

# DEPP GETS DEEP

Hollywood icon Johnny Depp reflects on life, film and tatoos as he approaches 50

By Brian Hiatt

June 18, 2013

Sometimes, maybe late at night, on location, after he's put down his guitar or closed one of the four or five books he's reading or shut off the "trashiest television imaginable" (he's a Honey Boo Boo man), Johnny Depp starts asking himself questions. He loves his job, has had a lot worse ones, and there's been increasingly decent money in it — island-buying money, recording-studio-in-your-house money, your-kids-and-grandkids-never-have-to-worry money. But. Is there something else you want to mess around with? Would it be good to just go somewhere and sit and

think and write — not stories, necessarily, but just spew?

Today, back in his L.A. office, on a break from shooting a sci-fi thing called Transcendence in Albuquerque, fresh from his daughter's 14th-birthday party the night before, with his latest art-film-bonkers performance in a likely blockbuster (as a war-painted Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*) rumbling toward theaters, Depp is thinking, Maybe. "I'm kicking 50 right up the ass," he says, just a couple of weeks before the end of his forties, dragging on one of his fat,

brown, proficiently self-rolled cigarettes. "I can't say that I'd want to be doing this for another 10 years."

Thoughts of retirement pop up "every day," he says. But nothing's imminent. "I think while I've got the opportunity and the desire and the creative spark to do the things that I can do right now, I should do them," Depp says, in his rather mesmerizing, if mumbly, tobacco-basted baritone. "And then, at a certain point, just take it down to the bare minimum and concentrate on, I guess, living life. Really liv-

ing life. And going somewhere where you don't have to be on the run, or sneak in through the kitchen or the underground labyrinth of the hotel. At a certain point, when you get old enough or get a few brain cells back, you realize that, on some level, you lived a life of a fugitive."

Then again, getting older opens up some interesting roles — look at his late drinking buddy Marlon Brando. And he isn't good at laying back. "I don't know if I can relax," he says. "Relax, I can't do. My brain, on idle, is a bad thing. I just get weird. I mean, not weird. I get, I get antsy." He stubs out his cigarette in an ashtray set on a wooden coffee

table with a roulette wheel built into its top.

When Depp lets his mind go, it can go like this: "There's a great part of me that has deep concerns for, let's say, the world, as everyone does. If you're, in any way, sensitive to that stuff and you just keep taking in, taking in, taking in, you'll drive yourself fucking nuts. You start getting into things, like — people are fighting because each one says their god is better than the other. And zillions of fucking people die. Savage-ly. Horribly. Innocent people. And, I mean, there's no way — you can't take that in as a machine and then spit it out

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"I'M KICKING  
50 RIGHT  
UP THE..."

Adam Clark Estes

## PERSONAL TECH

# In-Flight Wi-Fi Prices Jump as Demand Surges

Tech Fix

Brian X. Chen

During a Tuesday-morning flight in April from Los Angeles to New York, Christine Lu's smartphone web browser loaded an unpleasant surprise: Gogo, the in-flight Wi-Fi provider, wanted to charge her \$27 to use its service during the five-and-a-half-hour trip.

The price was more than double the \$13 that she had paid for Gogo's Wi-Fi four years earlier, said Ms. Lu, a start-up entrepreneur.

"It's like a hotel charging obscene rates for Wi-Fi in the room," said Ms. Lu, who swallowed the cost to do some work. "You get this bad feeling."

Justin Denison, left, of Samsung showed off the Galaxy Note 5 at an event in New York this month. Gadgetwise: Samsung's New Big-Screen Phones Differ in the Little Things AUG. 18, 2015

Clicking on the Start button



Adam Clark Estes

brings up groups of tiles that can be tailored to your preferences. Gadgetwise: Windows 10 Review: A Throwback With Upgrades in Software and Security JULY 28, 2015

In the inaugural installment of this new consumer technology feature, we examine the price increases for Wi-Fi on flights from the largest provider of the service, Gogo, and explain why some costs have escalated and some have not,

and how travelers can sidestep the worst of the charges. The idea of this feature, called Tech Fix, is to make personal technology less frustrating by dissecting the cause of problems, using data, reporting and analysis to come up with the best solutions.

Many travelers are experiencing sticker shock from in-flight Wi-Fi these days. While there are several in-flight Wi-Fi providers, including ViaSat

and Global Eagle Entertainment, Gogo is the top provider, equipping more than 2,000 planes from airlines like American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and Virgin America with its service, up from 1,300 in 2011. Gogo's prices often change depending on when and where you are flying. But on some flights — especially transcontinental routes crammed with business travelers who may have cushy expense accounts

— prices have doubled from three years ago.

Consider the following increases: Wi-Fi service on transcontinental flights — such as from San Francisco to New York, from Boston to Seattle or from Los Angeles to New York — now cost \$28 to \$40, up from roughly \$18 in 2012, according to Gogo.

Yet those numbers rarely show up in the average price quote for an in-flight Gogo Wi-Fi session, which now amounts to about \$12, up just slightly from \$10 in 2012. That's partly because on flights where fewer people are likely to use Wi-Fi, pricing has remained unchanged, which brings down the average cost per session. For example, Gogo's Wi-Fi service on flights between New York and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has cost \$10 since 2012. In addition, passengers can choose to pay smaller amounts to use Wi-Fi for a portion of a flight instead of the entire trip.

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## How Much Gogo Charges for Its In-Flight Wi-Fi Service

The company's prices often change depending on when and where you are flying. On some transcontinental flights, peak prices have doubled in the last three years.

Los Angeles to New York  
San Francisco to New York  
Boston to Seattle

The minimum price for Wi-Fi service for the duration of the flight.

2015	\$28
2012	\$18

Gogo calculates the cost of its in-flight Wi-Fi service based on perceived demand. The higher rates correspond to peak travel times, especially for business travelers.

Sun.	\$34
Mon.	\$40
Tues.	\$34
Wed.	\$34
Thurs.	\$40
Fri.	\$34
Sat.	\$28

## TECHNOLOGY

# The Upside of a Downturn in Silicon Valley

Farhad Manjoo

STATE OF THE ART

In October 2008, in the early days of the last economic collapse, Sequoia Capital invited founders of technology companies to a frank meeting outlining the new global reality.

Silicon Valley had long since shaken off the doldrums of the dot-com bubble, but one of the industry's most respected venture capital firms was now counseling entrepreneurs to again "batten down the hatches" — to cut costs, to focus on profit, to "spend every dollar as if it were your last" because "it is going to be a rough ride."

The presentation was called "R.I.P. Good Times," and it ended with a challenge meant to inspire founders as well as to scare them: "Get real or go home."

As it happened, Sequoia's dire warnings never quite came to pass; the tech indus-

try's good times merely paused for the recession.

But the presentation has achieved the status of legend among venture capitalists. Tech investors are known for their strutting optimism, but the best of them are keenly aware of the motivating powers of impending doom.

Some of the most success-

The presentation was called "R.I.P. Good Times," and it ended with a challenge ... "Get real or go home."

ful tech investments of all time — among them Google and Facebook — came about in Silicon Valley's lean times. This is a paradox of invention, as well as of investing: Bad times feed good ideas, which in turn lead to good times, which breed complacency, waste and lots of bad business plans.

No one in the tech industry knows if the recent stock market turbulence will prompt another opportunity to mourn good times. But some venture capitalists are beginning to plan for a leaner era ahead.

Sooner rather than later, some external shock — the Dow, China, Europe, Iran, interest rates, the inauguration of President Trump — may prompt a slow-moving retrenchment in the fund-raising for start-ups. Money will dry up, companies will face hard choices, and there will be layoffs, shutdowns and much heartache.

That may just be what Silicon Valley needs. Many investors are optimistic about the clarifying possibilities of a downturn.

The boom has made Silicon Valley soft: Companies are spending too much, investors are funding too many me-too ideas, and most founders have never had to confront any

limits to their overweening ambitions. Venture capitalists won't quite say they are looking forward to a correction, but some do say that a bust could toughen up the place.

And if a downturn in start-up funding is going to come anyway, you might argue that it couldn't come soon enough: Not just R.I.P. good times, but good riddance, and let the bad times roll.

"The founders who start companies in bad times are the ones who are really driven," said Roclaf Botha, one of Sequoia's partners. "They're not jumping on the bandwagon to get to Silicon Valley just because it's the fashionable thing to do today."

Mr. Botha offered a story from his past at PayPal, where he began his Silicon Valley career in March 2000, the same month the Nasdaq hit a peak that it would take 15 years to reach again.

"Most of the people who



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were building start-ups in that era, including us at PayPal, had only seen one economic environment in our working lives," he said.

But Michael Moritz, another Sequoia partner who was one of PayPal's board members, repeatedly counseled caution.

"He was the one board member drilling into our heads, 'Guys, you need to work on the runway — how many months do you have left, and what are you going to do about it?'" Mr. Botha said, recalling Mr. Moritz's advice.

At Mr. Moritz's prompting, PayPal's executives decided to take what was then an extraordinary step: They began to charge users a fee to use the payment service. The com-

pany also worked hard to keep its costs down.

"That focus was instrumental in PayPal's survival," Mr. Botha said. "We could have been spending money willy-nilly and fallen by the wayside by accident."

Instead, within a year, PayPal was sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion, and its founders and executives went on to become Silicon Valley luminaries.

Over the last year, as money flowing into Silicon Valley went from a gush to a flood, Mr. Botha, like other venture investors, began advising start-ups to raise funds even if they didn't need them immediately, to have cash on hand for a potential downturn.

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