



- Get 4 Free Preview Issues!
- Give the Gift of PEOPLE
- Magazine Customer Service



- HOME
- NEWS
- PHOTOS
- STYLE
- RED CARPET
- VIDEO
- CELEBS
- MAGAZINE

### LATEST NEWS!

[Amy Winehouse: 'I'm So Proud and Happy'](#)

[Travis Barker on Shanna Moakler: 'We Divorced'](#)

[Amy Winehouse: Near Clean Sweep at Grammys](#)

[Tony Parker Says Eva Isn't Pregnant ... Yet!](#)

[New Music Rivalry: Kanye West and ... Vince Gill?!](#)

[Paul McCartney, Heather Mills Face Off in Court](#)

[Writers Reach Agreement to End Strike](#)

[SEE MORE NEWS](#)

### SPONSORED LINKS

#### Remove Stretch Marks

Clinically Proven. Rapid results. Featured on Tyra. 60 Day Guarantee.

#### Do Lip Plumpers Work?

See which ones actually Plump your Lips, and which ones don't!

[Buy a link here](#)

ARETHA FRANKLIN

## Aretha Franklin Opens Up About Losing Weight

By Mark Dagostino

Originally posted Saturday September 15, 2007 08:00 AM EDT



Aretha Franklin  
Photo by: JOHN BARRETT / GLOBE

"Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin will be joining Usher, Stevie Wonder, Ludacris, Garth Brooks, Robin Thicke and other all-stars for Sept. 18's *Dream Concert* at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall.

On her bus en route to New York, PEOPLE caught up with the slimmed-down singing legend, 65, to discuss her new look and what's on the road ahead.

### It's no secret you've had some struggles with your weight in recent years.

Who hasn't had a weight issue? If not the body, certainly the big head! (Laughs.) But I have no such issues now.

### How much have you lost?

A lot of weight. I won't say the number, but I found the magic numbers on the treadmill.

Slowly but surely. It's all happy.

### No surgery?

I would never, ever do that. I know many women who [had gastric bypass surgery] who are having a bad time now, unfortunately. It's nothing I would ever do.

### So, tell us about the *Dream Concert*.

It's going to be one magnificent evening. We're trying to raise money [to build] the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall [in Washington, D.C.]. It will stand between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial, and I wanted to help because MLK Jr. was a family friend – and because I believe in what he was doing.

### Have you been working on new music, too?

I have a single coming out in two weeks – a duet with Fantasia [Barrino], called "Let Me Put You Up On Game."

### And a movie?

For television. My autobiography, *From These Roots*. Hopefully it will happen early spring. I have verbal commitments from Billy Dee [Williams] to play my father, and Terrence Howard to play Smokey Robinson.

### Who'll play you?

I'm not sure yet. Jennifer Hudson came to read for me. I also have an interest in Halle Berry possibly doing it. And Fantasia.

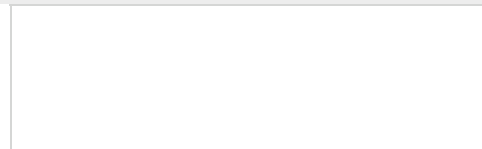
### Any of them would be great.

That's for sure! It really is exciting just to watch it all come to fruition.

[E-mail](#) | [Share](#) | [Add PEOPLE News](#)

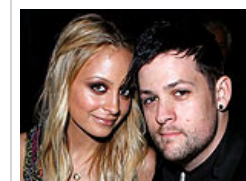
**PREVIOUS**  
[George & Keira Rule Toronto!](#)

**NEXT**  
[WEEK AHEAD: Mariah Carey a Musical Hero](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

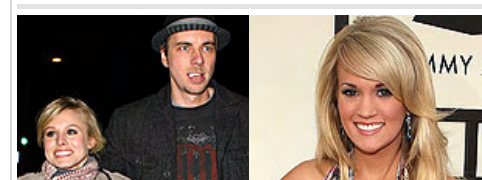
Wireless done right.™  
Learn More



FEBRUARY 08, 2008

### Joel & Nicole: Back on the Scene

[SEE PHOTOS](#)



[Couples Watch: Kristen & Dax, Ashlee & Pete, and More!](#)

[Best Dressed at the Grammys](#)



[Grammys: The Stars Arrive!](#)

[Grammy Quick Changes: What's Her Best Look?](#)



### 1 Michelle Williams Takes Ocean Plunge to Honor Heath

Mourners at Ledger's wake jump into the ocean at sunset. "It's exactly what Heath would have wanted," one tells PEOPLE



### 2

Frances Bean Cobain: 'I'm Not ...'

*from*  
[Backstage at the Grammys](#)



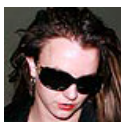
my Parents



**3**  
Kirsten Dunst Enters Rehab



**4**  
Heath Ledger Cremated in Fremantle, Australia



**5**  
Britney's Manager on Way Out, Attorney Wants to Quit

LAST UPDATE: Monday February 11, 2008 11:05AM EST

PEOPLE Top 5 are the most-viewed stories on the site over the past three days, updated every 60 minutes

**SPONSORED LINKS**

**Remove Stretch Marks**

Clinically Proven. Rapid results. Featured on Tyra. 60 Day Guarantee.

**Do Lip Plumpers Work?**

See which ones actually Plump your Lips, and which ones don't!

**Lose 15 Pounds**

Oprah and NBC featured Hoodia. It works for dieters. Try a Free Sample

[Buy a link here](#)

Striking writers ready to work  
Grammy highlights  
Glamour at the Grammys  
Kanye West Grammy  
[More news at CNN.com](#)

Full Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Po

E-mail

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



**Rihanna Wears Short Shorts**



**Charlize's Rose Parade**



**Eva Strikes Gold in N.Y.C.**



**5 Funniest Moments from Daytime TV**



**Who Looked Hot This Week**



**'Love Song' Singer Dishes on Maroon 5's Groups**

From **InStyle**

LOOK OF THE DAY: Sienna Miller

CLICK TO BUY: Valentine's Treats: Lingerie & Chocolates

[More news at Instyle.com](#)

From **AOL news**

Winehouse and West Win Big at Grammys

'Jaws,' 'Jazz' Actor Roy Scheider Dies at 75

[More news at AOL.com](#)

From **CNN.com**

Hancock wins album of the year

Van Gogh, Monet art goes in \$90M heist

[More news at CNN.com](#)

From **EW.com**

The Grammy winners are...

Grammys: Grading the performances

[More news at EW.com](#)

From **HUFFPOST**

McConaughey, Hudson Find \$22M in 'Gold'

Hal Holbrook: Oscar Nominee Back In The Spotlight

[More news at HuffPost](#)

- NEWSLETTER
- RSS
- PODCAST
- SWEEPSTAKES
- SUBSCRIBE
- MOBILE
- CONTACT US
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
- GIVE A GIFT
- PRIVACY POLICY
- ADVERTISE WITH US
- TERMS OF SERVICE
- SITEMAP

Copyright © 2008 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.