirted with danger.”

By the mid-1960s, Tina was making a name for herself, receiving rave reviews for various solo appearances on variety shows such as “American Bandstand” and “Shindig!” Her profile was also raised during perfor-

mances with the Revue on “Hollywood A Go-Go.”

Ike and Tina would tour the U.S. in 1969 as the opening act for the Rolling Stones, which garnered them more fans at home. The couple also produced some of popular music’s most notable hits, including a cover version of Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Proud Mary” (1971) and “Nutbush City Limits” (1973). Tina wrote the latter song — a rock-country-soul crossing tune — in honor of her Tennessee home. Also in 1975, she made her film debut in The Who’s “Tommy” playing the Acid Queen.

Ike and Tina’s relationship, marred by Ike’s physical and drug abuse since they’d become a

couple, fell apart during the 1970s. Their wedding date would become a subject of some speculation during their divorce proceedings in 1977. Ike claimed that the two were not legally married in 1962 because he was married to another woman at the time.

During the 1970s, Turner would learn about Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, which she noted offered her peace and helped her survive her marriage. She remained faithful to the teachings of The Soka Gakkai International, even in her later years.

“My peace of mind was more important,” she said in an interview with Entertainment Weekly.

“I was ready for a

change,” she said in the HBO documentary. “That was the beginning of me taking control of my own performance. I was my own boss.”

In 1985, she co-starred with Mel Gibson in the film, “Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome,” contributing the hit song, “We Don’t Need Another Hero.” The following year, she published her memoir, “I, Tina,” with music journalist Kurt Loder, which was adapted into the 1993 biopic, “What’s Love Got to Do With It.” Angela Bassett starred as Tina and Laurence Fishburne played Ike.

Turner was honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. That year, with collaborators Phyllida Lloyd and Stage Entertainment, she also debuted her musical, “Tina,” starring actress Adrienne Warren in the title role. The musical played on Broadway in 2019. She also briefly came out of retirement in July 2020 to collaborate with Norwegian producer Kygo for a remix of “What’s Love Got to Do with It,” which made her the first artist to have a Top 40 hit in seven consecutive decades on the U.K. charts.

Turner is survived by her husband Bach and two of her four sons.

Biden goes quiet, McCarthy can't stop chatting

by SEUNG MIN KIM | AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — There was Kevin McCarthy, saying the White House was refusing to give on spending as the speaker returned to the Capitol one morning this week. Just a few short hours later, there was McCarthy again, this time telling reporters that the sole concession that Republicans were making to the White House on the debt limit was in fact, raising the debt limit.

As representatives from the White House and the GOP-controlled House race toward a deal that would pave the way for lawmakers to lift the debt limit, one side has been eager to speak publicly about the closed-door talks — trying to shape public perceptions of the negotiations.

It’s not the side that typically wields the bully pulpit.

President Joe Biden has made a deliberate decision to go quiet as his team gets down to the wire in the debt-limit talks, according to White House officials. It’s his deeply held view that speaking in public about negotiations does nothing to produce an outcome.

The already voluble McCarthy, by contrast, is especially chatty these days, as he aggressively tries to set the terms of the public debate. His own negotiators also engage at length with journalists on the debt-limit talks.

“We have to get an agreement that’s worthy of the American people,” the speaker told a small clutch of reporters outside the House chamber late Wednesday afternoon, which — by his aides’ count — was at least his 12th gaggle or news conference with reporters this week alone.

In comparison, Biden has said little publicly on the standoff since he returned from an international summit earlier this week to deal with the debt disarray in Washington. He spoke for less than three minutes as he opened an Oval Office meeting with McCarthy late Monday afternoon, but aside from that, has not talked in public about the issue.

The primary messaging vehicle for the White House has been press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre’s daily news briefings. On Wednesday, she began by highlighting comments from Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., openly saying that Republicans were holding the debt limit “hostage” in talks with the White House.

“This is a manufactured crisis,” said Jean-Pierre, who would not elaborate on any specifics of the ongoing talks during her 46-minute briefing.

China prepares for new wave of covid cases from XBB variant

by Lily Kuo | THE WASHINGTON POST

(CHINA) - Chinese authorities are rushing to push out vaccines to fight an ongoing new wave of coronavirus cases expected to peak in June and infect as many as 65 million people a week, as the new XBB variant of the virus evolves to overcome the immunity built up after China’s abrupt exit from its “zero covid” policy last year.

Zhong Nanshan, a top Chinese epidemiologist, said Monday that two new vaccines for the XBB omicron subvariant had received initial approval, according to state media reports. Zhong, speaking at biotech forum in Guangzhou, said three to four other vaccines were set to be approved soon, but he did not provide more details.

The new outbreak could be the largest wave of infections since China dismantled its strict zero-covid regime last winter, causing as much as 85 percent of the population to be infected at the time.

In the United States, the new variant brought an uptick in infections, but the end of the public health emergency was still declared on May 11, although experts have not ruled out new variants setting off another wave of infections in the coming years.

While officials in China say the new wave will be less severe, public health experts say that an aggressive vaccine booster program and a ready supply of antivirals at hospitals are needed to prevent another spike in deaths among China’s large elderly population.

“The number of infections will be less. The severe cases will be certainly be less, and deaths will be less, but that could still be a large number,” said Ben Cowling, an epidemiologist at the University of Hong Kong’s School of Public Health. “Even when we think this is a milder wave it could still be quite a substantial health impact on the community.”

The omicron variant XBB has caused a surge in cases since last month, with covid overtaking the flu as the most common infectious-disease over the last two weeks of April, according to the Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Health officials have reassured the public that reinfections have milder symptoms and promised that hospitals will not be overwhelmed as they were last winter. Some hospitals have advised residents to wear masks and for the elderly and immunocompromised to avoid crowded places.

Idris Elba to produce docuseries exploring the music industry's exploitation of Black artists

by Angel Saunders | REVOLT

As previously reported by REVOLT, in February, Idris Elba inadvertently raised some eyebrows when he did an interview and stated, “I stopped describing myself as a Black actor when I realized it put me in a box.” After later clarifying the conversation, the English talent is back to show his stance in the ongoing battle for racial equality.

On May 22, it was announced that the Beast actor and his wife, Sabrina Elba, are partnering with BBC and CBC to bring “Paid in Full: The Battle for Payback” to life. The project will be a three-part docuseries exploring how the music industry has notoriously exploited Black artists, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“This is a story that touches all of us. It’s about the people who created the soundtracks of our lives in popular music and the pain of their exploitation. It’s also about bringing the music industry to account for the injustice inflicted on generations of musical talents who have been deprived of their rightful rewards both financially and in terms of status and respect. At the heart of it is the need to make amends — granting acknowledgment and paying back what is due,” Idris shared in a statement. His production company, Green Door, will produce the series. Zinc Media’s production label Supercollider and Canadian indie producer Catalyst will also aid in the program’s fruition.

Tanya Shaw, managing director of Zinc Television, expanded on Idris’ goal. “Far from being a straight music documentary, this series will explore the music industry within a racial context and reflect the history of exploitation within the industry. It will also major in on conversations of structural racism and those who have worked so hard to expose them,” she said. Jennifer Dettman, executive director of unscripted content at CBC, wants viewers worldwide to appreciate their storytelling efforts. “We look forward to sharing this important series with audiences in Canada, offering a necessary and in-depth exploration of the structural racism inherent in the music industry and its impact over the decades,” she added.

At this time, no release date has been revealed for the Idris Elba-led production.