

SONG OF THE DAY



Fahad AlSabah
Staff Writer

Song: Un-Thinkable (I'm Ready)
Artist: Alicia Keys
Album: *The Element of Freedom*

Genre: R&B
In short: While it didn't stand out much while listening to Keys' *Element of Freedom*, "Un-Thinkable (I'm Ready)" has blossomed and became one of the most played songs on the album. As an added bonus, Canadian rapper Drake sings the background vocals.

To listen to the song visit www.alwatandaily.com
E-mail your feedback to falsabah@alwatandaily.com

Lil Wayne begins 1-year jail term in NYC gun case

NEW YORK: After saying goodbye on concert stages and online video streams, Lil Wayne had nothing to add as he was sentenced Monday to a year in jail for having a loaded gun on his tour bus.

The Grammy Award-winning rapper delivered only a brief bow to fans and supporters as he was led out of a courtroom in handcuffs to start serving his sentence.

With that, Lil Wayne headed off to face his punishment in a case that had shadowed him as he became one of music's most prolific and profitable figures in recent years. Arrested in July 2007, he pleaded guilty in October to attempted criminal possession of a weapon. He admitted he had the loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun on his bus.

His lawyer, Stacey Richman, said the rapper was resolute as he was taken away.

"He knew what he had to do, and he's doing it," she said.

Lil Wayne arrived later Tuesday at the Rikers Island jail complex, where he was being held apart from the general population of inmates because of his fame. He has a cell to himself but the option of spending time in a TV room with 17 other inmates who also have been separated from the general population because of notoriety or other reasons, according to the city Correction Department.

It wasn't immediately clear what work assignment he might have, if any. The 27-year-old rap star could be released in about eight months with good

behavior.

Lil Wayne, born Dwayne Carter, is going behind bars with his career in full throttle. His "Tha Carter III" was the best-selling album of 2008 and won a Grammy for best rap album. His latest album, "Rebirth," was released last month.

He made a point of leaving fans with fanfare, from a "farewell tour" in recent months to a series of videos on the Web site Ustream on Sunday.

"Law is mind without reason ... I'll return," he wrote on his Twitter account Monday morning.

Dozens of fans jockeyed with photographers waiting on the courthouse steps Monday afternoon, cheering as Lil Wayne, fellow rapper Birdman and others arrived. Shouts of "Oh, man" and "Keep your head up, Weezy!" - a nickname he often uses - erupted in the courtroom as he was sentenced.

Although Lil Wayne had agreed to go to jail, a number of roadblocks kept him from starting his sentence in recent weeks.

First, his sentencing was postponed in February so he could undergo surgery on his bejeweled teeth. Then, a fire shut down Manhattan's main criminal courthouse while he was on his way there last week.

He told Rolling Stone for a story last month that he planned to keep working while behind bars.

"I'll be still rapping in there, have a gang of raps ready when I come back home," he said.

As for listening to music, inmates are allowed to buy AM/FM radios at the jail commissary. -AP



Rapper Lil Wayne is handcuffed at Manhattan criminal court, Monday, March 8, 2010, in New York, after being sentenced to a year in jail in New York City for having a loaded gun on his tour bus in 2007. (AP)

Philippines star 'sorry' in election campaign row



FILE - Philippine talk show host Kris Aquino

MANILA: Philippine talk show host Kris Aquino has apologized after she provoked a fellow celebrity into launching a campaign against her presidential candidate brother Benigno Aquino.

The son and daughter of democracy icon Corazon Aquino found themselves an unwanted enemy two months before the May 10 elections when showbiz celebrity mum Annabelle Rama called on her fans not to vote for Benigno.

Rama is the mother of film star Ruffa Gutierrez, who had walked out of Kris Aquino's popular television talk show on Sunday after showing irritation at the host's line of questioning.

Rama later appeared on a rival television network to call on Filipinos not to vote for Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino "as it might just inflate Kris' sense of self."

Kris Aquino apologized to Rama in a message carried by the Philippine Star newspaper: "On behalf of our family I apologize for the distress we caused you."

She added: "I promised (my brother) that if he does win, and I'm the cause of stress for him and his presidency, I'll gladly take my two boys to live (abroad) so that I can continue to work but with our overseas Filipino brothers and sisters."

After topping the polls in 2009, partly out of popular sympathy for his former president mother who died of cancer last year, Benigno Aquino saw his advantage vanish last month. Manila-based independent pollster Social Weather Stations put Aquino and fellow senator rival Manuel Villar in a virtual dead heat, at 36 percent versus 34 percent respectively.

The nationwide February 24-28 survey of 2,100 registered voters commissioned by the BusinessWorld newspaper had an error margin of 2.2 percentage points. -AFP

Utah funeral service held for Marie Osmond's son Tom Jones dubbed workshy by job centre



Marie Osmond, left, and her daughter Rachael Bryson watch as the casket of Marie Osmond's son, Michael Bryan, is taken from a chapel in Provo, Utah on Monday, March 8, 2010. (AP)

PROVO, Utah: Marie Osmond's 18-year-old son is being remembered in Utah by family as a funny person with a quick wit who taught others about the importance of service.

Funeral services were held Monday in Provo - about 35 miles south of Salt Lake City - for Michael Bryan, the fourth of Osmond's eight children.

Police in Los Angeles have said Bryan died Feb. 26 in an apparent suicide after

jumping from the eighth floor of the Metropolitan apartment building.

About 450 people attended the services, which included a hymn sung by Marie Osmond, Donny Osmond and five of their siblings.

One of five children adopted by Osmond, Bryan previously used his adoptive father's last name, Blosil. Court records show a judge had granted a petition for a legal name change. -AP

Leibovitz agrees loan deal with Colony Capital: Report

LONDON: Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz has arranged a deal with a private equity firm to sort out her debts, the Financial Times reported in its Tuesday edition.

The paper said Leibovitz, who has photographed everyone from Michelle Obama to Britain's Queen Elizabeth, has lined up real estate investment firm Colony Capital as a sole creditor to help manage her finances and market her work.

"We will be partners in managing her assets and her business so that Annie can spend her time and focus in pursuing her passion as only she can do," Tom Barrack, founder of Los-Angeles-based Colony was cited as saying in the FT.

The firm will allow Leibovitz to hold onto the rights of more than 100,000 photographs and is considering plans to

hold traveling photographic exhibitions, the FT said.

"We will be working on new projects and I will have the support and freedom necessary for nurturing my work and preserving my archive," Leibovitz was cited as saying in the FT.

Leibovitz got into financial difficulties last year when Art Capital Group threatened to sue her and seize control of her entire collection and two properties for violating the terms of \$24 million loan.

The two parties reached a deal last September allowing the photographer to buy back control of her work that had been put up as collateral. Leibovitz is perhaps best known for a portrait of a naked John Lennon and a clothed Yoko Ono taken on the same day the former Beatle was shot dead. -Reuters



FILE - A photograph by Annie Leibovitz titled: A Mad Tea-party

Liv Tyler, Patrick Wilson join suspense film

LOS ANGELES: Liv Tyler and Patrick Wilson have been cast in the suspense film *The Ledge*, which began shooting Monday in Baton Rouge, La.

The actors join Terrence Howard and Charlie Hunnam in the story of a man (Hunnam) standing on a high-rise ledge who insists he must jump by noon as the policeman below (Howard) tries to manage the situation.

The indie project comes from first-time writer-director Matthew Chapman. Tyler's credits include *The Strangers* and *The Incredible Hulk*. Wilson recently starred in *Lakeview Terrace* and *Watchmen*. He returns to theaters in June with *The A-Team*. -Reuters

LONDON: Welsh singer Tom Jones was branded workshy by job centre officials who recommended him for work "which wouldn't dirty his fingernails" before he became a worldwide superstar, documents said Tuesday.

Jones, then known as Thomas Woodward, did factory work while he was in a band trying to hit the big time in the early 1960s.

But officials at the labor exchange in his native south Wales thought his love of music was putting him off settling into a proper job.

"It would seem that Mr. Woodward's little hobby is highly lucrative and this would also account for his non-enthusiasm in securing employment."

"Consider and submit as soon as possible to anything which wouldn't dirty his fingernails!" they wrote in December 1963.

A year later, he was talking about signing a professional contract with record label Decca. But officials noted: "He is still signing the UR (unemployment register) and not autograph books."

Jones, whose early hits included *Delilah*, *Green, Green Grass Of Home* and *It's Not Unusual* - followed more recently by *Sex Bomb* and a version of Prince's "Kiss" - has sold millions of records worldwide and is now worth an estimated 130 million pounds.

The notes are being sold by auction house Mullock's in Shropshire on April 15 and are expected to fetch thousands of pounds.

Richard Westwood-Brookes of Mullock's said officials "obviously didn't believe Tom Jones had any future."



Tom Jones

"What it really shows is the clash of cultures that existed in the 1960s between the older generation who felt young people should be getting their hair cut and getting a proper job, and the young generation that wanted to get involved in rock'n'roll," he added. -AFP

Guns N' Roses plan 'secret' shows in South America



FILE - The musical group Guns N' Roses

LOS ANGELES: Guns N' Roses will play three private shows in Brazil and Argentina during the band's current tour of South America, the organizer said on Monday.

The shows are set for undisclosed locations in Sao Paulo on Thursday and Buenos Aires on March 20. Plans are also in the works for a show in Rio De Janeiro.

Organizer Jamison Ernest said each venue will hold about 150 people. He declined to reveal too much information for fear of riots by uninvited guests. He will co-host the Sao Paulo show with Brazilian model Ana Beatriz Barros.

The 11-date tour, the band's first trek around the continent since its heyday in 1992, began on Sunday in Brasilia. Dates are on tap through April 1 in Quito, Ecuador. The band will also

play Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia.

Ernest, a friend of Guns N' Roses singer Axl Rose, also runs a clothing company and has a band, both named Yellow Fever. Guns N' Roses previously played three secret shows, two in New York City and one in London.

Rose is the only remaining member left from the band when its popularity peaked during a decade spanning the 1980s and 1990s. The other members were either ousted or quit. Even though its 2008 album "Chinese Democracy," its first release in 17 years, was a major flop, the band remains a strong concert draw.

Rose and his new crop of bandmates were last in Brazil to play the Rock in Rio festival in January 2001. -Reuters