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‘I don’t have words’: Boss of torched Japan animation studio mourns bright, young staff



People pray in front of a row of bouquets placed out for victims of the torched Kyoto Animation building in Kyoto, Japan, July 20, 2019. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

KYOTO, Japan (Reuters) - Many victims of an arson attack on a Japanese animation studio were young with bright futures, some joining only in April, the shaken company president said on Saturday, as the death toll climbed to 34.

People pray for victims of the torched Kyoto Animation building in Kyoto, Japan, July 20, 2019. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

Thursday’s attack on Kyoto Animation, well known for its television series and movies, was the worst mass killing in two decades in a country with one of the world’s lowest crime rates. It was all the more poignant because of the young age of many of the victims when Japan has one of the world’s oldest populations. Many of the victims were young women, company president Hideaki Hatta said.

“Some of them joined us just in April. And on the eighth of July, I gave them a small, but their first, bonus,” he said.

Suspected Japan arsonist a reclusive, quarrelsome gamer, neighbor says

“People who had a promising future lost their lives. I don’t know what to say. Rather than feeling anger, I just don’t have words,” Hatta said.

Fifteen of the dead were in their 20s and 11 were in their 30s, public broadcaster NHK said. Six were in their 40s and one was at least 60. The age of the latest victim, a man who died in hospital, was not known and names have not yet been disclosed.

Authorities on Saturday issued an arrest warrant for 41-year-old Shinji Aoba on suspicion of arson and murder, NHK said.

Police have confirmed Aoba’s identity and said he was previously convicted of robbing a shop. They plan to arrest him once he recovers from heavy burns, NHK said. He was earlier airlifted to

a university hospital in nearby Osaka.

Aoba went to the studio on Thursday morning, poured fuel around the entrance and shouted “Die” as he set the building ablaze, according to NHK.

He told police he had done it because the studio had plagiarized his novel, Kyodo news reported. Hatta said he had not seen any correspondence from the suspect and had no idea of the plagiarism claim.

One employee who survived the fire told NHK he did so by jumping from the second-floor balcony.

The employee, who was not identified, told the broadcaster there was a loud explosion and a plume of black smoke came up through a spiral staircase, filling the second floor and making it hard to breathe. As he went to the veranda, he heard cries for help.

“It was a choice of jumping from the second floor and getting injured, or dying,” he told NHK, adding that there were employees who could not bring themselves to jump.

‘IT WAS TERRIFYING’

Aoba lived in a small, two-floor apartment building 500 km (310 miles) from the western city of Kyoto, Japan’s ancient capital, on the outskirts of Omiya, a commuter hub north of Tokyo.

A neighbor said he had a dispute over noise with Aoba just days before the attack.

“He started yelling at me to my face to shut up. He grabbed me by the collar and started pulling my hair. It was terrifying,” the 27-year-old man who declined to be identified, said.

People living near the studio said they saw a man fitting Aoba’s description in a park the day before the attack. Police suspect he may have spent a day or more in the area to prepare.

Rui Yamaguchi, who works in a factory nearby, said he saw the suspect when he was detained.

“He looked like a mannequin with no hair and blackened. One of his pants legs had gone around his calf. It looked like it had burnt off,” he said.

Near the blackened studio building, where the smell of burning timber lingered over the neighborhood, animation fans of many nationalities joined local residents, queuing up to add to a growing pile of flowers, drinks and other offerings.

Bing Xie, 25, a Chinese student at Kyoto University, said she could not forgive the arsonist.

“The young people at Kyoto Animation were beautiful and warm and it is hard to accept they are gone.” Police guarded the site as investigators, some on the roof near where many died in a connecting stairwell, examined the torched three-story building.

Tributes to the victims lit up social media, with world leaders and Apple Inc’s (AAPL.O) chief executive offering condolences. The hashtag #PrayforKyoAni, as the studio is known among fans, has become popular.

Kyoto Animation produces popular “anime” series such as the “Sound! Euphonium”. It is also known for “Violet Evergarden”, which has been shown on Netflix.



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Snap returns to user growth, beats quarterly revenue estimates

(Reuters) - Snap Inc on Tuesday beat Wall Street targets for quarterly revenue as its photo-messaging app Snapchat added users for the first time in three quarters, backed by the popularity of its original shows and the launch of a new Android app.

The owner of Snapchat said the number of daily active users on the app rose to 190 million in the first quarter ended March 31 from 186 million three months earlier, but it was slightly down from 191 million from a year earlier.

The figure, widely watched by investors and advertisers, also beat analysts' average estimate of 187.2 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

In an effort to increase the amount of time users spend on the app, Snap, which faces stiff competition from Facebook Inc's Instagram, launched over 50 new shows in the reported quarter. It also rebuilt its Android app, which had more



FILE PHOTO: A woman stands in front of the logo of Snap Inc. on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) while waiting for Snap Inc. to post their IPO, in New York City, NY, U.S.



Traders work on the floor at the NYSE in New York

bugs and a worse user experience than its iOS app. The targeting of Android users is a change of tune for Snap, which prioritized development on the Apple ecosystem through its stock market launch in 2017. Snap's revenue, which it earns from selling advertising on the app, jumped 39 percent to \$320.4 million and beat Wall Street's average estimate of \$306.6 million. Revenue growth was helped in part by new ad formats

like unskippable commercials on its original shows, which are housed on the Discover page, a panel on the app that contains publisher content along with influencer content. Snap's focus on privacy and communication between friends has helped it avoid problems with misinformation and spread of unsavory content, which have plagued Facebook and Google's YouTube, two of its rivals for digital ad dollars. Average revenue per user jumped 39 percent to \$1.68 during the quarter from a year earlier. The company's net loss narrowed to

\$310.4 million, or 23 cents per share, from \$385.8 million, or 30 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding items, the company lost 10 cents per share in the quarter. For the second quarter, Snap said it expects revenue of \$335 million to \$360 million. That compares with the average analyst estimate for revenue of \$348.5 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. Earlier this month, Snap launched a gaming platform within its Snapchat app featuring original and third-party games such as Zynga Inc's Tiny Royale.



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Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: Greek PM Mitsotakis smiles before presenting his government's main policies, at the parliament in Athens



Kids and adults cool off in a fountain on the Rose Kennedy Greenway on the first day of a forecasted summer heatwave in Boston



Plastic waste pile and debris are seen up near the beach in Panama City



Relatives of the victims of a mob lynching incident speak to a police officer as they mourn outside a hospital in Chapra



General Motors unveils its redesigned mid-engine C8 Corvette in Tustin



Golf - The 148th Open Championship - Royal Portrush Golf Club, Portrush, Northern Ireland - July 19, 2019 Tiger Woods of the U.S. on the 18th hole during the second round REUTERS/Paul



Israeli border police member runs past burning tires during a Palestinian protest in the village of Kofr Qadom in the Israeli-occupied West Bank



Golf - The 148th Open Championship - Royal Portrush Golf Club, Portrush, Northern Ireland - July 19, 2019 Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy after finishing the second round REUTERS/Ian Walton TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

Now In Katy, TX: One Of The World's Fastest Supercomputers

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Bryan Bennett, Matt Lamont and Phil Schwan pose for a photo at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

Katy, Texas, isn't where you'd normally expect to find one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. But Thursday, an Australian company will fire up a digital behemoth in a data center near that Houston suburb that, when it is fleshed out by the end of the year, will have world-class computing power.

Coyly dubbed DUG McCloud, the system takes up a 22,000-square-foot room at the Skybox Data Center on Franz Road in Katy, with another identically sized room in waiting for expansion. When completed by the end of the year, it will be comprised of 40,000 processors. All this hardware is immersed in a chilled, non-toxic oil to keep it cool.

DownUnder GeoSolutions, based in Perth, Australia, conducted a global search for the data center to house its creation and settled on Katy, just a few miles from its Houston office. Two big reasons: cheap electricity and fast connectivity.



Under the tiles at the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)



The cooling unit outside the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)



Servers in oil keep cool at the supercomputing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"We looked at power costs and fiber-optic availability," said Matthew Lamont, DownUnder's chief executive and co-founder. "We found this beautiful new facility, and it's in Houston, where the oil industry lives. It makes sense having it in Houston."

The 21st century oil and gas industry thrives on hardcore computing power, crunching data derived from seismic testing to find oil deep in the ground and below the sea. Supercomputers speed up the process of analyzing and visualizing that data, and the faster they are, the better. DownUnder declined to disclose the names of any customers.

Orders of magnitude

While the laptop on your desk or the smartphone in your pocket are certainly powerful computers, they pale in comparison to supercomputers. While PCs and mobile devices typically have a single microprocessor handling computational chores, Supercomputers have thousands of them.

Traditional computers tackle one problem at a time, but supercomputers are designed to take a problem and break into many smaller pieces, with many processors working to solve them. In the case of DUG McCloud, the system has between 5,000 and 6,000 processors from Intel, with more on the way. By the end of the year, there will be 40,000, said Phil Schwan, DownUnder's chief technology officer.



Servers in oil keep cool at the super-

computing installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"Basically, Intel can't make them fast enough," Schwan said. "We are their primary customer for them."

The system is built on a type of Xeon Phi processors from Intel, which makes DUG McCloud a rare machine. Many supercomputers are built on GPUs, or graphical processing units, which have the same kind of architecture as the chips found in high-end video cards. But there are features of the Intel chips that make them better suited for what DownUnder wants to do, Schwan said.

Timothy Pickett Morgan, co-editor of Next Platform, a trade publication focused on high-performance computing, said DownUnder has done a good job of making Intel's processors, which are an older model released in 2016, "sit up and bark with their code."

"They are the last buyer of any size for the Knight's Landing processors," he said, referring to the generation name of Intel's Xeon Phi chips. "They've got this marvelous code that would normally run on GPUs and they've done a great job of tuning that code for these processors."

Built to expand

Morgan said DownUnder's business model is similar to that of Google or Amazon Web Services, which sell access to high-performance systems and can expand as needed. To that end, there's another 22,000-square-foot room at Skybox reserved for DUG McCloud, and a 10-acre building is in the works for even more expansion.



Under the tiles at the supercomputing

installation at Skybox Data Centers on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Katy. The supercomputer is made up of tens of thousands of servers, all immersed in chilled oil to cool them. (Photo/Houston Chronicle)

"They're running a supercomputer as a service," he said. And doing that involves finding ways to cut costs and boost profits.

For example, DownUnder has a method of connecting the processors to each other that dramatically reduces the amount of wiring, and thus the cost.

Because the hardware is submerged in oil to stay cool, fans and costly air conditioning systems aren't required, reducing power costs. The Skybox Data Center is located next to a CenterPoint power substation, so the electricity flowing into it is stable — and inexpensive.

"Houston has some of the lowest electricity costs in the country," Lamont said. He would not say how much DownUnder is paying for power.

Top500, found online at top500.org, lists the 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world. It is updated twice a year, and was last updated in November 2018. A system named Summit at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, is currently at the top of the list at about 200 petaflops.



Operators of supercomputers can make the list by submitting the results of a benchmark test called Linpack. But that program doesn't run well on DUG McCloud because it's tuned for oil and gas applications, not for benchmark programs. Schwan said that, as a result, DownUnder won't be seeking inclusion on the list. (Courtesy chron.com)

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Remember President Donald Trump's threat to slap a tariff on every product the U.S. imports from Mexico? That threat in early June, which the president later dropped, had auto executives worried.

The latest numbers from Mexico shows why so many in the auto industry were so concerned.

Mexican factories sent 1.37 million vehicles north of the border during the first half of this year — making up 16.3% of the U.S. auto market, according to Mexican auto industry trade group, the Asociacion Mexicana de la Industria Automotriz.



BMW workers in San Luis Potosi Mexico working on 3 series cars. (Photo/CNBC)

That's up 13% over the same time last year and setting up 2019 for another record-breaking year for Mexican auto imports. A record 2.6 million vehicles were imported from Mexico to the U.S. in 2018, making up 15% of the U.S. auto market, according to the Mexican auto industry's latest report released Monday.

In June alone, automakers exported just under 250,000 new cars, trucks and SUVs to the U.S., an increase of 9.2% compared with the same month last year.

Those numbers are further confirmation automakers, with a few exceptions, continue to add and expand assembly lines in Mexico, even if it draws the ire of the Trump administration.

In early June, Trump threatened to put a series of escalating tariffs starting at 5% on every product imported to the U.S. from Mexico unless the Mexican government helped curb the number of migrants crossing into the U.S. The threat prompted Mexico to

First Half Of 2019 Saw Large Rise In Numbers **Mexican-Made Autos Stream Across U.S. Border**



Trucks carrying cars line up in front of the Otay Mesa border crossing in Tijuana. (Photo/Getty Images)

Overview

Mexican factories sent 1.37 million vehicles north of the border during the first half of this year — making up 16.3% of the U.S. auto market
Mexico's leading auto industry trade group, the Asociacion Mexicana de la Industria Automotriz, released new data this week.
A record 2.6 million vehicles were imported from Mexico to the U.S. in 2018, making up 15% of the U.S. auto market.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

take actions at the border and after nine days of threats, Trump dropped the idea.



BMW Series 3 cars produced in San Luis Potosi Mexico and being loaded onto a

truck for export. (Photo/CNBC)

For auto executives, the threat may have caused headaches, but it didn't force any changes to supply and assembly lines that are firmly entrenched in Mexico.

Take BMW, in early June it officially opened a new assembly plant in San Luis Potosi that builds 3 Series sedans, it's most popular car. Most of those cars will be shipped north of the border and sold in the U.S..

"Our production network is flexible, but at this point I don't see any reason to change our plans," BMW board member Oliver Zipse told CNBC. (Courtesy cnbc.com)

Related

10 Most Popular American Cars That Are Made In Mexico

DETROIT — Some of America's most popular cars and trucks are made in Mexico — for now.

Many Americans have benefited from Mexico's emergence as a production hub. Low-cost production helps keep sticker prices lower on vehicles such as the Ford Fusion and Nissan Sentra.

But Mexico's growing share of the auto market is a sore spot for President Donald Trump, who has threatened to impose border taxes on Mexican imports to force com-

panies to make cars in the U.S.



Above: Cars exit the General Motors assembly plant in Villa de Reyes, outside San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on Jan. 4, 2017. Workers have produced Aveo and Trax vehicles at the plant since 2008.

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexico's share of North America's vehicle production has risen to 20 percent from 3 percent three decades ago. It's expected to hit 26 percent by 2020, according to LMC Automotive, a forecasting firm. The trade pact also contributed to a 30 percent decline in U.S. auto manufacturing jobs between 1994 and 2013, according to the nonpartisan Peterson Economic Institute, although factory automation played a role as well.

Most cars sold in the U.S. are still made here. Of the 17.5 million new vehicles sold in the U.S. last year, 9.8 million were made in the U.S. and just under 2 million were made in Mexico, according to WardsAuto. Canada and Japan followed closely behind. Here are the most popular Mexican-made vehicles in the U.S. and the total number sold in 2016 that were built in Mexico. In cases where vehicles were built in both the U.S. and Mexico, WardsAuto estimated the amount of Mexican-built production.

Ford Fusion: 257,867, Ram pickup: 246,000; Chevrolet Silverado: 222,000; Nissan Sentra: 214,709; Nissan Versa: 132,214; Volkswagen Jetta: 121,107; Dodge Journey: 106,759; GMC

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祝韓登基！甄珍生日許願：期待明年在總統府辦10桌

資深影后甄珍近來在高雄舉辦從影55周年回顧展，連日來忙著出席活動、招呼遠從美國、香港等地而來的老友，前幾天頭暈、嘔吐，趕快赴醫院急診，影迷都相當擔心，但她17日歡度生日，氣色已明顯好很多，她強調一直都有暈眩的問題，最近因為太疲勞，醫生囑咐多休息即可，目前身體健康並無大礙，請朋友及關心她的影迷可以放心。

高雄市長韓國瑜特別頒發感謝狀，謝謝甄珍帶來多位港台大明星，甄珍也表達對市府舉辦「甄愛高雄群星會」的感激，

讓之前和她拍戲的老朋友們能再相聚，大家都相當開心到港都來參與這個活動。

為了替甄珍慶生，韓國瑜不僅獻唱生日快樂歌，還特地準備蛋糕祝賀，令她又驚又喜。甄珍現場許了3個願望，首先是祝福高雄所有的朋友，尤其是高雄市政府新聞局、文化局、電影館及工務局等各單位大力的協助辦理高雄群星會活動，大家都辛苦了，她由衷的感謝；第2個願望就是韓國瑜走到哪，她的公益就跟著到哪，明年生日要在總統府大門口要幫她辦10桌；第3個願望留給她自己，保密不公開。



李淳收集中西兩女神 上海巧遇娜塔莉 台灣合作邵雨薇



即將在10月下旬上映的校園愛情電影「陪你很久很久」，主打李淳、邵雨薇與蔡瑞雪這令人耳目一新的陣容。邵雨薇的制服造型獲影迷譽為「校花等級的女神」，李淳也一改「目擊者」中的殺人犯陰沉面貌，變成優氣又活潑的大男孩，讓不少年輕觀眾眼睛一亮，直呼：「這個組合很可以！」

李淳和邵雨薇在「陪你很久很久」扮演一對從小大到密不可分的青梅竹馬，關係卻始終沒進展，李淳仍然痴心守候，只希望讓邵雨薇開心。他從來沒主演過愛情文藝片，第一次嘗試雖然興奮但不緊張，笑言：「就是把自己調皮、幼稚的那一面放大。」有趣的是，他和邵雨薇曾經分別在「目擊者」、「樓下的房客」演殺人魔，對彼此演技最深的印象也是這兩

部戲，一合作就是完全180度大轉變，都感到很有意思。邵雨薇本來以為李淳成熟、穩重，實際相處後才發現他不只有很多幼稚面，還是個好奇寶寶，至於被影迷大讚扮相超美，她自我解嘲：「真正高中生的膠原蛋白比較多啦！」

前晚李淳受邀出席在上海的「迪奧小姐：愛與玫瑰」展的私享預覽酒會，巧遇無數觀眾心目中的女神娜塔莉波曼，他上前攀談，告訴娜塔莉以前曾在紐約碰過她，娜塔莉原本並不相信，直到李淳透露是在紐約大學附近一家便利商店裡面之後，才驚訝是真的，因為她那一陣子剛巧常常去那家店，這下子話題變得更熱絡。娜塔莉曾經也參加過李安「冰風暴」試鏡，與他們一家算是有點淵源。

打敗五月天電影 劉德華「掃毒2」3天票房1700萬

劉德華上周末來臺宣傳新片「掃毒2 天地對決」，票房開出紅盤。臺北票房首周末3天498萬臺幣，打破今年華語電影「五月天人生無限公司」所創下的479萬的成績；而全臺首周末3天則是1700萬臺幣，超越「拆彈專家」總票房，榮登2019年華語片首周票房冠軍。

「掃毒2」在各地都開出紅盤，劉德華上周末來臺宣傳2天，讓電影氣勢更上層樓，除了影廳800張票50秒搶光，上周末在西門町封街粉絲會，3000粉絲癱瘓西門町，甚至手機藍芽都無法連上，讓很多西門町的戲院都驚呼電影街已經10多年沒有那麼多人潮了。劉德華見到粉絲熱情又守秩序的狀況下，覺得感動又開心，直說會很快再到臺灣會粉絲！

劉德華和導演邱禮濤繼「拆彈專家」後，再度合作，口碑與票房都再造高峰，「拆彈專家」在劉德華受傷較少宣傳的情況下，全臺也有1700多萬的好成績，但這回「掃毒2」3天便打平上回兩人合作的票房成績。



驚悚片女王詮釋爆哭戲 好評獲各界肯定

「真犯」在本週五(7/19)於台灣震撼獻映。本片上週在南韓上映以來，獲得許多媒體與觀眾的強力支持，並力讚是「今年最精彩的追擊型驚悚片」。而有「驚悚片女王」之稱、在片中飾演嫌疑犯妻子的裕善(網路又譯柳善)，這回更貢獻充滿情緒張力的爆炸性演出，甚至有許多哭戲的表現，完美詮釋身為人妻甚至是人母的膠著與不安。平時就愛閱讀推理小說的她，雖自認推理能力比別人強，卻透露在閱讀本片劇本時，始終沒能猜到結局走向。而她精湛的演出，也被導演高政煜比喻為「送給我的完美禮物。」

「真犯」充滿許多情緒起伏激烈的劇情，其中為了證明丈夫無罪、必須與受害者丈夫一起合作查案的「多燕」一角，由被粉絲譽為「驚悚片女王」的裕善擔綱演出。他與宋詩曦(網路又譯宋清晨)毫不退讓的演技較勁，展現出絕佳默契，讓觀眾彷彿是在看激烈的對打戲般，帶給觀眾一刻都無法喘息的驚悚感受。對於接演本片，裕善透露：「去年3月左右接到劇本，當時我們一家人在孩子的春假期間進行旅遊，當時就用手機閱讀了這個劇本，沒想到卻一氣呵成地讀完

。雖然我不平時讀過許多推理小說，自認推理能力比別人強，但始終沒能猜到這部結局的走向。所以當時我就在想，如果這部作品被拍成電影，完成度一定會很高，再加上得知宋詩曦已經確定加入演出，所以也很期待跟他共同合作。」

裕善也對所飾演的角色表示：「多燕是一位迫切需要證明丈夫無罪的太太，所以有很多激動落淚的演出，幾乎90%都是感情戲。」而她也很有深度地分析了劇本，讓導演嘖嘖一驚。據悉，她在每個場景，都準備各種版本的感情表達方式，適度地調節角色情緒的強弱，並成功堆疊出角色的個性，而且演出常常一次OK，讓導演豎起大拇指比讚：「裕善真的非常完美，表現超出我的預期。導演通常在腦海裡想像場景，再透過演員具體地呈現出來，但她卻把我想像的理想構圖給完美呈現出來。打比方的話，她送我禮物，不但是送我非常需要的東西，甚至連設計、顏色都符合我的喜好，而且還從來沒跟任何人打聽過。裕善就是這樣一位優秀的演員，一直帶給我驚喜。」

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姚莉早前與探訪者聊天。網絡截圖

香港文匯報訊（記者李慶全、吳文釗）唱紅《玫瑰玫瑰我愛你》的一代歌后姚莉，19日被傳病逝，享耆壽97歲。姚莉好友邵音音也在社交網站發文證實死訊，感慨沒見到姚莉最後一面。薛家燕坦言好唔捨得姚莉，憶起當年她17歲時，姚莉曾替她監製歌曲《再會吧十七歲》。



首位打入美國音樂流行榜的華語歌后 97歲姚莉離世 金曲繞人間

姚莉本名姚秀雲，祖籍浙江寧波，是上海灘時期知名女歌手之一，活躍於1940年代，與周璇、白虹、白光、龔秋霞、李香蘭、吳鶯音等齊名，被封為1940年代上海歌壇七大歌星，更有“銀嗓子”封號，“金嗓子”則是周璇。

“銀嗓子”姚莉代表作多為抒情歌，有《玫瑰玫瑰我愛你》、《得不到的愛情》、《春風吹上我的臉》、《蘇州河邊》、《恭喜恭喜》、《桃花江》、《大江東去》、《雪人不見了》、《風雨交響曲》、《秋的懷念》、《哪個不多情》等。當中《玫瑰玫瑰我愛你》更被美國歌手 Frankie Laine 翻唱為英文版本的《Rose, Rose, I Love You》。另《玫瑰玫瑰我愛你》更是使姚莉成為第一位進入美國音樂流行榜的華語藝人。姚莉為人友善，與許多後輩都玩理一齊，許多後輩如陳百強、張國榮都喜歡重唱她的歌，影響不少後輩。



2006年，顧媚兄弟畫作聯展，姚莉（左一）也是嘉賓之一。



洪朝豐對姚莉離世感愕然。

了，只有工作完成，回港後再去看您，您走了！”證實姚莉死訊，並上傳日前姚莉見到配樂師波多野裕介的片段。至於死因，邵音音透露這次住院聽說發高燒感染了呼吸道，一直昏迷，最後不敵病魔離世。

家燕姐曾獲姚莉教唱歌

姚莉因病離世，薛家燕表示19日得知消息，說：“好唔捨得，但年紀大好難講，天下無不散之筵席，希望她的家人節哀順變。”家燕姐稱姚莉姐姐對樂壇有很大貢獻，當年她17歲時對方曾替她監製歌曲《再會吧十七歲》，又教她怎樣去唱普通話歌，一直視姚莉姐姐為唱歌老師和永遠懷念對方。

前電台DJ洪朝豐19日出席於書展舉行的新書分享會，被問到姚莉19日離世，洪朝豐聽罷也很

愕然，半晌才說：“好耐之前和她有聯繫，但近年已經沒聯絡，都知道她腳不是太好行不到，住入了老人院，印象中姚莉姐姐是一個樂觀、開心的人，身邊仍有一班忠心粉絲，而她是一個基督徒，相信她走時是開心地離開，她是難得的一代歌者，心地非常好。”

另外，洪朝豐曾患舌癌及淋癌，他動手術切除半條舌頭及電療，影響說話、飲食及外觀，令他自卑到不想見人更萌過自殺念頭，但前妻在他生病時仍給予悉心照顧，加上又想起兒子及愛護他的親人、朋友，就是這份愛，教他懂得將自己的優點貢獻給身邊人，重新找到生存價值。洪朝豐目前身體情況已回復了七成，未來他會更懂得欣賞自己。



在2013年舉行的姚莉玫瑰傳奇經典演唱會上，呂珊、楊燕及潘秀瓊等完離後與姚莉合照。

受抗癌歌手經歷感動 薛家燕為李明蔚書寫序

香港文匯報訊（記者 吳文釗）薛家燕19日抽空到書展支持“抗癌歌手”李明蔚出新書，家燕姐鼓勵對方積極面對人生，更即場買下十本簽名書。

以神秘嘉賓身份突然出現的家燕姐送李明蔚一個意外驚喜，她表示雖與對方不熟，但得知其抗癌經歷後深受感動，所以答應替她的新書寫序，以“永不言敗”為題，她說：“不知道是否食物或空氣污染，有些人會染到奇怪的病，但我們應該如何面對及預防？尤其是嚴重病症該如何面對呢？我很欣賞明蔚這位年青歌手，她在人生中有有意義的事，其實能夠正面影響別人，積極生活及珍惜時間，已經不枉此生。”李明蔚對家燕姐到來支持大受感動，透露用了2、3個月時間撰寫，特別感謝其他幫忙寫序的藝人。



以神秘嘉賓身份突然出現的家燕姐送李明蔚意外驚喜。



家燕姐鼓勵李明蔚積極面對人生。

租倉庫儲存照片

至於家燕姐本身有沒有出書計劃？她表示早年已有書商找她出自傳，但她工作忙，實在沒時間去整理和搜集資料，她說：“其實我租了一個倉庫儲存自入行以來的照片，我們‘七公主’之間也提議過要互相交換舊照片，希望能夠成事。”提到早前家燕姐在節目中罕有地浸溫泉，會否大膽地拍寫真出書時，她笑道：“現在的寫真當然跟過以前，我也想影一輯新相，但如果出書就不會用寫真作賣點。”

Aka 無懼失敗 舞出血

香港文匯報訊 女子組合 Super Girls 隊長趙慧珊（Aka）最近推出第二首“單飛”歌曲《生來起舞》，歌曲故事取材自Aka的親身經歷，講述自小學跳芭蕾舞的她，過程中遇上無數的挫折、失落、調整、失敗等，她表示：“我想用跳舞去比喻人生，初頭跌跌碰碰時，能慢慢摸到自己的路，就算當中係跌倒過，或者失敗幾次都好，其實人生最成功係遇到失敗後仍相信自己係可以，這才是最成功的地方。”

Aka日前為新歌拍攝MV，走訪多個地方拍攝，其中她更換上芭蕾舞衫上陣，與好友一起晒八級舞藝，她表示：“導演話好想睇到我跳芭蕾舞，讚我跳得好靚。好開心請到我一位好朋友一齊跳，兒時一齊跳芭蕾舞一齊長大的。”

不過Aka直言入行後已甚少跳芭蕾舞：“今次跳芭蕾舞，事前都要花時間pick up返，對於我來說有少少吃力，畢竟現在有十幾歲時筋骨咁軟同肌肉都係咁靈活。”結果練習時已整親腳，她表

示：“練習時雙腳擦損流血，有啱皮得肉，染到隻鞋都紅色，自己都覺得有啲核突，拍攝時都係頂硬上，貼了好多塊膠布，好在跳緊時專注着，都唔係覺得好痛。”

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提到今次的歌曲是她的經歷，希望大家遇到失敗不要放棄，她坦言剛入行時聽過一些難聽說話，曾想過放棄轉行，她說：“作為一個藝人，好多時候好努力去做好多嘢，你覺得呢個作品大家可能會好欣賞你的努力，但原來大眾未必咁容易接受，或者咁受歡迎，點都會有啲沮喪。”

不過Aka表示：“好在有屋企人同仲支持緊我嘅人，我都會覺得有人支持我，我都唔係咁差啫，會有好大鼓勵，我媽咪同我阿妹係開解我最多嘅人，而且有好多好朋友，會搵佢哋傾訴，現在覺得自己冇走錯路。”



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