



Tia Mowry and Cory Hardrict

# Transitions

A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE CYCLE

OF LOVE AND LIFE BY REGINA R. ROBERTSON

## MARRIAGES, DIVORCES...AND ONE REUNION

Keeping tabs on love, Black Hollywood-style, is not for the faint of heart. While **Beyoncé** and **Jay-Z** kept their union hush-hush, **Mariah Carey** flaunted her surprise nuptials to **Nick Cannon**—who is 11 years her junior. *The Game*'s **Tia Mowry** and beau **Cory Hardrict** tied the knot, as did NBA champion **Ray Allen** and his girlfriend, Shannon Walker Williams. **Malinda Williams** gave marriage another shot with **Derrick "D-Nice" Jones**. Three years following their over-the-top wedding, **Star Jones** and **Al Reynolds** requested privacy when the marriage unraveled. Ironically, **Morgan Freeman**'s pending divorce from his wife of 24 years only made headlines after a car accident with a female "friend." Proving there's life after a love loss, **Jill Scott** announced her engagement to fellow musician John Roberts. And here's to another year for **Shaq** and **Shaunie O'Neal**, who quashed all that breakup chatter, opting to work it out.



Laila Ali and Curtis Conway



Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon



Usher and his firstborn

## NEW BEGINNINGS

There's no denying a baby on the hip was the hottest accessory this year. **Halle Berry** and boyfriend **Gabriel Aubry** welcomed their daughter, Nahla, last spring. Our May cover stars, **Laila Ali** and husband **Curtis Conway**, were blessed by the arrival of Curtis Conway, Jr., their first bundle together. Meanwhile, down in the ATL, R&B singer **Monica** had a second boy. She was also on hand for the shower honoring **T.I.**'s main squeeze, **Tiny**, who gave birth to the couple's second son together. And it seems the baby-bump trend will continue into the new year: We hear **Usher** is expecting baby number two with wife Tameka. And soul sister No. 1, **Erykah Badu**, is following suit with soon-to-be baby number three.



Isaac Hayes

Bernie Mac

## FOND FAREWELLS

We were in serious denial last August when news came of comedy king **Bernie Mac**'s untimely passing. Then only a day later we lost soul icon **Isaac Hayes**. Musicians **Bo Diddley**, **LeRoi Moore** of the Dave Matthews Band, Motown songwriting legend **Norman Whitfield**, and **Buddy Miles**, who rocked out with Jimi Hendrix, also made the transition. Condolences are also extended to the family of **Sean Levert**, son of lead O'Jay's singer Eddie Levert. We also bid farewell to veteran screen actors **Ivan Dixon** and **Julius Carry III**.

MOWRY AND HARDRICT: AMY & STUART; ALI AND CONWAY: MATTHEW JORDAN SMITH; USHER AND SON: TIMOTHY WHITE; CAREY AND CANNON: THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES; HAYES: MICHAEL LOCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; MAC: FRANK TRAPPER/CORBIS.