

THE MASTER STORYTELLER

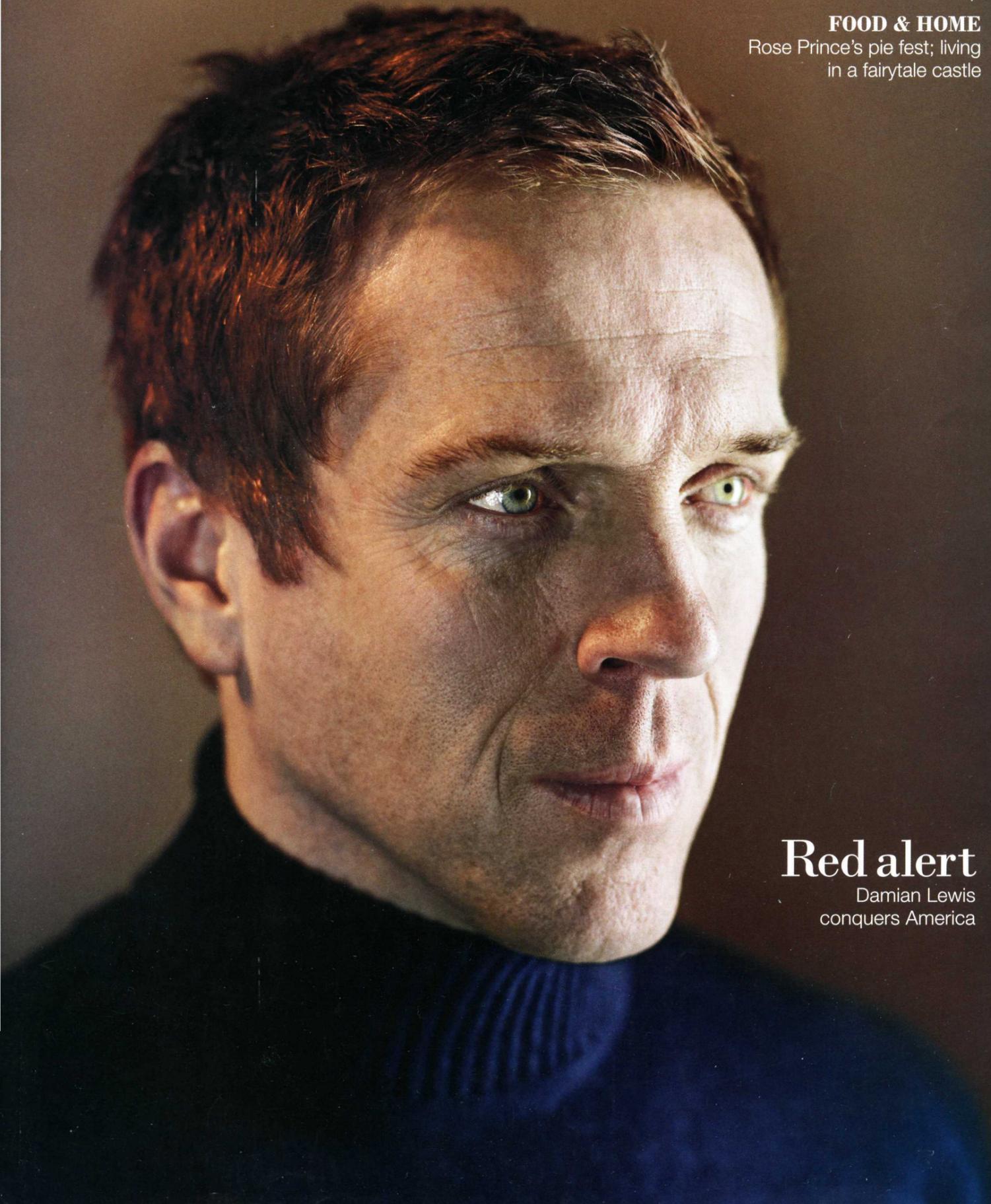
Inside the mind of William Boyd

DON'T EVEN GO THERE

Tim Moore's Scottish road trip

FOOD & HOME

Rose Prince's pie fest; living in a fairytale castle

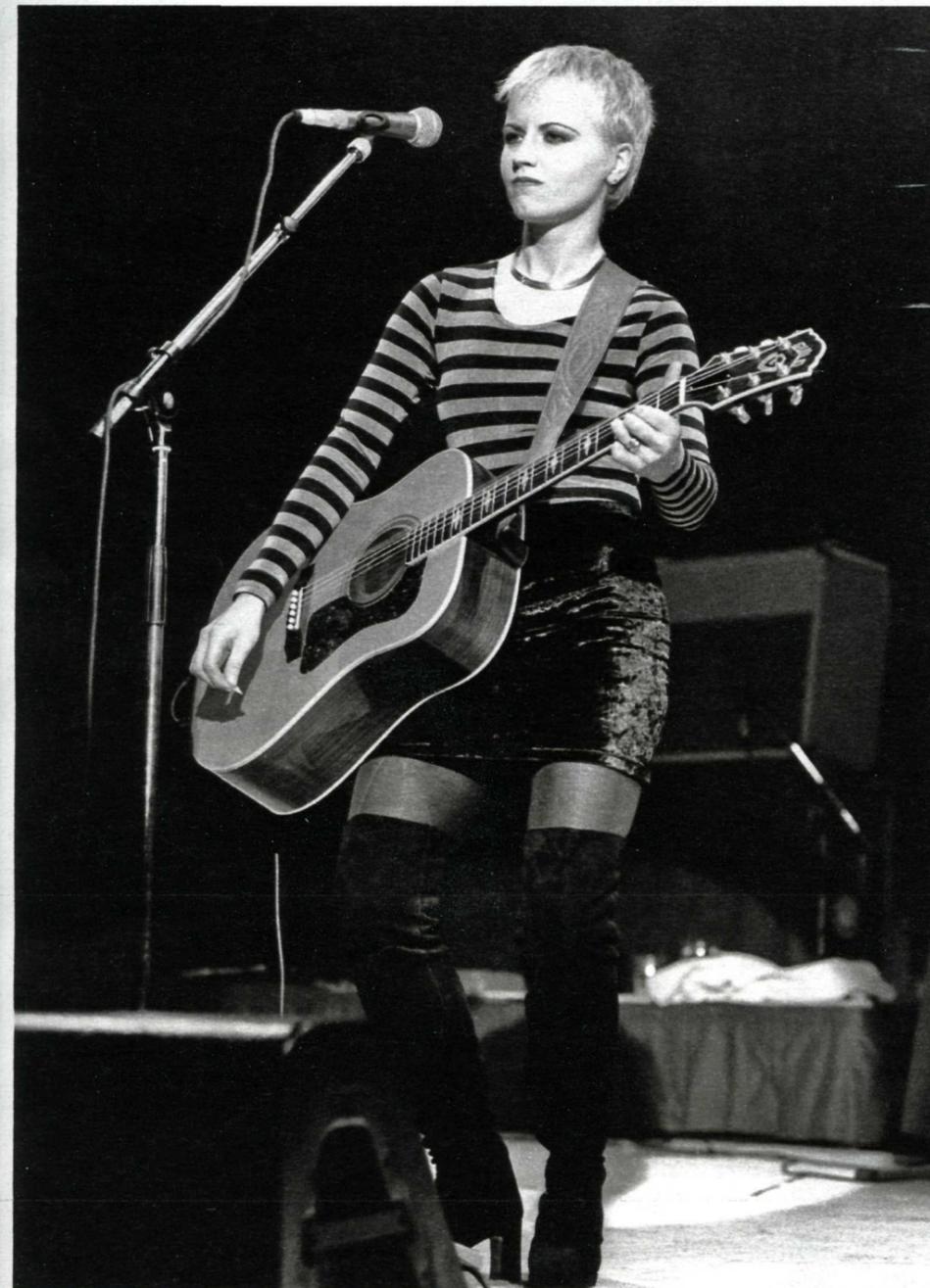


Red alert

Damian Lewis conquers America

FLASHBACK

Dolores O'Riordan remembers a downhill slide with the Cranberries, 1994



I was so famous that I couldn't leave the hotel room. I remember looking out of the window at all these fans but just feeling so isolated

This was a crazy year. I was 22 and I had been singing with the Cranberries since I was 18. Our first album had done really well – we sold four million copies – and in 1994 we were promoting our second album, *No Need to Argue*. But the beginning of that year had started badly. In January I went skiing in Val d'Isère with the guys from the band – Noel and Mike Hogan and Fergal Lawler – and even though I couldn't ski I just decided to start on an advanced slope. As it was getting steeper and steeper, and I was going faster and faster, I realised that I would have to throw myself over to try and stop. I crashed, and the next thing I remember is being carried down the slope on a stretcher and taken to hospital where I had to have surgery on my leg – they put a metal rod in.

I had to do lots of physiotherapy to learn to walk again; my aim was to walk down the aisle when I married my husband, Don, who was Duran Duran's tour manager, by July, which I did. Despite the injury I still had to do all the gigs we had promised, because if you sign up to do them, then you are contractually obliged to keep going. I was in a wheelchair for some of them. I don't know why I was wearing those high-heeled boots in this photo taken in October – they can't have been good for me. I was very image-conscious back then; now I'm all about comfort.

By the third Cranberries album I started to lose the plot. We'd signed up to tour for two years straight, and I can't remember much of that time because it was all about getting up early, working, working, working, and then trying to catch some sleep before getting up again. I was so famous that I couldn't leave the hotel room. I remember looking out of the window at all these fans but just feeling so isolated.

Soon enough I hit rock bottom. I thought the best thing to do to bring me back to reality would be to have a child, and by the time I had my first, Taylor, when I was 25, we'd sold 35 million records as a band and I'd had enough; I knew my sanity was more important than success.

I breast-fed and stayed at home and eventually, when I felt like going back, I worked for a few weeks and then came home for a few weeks. I promised myself that never again would I go off for a year at a time and lose touch with everything that was important to me. I had my second child, Molly, at 28 and my third, Dakota, at 31. My kids mean more to me than anything I thought was important when I was younger.

I did a couple of solo records just for myself, for therapeutic purposes, but now, 11 years on, we've come back together as a band to record this new album, and it's as if we had never been apart – except now I live in Ontario instead of Ireland and between us in the band we have had 12 children.

Interview by Jessica Salter

The Cranberries' new album, 'Roses', is out on February 13

ALAMY