

Kelly Booted From Tour With Jay-Z

Written by Westside ID283

Saturday, 30 October 2004 08:27 -

R&B singer R. Kelly was kicked off a tour with rapper Jay-Z Saturday, one day after Kelly walked offstage during a performance and allegedly was blasted with pepper spray by a member of Jay-Z's entourage.

Jeff Sharp, a contractor with tour promoter Atlanta World Wide Touring, confirmed that Kelly had been removed from the tour, but would not comment on the reason.

"The fans deserve better than this," Kelly said in a statement. "I'd like the show to go on. It's really disappointing that Jay-Z and the promoter don't."

Jay-Z and R. Kelly were in the midst of a 40-city "Best of Both Worlds" tour, scheduled to run through Nov. 28. The tour has been beset by canceled shows and reports that the feuding performers weren't even on speaking terms.

Sharp said Jay-Z would perform shows planned for Saturday and Monday at Madison Square Garden, but he did not know if the rapper would finish the tour as a solo act, or if the tour was simply finished.

The pepper-spray incident happened about an hour into Friday night's show, when Kelly walked on stage and said he saw two people in the audience waving guns, said Kelly's publicist, Allan Mayer. Kelly abruptly stopped his set around 9:30 p.m. while arena security employees searched for weapons.

Finding none, guards told Kelly it was safe to continue performing, Mayer said. But as the singer was making his way back to the stage, a man in Jay-Z's entourage — apparently miffed that Kelly interrupted the show — sprayed him and two of his bodyguards in the face, Mayer said.

"I'm pretty sure Jay didn't realize what was going on," Mayer said.

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All three men were treated at St. Vincent's Hospital and released, he said. Jay-Z performed for another 45 minutes after Kelly was sprayed.

Jana Fleishman, publicist for Jay-Z, said Saturday that the rapper's entourage knew nothing about the incident because it occurred while Jay-Z was performing. Jay-Z "did not attack R. Kelly in any way, shape or form," Fleishman said.

In a radio interview on Hot 97 FM radio Friday, Jay-Z said he couldn't understand why Kelly left the stage.

"You can't get a gun inside Madison Square Garden," the rapper said. "If people give me love he can't take it."

Mayer said Kelly's lawyers were filing a criminal complaint against the man who allegedly sprayed him and also were considering legal action over the decision to remove the singer from the remaining tour dates.

"We're considering all possible ways of protecting Robert's interests," Mayer said.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported discord between the two performers after Kelly showed up more than two hours late for a show in Chicago and walked off the stage mid-performance in St. Louis this month.

Three shows on the tour were canceled because of "technical difficulties" suffered by Kelly, Fleishman said.

[Source](#)

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*Editor's note. - We have sent our East coast rep to the concert tonight in New York , to fill us in on who they get to replace Kelly, at least for tonight. We will let you know who helped Jay-Z out, and if there are any announcements made about the future of this tour.---Westside