

Entertainment Ghost Blog Posts

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Concert for Diana: Warning, We Could Need Translation Services

But for the universal power of music, those of us on *this* side of ye old pond probably won't understand a word of Princes William and Harry's royal remarks. What am I bloody yapping about? The **Concert For Diana**, that most anticipated music celebration on Sunday, July 1, honoring the **greatly missed People's Princess**.



The worldwide televised event in Princess Diana's memory promises great entertainment with **Elton John**, **Fergie**, **Kanye West**, **Joss Stone**, **Pharrell Williams**, **Diddy**, **Rod Stewart** and **Nelly Furtado** among the powerhouse list of performers. However, I'm a little concerned we won't always know what's being said between band sets, given our cultural differences.

The thing is, I checked the Concert For Diana site for this wonderful charitable event's details... and just about needed a translation book. Well, not really, but I did get a kick out of the British terminology there.

For example, the "Info Q&A" page says this about security at newly designed Wembley Stadium: *As at all large arenas and stadia, there will be security guards and bag checks.*

Stadia? I feel cheated! Why don't we, their country cousins in America, commonly use this fancy term?

Another example, when warning concert-goers about the possibility of inclement weather: *If your seat is on the **pitch**... If it rains, you will get rained on; bring a lightweight raincoat or **cagoule**.*

Maybe it's my vocabulary limits that's that problem. But do *stadia* here in America usually seat folk that close to a baseball mound?

Rihanna : Hot Piranha Twirls 'Umbrella'

You may think it's time for a summer vacation, but it's not. It's back-to-school time, boys and girls. And what's today's lesson? We're studying the music industry, particularly that all-important function called **Artist & Repertoire**. It's listed on your syllabus as "Pop Star 101: The Making Of a ..."

Under the "umbrella" of covering exotic pop sensations, some of the Internet's most-trusted music critics have filed highly entertaining articles reviewing Rihanna's new CD, "Good Girl Gone Bad." Not one of the reviews we're referencing outright flatters her for vocal talent. Yet, all praise her new set as a pop-music success infused with reggae and new wave-ish elements.

Don't miss these excellent reviews of "Good Girl Gone Bad" by Jay-Z's smoldering **"it girl" on Def Jam**:

~ A seriously thoughtful piece at the Village Voice, "**The Battle For the Heart of R&B**," critiques the potential of Rihanna versus Amerie, another Jay-Z / Def Jam artist whose moment a few summers ago seems to have timed out.

~ A second Village Voice writer, in "**Mediocre Girl Gone Good**," heralds Rihanna's "triumphant, only occasionally cringeworthy pop-coronation."

~ And Clay Cane's review of Rihanna for **Edge New York**

It's plain to see why all eyes are on Piranha. I mean *Rihanna*. And we all know why: Music fans are baiting / awaiting her cat(fish) fight with Jay-Z's girl, Beyonce.



Ring the alarm, indeed; school's definitely not out. And the one thing we may learn, class, is this: As CEO of Def Jam, the "Mike Jordan of recordin'" is also an A&R genius -- for casting the net causing so much hype for a most luminescent, new vixen.

Links:

- Rihanna nets **Billboard trifecta** with "Good Girl Gone Bad"
- Rihanna's **biography** at Billboard
- Discover, Dream, Enjoy : **Barbados.org**

From Vogue to Flickr, Black Models Are Beautiful

About once a month I talk to my highly-entertaining, fashion-guru friend, Cheryl, in Philadelphia. She's always got a hot link I need to look at. Today's link from Cheryl is awesome! It's the Italian Vogue - July issue, which is dedicated to fashion models of African descent.

Jezebel.com gives an excellent blow-by-blow [photo essay](#) of the stunning glamour photography and fashion shots. It's hot, sexy, edgy stuff, as only Italian fashion photography gives it.



Every top black model is spotlighted. From Alek Wek, Naomi Campbell and Tyra Banks to Iman, Liya Kebede and Lily Taylor -- you name her, she's in there. This includes Toccara, who's captured magnificently in a car trunk!

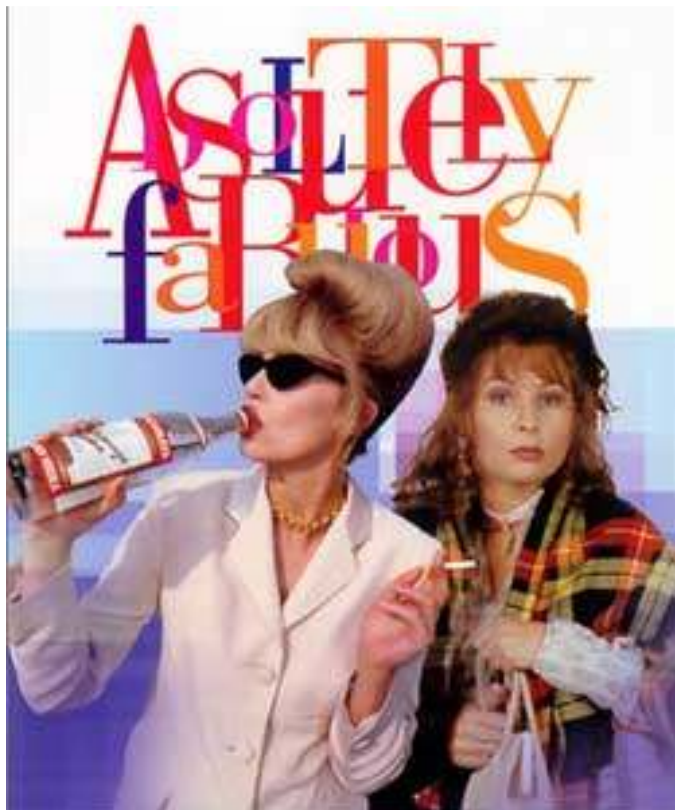
The only black models photography that's possibly hotter is that on Flickr, in the Second Life groups. My, those [Second Life virtual girls](#) do get exotic.

But so does photographer extraordinaire [Steven Meisel](#) [wiki], who shot most of the girls for Italian Vogue's "black girls" issue. The photo essay at Jezebel.com does mention, however, that none of the advertisements surrounding the Meisel editorial feature black models.

Italian Vogue compiled this special, 100-page editorial in July as a "statement against discrimination in the fashion world." It's not news that plenty still exists, but it's kind of Vogue to acknowledge it in such an attention-grabbing way. Not much will likely change in the industry because it, but Italian Vogue has benefitted nicely from the controversy and publicity.

For a compelling perspective on the barriers faced by most black fashion models, don't miss this [New York Times](#) piece.

Absolutely Fabulous: Fox Bringing Original Cast to America



[video]

Stop the '08 election and step aside Simon Cowell... According to *Variety*, Fox is bringing sexy back: *Absolutely Fabulous* is coming to America, anew! Hello *Edina and Patsy*; hello fashion-forward fag hags; hello psychedelic drugs, kinky sex, and rollicking rock 'n roll.

What's most excellent is that both stellar actors from the original *Ab Fab* -- Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley -- apparently are set to reprise their roles here, debuting 2009. Equally on target is that Jennifer (*Eddy*) Saunders will executive produce the new, U.S. version of *Ab Fab* along with Christine Zander of "Saturday Night Live" and Ian Moffet of the BBC.

Several American television series have tried to imitate *Absolutely Fabulous*, a BBC TV series with a huge and intense cult following. And as one of them, I've enjoyed each short-lived stab at it. But, as they say: Ain't nothing like the real thing, baby. So grab your bong, drop a 'lude and get the party started, Fox.

This almost makes me less disgusted with the politics over at Fox.

I repeat: **almost**, *sweetie darling!*

Links:

~ [Absolutely Fabulous](#) [BBC]

~ [Absolutely Fabulous](#) [Wiki]

Saving Grace (Jones, That Is)



Troubled world economy aside, if you've ever said a little prayer for a return to the funkier side of life, get this: Grace Jones is the cover girl for the new issue of Dazed & Confused. That's right. Strange' is baaaack and in living color.

We'll be able to revel in devilish Grace's latest art photography -- or nudish glamour photography, really -- in the British magazine's November 2008 issue (out October 9). A true Renaissance woman, the art, film, music and fashion icon is photographed by Chris Cunningham. You may know him as the *auteur* behind Madonna, Madonna's "Frozen" video...

Yes, I typed *Madonna* twice, referencing a favorite Robin Williams line in "The Bird Cage."

In any case, great to see Grace in the limelight. Just check out this video of Grace Jones performing in full regalia with the late Luciano Pavoratti:

[embedded video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei1SI7RAmzw&feature=player_embedded]

~ The World of Grace Jones (The living legend's own impeccable web site)

~ Grace Jones Performs at Meltdown (BBC report, June 2008)