

Maya Angelou to host program on XM radio

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Poet and novelist Maya Angelou said she agreed to host a weekly show for XM Satellite Radio's "Oprah & Friends" channel partly because she's never hosted a radio show before.

Another reason: "I love Oprah a lot, and I'm excited with anything she's doing."

Angelou will host an hour-long show that she hopes will be called "Maya Angelou's America," although the title hasn't been decided.

She plans to interview ordinary people, along with the "famous and infamous," asking them what they think it

means to be an American.

"It's amazing to hear people talk about the United States," she said in an interview Tuesday while she traveled to Mobile, Ala., for a speech.

"Many of us have not been asked to describe what it means to us. They hesitate and search for the words and search for what they really think. And that's very exciting."

XM, which has more than 7 million subscribers, planned to officially announce Angelou's show this week.

Angelou joins Oprah Winfrey and other people

known from her show, such as Dr. Robin Smith, Nate Berkus and Gayle King, as on-air hosts for the "Oprah & Friends" channel.

Angelou's writings include her autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," as well as a collection of poetry titled "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diiie" that was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Angelou said she continues to teach at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she has a lifetime position as the Reynolds professor of American studies.

Jay-Z emerging from rap retirement with new CD

NEW YORK (AP) - Call him the Michael Jordan of rap. Jay-Z, who declared that 2003's "The Black Album" would be his last, is coming out retirement and releasing a new CD.

"Kingdom Come" will hit stores this fall, *Entertainment Weekly* magazine reports in its new issue, due on newsstands Monday.

"It was the worst retirement in history," Jay told the magazine.

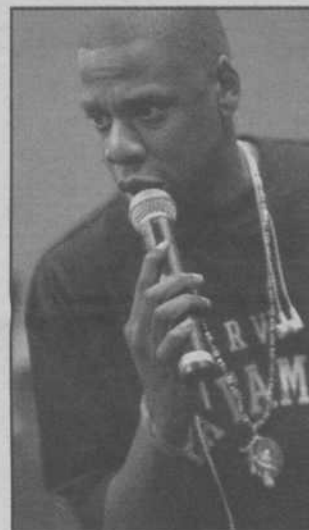
Actually, his post-retirement career looked pretty good. In 2004, the rap icon (real name: Shawn Carter) became president and CEO of Def Jam Recordings. He became part owner of the New Jersey Nets that same year. Also on his resume: Not-so-secret boyfriend of Beyonce.

Despite naysayers' doubts, the 36-year-old Jay-Z thought he was retired from making music: "I believed it, yeah. I believed it for two years."

But since his "retirement," he's gone on a world tour, performed on hit records with Beyonce and other entertainers, and had a profile higher than most working rappers. There were rumblings that he was working on a new album. And, in an interview with *The Associated Press* this summer, he said he was thinking about coming out of retirement.

He told *Entertainment Weekly* that he began tinkering in the studio over the summer.

"Something, when you love it, is always tugging at



Jay-Z

you and itching, and I was putting it off and putting it off. I started fumbling around to see if it felt good," he said.

The result: "Kingdom

Come."

The disc is "more in the vein of 'The Black Album' than 'The Blueprint,'" he tells the magazine. "I've been experimenting with things, different types of music."

He's already recruited some A-list producer-collaborators: Timbaland, Kanye West and Dr. Dre. Even Coldplay frontman Chris Martin produced a track called "Beach Chair," he said.

So — for real now — when does he plan to retire?

"If I wake up one day and the best material has passed me by — and that's going to happen," he said, "then it's time to move on. I've said what I wanted to say."

Lil' Kim to perform at Hip-Hop Honors gala

NEW YORK (AP) - Lil' Kim is set to give her first post-prison performance next month at VH1's annual Hip-Hop Honors celebration, paying tribute to another female rapper, MC Lyte.

"MC Lyte is at the top of the list when you talk about hip-hop pioneers," Lil' Kim said in a statement on Tuesday.

"She paved the way for myself and any of today's greatest MCs. I'm honored to have the opportunity to show my respect and how she influenced me."

MC Lyte, best known for hits in the 1990s like "Lyte as a Rock," "Poor Georgie" and "Ruffneck," is being honored along with Ice Cube, the Wu-Tang Clan, Afrika Bambaataa, hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, Rakim, Beastie Boys and the late Eazy E the Oct. 7 New York show. It will air on VH1 on Oct. 17.

Among the stars of today who will pay homage to rap pioneers: Ludacris, OutKast, Diddy, Da Brat, Fat Joe and Lil Jon.

Lil' Kim is expected to perform "Lyte as a Rock." Her performance will be the latest in a flurry of public appearances since she served 10 months in jail on a federal perjury charge. Last month, she poked fun at her incarceration by wearing an orange jumpsuit at the MTV Video Music Awards, and celebrated afterward with an all-star party; lately, she has appeared on the red



Lil' Kim

carpet at several events.

The rapper was convicted in 2005 for lying to a federal grand jury and in the subsequent trial about a gun battle in 2001 that erupted outside WQHT-FM, known as Hot 97. She was released from a federal detention center in Philadelphia on July 3, then spent 30 days on house arrest at her home in Alpine, N.J.

Review

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tutors as Salman Rushdie.

When not excoriating Islam, with a refreshingly unguarded honesty Boof recalls her assorted sexual and romantic liaisons ranging from Osama bin Laden, at one extreme, to a married Jewish businessman, at the other, with a rainbow coalition of lovers betwixt and between, with a stated preference for Black men.

In sum, "Diary of a Lost Girl" is an admirable addition to the genre of African-American autobiography. For warts and all, it rep-

resents the unalloyed emotions of an intelligent, defiant, controversial, frequently profane and proud Black woman, a survivor who somehow overcame one of the worst childhoods imaginable to share an abundance of intriguing, if debatable, insights about her adopted homeland.

Postscript: While the Internet is abuzz with rumors and speculation surrounding Kola Boof, for purposes of this review, this critic simply assessed "Diary of a Lost Girl" on its own merits, without entertaining extraneous issues raised elsewhere.

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