

WORLD WIDE ENTERTAINMENT SYNOPSES

'THE HIT LIST'

Episode 1

They're young, they're pretty and they're known as the "Brit Pack", a group of talented artists who've recently made their mark on the UK pop music charts. Since her 2006 hit "Smile", Lily Allen has become a walking headline, as much for her outspoken views on other artists as for her music. Meanwhile Mika, whose album "Life in Cartoon Motion" sold over five million copies worldwide, insists he never wanted to become a pop-star. On the flipside, K.T Tunstall couldn't imagine life as a pop-star called Kate, so changed her name to K.T and has never looked back.

Episode 2

They're strong; they're competitive. They're the group of performers who battled their way to stardom on reality TV. We examine the careers of these sudden celebrities, from the very first American Idol winner, Kelly Clarkson, whose fight for creative control led to her being responsible for much of the material on her albums these days; to Leona Lewis, the London-based winner of Britain's X-Factor; to Pop Idol champion, Will Young, who released his first single in 2002 after winning England's version of the Idol phenomenon.

Episode 3

They can sing, write and dance. Some of them can even act. On The Hit List this time, five multi-talented entertainers who know how to bust a move, including Justin Timberlake, who since his days as a member of boy band N'Sync, has become a celebrated artist in his own right; Madonna, who hasn't stopped reinventing herself since she burst onto the music scene with her first single "Borderline" over twenty years ago; Fergie from The Black Eyed Peas who admires "ballsy women"; Usher, the R&B singer compared to Michael Jackson for his dancing ability; and of course Michael Jackson himself.

Episode 4

In this installment of The Hit List, we meet nine performers intent on proving that blondes really do have fun, including teen idol Jesse McCartney, whose album She's No You went platinum in 2005; Jessica Simpson, whose music career took a detour while her TV show Newlyweds was winning ratings; Gary Barlow, singer of Take That who forged a solo career after the British boy band broke up in 1995; as well as former No Doubt singer Gwen Stefani, ageing rocker Rod Stewart and husky voiced Anastacia.

Episode 5

Canada isn't just about lumberjacks, mounted police, ice-hockey and maple syrup. It's also produced its fair share of chart-topping artists. Avril Lavigne is one of them, but despite being named the seventh most powerful Canadian in Hollywood, she's not interested in being labeled. Despite heavy eyeliner, tartan skirts and lots of black in her wardrobe, she insists she's not "punk". We also catch up with Canadian crooners Celine Dion, Michael Buble, veteran rocker Bryan Adams, and pop/R&B singer Nelly Furtado.

Episode 6

On the Hit List this time, a bunch of big-hitters who know all about the pleasures and pitfalls of being a teenage star. Australian Gabriella Cilmi grew up in outside Melbourne, but had to fly halfway around the world to land a record deal. Apparently Zac Efron wasn't such a big hit with the girls. According to the star of the High School Musical franchise, it wasn't that long ago that he had to chase girls to get them to go out with him! It takes many celebrities a lifetime to work out how to deal with the press, but Miley Cyrus had it all worked out by the time she turned 16. She says it's about giving respect in order to get it back. Also on The Hit List: The Jonas Brothers, Charlotte Church and Ashley Tisdale.

Episode 7

On The Hitlist this time, nine music legends that were never destined to grow old gracefully. What do Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison have in common? They all died at the age of 27, of drug-related causes. Nirvana singer and feted poet Kurt Cobain was also 27 when he committed suicide by shotgun, making the age rather unlucky, if you're a young rock star who also happens to be superstitious! Meanwhile, irony played its part in the deaths of John Lennon and Mar Bolan. The T-Rex singer never learned to drive due to a fear of dying in an accident, but that didn't stop him meeting his end as a passenger; while prophetically, and tragically, former Beatle John Lennon was quoted as saying he'd probably be "popped off by some loony".

Episode 8

After more than two decades, Goo Goo Dolls' lead singer Johnny Rzeznik likens the relationship between band members to a marriage. "Nobody wants us" he states. "Do you know how hard it is to get a date after being married for 20 years?" So no wonder the boys are ready for a break from each other! Florida band Matchbox 20 had been together seven years when they decided to take a break to pursue solo interests. The most successful of these was the debut solo album of front man Rob Thomas. Other bands who have reunited after a hiatus or lineup change are Nickelback, Foo Fighters, Metallica and 80's Glam Rock heavyweights, Motley Crue.