

# 2007 Okayplayer Awards



[Okayplayer](#) is doing their awards roundup [click here](#) to pick from Common, Jill Scott, Arcade Fire, and Meshell Ndegeocello for honors chosen by people like you.

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## Prince Loses Mind



\*There's a new sheriff in town, and the digital maverick is on Prince's payroll. The reclusive rock star has hired Web Sheriff, a british-based company that specializes in policing the Web for pirated content, to launch a legal campaign against YouTube, EBay, and The Pirate Bay, companies that he alleges wrongfully profit from the use of his work, according to John Giacobbi, Web Sheriff's president.

The artist plans to file suit in both the United States and the U.K., and has hired a top Swedish law firm to take up his cause against the viral internet hotspots. Prince has chosen a legal course because sites like YouTube and eBay have left him no recourse in protecting his copyright on their sites, according to Giacobbi.

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# Kanye West Vows To Never Appear On MTV Again



Kanye West has never been shy about voicing his opinions, especially when it comes to awards shows.

In 2004, he walked out of the American Music Awards, claiming he was “robbed” in the Best New Artist category (see “Usher, Outkast Clean Up; Kanye Strikes Out At American Music Awards”). The following year, he promised hellfire and brimstone if his *Late Registration* album didn’t take home the Grammy for Album of the Year (see “Kanye’s At It Again: ‘If I Don’t Win Album Of The Year I’m Gonna Have A Problem’ “). And, perhaps most famously of all, he stormed the stage at the 2006 MTV Europe Music Awards after losing the award for Video of the Year (see “Kanye Admits To Having Had A ‘Sippy Sippy’ [Or Two] Before EMA Rant”).

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# Gladys Knight Talks About The Music Industry With Lee Bailey



\*Gladys Knight has one of the most distinctive and

recognizable singing voices in the world today, and her speaking voice isn't so bad either.

Our Lee Bailey recently had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Knight. When asked about the modern state of popular music he touched a nerve. Here's why Gladys says modern music annoys her.

"One of my pet peeves is being categorized, so to speak," the music legend told our publisher. "Not just because of the kind of music you were doing, but how you looked. Whether you could do pop music material sometimes was dependent upon whether you were African-American or not African American and that used to bother me so much."

We would imagine that Ms. Knight is but one of many who remember this 'type casting,' if you will, in the music business. Despite this, Gladys says she was reared by her mother to be versatile from the very beginning.

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