

Mike Epps Apologizes For Kangaroo Incident

By Lisa Respers France
CNN

(CNN) — Turns out not everyone thinks bringing a kangaroo on stage is funny.

Comedian and actor Mike Epps has been dealing with backlash in the wake of incorporating one into his Detroit show last Friday.

Epps, who is known for roles in various projects including “The Hangover,” invited zoo owner and exotic animal handler Javon Stacks on stage with a kangaroo.

A video shows the comedian and the handler with the kangaroo, which is held upright. Epps tugs on the kangaroo’s harness before the animal appears to throw his paw back toward



Comedian Mike Epps brought a kangaroo out on stage. Photo/CNN.

explaining, “Look how nice I am 2 him” before deleting it. But not before the video had already been shared.

On Sunday, Epps posted an apology on his Instagram account, stating he doesn’t “own the kangaroo and did not mean any harm to the animal it got outta hand.”

“I am sorry and like I said I will be donating money to this foundation (to) save the kangaroos,” he wrote in the caption of a photo of the trademark for Viva, an association dedicated to the protection of the animals. “Sorry if I offended anybody.”

CNN has reached out to reps of Epps and Stacks for additional comment.

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the star. Epps then runs off some accusing Epps of the stage. animal cruelty.

Video of the incident The actor initially went viral on social media posted video of him feeding over the weekend, with the kangaroo backstage,

Judge Expects 2-week Cosby Trial; Jury To Be Sequestered

By Maryclaire Dale
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) - The judge in Bill Cosby’s criminal case expects the trial to last about two weeks and hopes to have a jury in place before the proceeding opens June 5 in suburban Philadelphia.

At a pretrial hearing Monday, Montgomery County Judge Steven O’Neill said he hopes to pick jurors in late May. He insisted the jurors’ names will not be made public.

The jurors will come from the Pittsburgh area and be sequestered throughout the trial nearly 300 miles away in Norristown.

Cosby, 79, is accused of drugging and molesting a Temple University

“You cannot walk into a grocery store, a convenience store, a

employee at his home in 2004. He faces 10 years in prison if convicted on felony sex assault charges.

Later Monday, the judge was expected to weigh potentially crucial questions on whether jurors can hear Cosby’s decade-old testimony about quaaludes, his sexual history and his payments to women who have accused him of sexual misconduct.

The defense had hoped the Allegheny County jury pool would be prescreened through a written questionnaire on their background, media habits and feelings about Cosby, given widespread media reports.

minimart, without seeing (tabloid reports) ... calling him a rapist,” defense lawyer Angela Agrusa argued Monday.

But O’Neill predicted that questionnaires mailed to peoples’ homes would quickly end up on social media, and he expressed concern that family members or friends could influence the answers.

He said that instead of a prescreening, the standard 16-question state form would be mailed to potential jurors and followed up by individual questioning in court.

Cosby gave the deposition testimony during the course of the accuser’s civil suit, which he later settled. He acknowledged in the deposition, made public in 2015, getting quaaludes in the 1970s to give women before sex.

Prosecutors say that testimony, along with comedic riffs about the supposed aphrodisiac Spanish fly, show that Cosby is familiar with date rape drugs. They have also asked to introduce a boyhood story from Cosby’s 1991 book “Childhood” about Spanish fly, and remarks he made the same year in an interview with TV talk show host Larry King.

However, his lawyers said the quaalude testimony is irrelevant since the powerful sedatives were banned 20 years before he met his accuser Andrea Constand. And they called the Spanish fly remarks nothing more than part of his comedy routine.

Cosby, long beloved as “America’s Dad” for his TV role in his top-ranked 1980s-era sitcom, has pleaded not guilty and remains free on \$1 million bail. He calls the encounter with Constand consensual.

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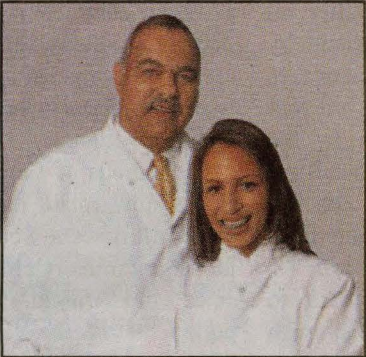
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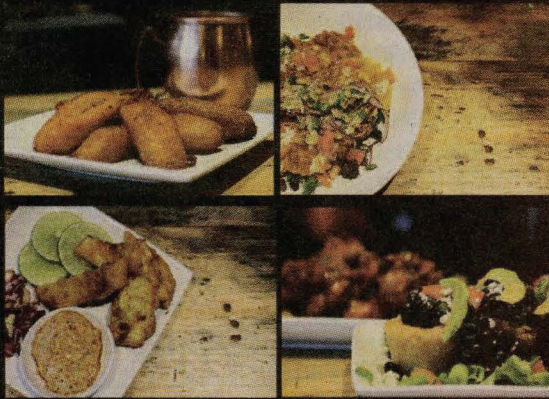
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