



ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I'm in my last year of high school and one of my girlfriends is ready to quit during senior year. She's stressing and going through drama over a boy that used her for sex. She doesn't want to come to school because she can't stand the sight of seeing him with another girl. How can I convince her that he's not worth sacrificing her education?

Gladys
Natchez, MS

Dear Gladys:

Slap her upside her head real hard to knock the sense back into her. Your friend is going through the vulnerable stage of puppy love although she's been dogged by a wolf. Help her make an appointment with your school guidance counselor as well as encourage her to talk to her parents. Continue to be a good friend and encourage her to hang in there because without that diploma, she'll join the ranks of unemployment, welfare and if she's lucky—flipping burgers.

Dear Deanna!

My husband of 7 years left me for a younger woman. He dogged me and broke my heart but I'm over it. The problem is now with this woman. He's putting her through the same drama he put me through and she calls me for advice. The first time I tolerated her because she caught me off guard. I'm at the point where I'm ready to tell her she reaped what she sowed but I can't do it. Why?

Leslie
Boston, MA

Dear Leslie:

You can definitely say she got what she deserved. I guess your husband saw the grass wasn't greener on the other side. When she calls again, let her know in your sweetest voice you appreciate her seeking your advice but you had enough drama from both of them to last a lifetime. Share some words of wisdom that if a married man cheats on his wife, he'll cheat on anybody and sooner or later, he'll cheat on her too.

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend of 4 years cheated on me at least 10 times. At first we had an open relationship and we saw other people and later began getting serious about each other. Although he continued to cheat, he showed me love and came home at a decent time. Now he's changed and is always around. I love him but I keep thinking about the phrase "once a cheater, always a cheater."

In Love and Confused:

Dear Confused:

Once is too many times for cheating. You played a part in this drama because of the tone in which this relationship began. He disrespected you but you allowed it. Count your 4 years as a learning experience and find a man that'll respect you like the deserving queen you are. You're too good to be seventh fiddle to a man that's supposed to be yours. No, he won't stop cheating, so suck it up and keep it moving.

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'Ray' to hit Broadway stage

By Josh Grossberg

Ray meet the Great White Way.

The producers of last year's critically hailed Ray Charles biopic, which garnered star Jamie Foxx an Oscar, have Broadway on their mind.

"Ray" principals Stuart Benjamin and Howard and Karen Baldwin have secured the stage rights to Charles' life story and greatest hits from the late icon's estate and Ray Charles Enterprises for a musical production that's part biography, part revue.

According to the Hollywood trades, the "Ray" brain trust want to incorporate Charles' best loved tunes, including "Georgia on My Mind," "You Don't Know Me," "Hit the Road Jack," "Unchain My Heart," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "What'd I Say" and his soulful take on "America the Beautiful."

Neither Foxx nor director Taylor Hackford will be involved in the project, which is being produced by Benjamin Prods., Baldwin Entertainment and Charles' longtime manager, Joe Adams.

The musical will intersperse dramatic vignettes of Charles' life from his impoverished youth and his blindness at age seven to his coronation as the Genius for his genre-defying blend of gospel, soul, R&B, rock, jazz, country and pop and his emergence as a champion of civil rights.

But unlike the film, which



Plans are for Ray Charles' life story to play on Broadway.

delved deeply into the artists' failed relationships and his drug addictions, the stage version will be more of a tribute.

"This will be more of the warmth and the personality of Ray, as well as some of the anecdotes and stories that weren't in the movie," Benjamin told the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Benjamin spent 15 years bringing Ray to the big screen. And when it finally did arrive in theaters last fall, the movie grossed \$75 million at the box office and scored six Oscar nominations, winning two — Best Actor for Foxx and another for Best Sound.

"The phenomenal success of 'Ray' speaks to just how

deeply Ray Charles' work touched the world, and, just as in the genius' performing career, people have been clamoring for more," Howard Baldwin said in a statement. "The stage is a natural home for this material, and our collaborators are top-notch."

No word yet when the musical premiere. Producers are currently searching for a playwright to get cracking on the musical's book.

The Baldwins most recently oversaw production on Sahara and are currently hard at work developing a biopic on baseball legend Jackie Robinson. Baldwin produced both "Ray" soundtrack CDs, as well as the TV special "Genius: A

Night for Ray Charles." His other credits include "La Bamba" and "Everybody's All American."

While Charles died last June from liver disease at age 73, the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer's legacy endures. Aside from the hit film and budding Broadway musical, his posthumous duets album, *Genius Loves Company*, debuted atop the Billboard charts last summer and earned a record-tying eight Grammys in February. His manager and a group of investors are also working on turning his legendary recording studios in downtown Los Angeles into a museum dedicated to his life and music.

The Ray musical is the latest in a string of Broadway productions based on the songs of a hit performer. Billy Joel's "Movin' Out" and ABBA's "Mamma Mia!" continue to play to packed houses, and the Elvis-centric "All Shook Up" recently opened to solid reviews and good box office. Also on the horizon: Lennon, based on the music and life of the late Beatle, a stage version of Pink Floyd's "The Wall" and the Johnny Cash-based "Ring of Fire."

Of course, just basing a musical on a famous artist doesn't guarantee ticket sales. Not even the sun-baked hits of the Beach Boys could save "Good Vibrations" from going up in flames—the widely panned musical was shuttered after just 94 performances.

Rap label head seeks separate trial

NEW YORK (AP) - A hip-hop mogul charged in a racketeering case is seeking a separate trial from a notorious drug lord who is his co-defendant — and childhood friend.

In papers filed in federal court in Brooklyn, attorneys for Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo and his brother Christopher Lorenzo, also charged in the case, asked a judge to give them an immediate trial separate from Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff.

Irv Lorenzo heads The Inc., home to platinum-selling artists Ashanti and Ja Rule; his brother is an employee.

Unlike the Lorenzo brothers, McGriff and three other defendants named in the same indictment face murder counts that make them eligible for the death penalty.

The brothers' lawyers argued placing their clients on trial with McGriff would prejudice a jury.

"The Lorenzo defendants seek a speedy trial at which they will be able to clear their names and their business reputations," according to the papers filed Monday.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn declined Tuesday to discuss the case. No trial date has been set.

Prosecutors allege McGriff and the Lorenzos funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug profits through The Inc., a chart-topping label owned partly by Island Def Jam, a Universal Music label.

McGriff, 44, was founder of the Supreme Team, once one of the city's most violent drug crews. Investigators allege that after he finished serving about nine years for drug conspiracy in 1997, he set about reviving his drug-dealing operation.

Cooperating witnesses have told investigators McGriff allegedly admitted

to the 2001 revenge slaying of up-and-coming rapper E-Money Bags in the New York City borough of Queens.

Prosecutors also believe he arranged the Baltimore killing one month later of a suspected informant in his drug organization. Another man also died in the Baltimore shooting. McGriff's

lawyer has accused the government of pushing the cooperating witnesses to falsely implicate people.

Irv Lorenzo founded The Inc. as Murder Inc. in the late 1990s and embraced a gangster image. He changed his label's name last year to deflect negative publicity from the investigation.

Rapper arrested in assault on busboy

NEW YORK (AP) - Police arrested rapper Memphis Bleek early last Thursday after he and another man allegedly beat up a busboy at a Manhattan nightclub.

The 23-year-old victim told police the assault occurred after he entered a VIP room at the NV club to clean off a table. He claimed Bleek — a protégé of Jay-Z whose real name is Malik Cox — and Ravelle Talik Smith punched him in the face and head, knocking out a tooth.

Police officers arrested Bleek, 25, of Monroe, N.J., and Smith, 26, of Queens, at about 1:50 a.m. outside the club after they exited a side door and the victim pointed them out. They were awaiting arraignment on misdemeanor assault charges.