

FEBRUARY

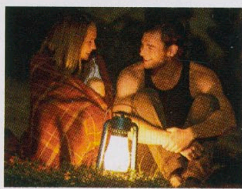
THIS MONTH IN CULTURE!

Pharrell-endorsed British singer-songwriter Foxes—she of the very danceable tunes, the doll-like features, and the Platonic ideal of bangs—releases her next album, the emotional and raw *All I Need*. Expect a gospel vibe and, at least once, a giant gong. *February 5*



February 2 In *The Queen of the Night*, the much-anticipated second novel from Alexander Chee, a woman in 1800s Europe transforms herself from orphan to courtesan to legendary soprano. Basically the backstory of any opera singer worth her arias, right?

February 5 Dark, powerful, and fearless: *Blackbird*, now on Broadway for the first time, explores the complex dynamics between a woman (Michelle Williams) and the man (Jeff Daniels) who sexually abused her 15 years earlier, when she was 12.



February 5 *The Choice*, adapted from a novel by national cupid Nicholas Sparks (*The Notebook*), is a film about neighbors who fall in love (a car crash and dramatic hospital hand-holding also come into play).

February 5 The complete zombification of the cultureverse continues with the feminist fantasy/horror flick *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, starring Lily James.

February 6 The late, great artist Alma Thomas gets a retrospective of her wildly colorful paintings at the Tang Museum in upstate New York.



February 7 Super Bowl L is dead; long live Super Bowl 50! Don your jerseys and bake your football-shaped cakes for the biggest sports event of the year. (Turn to page 180 for more party ideas.)



February 15 Stephen King's *11/22/63*, about the JFK assassination (and time travel, because why not?), becomes a miniseries streaming on Hulu starring James Franco, Josh Duhamel, Lucy Fry, and Sarah Gadon.



February 16 Stories, interviews, and more than 100 approachable recipes fill the cookbook *Koreatown*, which boasts blurbs from writer Gary Shteyngart and chefs Eric Ripert, David Chang, and Anthony Bourdain.

February 21 Two HBO favorites, *Girls* and *Togetherness*, which transform midtwenties and late-thirties floundering, respectively, into low-fi TV gold, premiere their next seasons back to back.



February 26 Fresh off their tour with Of Montreal, the indie-rock quartet Mothers release their debut, *When You Walk a Long Distance You Are Tired*, which combines the twangy rhythms of old-timey folk, orchestral arrangements, and the mournful, almost haunting voice of Kristine Leschper.



February 28 The dresses, the diets, the jewels, and (of course) the awards! The Oscars extravaganza is upon us, and while, over the past few years, the telecast's jokes have been forgettable at best, maybe host Chris Rock will usher in a beautiful new era.

Foxes: © Kate Bellin; Koreatown: courtesy of Penguin Books; Mothers: Kristine Leschper; Rock: Dana Edelson/NBC/Photo Bank; Alma Thomas: Craig Blankenhorn/HBO; Blackbird: Brigitte Lacombe; Alma Thomas: Apollo 12 Splash Down, 1970; *The Queen of the Night*: courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; *The Choice*: Dana Hawley; 11/22/63: Ben Mark Halzberg/Hulu