

ROD'S ORIENTAL DATE

POP legend Rod Stewart has chosen Valencia for his only concert in Spain next year. The veteran will take to the stage of the new Roig Arena on June 30. Stewart, 80, took to social media to

say: "I'm bringing the show to you next year!" Tickets will go on sale from midday this Friday (October 10) via the venue's website.



The Scotsman has regularly performed in Spain in recent years but not in 2025. His last gig in the country was in December when he brought his 'One Last Time' tour to the Coliseum A Coruña.

BIG WIN

THE Olive Press has been hailed as the 'best English newspaper in Spain' for its honest, accurate and fearless reporting.

The paper scooped the coveted Joan Hunt Communication Award at the prestigious Diputación de Málaga ceremony.

Málaga President, Francisco Salado, praised editor Jon Clarke and his team for helping integrate expats into Spanish life through 'up-to-date and accurate information'.

A short film shown to the 400-strong audience highlighted the Olive Press's reputation as a trusted source, regularly quoted by the

Olive Press crowned Best English newspaper in Spain

BBC, New York Times and The Guardian.

It also pointed to its 'top-tier professionals' and the paper's million monthly readers, which make it the most widely read English-language publication in Spain. La Opinión de Málaga praised the Olive Press for 'combining independent journalism with an international feel' and for 'building bridges between cultures on the Costa del Sol'.

Clarke, 56, who was nom-



inated by former Sur in English editor Liz Parry (above), collected the award at the Edgar Neville Auditorium in Málaga. Speaking in Spanish, he joked it was rare for a 'guiri periodista' to win such recognition before thanking his team and reaffirming the



mis- 'ask the difficult questions' and 'fight for the underdog'. He cited campaigns such as Save Our Costas and the investigation into Ronda's controversial Los Merinos macro-golf project. Other winners at the awards included the Mijas Lions Club, poet Lorenzo Saval, Olympic swimmer Nina Zhivanevskaya, Estepona Town Hall and Los Castanos Hotel in Cartijima.

LINE UP: The award winners including editor Jon, at the back



MULLINS IT OVER

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT? FROM LEAVING SCHOOL AT 15 TO AWARD-WINNING COLUMNIST ON AN AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER!



... And would you believe it!

There's not much that pulls me back to the UK these days. Visiting family is the main exception - but my son Scott and grandson Ashley now run the family business, WeFix London, and most of my media work can be done from my villa here in Spain. Truth be told, I think the lads prefer me out of the way so they can run the show without interference! There is one other thing that gets me on a plane: the charities I've supported for years. When one of my all-time favourites, Variety, calls me to Manchester for their annual charity dinner, I don't think twice.

Last year, at the same event, I had the honour of presenting my good friend James Whale MBE with a Broadcasting Legend award - an emotional moment for us both.

And speaking of awards... I'm now a columnist for an award-winning newspaper, since the Olive Press scooped the Best English Newspaper prize at last month's Joan Hunt Diputación de Málaga Awards (see above). Quite the achievement!

Oh, and while I was up in Manchester helping Variety raise an impressive £150,000 on the night, I was also sur-

prised with an Entrepreneurial Legend award. A great honour - and for once, I managed to get off stage without cracking any terrible jokes.

Since founding WeFix London, we've donated £1 from every job to Shooting Star Children's Hospice. Alongside Variety - a children's charity dedicated to helping disadvantaged and disabled young people across the UK - it's been a core part of what we do.

I've always believed that part of the obligation of businesses is to be part of, and give something back to, the communities that keep them afloat. I know the Olive Press are big fans of Ecologists in Action, and one I've worked with in Spain, Cudeca Cancer Care Hospice. It's also good to see the paper launch a new campaign into drinks spiking this issue.

As a newspaper with a very defined



community - the readers of 100,000 copies a month and the 1 million monthly visitors to the website - I know that a huge part of what makes the Olive Press Newspaper of the Year is being in tune with its readers. It's a shame more businesses in the UK and Spain do not understand this crucial relationship with customers. Politicians the world over could also do worse than carry through on the promises they make to their communities.



And another winner is...

OSCAR winner Jennifer Lawrence picked up the Donostia Lifetime Achievement Award at Spain's prestigious San Sebastian Film Festival, becoming its youngest-ever recipient at 35. Lawrence received the award from Spanish director J.A. Bayona to a standing ovation.

In her speech, she praised the festival's love of storytelling and confessed a passion for Basque cuisine, joking, 'I'm so happy to be here - not just for the food, which is reason enough to visit! The star's speech skirted around political themes, though at a press conference earlier in the day Lawrence denounced Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, saying: "What's happening is no less than a genocide and it's terrible."

Offering a scathing critique of politics in her native US, Lawrence added: "What makes me so sad is the disrespect in the discourse of American politics right now and how that is going to be normalised to the kids right now. It's going to be normal to them that politicians lie."

Previous Donostia recipients include Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and Antonio Banderas.



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