

Hip Hop Artist DMX No Show for USO Tour

Written by Robert ID2963

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The USO listens to the troops and does its best to provide the kinds of music and entertainment they request. Celebrities who have performed on USO tours over the last few years include hip hop, rap and country artists. Some of the hip hop artists who have performed are 50 Cent, Ludacris, Master P, Lil' Romeo, Shaggy Lil' Mo and La Mafia. Jessica Simpson, Shinedown, Chely Wright, Drowning Pool, and Toby Keith have also performed.

Hip hop artist DMX, aka Earl Simmons, has cancelled a week-long tour to entertain troops in Kuwait and Iraq. He offered no explanation.

DMX was scheduled to depart on his tour Aug. 22, but delayed his departure until Aug 23. His representative agreed to add a day to the original schedule. However, on Aug. 23, he failed to appear on time for his flight to Kuwait.

"We are extremely disappointed that DMX decided not to complete the tour he asked us to arrange for him," said John Hanson, USO senior vice president for marketing and communications. "When we announced this tour, troops were extremely excited about the possibility of seeing a performer they admired. We understand their disappointment."

The USO and the military worked on an extremely tight schedule to make it possible for DMX to travel when it was convenient to him. "Typically, it takes up to 45 days to arrange transportation, housing, production assistance and country clearances for entertainment tours," Hanson said. "This tour was put together in just under two weeks, because we know how much service men and women appreciate his performances. Mr. Simmons let a lot of people down."

Entertainers on USO tours volunteer their time to perform and meet with U.S. service members around the world. "We will continue to provide quality entertainment to the people who defend us daily around the world in some remote and often dangerous places," said Hanson. "Fortunately, most performers honor their obligation to perform once they make the commitment."

More info can be found at their web site: <http://www.uso.org//>

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