

## Zoom In Etc

KIDS GOTTA ROCK Bryan Adams' latest is out March 11

## A ROCKIN' NEW YEAR

**2022 STARTS OFF WITH** a bang as a crowd of seminal rockers gun for the top of the Billboard charts. Pearl Jam front man Eddie Vedder drops *Earthling* (Feb. 11), his first solo album in more than a decade, which is chock full of epic '80s-inspired power ballads featuring haunting organs and fierce guitar solos; Original Guns N' Roses members - that'd be Slash, Axl Rose and Duff McKagan, if you need a reminder - join the new G&R lineup for the four-track EP *Hard Skool* (Feb 25); and British pop-rock group Tears for Fears shouts its triumphant return on the emotionally charged and introspective album *The Tipping Point* (Feb. 25), its first album in 17 years. Last, but not least, Canadian rocker, *Zoomer* cover subject and frequent photography contributor, Bryan Adams, who's been living his best life touring Europe for *So Happy It Hurts*, finally drops the 12-song album on March 11. The video for its titular single, about "freedom, autonomy, spontaneity and the thrill of the open road," as Adams has said, features him behind the wheel of a vintage convertible, singing about "driving down Trans-Canada One." The bop-inducing tempo is exactly what we need to stay upbeat until spring. —Rosemary Counter

## BLUE RODEO RIDES AGAIN

**A CANADIAN TOUR** from Halifax to Vancouver and all points in between for a new album might seem like business as usual for Blue Rodeo, but *Many A Mile*, the 16th studio release from the alt-country legends, almost didn't happen. Singer-songwriters Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor were both deflated after 2016's *1000 Arms* album and tour, but "the last record exacted a toll on Greg," Cuddy says. "He puts everything into his music and recording and when it's over, he often has a dip. That one was pretty extreme." But then COVID-19 hit, and the long-time collaborators had a chance to recharge during lockdown. They wrote and recorded the songs separately, and the rest of the band hoofed it back and forth between Cuddy, at a studio in Toronto, and Keelor, in Cobourg, Ont., to lay down their parts. The richly

layered *Many A Mile* captures a band so accomplished that not even physical distance can diminish their cohesion. "The pandemic gave me all the time in the world to sit with the songs," Keelor says. "There's no question this record would not have happened without it." Call it the upside to an otherwise ghastly global event. —Kim Hughes



## Queens

**IT'S BEEN A** long, glorious reign for Netflix's *The Crown* at the top of the hierarchy of family dynasty dramas, but the beloved show might be deposed this spring. Two new shows starring strong matriarchs that could maybe rival the Queen are bringing some big names to the small screen. On Fox, Susan Sarandon stars in the musical drama *Monarch*, as the head of "the first family of country music" and its empire of complicated characters, beginning Jan. 30. In March, Showtime airs *The First Lady*, featuring almost-EGOT winner Viola Davis (she's only short a Grammy) as none other than Michelle Obama. But wait, there's more: It has also cast Gillian Anderson, fresh from her own Emmy win for playing Margaret Thatcher on *The Crown*, as Eleanor Roosevelt, and Michelle Pfeiffer as Betty Ford. For fans of historical drama, the anticipation is palpable.



Viola Davis

True-crime buffs can get their fix from NBC's *The Thing About Pam*, premiering March 8. The six-episode adaptation of the Dateline podcast of the same name stars an unrecognizable Renée Zellweger as the infamous Pam (I can't tell you a thing more without spoiling it), alongside Josh Duhamel and Judy Greer. Fresh off the legal thrillers *How to Get Away With Murder* and *Scandal* (both of which featured Davis as Annalise Keating), TV producer Shonda Rhimes - after a quick detour to England with the *Bridgertons*, because, why not? - moves on to the upper echelon of New York City. *Inventing Anna* is a riveting tale of con artist Anna Sorokin (a.k.a. Anna Delvey, a.k.a. Anna Sorokina), who poses as an uber-wealthy Russian heiress to swindle the city's high-rolling art elites. Catch *Inventing Anna* on Netflix Feb. 11 as the walls slowly close in. —RC

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