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Brits go gaga for US musicians

Lady Gaga cries, Jay-Z crows as American stars clean up at Britain's annual pop awards

BY MARK BEECH
BLOOMBERG

BRIT AWARDS 2010 WINNERS:

The Brits Hits 30 (Best Performance): Spice Girls, *Wannabe/Who Do You Think You Are*

British Male Solo Artist: Dizzee Rascal

International Male Solo Artist: Jay-Z

Brits Album of 30 Years: Oasis, *(What's the Story) Morning Glory*

British Breakthrough Act: JLS

Critics' Choice: Ellie Goulding

British Group: Kasabian

International Breakthrough Act: Lady Gaga

International Female Solo Artist: Lady Gaga

British Female Solo Artist: Lily Allen

International Album: Lady Gaga, *The Fame*

British Single: JLS, *Beat Again*

MasterCard British Album: Florence and the Machine, *Lungs*

Outstanding Contribution Award: Robbie Williams

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Lady Gaga shed tears of joy in London on Tuesday night as she became the biggest winner at an international pop prize ceremony, adding three Brit Awards to her two Grammys this year. Jay-Z, named best male artist, said the ceremony recognized the power of US music.

Lady Gaga, 23, has already sold eight million copies of her debut *The Fame* (Interscope), named the Brits' best international album. She also won best international breakthrough act and the world's top female solo artist award. Her hat-trick of wins was the most by a non-UK artist since the Scissor Sisters in 2005.

Record-company bosses at the Earls Court event said the dominance of US stars — and some disappointments for British stars at this year's Grammys — didn't undermine Britons' potential for more commercial success. A win may add as much as US\$6.3 million to an album's sales, a certain boon for some music executives at the ceremony's three-course dinner. Winners also receive a Brit statuette.

Kasabian was chosen as the best British group. JLS won the British breakthrough act award and got another Brit for its single *Beat Again*. JLS, runners-up in the 2008 series of the TV show *The X Factor*, were getting the first Brit recognition for artists in music entrepreneur Simon Cowell's stable. Florence and the Machine's *Lungs* was named best British album.

Lily Allen was the opening act, singing *The Fear* in a leather corset. She was surprised to be later named best UK female solo artist, saying that she had donned an orange wig to make it harder for cameramen to catch her likely disappointed face. (Allen was nominated for four

awards in 2007 and won none).

Other live performers included Dizzee Rascal (named best British male star, after number one hits such as *Bonkers* and *Dance Wit Me*) and Robbie Williams (the former Take That star was honored for an outstanding career contribution to music). Williams has now won 16 Brits, more than any other artist; he ended the evening with a medley of his hits.

Lady Gaga — born Stefani Germanotta — dedicated her performance to the fashion designer Alexander McQueen, who died last week. She started in a tall wig and three-tier dress that looked like a wedding cake, rapidly stripping to a white lace bodysuit.

Jay-Z performed *Empire State of Mind* with Alicia Keys. He beat Eminem, Bruce Springsteen, Michael Buble and Seaside Steve to his prize.

The Brits are the British Phonographic Industry's annual pop-music awards and have been presented in one form or another since 1977. They have been sponsored by Mastercard Inc for the last 12 years.

There were two special awards this year for the Brits' 30th anniversary. One was for best performance, and went to the Spice Girls' 1997 rendition of *Wannabe* that featured Geri Halliwell in a union flag dress. Last night, Halliwell and Mel B forgot to thank their fellow band members as they accepted the award. They later apologized.

Oasis won for best British album of the three decades. Singer Liam Gallagher arrived onstage, pointedly refused to thank his estranged songwriter brother, Noel — who wasn't present — and then threw both the award statuette and a microphone into the audience.

Lady Gaga arrives for the Brit Awards 2010 at Earls Court in London on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Malaria most likely killed King Tut, scientists say

Egypt's famed King Tutankhamun suffered from a cleft palate and club foot, likely forcing him to walk with a cane, and died from complications from a broken leg exacerbated by malaria, according to the most extensive study ever of his mummy

BY JOHN NOBLE WILFORD
NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE, NEW YORK

King Tutankhamun, the boy pharaoh, was frail, crippled and suffered "multiple disorders" when he died at age 19 in about 1324 BC, but scientists have now determined the most likely agents of death: a severe bout of malaria combined with a degenerative bone condition.

The researchers said that to their knowledge "this is the oldest genetic proof of malaria in precisely dated mummies." Several other mummies in the study also showed DNA evidence for the presence of the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, perhaps not surprising in a place like the Nile Valley.

The application of advanced radiological and genetic techniques to royal Egyptian mummies marks a new step in the ever deepening reach of historical inquiry through science.

The study, reported on Tuesday, turned up no evidence of foul play, as had been suspected by some historians and popular writers familiar with palace intrigues in ancient Egypt. Previous examinations of the Tut mummy had revealed a recent leg fracture that happened sometime before his death, possibly from a fall. This might have contributed to a life-threatening condition in an immune system already weakened by malaria and other disorders, the researchers said.

In addition, genetic "fingerprinting" of the 11 mummies in the study established family connections over five generations of Tut's lineage. The identities were previously certain for only three of the mummies. Now, scientists said the tests identified the ones of Tut's father and mother, who appear to be siblings, as well as the mummies of his grandmother and other probable relatives.

The two-year investigation, completed in October, is described in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The research was directed by Zahi Hawass, an Egyptologist who heads the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, and included medical scientists and anthropologists from Egypt, Germany and Italy. Carsten Pusch of the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Tuebingen, in Germany, was the report's corresponding author.

In an accompanying editorial in the journal, Howard Markel of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan, who was not involved in the study, praised the thoroughness of the new research "based on unfettered access to the actual mummies."

Recalling the myriad postmortem claims that have surrounded the young king, Markel suggested that now "the legion of Tutankhamun admirers might be well advised to reconsider several existing theories."

Though not one of the great rulers of ancient Egypt, King Tut is easily the best known in public lore. He was the son and successor of Akhenaten, the controversial reform pharaoh who ruled from about 1351 to 1334. One of the other achievements of the study was the first positive identification of Akhenaten's mummy, a historical puzzle in its own right.

The British archaeologist Howard Carter's discovery in 1922 of Tut's opulent

tomb in the Valley of the Kings was a sensation. The young king's visage and premature death in the ninth year of his reign inspired fanciful speculation, and the golden and bejeweled artifacts from his tomb still dazzle crowds at touring museum exhibitions.

One overall impression from the new research is that the royal family's power and wealth did not spare them from ill health and physical impairment. Several mummies revealed instances of cleft palate, clubfeet, flat feet and bone degeneration. Four of the 11 mummies, including Tut's, contained genetic traces of malaria tropica, the most severe form of the infection.

The researchers said that several other pathologies were diagnosed in the Tut mummy, including a bone disorder known as Kohler's disease II, which alone would not have caused death. But he was also afflicted with avascular bone necrosis, a condition in which diminished blood supply to the bone leads to serious weakening or destruction of

tissue. The finding led to the team's conclusion that it and malaria were the most probable causes of death.

The effects of this bone disease, notably the "definitely altered structure" of the left foot, probably explained the presence of walking canes in the Tut tomb, the researchers said.

Speculation had also centered on the fact that Tutankhamun left no heirs and the stylized reliefs and other sculptures of him and family members showed them having a somewhat feminized or androgynous appearance. This suggested certain inherited syndromes, including gynecomastia, which is the excessive development of breasts in men, usually the result of a hormonal imbalance.

The breasts of Akhenaten and Tutankhamun were not preserved. But Tut's penis, no longer attached to the body, "is well developed," the researchers reported.

"Most of the disease diagnoses," the scientists concluded, "are hypotheses derived by observing and interpreting artifacts and not by evaluating the mummified remains of royal individuals apart from these artifacts."

Markel, the medical historian, commented that use of 21st century radiological and genetic techniques in studies of human history raised ethical questions that need to be addressed.

Writing in the journal, he asked: "What will the rules be for exhuming bodies to solve vexing pathological puzzles? Are major historical figures entitled to the same privacy rules that private citizens enjoy even after death? Most pragmatically, what is actually gained from such studies? Will they change current thinking about and prevent threatening diseases such as influenza? Will they change the understanding of the past, such as the Jefferson study's powerful elucidation of intimacy during the era of slavery and the Tutankhamun study's window on the conduct of the royal family of Egypt?"



Torso of Tutankhamun, left, and Viscera Coffin, far left, are on display at the de Young Museum in San Francisco through March 28 as part of the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG