

The Top Eight Celebrity Tax Evaders

By Michael Musto

Published Mon., Apr. 1 2013 at 10:00 AM



After clutching at the spotlight, a lot of stars learn how to evade things--like parapazzi, fans, and especially the IRS. Here's a very timely summation I was just sent which details the top celebrity tax evaders of all time. It's free, so don't even think of writing it off!

Top Celebrity Tax Evaders

By Vladimir Nardin, Opinion-Corp.com

For most of us, the idea of having IRS troubles brings cold sweats and sleepless nights. When we hear celebrities are having tax issues, we stretch our ears, pop popcorn, grab a bottle of something fun and bubbly and say 'ooh, what did they do?' Probably, we enjoy the gossip because we don't really feel sorry for them. After all, most celebrities have or will have enough money coming in to eventually pay the fine. Yet some do time. Here's a list of famous celebrity tangled finances, past and present, as reported by newsworthy sources.

Kevin Federline--Britney Spears' baby daddy is apparently in some hot water with the IRS, and it appears that the bill came due on Valentine's Day. On February 19th, a website reported that Kevin Federline apparently owes the IRS a whopping \$57,000.00 in tax payments for the years 2009 and 2010. Yahoo Entertainment wrote, 'A federal tax lien was filed against 'Scream & Shout' singer's second husband Kevin Federline on February 14th, claiming he owes \$30,517.16 for outstanding income tax bills from 2009 and \$27,098.23 from 2010.' The article further extracts from TMZ.com, 'According to gossip website TMZ.com, the former back-up dancer's income came from a small part in straight to DVD movie 'American Pie: The Book of Love' and from his stint on the reality series 'Celebrity Fit Club' in 2010, as well as his hefty spousal support payments.'

Martha Stewart--Who could forget the white-gloved one behind bars, cutting snowflake shapes out of white prison paper to bedazzle her cell? According to People.com, the home and garden guru served five months in prison and five months of home confinement in 2004. The People.com article reads, 'Stewart, 62, was convicted on March 5 of conspiring with her Merrill Lynch stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, to deceive authorities probing her December 2001 sale of ImClone Systems stock. Jurors said she lied during two interviews with investigators. Bacanovic also was sentenced to five months in prison and two years' probation and was fined \$4,000. Stewart, wearing a black pantsuit and joined by her daughter Alexis, shed no tears during Friday's highly emotional hearing, though her voice quivered at times as she spoke to Judge Cedarbaum.' According to the website Legalzoom.com, Stewart was forced to pay \$220,000 in back taxes and penalties to the State of New York, 'learning the hard way that East Hampton mansions also generate taxes. Her claim that she hardly spent time there didn't reduce her burden, or appease the state of New York,' the site states.

Sammy Davis Jr.--It was not a sweet surprise for 'The Candy Man' when he died in 1990 leaving behind a hefty \$5.2 million tax bill." [Blah blah. I'm leaving the rest of this entry out since it's rather old, even if you sprinkle it with dew.]

Wesley Snipes--According to Forbes.com, American film actor and martial artist, Mr. Snipes is doing time, having recently celebrated his 50th birthday in federal prison. Contributor and attorney Robert W. Wood writes in his Forbes article on Snipes, 'In 2008, Snipes was convicted of three misdemeanor counts of failing to file tax returns. He reported to prison on December 9, 2010. He was initially sentenced to McKean Federal Correctional Institution, a medium-security prison in northwest Pennsylvania. He is now at the adjacent prison camp, a minimum security Club Fed. According to E! Online, this federal prison camp houses roughly 290 white-collar inmates. Remember Snipes in 'White Men Can't Jump'? Perhaps in his new digs Snipes should start shooting a sequel: "White-Collar Men Can't Jump." In his immensely successful screen life, Snipes normally cares about film release dates. But his next release date is more important: He's scheduled for a July 19, 2013 release. That means less than a year to go.

Stephen Baldwin--On the Piers Morgan show, actor Alec Baldwin commented on his brother Stephen Baldwin's arrest that it was 'all prearranged with the DA for him to go in.'

Still, it can't be fun to be handcuffed for failing to pay your bills to the IRS. Just this past December, CNN reported that Stephen Baldwin had been taken into custody for his problems with the IRS. 'Actor Stephen Baldwin was arrested Thursday on a charge of failing to file New York state personal income tax returns for three years, according to a statement released by the Rockland County district attorney's office. According to the statement, Baldwin's alleged tax liability for failure to file in 2008, 2009 and 2010 is more than \$350,000, including penalties and interest. The arrest was a result of an investigation conducted by the Rockland County Special Investigations Unit and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the statement said,' the article reads. Baldwin was arrested but did not serve jail time.

Leona Helmsley--Who can forget that the Queen of Mean spent 16 years in prison over her IRS debacle? In April 2012, New York magazine published an article on famous scandals, noting that 'her trial in 1989 for tax evasion was a delicious coda to the decade, offering up the pleasure of watching the Queen of Mean, outrageous, nasty, and entitled, be forced to swap her 10,000-square-foot Park Lane penthouse for a prison cell.' The article further states 'Charged with 235 counts of tax evasion, [her husband] Harry, a frail 80-year-old, was found unfit to stand trial, so Leona was left to face her employees' revenge. The high point: housekeeper Elizabeth Baum's recounting that Leona told her 'We don't pay taxes, only little people pay taxes.' Fined \$7.1 million, Leona served eighteen months in prison and was freed in 1994 (her husband died in 1997).'

Marc Anthony--The 'I Need to Know' singer and songwriter was not in tune with the IRS and was reported as having owed more than \$3 million in back taxes in 2010. The New York Daily News article of December 31, 2010 states 'Crooner Marc Anthony is running a more than \$3 million IRS tab. Long Island property he owns has been hit with two tax liens worth \$3.4 million, documents posted on RadarOnline show.' Examiner.com reported that the singer cited bad management as the reason for his debts adding up.

Lionel Richie--'Hello, Is It Me You're Looking For?' The answer to the IRS was 'Yes' when Richie was questioned about his tax bill in 2012. According to Todayentertainment.com, the music legend owes a whopping \$1.1 million in unpaid taxes from 2010. The April 2012 article states, 'In addition, Richie has been slapped with a lien, meaning the federal government has the right to seize his assets if he does not pay up in a timely manner. Fortunately, with new projects in the works it seems the 'All Night Long' crooner should be able to scrounge up the cash to put this financial matter behind him.'