

# Insider

## HIGH FIVE

WHAT COUNTS IN MUSIC TODAY

**S**eductively dark lyrics and a deep, throaty voice are telltale signs that **Ruby Rose Fox** (right) has taken the stage. A powerhouse vocalist, Fox will fill the Sinclair with her old-soul, edgy pop on Aug. 28. Curious about her musical roots, we asked Fox to tell us about five artists who have strongly influenced her as a singer and songwriter.

### ROY ORBISON

"He was one of the first artists I ever connected to as a small child. I started taping him from the radio when I was 3 or 4. He was one of the first rock 'n' roll pioneers, one of the first men to really express their voice in a completely emotional way. I was just instinctively drawn to that."

### LEONARD COHEN

"I came across him much later in life, when I got my first guitar at 26 years old. I was immediately struck by the lyrics; Cohen was this wordsmith that expressed language in a way that I understood really deeply. His writing is dark and disciplined... He really inspired me lyrically. I wrote a song called 'Dear Leonard Cohen,' which is a direct response to [his] 'Famous Blue Raincoat.'"

### EGON SCHIELE

"He's an artist that embodies what I want to make. I imagine him as Leonard Cohen as a painter — I can't get enough of it. There's a grotesque element, there's a beautiful element. It's angular and gorgeous. I love it be-

cause I don't have words for it, and I love when I don't have words for something."

### PATTI SMITH

"I didn't really know much about her until I started playing guitar, but I became quickly obsessed. I have to say I'm a melody person, and I'm not a fan of all her work... but I'm just inspired by her commitment to art, and to being an artist. She contains a wildness that I can only aspire to. Her art, it wasn't just a show."

### NINA SIMONE

"Virtuosity is the first word that comes to mind. And fierce bravery. She let her voice be hers — she didn't change it, and in some ways it's really ugly, and in some ways it's really beautiful, and in letting it be that, it's Nina Simone's. She felt dangerous onstage — you didn't know what she was going to say or do. Dangerous in the best possible way, in the sense that she was such an honest performer and person, that when you watched her sing it was Real, with a capital R."

*Ruby Rose Fox performs with Side-walk Driver, the Lights Out, and Jenny Dee & the Deelinquents at the Sinclair, Cambridge, Aug. 28. Tickets: \$12. 617-547-5200, www.sinclaircambridge.com*

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ROGER D. METCALF

## THING TANK

A REVIEW OF THE WEEK IN THINGS



### CAN TAKE THAT AWAY

The red carpet at the Hollywood Walk of Fame erupted into a fierce battle for honoree **Mariah Carey's** attentions, as her 4-year-old son Moroccan and a gang of paparazzi competed for the sublime light that can only be cast by her gaze. A six-second Vine captures the moment the boy is dragged kicking and screaming out of frame, while Mariah resumes posing for the press and owning the universe. (Do I know anyone who could render an oil painting of this?) So far the clip has more than 9.5 million loops on Vine, and about twice as many in Moroccan's subconscious.



### WHOSE LINE IS IT?

It's not been a great week for alleged Internet comedy burglar **Josh Ostrovsky**, a.k.a. the Fat Jew (gesundheit), whose antics on Twitter and Instagram have frothed up all sorts of online vitriol from the comedy world, including a now-compulsory suite of disapproving Patton Oswalt tweets. A Comedy Central project that was in the works has been nixed, and an ad campaign with Seamless discontinued, though both companies deny the decisions are related to the fracas. That sneeze joke was all me, btw.



### SHORT SHIRTS

Do you know what the most defensive style of shorts is? I'll give you one guess. It's cargo. Buzzfeed's publication of "Dear Men, Please Stop Wearing Cargo Shorts" claved open a fiery hellhole on the Internet this week, igniting the surprisingly intense ire of the amply pocketed masses, who, it should be noted, love their cargo shorts with a passion that borders on fury, and do not give a flying [fig] what you think so just cram it. (Something to that effect.) *Insiders* at Buzzfeed say the first draft of "Yikes. Nice Oakleys, Pal. What Year Is This?" is in the works.



### WASTING AWAY

Despite pleas and increased patrols to prevent people from using them, Mansfield police recovered seven to 10 homemade portable toilets (5-gallon bucket + pool noodle for a seat) left on the grounds of the Xfinity Center following Saturday night's **Jimmy Buffet** concert. Officials are also looking into allegations involving another unlawful release of raw sewage, the Jimmy Buffet concert. (Hey!) (Sorry. No e-mails, please.)

### MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR

MARIAH CAREY: MARK RALSTON/GETTY IMAGES  
OSTROVSKY: LUCAS JACKSON/REUTERS  
JIMMY BUFFETT: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

## LAUGH LINES

WILL SMALLEY

"True story: I was doing this show and a woman comes up to me after that show and says, 'You know what, Will? I don't buy it. I don't buy that you're gay.' Like I'm doing it for the parking spaces. She's, like, 'You don't really read as gay.' And to that I said the only thing I could say, I was, like, 'Well, you've never seen me read.'"

Smalley performs with 'Laugh. Out. Proud.' At Laugh Boston on Sunday.

NICK A. ZAINO III



## TV CONFESSIONS

TOM WERNER



MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS/FILE

The chairman of the Boston Red Sox is a longtime TV producer whose series have included "That '70s Show," "3rd Rock From the Sun," "The Cosby Show," and "Roseanne." His latest, the comedy "Survivor's Remorse," returns to Starz on Saturday at 9:30 p.m.

### Favorite show of all time, and why?

As a person who has watched thousands and thousands of episodes, first as a TV addict, then as an executive, and finally as a producer, it's hard to single out just one series. One show I always loved and admired was "M\*A\*S\*H," because it mixed drama and comedy so seamlessly. In any given story, life-and-death moments existed with broad comedy. I identified with Hawkeye, who continually made wise-cracks while tending to the wounded, and I roared at the antics of Corporal Klinger, who wore a dress in an attempt to secure a psychiatric discharge. My favorite show that I produced was "3rd Rock From the Sun," which also mixed high and low comedy. Going to work with that ensemble cast (which starred John Lithgow, Jane Curtin, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt) was pure joy.

### Favorite show right now, and why?

Ouch, that's a touchy subject as I am still in mourning over the end of "The Daily Show." John Stewart's lens on current events was brilliant. I am also looking for-

ward to watching "Survivor's Remorse" on Starz when it comes back. Even though I am the producer, I am also completely hooked on it. The show is funny, raunchy, relevant, and authentic. LeBron James is my partner and a fellow co-producer. Sports fans should check it out; you won't be disappointed.

### Favorite bad TV, and why?

I don't know if it's a favorite, but my daughter got me hooked on "The Bachelorette" this season. I was so happy when Kaitlyn picked Shawn over Nick. OMG, I can't even believe I just said that.

### What's at the top of your Have-to-Watch list?

One of the best shows I have seen in the last five years is the British series "Black Mirror." The first episode was mind-blowing, and I am halfway through the others. It is so clever, innovative, and thought-provoking.

### Which show's world would you want to live inside?

I grew up in New York City, and watching "Mad Men" brought back lots of memories. Even though I wasn't as old as Don Draper, I identified with and recognized all the characters. When I worked at ABC in New York in the 1970s, I had a few martinis myself at lunch.

MATTHEW GILBERT