

This just in

There's always room for J. Lo on Judd's full plate

By Kelly Carter
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — It was **Cris Judd's** moment in the spotlight.

How, he was asked by eager reporters at a party thrown by *FHM* last month, did it feel to be dating the magazine's "Sexiest Woman in the World"?

"I don't look at it that way," he said. "She's the best. She's great. She's beautiful."

It was an answer that might make any woman swoon, even **Jennifer Lopez**.

The media-savvy superstar had her own snappy rejoinder. "He's not fazed by any of this," she said. "We'd rather be home in bed."

That may be, but Lopez and the guy who replaced **Sean Combs** have been out and about since the Academy Awards, and lately they've been starring in the tabloids, which have breathlessly reported their engagement and printed unsubstantiated rumors that she's pregnant. (Lopez hasn't confirmed she's altar-bound, but she sported a diamond engagement ring on that certain finger during Memorial Day weekend, when she was spotted ducking into Raffle, a Santa Monica jewelry store.)

But other than Judd's almost starstruck description of Lopez, we've heard little from the man who may soon wed one of the world's most famous women.

What's Cris Judd got that Puffy doesn't?



By Chris Weeks, AP

Happy loving couple: Amid swirling engagement rumors, Jennifer Lopez and Cris Judd have been regulars in tabloid columns.

A lower profile, for one thing. And people who know Judd, both as a friend and as a professional dancer, have only good things to say about him.

Lopez, the singer/actress whose split with rap mogul Combs was made public on Valentine's Day, has hinted at the attraction in remarks reported in the New York tabloids. She reportedly characterized life with Combs as "crazy and unpredictable," as opposed to "stable and calm" with Judd.

"He's not anything like Puffy," says William Milsten, a friend from college. "He's nice and friendly and loves everybody. If she was looking for a good person, she found him. I told him that she's lucky, because he's a real nice person."

The diva and the dancer met late last year when they worked together on her *Love Don't Cost a Thing* video.

Judd, 31, is used to working with stars, from **Michael Jackson** to **Diana Ross** to **Jordan Knight**, for-

merly of **New Kids on the Block**. Judd danced on Knight's 1999 tour and choreographed several numbers for his 2000 Summer Tour.

"I consider him one of the best, and he's danced with the best. He's definitely at the top of the echelon," says Knight. "What I liked about his choreography was he could do funky street moves and more jazzy kind of stuff."

Dancing was always his thing. Today, Judd and his choreographer partner **Eddie Garcia** travel the country giving lessons, and they have a Web site, laclubfeet.com.

A military brat, Judd was born in Abilene, Texas, and lived in Hawaii and the Philippines before moving to Florida. At Okaloosa-Walton Community College in Niceville, Fla., he danced in *West Side Story* and often would come to school and ask his friends to watch a move he saw on MTV.

"He was to the point where it was almost annoying," recalls Milsten. "He was really into going to clubs, dancing and imitating Michael Jackson and Prince."

Judd shocked classmates by leaving school in December 1988, after three semesters, to move to Orlando for a job at Disney World. It was there he started performing and studying dance. Eventually, he got a contract working for Disney's Pleasure Island, a nighttime entertainment facility.

Judd's big break came in 1995 when he was hired to dance with Jackson on the MTV Video Awards and then toured with the Gloved

One on his *HiStory* tour. From there it was on to other tours, award shows, films such as *Three to Tango* and music videos, including the fateful J. Lo gig.

Judd and Lopez, 30, have been practically inseparable since confirming their rumored romance at the Oscars. They strolled hand-in-hand when he visited her on the set of her next movie, *Enough*.

"They look like a very new couple because they're so cuddly," Knight says.

That may have something to do with who Judd is.

"He's a romantic, I guess is the way to put it," Milsten said.

So is Lopez. "I was born a romantic," she recently told Britain's *In Style* magazine. "I operate from the heart — that's who I am."

Says Knight, "He's definitely a guy with a big heart. He's really loyal. If you get to know him, he'll do anything for you."

If Lopez heads down the aisle again, it will be her second trip. Her 1997 marriage to Cuban waiter **Ojani Noa** lasted only a year.

Judd, whose hobbies include golf (4 handicap), surfing, rollerblading, roller hockey and snowboarding, hasn't had much to say when the camera has been on him, because he has let Lopez be the focus.

"He's definitely not quiet," Knight says. "He likes to joke around and tell stories. ... When he's in his dance world, he's very outgoing and talking to everybody and smacking people on the back — really hard."

Briefly

A girl and a boy: It's twins for **Joely Fisher**, sort of. The actress and her husband, **Christopher Duddy**, a cinematographer, are the parents of a baby girl, **Skylar Grace Fisher-Duddy**, born June 14 in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, Fisher, 33, has gotten the go-ahead from CBS for six midseason episodes of her new sitcom, *Baby Bob*. The comedy looks at the life of a suburban family through the eyes of their talking baby.

Japan sees 'Pearl': More than 30,000 Japanese movie fans flocked to the Tokyo Dome stadium Thursday for a gala screening of *Pearl Harbor*. Star **Ben Affleck**, director **Michael Bay** and producer **Jerry Bruckheimer** were on hand to boost the film, which opens in Japan on July 14.

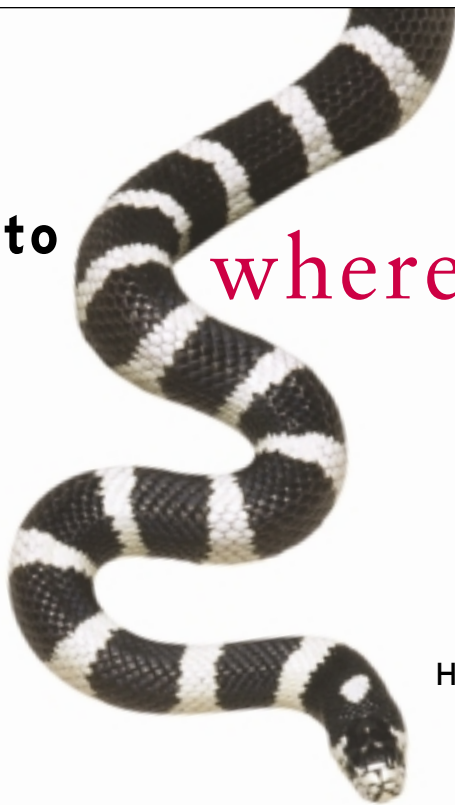
Model better: Model **Niki Taylor** was upgraded to good condition and moved from intensive care in an Atlanta hospital Thursday, nearly two months after suffering liver damage in a car accident.

Madonna madness: There's a ray of light for desperate British **Madonna** fans. A handful of extra tickets for her six sold-out July gigs in London are going on sale today. Organizers decided to add a small but unspecified number of seats after seeing how the show's sets affect the audience's view.

The Inside Movies column appears on 4E.

take your 7-year-old to

where the wild things are



School's over. Homework's done.

It's time to get out and have some fun.

How about this weekend? Talk to the animals.

Ride the waves. Eat ice cream every day.

A great room and fabulous breakfasts are just

the start of our weekend packages of fun-filled days and wild nights

that will fit any family and won't break the bank.



Trying to decide where you'll have the most fun?

Sign up today for the AT&T WorldNet® Service i495SM Offer

and check out all the possibilities on the Internet. It's simple.

Just call 1.800.686.6500 or visit www.att.net/marriott.

For more information about our great weekend packages

and to make your reservation, just call your travel agent

or 1.800.847.4744 or visit marriott.com.

C'mon, summer doesn't last forever.

It's time for you to

come out and play.



Marriott
HOTELS · RESORTS · SUITES



RENAISSANCE® HOTELS

AT&T
worldnet
service