

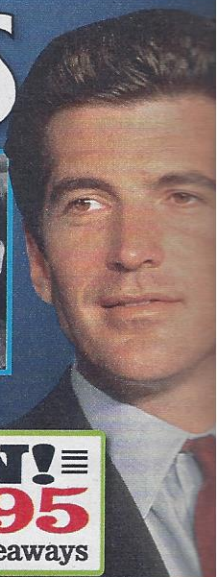
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1930-2014

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**BREAKING NEWS**

# **CHER** **DYING!**

— FRIENDS FEAR

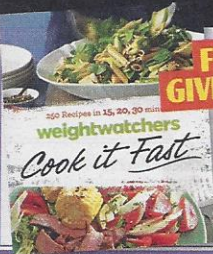
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# CHER D



By Roger Hitts

**C**HER canceled a slew of shows on her current tour after falling seriously ill, and now pals fear she's working herself into an early grave!

The If I Could Turn Back Time singer performed an exhausting 49 dates on her Dressed To Kill tour earlier this year, then took two months off before launching another leg of 30 shows in the fall. But Cher, 68, had to nix 10 of them while she battled a nasty viral infection.

"Cher is such a show business trouser, she'd only cancel shows if she was practically on her deathbed," a friend tells *THE EXAMINER*. "She wore down her body so much playing all those shows in the spring and summer, you fear the worst for her health during the next part of the tour — she could be dying."

## Heart attack

This is her first tour since 2005 and has been a raging success with every concert sold out. Still, the grueling performances have apparently taken a toll.

"It's enough to wear down someone who's 30, much less a woman nearing 70," says another pal. "She pinched a nerve in her neck and her knees and back have been killing her."

"We think the tour wore her down so much that she was a prime candidate to catch something — and she did."

**New HEALTH**  
**for ailing st**

Cher has already endured a myriad of health problems in her life — from a near-fatal bout with pneumonia to a 25-year battle with Epstein-Barr syndrome, a virus that causes chronic fatigue and can kill you, say experts. And just months before beginning her current tour, friends say Cher believed she had suffered a heart attack.

"It turned out to be just a combination of stress and indigestion," says the friend. "But it really threw a scare into her."

Still, the Grammy and Oscar winner soldiered on, committing to performing 79 tour dates.

Cher is "determined to stay relevant in show business" after seeing her acting career fade, notes the pal. The last film she headlined, 2010's *Burlesque*, was a box-office bomb. And she was said to be upset about losing a choice role to Meryl Streep in the movie musical *Into The Woods*. Meanwhile, Cher hasn't starred in a hit film since 1990's *Mermaids*.

"There's really nothing for her in the film business anymore, but her singing career is still strong," says the pal. "She can still go out every night and pack the house."

"We tell her just because she

***'She's risking her life by trying to***



# DYING!

— friends fear

## HEALTH CRISIS superstar

can doesn't mean she should. Cher has her health and well-being to consider. But, like many performers, she lives for the applause."

Cher also has a competitive streak, and her longtime rival Dolly Parton — who is four months older — launched an international tour this year in which she performs energetic 2 1/2-hour shows.

### Stormy relationships

"I think seeing Dolly going out there and knocking 'em dead every night motivates Cher even more," says the friend.

Another source adds that the unadulterated love Cher receives from fans fills the hole of her oft-lonely life. None of her romances have worked out, and sources say she's currently on the outs with her latest on-off boyfriend, actor Ron Zimmerman. She's also had stormy relationships with her kids — 45-year-old gender-bender Chaz and 38-year-old Elijah Blue, who's battled drug addiction.

"In some ways,

**to continue'**

her fans are her family," says the friend.

Although Cher has proven to be a diehard performer and has good genes — her mother, Georgina, is still going strong at age 87 — she's said to be determined to kick butt on her current tour because she knows it may be her last.

"She always loved the quote about her, that after a nuclear holocaust all that will be left is cockroaches and Cher," notes the friend. "But she sees her body breaking down."

"You just fear she's risking her life by trying to continue this tour. And canceling all these shows is a very bad omen."

