



Marriage or not, **Mariah Carey** goes ahead with reality TV show

Mariah Carey's new reality show sees the larger-than-life singer trying on wedding dresses and wrestling with a decision to postpone her marriage to Australian businessman James Packer.

Nine months on, as "Mariah's World" prepares to air in December, Carey is dodging questions about the sudden breakdown in October of her engagement to the billionaire. Asked if the eight-part series would show what really went on to cause the split, Carey told Reuters. "Do we ever know what's really real?... I hope we learn a lesson of being good people."

Packer, 49, and twice-married Carey, 46, started a highly-publicized relationship in June 2015, and in January, the Australian proposed with a massive 35-carat diamond engagement ring. Last month, the engagement was suddenly off, sparking conflicting rumors about who backed out, and why. Packer appears briefly in the first episode of "Mariah's World," when the couple enjoyed happier times in the spring vacationing on yachts. Carey is seen lounging in lingerie, trying on a wedding dress, and debating whether to wear a tiara. Filming started while the "We Belong Together" singer was preparing for her European tour that began in March and the first

episode shows her reluctantly deciding to postpone her wedding to Packer because of her work commitments.

Carey, the world's best-selling female singer, says she wants the show to capture "behind the scenes and the moments... when you are getting ready to go on stage and putting on a tour." "I don't think people really know who I am, or the different sides of my personality, so I am excited about it," Carey told Reuters. Although the show was first promoted as showing Carey planning her wedding, it remains to be seen how much Packer will now appear. On Wednesday, Carey told Ellen DeGeneres in an appearance on her talk show that her relationship with Packer was "kind of difficult to talk about" and described the split as "a whole friggin' thing."

"Mariah's World" shows Carey to be heavily involved in planning and rehearsing for her European tour, as well as flirting with her backup dancers. "There is a lot to get stressed out about and you do go through a lot of angst," she told Reuters. But "if I'm able to have my music... it's my saving grace." "Mariah's World" premieres on cable network E! on December 4. — Reuters



A bride and groom walk with relatives and friends as they prepare to pose for their Wedding photos by the Taedong river in Pyongyang on November 25, 2015. — AFP

Danish journalists sentenced for monitoring celebrity credit cards

Four journalists from a Danish gossip magazine were sentenced to up to 15 months in prison on Thursday for paying for credit card data to help track politicians, celebrities and members of the royal family.

An employee of the credit card company Nets got 18 months for selling information between 2008 and 2012 that revealed the whereabouts of prominent people such as Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and Hannibal-actor Mads Mikkelsen.

The leaks enabled the weekly magazine Se & Hør to follow Prince Joachim and his wife on what was meant to be a secret honeymoon to Canada in 2008, after it bought data about the couple's plane tickets from the Nets system operator.

The media group that owns the magazine was fined 10 million Danish crowns (\$1.52 million) last August for the covert monitoring of more than 120 celebrities. Two of its former managers were given sus-

pending six-month sentences. "This case has drawn a clear line in the sand, leaving no doubt that stealing and selling confidential information is criminal offense," Nets spokesman Karsten Anker Petersen said.

One of the monitored celebrities, Rene Dif of the Danish-Norwegian music group Aqua, was unhappy with the trial's results for the journalists. "These short sentences shows how ridiculous the Danish justice system is," he told TV2 local television. "There is no reason for people to be allowed to snoop around like this," said Dif, whose group topped the charts worldwide with its hit "Barbie Girl" in 1997.

The four journalists said they would consider appealing the verdict. — Reuters



Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen speaks at the opening of the Copenhagen Film Festival in Copenhagen October 27, 2016.—Reuters

British photographer **David Hamilton** dies in Paris

British art photographer David Hamilton died in Paris on Friday at the age of 83 after committing suicide, a police source told Reuters. Hamilton, who was born in London but had lived much of his life in France, was found unresponsive in his Paris apartment by a neighbor who alerted emergency services, French radio station Europe 1 reported. Hamilton, whose work appeared in high-end fashion magazines, was known for his images of nude or underclothed young models which drew some controversy. At the time of his death he had been embroiled in accusations of sexual assault by French TV and radio host Flavie Flament.

Flament accused Hamilton of raping her when she modeled for him as a 13-year-old in 1987. She did not mention him by name in her book "The Consolation," but just a few days

ago in an interview with a French newspaper she said Hamilton attacked her. The cover photo of the book was an image taken by Hamilton. He denied the allegations. Police launched an investigation into the cause of death. — Reuters



David Hamilton



Christina Ornelas of Ashtabula checks out some boots at Peebles during the start of the Christmas shopping season, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016, in Ashtabula, Ohio. — AP photos



Shoppers queue up in front of Victoria's Secret at the Dartmouth Mall on Black Friday, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

ADVANTAGE CONSUMER IN ANNUAL US HOLIDAY SHOPPING SPRINT

As "Black Friday" kicks off the annual holiday shopping season, US retailers are hopeful in light of stock market records and job growth, but leery of cut-throat pricing from online competition.

The annual shopping frenzy once again kicked off late Thursday after the Thanksgiving holiday feast, with millions of Americans trekking to the malls after gorging on turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie. The throng swelled Friday, a day forever associated with endless lines and stampede-like rushes for bargain deals.

Among the chief lures of this year's Black Friday offerings, Wal-Mart has slashed prices on high definition television sets and drones that can fly up to a half-mile from its operator.

Target, Wal-Mart's smaller rival has amassed some 1,800 new toys exclusively available at the multi-purpose retailer, while Apple is luring gadget-seekers to its stores with \$150 gift cards with the purchase of a new laptop.

Retailers are cautiously upbeat about the 2016 installment of the seasonal US shopping spree, which can account for as much as 30 percent of a chain's annual sales. Supporting that optimism is low unemployment, fairly cheap gasoline prices and stock market records that have left many consumers feeling flush with cash. Some analysts also said Americans who held back spending during the contentious 2016 presidential campaign may be ready

to open the spigots now that the election is over.

Several leading retail analysts project a three to four percent rise in holiday shopping sales in 2016 compared with last year. Still the industry is bracing for another round of brutal price competition as the continued rise of online shopping gives consumers more options and therefore more of an upper hand. "Is the promotional environment this year likely to be more subdued?" Best Buy chief executive Hubert Joly asked on a conference call last week. "Short answer is no."

The electronics retailer has had to adapt to "peaks and valleys" in traffic throughout the four-week sprint to Christmas because "the consumer has been trained to shop when the prices are more promotional," he said.

Wal-Mart, the world's biggest retailer, sent a warning to its peers, including archrival Amazon, earlier this month. "I said it before and I will say it again, we will win the season on price on Black Friday, on 'Cyber Monday' and every day before and after," said Wal-Mart chief marketing officer Steve Bratspies.

'Death spiral' for malls?

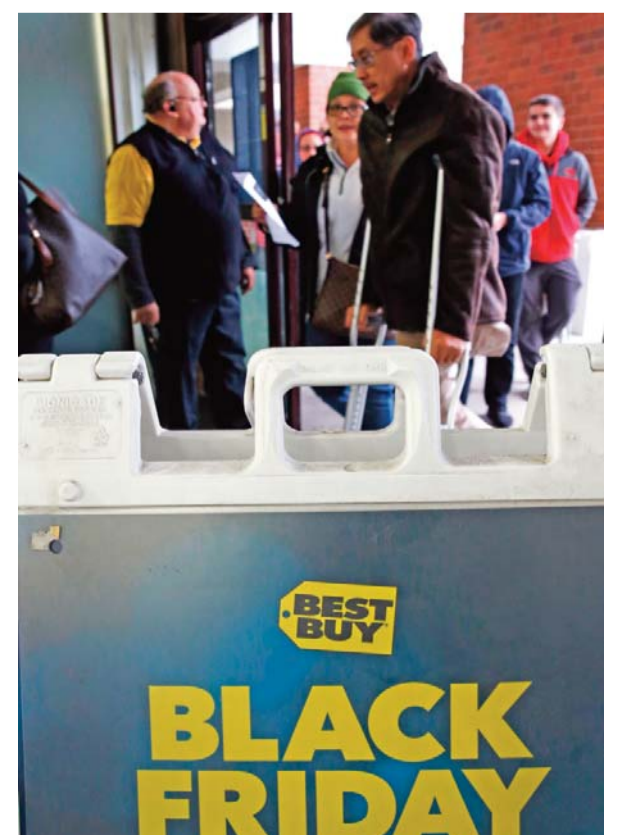
This season comes as leading chains, including Macy's and Gap, have closed stores in a trend that many experts believe will increase in the years ahead. An April report by Green Street Advisors urged more companies to shutter

stores in light of an industry wide decline in department store sales for almost a decade.

The report warned that "several hundred malls" were at risk over the next 10 years, with "troubled malls" co-anchored by Sears, J.C. Penney and Macy's "at the greatest death spiral risk." To stay relevant, stores like Bed, Bath & Beyond and Pottery Barn offered free shipping for sales on Thanksgiving evening.

Target increasingly offers direct delivery to customers from stores in their neighborhoods. Shops also are using more in-store demonstrations and events to attract customers and boosting mapping capacities on mobile apps to help guide shoppers. All that is in addition to the usual round of price cuts.

Most of these initiatives come at a cost, though retailers see them as long-term investments as they seek to build their online link to customers. "It could be while retailers have an okay Christmas from a sales point of view, from a profit point of view it's not as healthy as it was last year," said Neil Saunders, managing director at Conlumino, a retail consulting firm. — AFP



Shoppers walk into a Best Buy store on Friday, Nov. 25, 2016, in Skokie, Illinois. — AP