

The new Dr. Drew

VH1's new love doc dishes on state of celeb relations



DOCTOR IS IN: Dr. Jenn Berman stars on new VH1 show "Couples Therapy."

By SEAN DALY

VH1'S new relationship expert wants Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez to sign up for couples counseling.

"It's clear that their friendship has turned destructive and toxic," says Dr. Jenn Berman, who treats Hollywood A-listers at her private practice near Rodeo Drive — and on the new VH1 reality series "Couples Therapy."

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Berman — a frequent guest on shows like "Today" and "Dateline" — is on the fast-track to becoming the new Dr. Drew for the next generation of reality TV junkies.

On "Couples Therapy," she does her best to sort out the domestic problems of celebrities and their partners, including: rapper DMX, "Jersey Shore's" Angelina Pivarnick, reality star Linda Hogan and "Bachelor" sweethearts Kasey Kahl and Vienna Girardi.

"I have no doubt there were people who came in because they wanted the paycheck or

they wanted exposure," Berman admits. "But there was a shift that happened very early on where people started drinking the KoolAid and saying, 'There's some real therapy taking place here. Let's do this!'"

The series — premiering next Wednesday — was filmed at a rented mansion in Chatsworth, Calif. Each of the celeb couples moves in for three weeks and receives therapy.

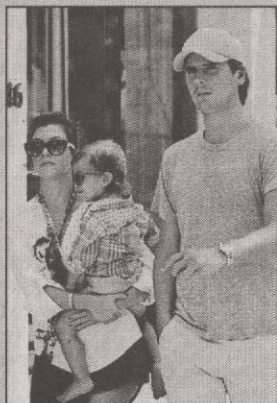
The most challenging to work with? DMX, she says. "He came in very resistant to the therapeutic process and — given his history, having spent time in prison — to rules."

Dr. Jenn analyzes some other celeb couples



A-Rod & Jeter

From what we have seen, the once-close friendship between A-Rod and Jeter has turned destructive and toxic. Like a marriage, nothing takes a team down faster than a hostile relationship where the trust has been destroyed. The team's history shows that they have managed to perform well despite the highly publicized conflicts but they are working at a disadvantage that makes it unlikely they'll have the same success again. An intervention is clearly called for.



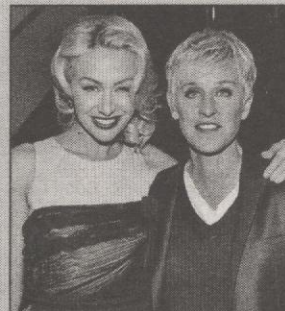
Kourtney & Scott

Despite Scott Disick's immaturity, trouble with alcohol and their historically rocky relationship, he and Kourtney Kardashian are expecting their second child. With rumors of infidelity and gossip about his making critical remarks about her body during pregnancy, this couple is facing an uphill battle.



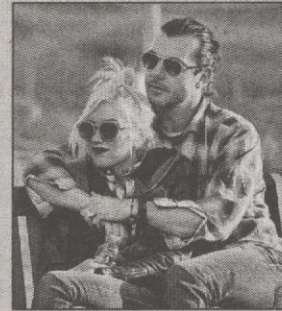
Chris & Rihanna

Whether they are actually back together, as the rumor mill has it, or they are "only" working together on a few songs, this collaboration is disturbing and dangerous. By choosing to spend time with him, working together, and sharing her album with him she sends a message to herself and fans that what he did was OK. She is playing with fire.



Ellen & Portia

A couple who is clearly in love. They manage to support each other's dreams and successes and don't seem to be fighting one another for media attention. While they are clearly in the limelight, they don't have a need to create drama and chaos in their relationship by acting out. Sharing a belief system and working together for a common cause strengthens their relationship.



Gwen & Gavin

Gavin Rossdale, who is very accomplished in his own right, is clearly a secure man who is proud to support his superstar wife, Gwen Stefani. She frequently compliments his fathering abilities and he appears to be a very devoted family man. It is often challenging for a couple when one person, especially the woman, achieves such monumental success but these two seem to be handling well.