



## ASK DEANNA! Real People, Real Advice

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

Dear Deanna!

I become so annoyed at people that come to church late. Our worship service has been the same for years, the doors open at the same time but people come in late. I think it's rude to come in while other people are rejoicing, enjoying the service and singing. My faithful celebration is knocked off balance when a door opens or a mother drags her kids into a seat. How can I address this issue without insulting anyone at my church?

Peaceful Worship  
Greensboro, NC

Dear Peaceful:

You should be happy that people come late, come as they are and come at all. If your church is full of people like you, then I'm surprised you have more than ten people each week. Church is not about you. It's about the congregation worshipping together. It's rude that people come late, but they still come and you should pray they come often and on time. Stop complaining and see your church officers to address the issue and keep it moving.

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Dear Deanna!

My wife makes more money than I do but she's not a wise spender. Our household is struggling, the bills are being paid late and our savings is very small. I try to talk to her about this but she starts an argument and reminds me of how much money she makes. It doesn't matter who makes what money because my main concern is running the household. Although I make less, my money covers everything and I'm always broke. What do I do?

James  
Baltimore, MD

Dear James:

Your wife is on a power trip and she's using her financial status to disrespect you. She's trying to have control but obviously she's making a mess that can and will send you to the poor house. You need to immediately assemble a budget that includes savings, divide the bills and each of you becomes responsible for your share. You may still be broke, but the bills will be paid with a little money in the bank that you may need for a rainy day.

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Dear Deanna:

What do you do when a teen is always disrespectful? I have a lot of patience but not with a child that has a smart mouth. My niece is rude; she always interrupts others and tells her mother what to do. I can complain because her mother is my sister. I'm so close to slapping her in the mouth. When we're out in public or have company, you can see the embarrassment from the adults because they can't believe it. Any suggestions?

Anonymous  
Denver, CO

Dear Anonymous:

You need to put her in a child's place and stop her with some non-physical embarrassment. The next time she's rude in front of an audience, remind her of her age, demand an apology and then send her out of the room. If she challenges you with insults and more mouth, laugh and remind her that she's a child and not on your level. As her face turns red she'll be reminded it's best to stick with her peers because adults can shut her down.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, 264 S. La Cienega, Suite 1283, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com

# Perry brings Payne to TV

By Gordon Jackson  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
DALLAS (NNPA) -

Young writer, producer, director and actor extraordinaire Tyler Perry isn't resting on his laurels. His newest project, a television situation comedy titled "House of Payne," will be aired on June 18. UPN plans to show the half-hour programs back-to-back for five hours straight.

Perry's very confident he will fill a void left by today's comedy shows.

"There's been a gap in the market because sitcoms have become very formulated," Perry said in a teleconference interview. "They all look and sound the same. I wanted to go back to shows that have heart and dealt with dramatic and life issues and still make you laugh at the same time."

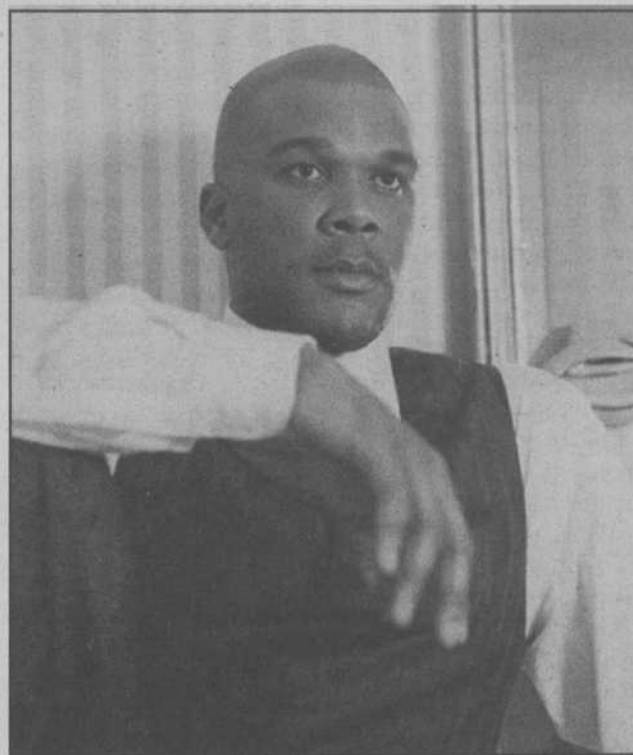
Those were shows like "Sanford and Son," "The Jeffersons" and "All In The Family," which were broadcast two to three decades ago, he said. Today, those shows, which some may call classics, are very popular and finding a new and younger audience.

Following his house-packing stage plays, high grossing movies and best-selling book, he felt that television would be his next conquest. He struck a deal with major distributor Debmar-Mercury and wrote, produced and directed 10 shows.

Perry and Debmar-Mercury have gone to a unique distribution strategy to test the shows, putting them on a first-run syndication in 10 markets over several different networks. The markets include Dallas, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Baltimore, Raleigh, Miami and Washington, D.C., The show already premiered in New York and Houston.

"It was about how to let Tyler have his vision realized without going the traditional network route," said Ira Bernstein, co-president of Debmar-Mercury. "This is what we came up with as a way to get him that opportunity. ...at the same time, [in] the television station syndication business, we're experiencing ...sitcoms coming off the networks."

In other words, Perry's and Debmar-Mercury's tactic put them ahead of the curve and escaped their show from being caught up in the merger of UPN and WB into the CW, which resulted in several sitcoms being can-



After success at the box office, multi-talented entertainer Tyler Perry is looking to conquer the small tube—television.

celed. Perry and Bernstein are testing their show at two Fox-owned UPNs, two Viacom-owned UPNs, two Tribune WB stations, two Sinclair stations and two solely independent stations.

"That gives us the leverage from a distribution perspective," Bernstein said. "We're totally betting on the show and believing that the audience will give us all the leverage to make commitments down the line."

After testing the first 10 shows, such commitments would include airing a full slate in the fall of 2007.

But enough about the television business technicalities, what about "House of Payne"?

Starring Allen Payne ("New Jack City," "Vampire in Brooklyn," "Jason's Lyric" and numerous television appearances) as Atlanta fireman Curtis Payne (the same last name is coincidental, Perry said), it's the story of a man whose life turns upside down after discovering his wife's drug addiction

and his house burns down. He and his two pre-teen children are forced to move back in with his parents. That's when the fireworks start, now with three generations under one roof.

The cast also stars Lavan Davis as Pops, Cassie Davis as Ella, Doc Shaw and China McClain as Curtis' two children and Denise Burse as nosey neighbor Clarethia.

What will make the show appealing, Bernstein said, will be the fact that it's well written and can be enjoyed by anyone.

"The cast and the creators happen to be mostly African-American, but you can close your eyes and listen and they're great stories," Bernstein said. "That's what makes successful television. It's great drama and comedy."

Yet, just because Perry's project has now blown up to appeal to a mainstream audience, it doesn't mean he has adjusted his material or marketing.

"I was told by somebody

a long time ago to stay true to where you are," he said. "I haven't tried to cross over or go mainstream. I'm just telling human stories that everybody can relate to. The very people who have been with me from the beginning will really relate to 'House of Payne.'"

Perry started developing his following as part of a tremendous evolution, one that took him from being the victim of the abusive touch of his father to now, where he has the Midas touch in everything he does. The rejection and dejection from his father during his adolescence caused him to look deeply into himself as a young adult. Inspired by television talk show icon Oprah Winfrey, he wrote letters to himself that became the basis for his first stage play, "I Know I've Been Changed," in 1997. Throughout the project, Perry learned his purpose—a calling to share his story about forgiveness and faith in God.

"I found that there were a lot of people who could relate to it and needed answers as I did," Perry said.

From there, Perry wrote "I Can Do Bad By Myself" in 2000 and introduced his highly popular alter ego Mabel "Madea" Simmons, the chain-smoking, gun-toting, purse-swinging grandmother that everyone hates to love. "Diary of a Mad Black Woman," "Madea's Family Reunion" and "Madea's Class Reunion" followed; all performed before capacity crowds in theaters across the country. In addition, Perry wrote "Why Did I Get Married" and "Meet the Browns."

Perry duplicated his stage efforts into further plays, such as "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" (which was later

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If you are looking for a reason to adopt foster children, here are two wonderful reasons.



For more information on adoption or foster care call Clark County Department of Family Services at 1-888-4-FAMILY. If you are interested in adopting this sibling group, please contact Wendy's Wonder Kids Recruiter Collette Smith at (702) 455-7286

