

Snoop Dogg will be reality celeb

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Snoop Dogg's home and work lives will be on display in a new reality series, E! Entertainment Television said recently.

The series, scheduled to debut in late 2007 and described by the cable channel as "hilarious and heart-warming," will show the hip-hop heavyweight trying to balance his different worlds.

"The juggling act that Snoop faces day-in, day-out between career and family is certain to resonate with our viewers," said Ted Harbert, president and CEO of Comcast Entertainment Group, which operates the E! channel.

The rapper, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr., has three children, is active in community causes and is involved in a youth football league he founded, E! said.

He's also had court-ordered obligations on his plate. In April, he was sentenced to five years of probation and 800 hours of community service after he pleaded no contest to felony gun and drug charges. The charges followed his arrest last year at an airport in Burbank for investigation of transporting marijuana. Police later found a gun at his home.

Also recently, in 2006 he and five other men were arrested on charges of violent disorder and starting a brawl when some in his party were denied entry to British Airways' first-class lounge at Heathrow Airport. His platinum-selling albums include his most recent, "The Blue Carpet Treatment." He's a producer and actor.

Albino

(Continued from Page 6) when he was a teenager. With hip-hop as a convenient ice-breaker, Ali made Black friends wherever he went.

It was a relief, Ali said, to have friends who understood what it was to be judged on skin color. It led him to "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," which he cites as a major influence in the decision to convert to Islam at age 15.

"He was searching for somewhere that he could fit in," said Arlene El-Amin, whose son is the imam at a north Minneapolis mosque that Ali started visiting as a teenager newly transplanted to Minnesota. Ali has said it was El-Amin and other Black women, all maternal figures in his life, who more than anything helped him learn to derive self-worth from within.

"He was struggling to find an identity," El-Amin recalled. "And he's found a niche where he not only can be comfortable but also reach out to others who might feel similarly lost."

It was in Minneapolis where Ali finally found another niche. While for a time he wanted to become a Muslim imam himself, he also continued to rap. A few years ago, he sent an audition tape to Rhymesayers, an influential Minneapolis rap label.

Before long, Ali had a record deal. He released his first record in 2003, but found that his stormy personal life hadn't quite run its

course. Ali had married at 17, and he and his wife had a young son, but by his mid-20s, the marriage was falling apart.

He also continued to struggle with what he called "major identity issues," which is what prompted him to encourage confusion about his racial background. He admitted he hated the idea of being considered a "White rapper," with all the baggage that brings.

"I didn't want to be confused with these teenage angst suburban middle-class kids who hate their mom and dad, so they start wearing baggy pants and smoking weed and wearing their hat backwards and saying the n-word," Ali said.

"The Undisputed Truth" is offering a chance to exorcise a lot of those demons, whether it be the scars of that marriage in "Walking Away" or his ambivalence toward racial categorizations in "Daylight": "They ask me if I'm Black or White, I'm neither/ Race is a made-up thing, I don't believe in it."

Today, Ali is remarried and has custody of his 7-year-old son, Faheem.

Arlene El-Amin said she's hearing a new message in his latest batch of songs.

"He's moved beyond labels," El-Amin said. "I think probably his goal, his aim in trying to get a message out to the people is that the humanness comes first. All the other labels are secondary."

Prince

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"Like it or not, selling the newspaper is the only way to make the Prince album available to our customers," HMV said.

Rival retailers were outraged.

"We're stunned that HMV has decided to take what appears to be a complete U-turn on their stance," said Simon Douglas, managing director of retail at Virgin Megastores.

"It's not only retailers that suffer; the public will suffer in the long term by restricting choice on the high street."

The use of so-called "covermounts," where free CDs or DVDs are attached to the front of a newspaper to catch the buyer's eye, is widespread in Britain where many newspapers are struggling to retain readers who are turning to online news and entertainment.

Most of the giveaways are compilations of archive recordings or older films. Past giveaways by the *Mail on Sunday* include CDs by Duran Duran, Peter Gabriel and Dolly Parton. Prince's CD contains new tracks along with old hits such as "Purple Rain."

Sony BMG U.K. said it decided it was "ridiculous" to go ahead with its own sales launch in light of the newspaper deal, but stood by its star singer, adding it remained "delighted" to be working with Prince.

The *Mail on Sunday* declined to say how much it paid to secure the deal or how many copies of "Planet Earth" it planned to sell. Its average circulation is 2.3 million copies.

Quirk said the deal was "yet another example of the damaging covermount culture which is destroying any perception of value around

recorded music."

Beyond the covermounts, the value of recorded music is already under widespread threat from the rapid rise of digital downloads.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry estimated that overall music sales worldwide fell around 3 percent last year as a doubling in digital sales failed to compensate for falls in physical CD sales and digital piracy.

Prince also plans to give away a copy of "Planet Earth" with each ticket sold for his 21-date London concert later this summer.

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