



MUSIC



# Still the ONE

Farewell tour won't mean goodbye for Shania Twain

**By Gary Graff**  
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Shania Twain is saying goodbye to the road. And she swears she's not kidding. The country and pop hitmaker — who's sold more than 85 million records, scored 16 Top 10 country singles and won five Grammy Awards — says her current Rock This Country Tour, which kicked off June 5 in Seattle, will be her last major road trip. But she's quick to explain it has nothing to do with age, infirmity or fatigue.

It's actually because Twain wants to make more music.

"This is certainly not my retirement from music," Twain, 49 — born Eileen Regina Edwards in Windsor, Ontario — says by phone while vacationing in the Bahamas. "I will be doing music for sure until the day I die. But I've done a lot more live performing than I have recording, so I want to do a lot more (recording)."

Twain has, in fact, released just four albums during her 22-year career, though they made her the first female artist in history to release three con-

secutive Diamond-certified albums for sales of more than 10 million copies each.

"As much as I'm overdue for the touring, I'm overdue for new music," continues Twain, whose last album, "Up!," came out in 2002. "I want to write more. ... I've got a bunch of albums I want to make that have been backed up in my own mind. I've got to get them out of my system and that could take a while."

**IF YOU GO**

- Shania Twain and Gavin DeGraw
- 7:30 pm. Saturday, July 25.
- The Palace, Lapeer Road at I-75, Auburn Hills.
- Tickets are \$46-\$136.
- Call 248-377-0100 or visit palacenet.com.

"I'm 50 this year (on Aug. 28). I've been on stage since I was 8 years old, and I've really put in my fair share of performance. So I see this as an evolution in my career, really."

Twain's resolve is also part of a comeback that began in 2012, when she opened a Las Vegas show called Still The One at Caesar's Palace, ending a "short sabbatical" to raise her now 12-year-old son, Eja, that turned into an eight-year hiatus.

It was a dramatic period for Twain, too. She divorced from husband Robert "Mutt" Lange — who also produced her albums and co-wrote her songs — in 2010 after he reportedly had an affair with the singer's best friend.

Twain also battled vocal issues that

**TWAIN » PAGE F2**

Shania Twain performs in concert at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in New York. GREG ALLEN — INVISION/AP

TV

## West Bloomfield man hopes to change the perception of addiction with new series

**"We all stereotype or judge somebody, but you don't know their story."**

— Paris Jones

**By Malissa Martin**  
 Special to Digital First Media

West Bloomfield resident Paris Jones believes wholeheartedly that stories of addicts must be told.

"You don't wake up a drug addict. You don't wake up homeless," says Jones, 36, an actor and producer of the proposed TV series "The Inner Circle."

"There's a story behind that, so I wanted to do something where I could show how it started, how it developed."

Jones, who moved from New York to Michigan in 2000, wanted to write a story that dealt with addiction in a manner the public rarely sees.

"We all stereotype or judge somebody, but you don't know their story," he says. "So I wanted to do something where I could tell characters' stories based off the people I know."

Drug and alcohol addiction

is something Jones is passionate about because a close family member battled it for years.

"My aunt was actually — which was one of the inspirations for this — she was actually living on the streets by choice. Had a place to live, but the addiction just took over everything," Jones explains.

"The Inner Circle" is a one-hour, Detroit-based drama that follows the lives of rehab patients in a 28-day, in-patient addiction recovery program at the fictional Brentwood Center for Recovery.

Jones says he planned this show as entertainment, but also educational for "people that don't really understand addiction."

The pilot was made in less than a week. The cast and crew for "The Inner Circle" lives in Michigan, except for New Yorkers Louis Martinez, playing fictional former Detroit Tiger Jose Cruz, who is a patient, and Shiek Mahmud-Bey, playing Brentwood's chief psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Taylor.



COURTESY 25FRAME FILMS/PARIS FILMS  
 On the set of the TV series "The Inner Circle."

The first season of "The Inner Circle" is projected to have 13 episodes, but only the pilot has been filmed so far. The storylines for the remaining 12 episodes have already been written.

Jones originally envisioned "The Inner Circle" as a short film

about addiction and recovery, however, when he connected with New York actor/producer Steven Williams, they agreed it could be much more.

"So (Williams) wrote out the story and I get a phone call: 'Hey listen, I really think that this

could be a series,'" Jones says.

"Telling the stories of the characters and trying to do it in 15 minutes is kind of impossible. ... Let's try to do like a half-hour, let's write it like that," Jones says Williams told him.

While writing the characters Jose and Jonathan (a guilt-ridden minister addicted to prescription drugs, played by Paris Jones), Jones sent the script to his friend, actor Martinez. Martinez loved the script and suggested bringing in his mentor, Mahmud-Bey. Martinez told Jones that Mahmud-Bey would be great playing one of the characters.

So Jones sent the script to Mahmud-Bey, who called it brilliant.

With Mahmud-Bey on board, the three men completed the script for "The Inner Circle." Jones' budget didn't allow him to pay Mahmud-Bey, so he came on as a partner, director and actor.

**SERIES » PAGE F2**

## IT'S ABOUT ARTS

Art enriches our lives, helps us see things in new ways and brings a shared experience that unites us and goes beyond the ordinary every day routine. Our Sunday Arts section highlights creative people in and around our community — musicians, dancer, visual artists, writers, actors and more — to help us understand what they do and why they do it.



Look for it every Sunday. Let me know what you think. Reach me at nrobertson@digitalfirstmedia.com

— Nicole Robertson, features editor

