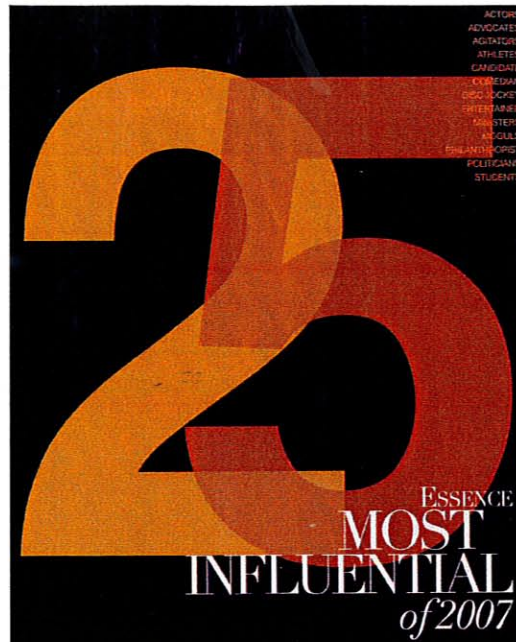


# ESSENCE

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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## TYLER PERRY

WRITER, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

Call it "The Year of the Perry." In June the studio owner inked an unprecedented deal with cable network TBS and production company DeBmar-Mercury to carry 100 episodes of his latest brainchild, *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, before it even aired. The sitcom-series deal included a syndication agreement that will take the show to Fox-owned and -operated stations throughout 2008. Perry also released his first book, *Don't Make a Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries on Life and Love* (Riverhead), which debuted at No. 1 on *The New York Times* Best Sellers list. And in between, the writer-director-producer enjoyed two box-office successes: *Daddy's Little Girls*, starring Idris Elba and Gabrielle Union, and *Why Did I Get Married?*, starring Janet Jackson and Jill Scott.

But for all his accomplishments, Perry says his most memorable 2007 moment came when he marched at the Jena Six rally in September. "Seeing all these young Black people coming together for one purpose, I can only imagine that that is what the Civil Rights Movement was like," Perry says. "It was so great to see us as a people come together in peace."

—WENDY L. WILSON ▷

