

## RELIABLE SOURCE

## Reality TV, then what?

Isn't it about time for the "Real Housewives of D.C." to be cashing in? After all, reality-TV salaries don't nearly cover the spiritual cost of opening your life to the cameras, and stars of the other Bravo franchises have all attempted to use their newfound fame to try to sell us something.

But four months after the first D.C. season ended — and there's no sign on the horizon of a second season — we've yet to see a best-selling diet book or cheesy dance-pop single out of our Washington crew.

**Cat Ommanney**, the sharp-tongued British import who was arguably the series' breakout star, is now promoting a memoir — the tale of her chaotic years pre-"Housewives," when a torrid affair ended her first marriage and catapulted her into a hard-partying, jet-set life. (And yes, she dishes about her brief '06 canoodle with **Prince Harry** — coyly referred to only as "a very handsome young Royal" — that made her short-term tabloid bait.)

But despite the usual trappings of a glamorous book launch — a party next week at stylist **Ted Gibson's** N.Y.C. salon, to be followed by another fete here — Ommanney's book, titled "Inbox Full," is self-published.

The author told us (via phone from England, visiting with her young



DIANE BONDREFF/NBC NEWSWIRE

The "Real Housewives of D.C." crew, on the "Today" show, has an author on its hands. **Cat Ommanney**, center, self-published her memoir, "Inbox Full."

daughters) that she had been offered a book deal but that the publisher wanted to "change my voice. . . . There were parts of my diary they wanted to fill in, and they used expressions I would never say."

So she's doing it herself, and, despite the dubious track record of self-publishing, she's optimistic. "You get far more royalties" this way. "More people are buying online than anywhere else."

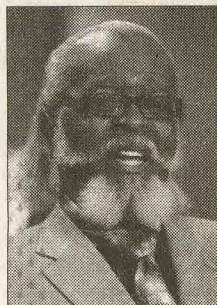
Her infamous co-stars **Tareq** and **Michael Salahi** signed with a celebrity-booking firm, a common step for other reality stars, but we've seen less of that with the D.C. 'Wives. Ommanney acknowledged that she's done "a couple" of paid appearances in nightclubs, "but I don't have anyone helping me, no publicist."

There appear to be a few other projects in the "Housewives" pipeline: **Stacie Turner** is working on a book about finding

her birth parents — a key plotline on the show — and scene-stealing **Paul Wharton** is working on a reality pilot of his own. Fellow 'Wives **Mary Amons** and **Lynda Erkiletian** have focused quietly on charitable causes and business since the first season ended.

And what about a second season? "Housewives" series set in other cities have typically rushed a second season onto the air within a year of the first. But Bravo has remained officially mum on the subject of the D.C. show, and there's been no sign of any new episodes shooting yet.

Ommanney believes she'll be returning to your TV screen. "The long gap has made people think there won't be one, but I'm quite confident that there will be a second season," she said. Even without another Salahi-at-the-White House saga to probe? "It will show *much* more interesting story lines," she said.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Jimmy McMillan

## IN OTHER NEWS

● Darned if she does, and darned if she doesn't, **Lindsay Lohan** may be headed for another stint behind bars. Prosecutors offered the former teen star a plea deal on charges that she stole a \$2,500 necklace from an L.A. jewelry store, and a judge warned Wednesday that if she accepts it, "you are

going to jail." But she could be locked up anyway if she rejects the deal and the case goes to trial, reports the Associated Press, since the alleged theft happened while she was on probation for a DWI in 2007. The starlet is due back in court with her decision March 10.

● **Chris Brown's** restraining order has been

downgraded: He may now speak to **Rihanna**, an L.A. judge ruled Tuesday. After the singer pleaded guilty two years ago to battering his superstar then-girlfriend, he was ordered to stay 50 yards away; but she consented to a loosening of the order after he finished a domestic-violence counseling program, the AP reports.

● **Jimmy McMillan** — yes, the former N.Y. gov candidate from the Rent Is Too Damn High Party — is leaving the party he founded (and perhaps entirely populated?) to become a Republican, he told PBS. Why? Something about the deficit being too damn high, and he wants to run for president. Well, now that Sen. John Thune's out of the way . . .