

ENTERTAINMENT

Two shows canceled in troubled R. Kelly tour

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The troubled "Best of Both Worlds" tour featuring Chicago R&B superstar R. Kelly and hip-hop giant Jay-Z has run into more difficulties since Kelly cut short a concert in St. Louis on Saturday following an emotional outburst.

Sunday night's concert at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee was canceled a few hours before show time, and Tuesday's show at the Civic Center in Hartford, Conn., has been nixed, as well.

A news release from the Kelly camp said the tour will resume Thursday at the Nassau Coliseum in New York, and it blamed technical difficulties for the cancellations.



R&B crooner/producer R. Kelly, left, and rapper Jay-Z are encountering difficulties on their "Best of Both Worlds" tour. Cancellations have been blamed on technical snafus.

Kelly and Jay-Z were performing Saturday at the Savvis Center in St. Louis

when things started to go wrong about two-thirds of the way through the concert, following Kelly's performance

of "Step in the Name of Love."

"Kelly went into 'Happy People,' but he jumped off the stage onto the arena floor," said Kevin C. Johnson, the pop music critic who reviewed the show for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "He kind of made a mad dash, surrounded by security, from the stage to the rear of the arena, where the soundboard was."

"Once he got there, he was really up in the soundmen's faces — he was very angry and agitated, and it looked like he was probably cursing," Johnson said. "He was definitely very upset."

This scene was projected (See R. Kelly, Page 22)

Football team used Big Boi to score

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The football team is 2-4 and attendance is down, but Middle Tennessee State relied on OutKast's Big Boi save the day.

No, the rapper didn't suit up. Football programs must average 15,000 fans a game to stay in Division I, the NCAA's top level, and the Blue Raiders only averaged about 14,000 its first two home games.

Fans weren't exactly excited about last Saturday's home game in Murfreesboro, 30 miles southeast of Nashville, against equally miserable Idaho (2-5).

So Middle Tennessee has scheduled a free Big Boi concert immediately after the game.

"It's definitely an attempt to get people in the stands," school spokesman Doug Williams said.

"We want our students to come to games and be exposed to the MTSU experience, and we thought this would be a good way to do it."

Williams acknowledged that the concert is also an attempt to stay in Division I.

When the school moved up from the lower Division I-AA in 1999, the NCAA requirement was simply to sell at least 17,000 tickets.

Now the number is lower, but the fans actually have to attend.

If the school sells 30,000 tickets, but only 14,000 show up, that's not good enough, Williams said.

No one was allowed inside the stadium after the game ended, so anyone who wanted to attend the concert had to watch the game first.

Folks who were not partial to Big Boi's hip-hop music, however, were allowed to leave.

Def Jam, Jay-Z negotiations nearing end

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jay-Z is in final negotiations to become president of Universal Music Group's Island Def Jam label, a source familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday.

Discussions with the superstar rapper, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have been going on for weeks. Barring any last-minute snags, a deal should be finalized within seven to 10 days, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Since his first album in 1996, Jay-Z has achieved a string of radio hits, platinum albums and critical respect. After cranking out an album every year, Jay-Z released "The Black Album" in 2003 and declared he was retiring from recording. He still remains a major concert draw and is currently touring with R&B superstar R. Kelly.

Although many artists eventually become executives, it's a rare move for one

with Jay-Z's current fame.

As Island Def Jam president, the 33-year-old New York native would report to chairman Antonio "L.A." Reid, who joined the label in February. The label's last president, Kevin Liles, was ousted in July.

It's expected the label will seek to sign Jay-Z to a three-year deal, the source said.

Separately, Universal Music Group has also been in talks with Jay-Z and long-time business partners

Damon Dash and Kareem "Biggs" Burke to buy their Roc-A-Fella Records label. But Universal's bid to hire Jay-Z is not contingent on acquiring Roc-A-Fella, the source said.

Calls to representatives for Jay-Z and Reid were not immediately returned.

Kravitz sued for \$300,000—toilet overflowed, damaged apartment

NEW YORK (AP) - An insurance company has sued Lenny Kravitz, saying it had to pay for more than \$300,000 worth of water damage in a neighbor's apartment after one of Kravitz's toilets overflowed two months ago.

Amica Mutual Insurance Co. says in court papers that the apartment of retired executive Joel M. Disend "sustained catastrophic water damage" on Aug. 1 due to Kravitz's "allowing a commode to become blocked, clogged and congested with various materials."

Because of the damage, according to papers filed Wednesday in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, Amica had to pay \$333,849.77 to fix Disend's condominium apartment on the floor below Kravitz's flat in their SoHo building.

No description of Disend's apartment was available, but Kravitz's 6,000-square-foot duplex,

which he bought in October 2000 for \$8 million, reportedly has five bedrooms, eight bathrooms, a billiards room and a 3,000 square-foot terrace.

The Grammy-winning musician's building also has rocker Courtney Love as a tenant.

Disend, 62, retired in 2000

as chairman and chief executive of New York Life Benefit Services, a financial consulting company and retirement plan provider.

Amica's lawyer, Allen D. Werter, did not return calls for comment.

A spokesperson for Kravitz also did not return calls for comment.

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