

## Bad Bad Boy

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Tuesday, 23 November 2004 07:17 -

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Robert Ross, was arrested at 11:45 a.m. at the On the Ave Hotel for entering and remaining in a hotel room, and removing jewelry from the room without authority, according to a police spokesperson. Ross's accomplice, Damien Ashmeade, was arrested at 3:50 p.m.

Robert Ross is Bad Boy recording artist Black Rob. He was arrested on Monday at a New York hotel for burglary and criminal possession of stolen property. TheMC is seen on hotel-security tape leaving a guest's room carrying a pocketbook. The rapper did not return calls for comment.

Ross was seen on a hotel-security tape checking doors on the hotel's 12th floor at around 4 a.m., according to *The New York Post*. He was also seen on the tape entering the room of a guest, Renu Vermani, and leaving with a pocketbook.

Vermani, a cardiologist visiting from Maryland, said that she was sleeping when the heist took place, but woke up to find \$6,000 in David Yurman jewelry and \$300 in cash missing, according to the *Post*.

Ross reportedly did not have the jewelry in his possession at the time of his arrest, but was convinced by police to call Ashmeade and have him bring the stolen goods to the station.

Ross, who last released an album in 1999, is planning to release a street album titled *Bet on Black* in December or January, followed by a double LP later in 2005.

The arrest is the latest in a series of legal and health-related difficulties for the rapper. In May of 2000, he was arrested on gun-possession and drug charges when he pulled over his car to sign autographs for fans and was seen passing a 22-caliber handgun to his passenger.

In September of this year, he completed a six-month prison term for failure to pay child support. He has also been sidelined in recent years by a kidney ailment.