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“Celebrities and Publics in the Internet Era,” a special issue guest edited by Sharon Marcus, asks how new digital media platforms such as search engines, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, GIFs, and YouTube have qualitatively changed celebrity culture. Drawing on a wide range of examples, from the luxury selfies of micro-celebrities like Kane Lim to performance artist Marina Abramović’s collaborations with Jay-Z and Lady Gaga, from the karaoke standard in shows like American Idol to Syrian singer Assala’s media battle with the Assad regime, from the “emotion economy” of reality TV to the influence of network entrepreneurs like Tim O’Reilly, the essays in this special issue identify core structural features that contribute to the development of a new theory of celebrity.
Call for Contributions

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Brief opinion-oriented pieces (of 500–3,000 words) run at the front of each issue in the Forum section. Full-length articles (of 6,000–9,000 words) based on original research are at the core. We also feature in-depth discussions with leading contemporary thinkers. Typically, we are familiar only with scholarly labor’s final results, published books and articles, or occasional lectures. The interviews we publish call attention to the backstage of intellectual practice. In addition to original research essays, opinion pieces, and conversations, Public Culture welcomes translations of previously published, groundbreaking essays.

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