

LIL WAYNE'S ON FIRE: KARRINE AND HIS EX-WIFE TOYA SPEAK OUT

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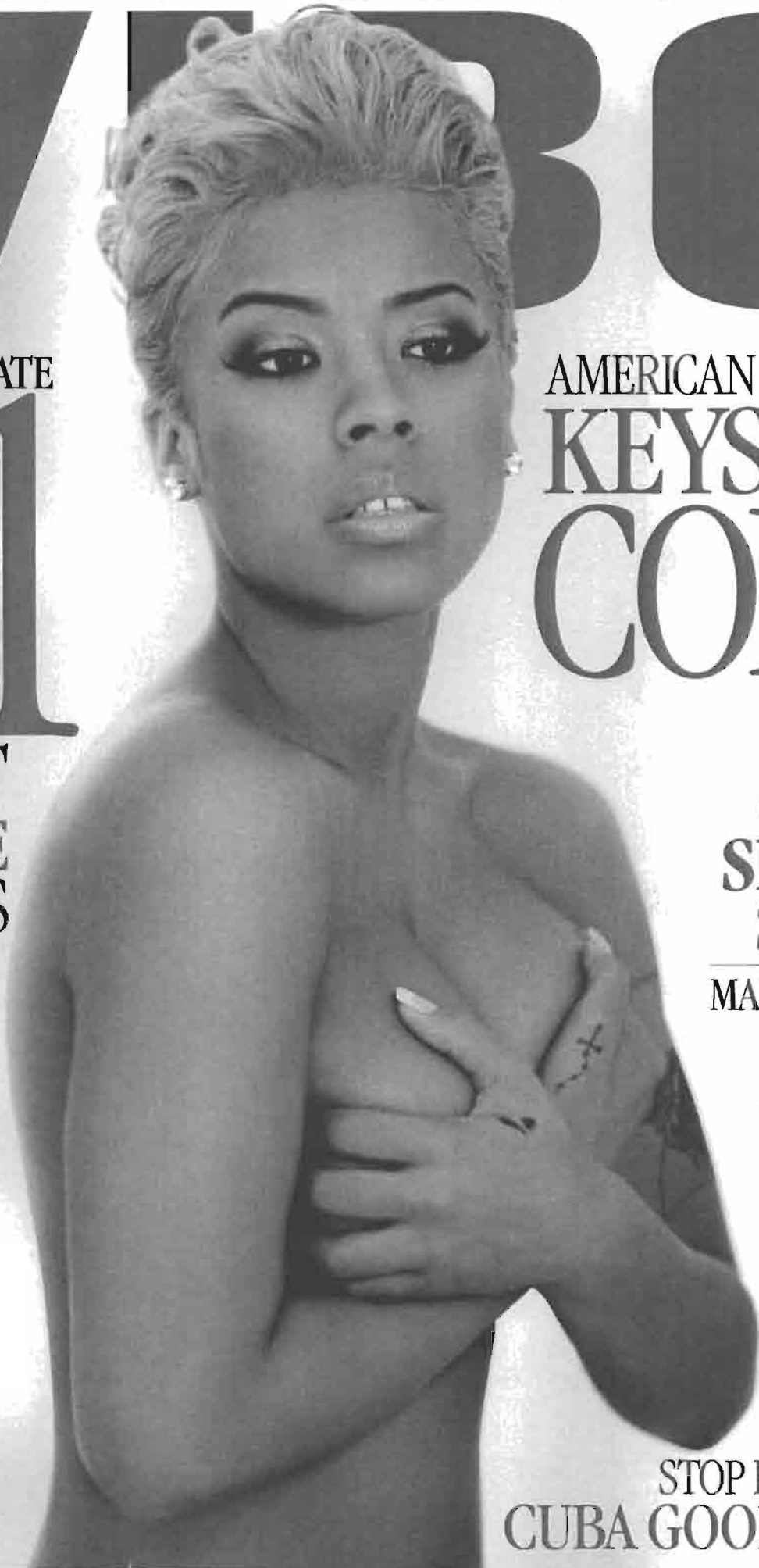
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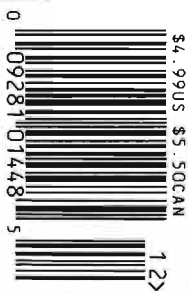
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KNOCK OUT

SALLI RICHARDSON:
forever hot, cool,
and vicious

Salli Richardson *still* wants a piece of Jada.

The perpetually smoldering actress is reminiscing about her onscreen tussle with co-star Pinkett Smith (as around the way girl Peaches) in the still-funny *A Low Down Dirty Shame* (Hollywood Pictures, 1994). Richardson was perfect as the glamorous, ruthless, witchy, two-faced "Angela."

"Every time I see Jada," says Richardson from her Hollywood home, "I let her know that was just a movie. Otherwise I would have taken her."

Richardson, who stars this month as the wife of Pinkett Smith's real-life hubby, Will, in the apocalyptic sci-fi novel flip *I Am Legend* (Warner Bros.) has jokes, but her career (established since 1991) is no laughing matter. On the big screen, the Chicago native — who started out wide-eyed at the Windy City's Kuumba Theatre — has used her almond eyes to stare down Denzel Washington in 2002's *Antwone Fisher* (20th Century Fox), and popped up in several of what she calls "cute girl" roles in films such as *How U Like Me Now?* (Avant Garde, 1993), *Posse* (Gramercy Pictures, 1993), and *The Great White Hype* (20th Century Fox, 1996). But these days the Hollywood survivor says she's feeling more serious parts like last year's turn as an Assistant U.S. Attorney on an episode of FOX's *Bones* and, most recently, starring as a Department of Defense agent on Sci-Fi Channel's quirky *Eureka*. Richardson — who has been linked to such boldfaced names as Tupac Shakur and Matthew McConaughey — is now 40 (word?!), married to fellow actor Dondré T. Whitfield (*Ghost Whisperer*, *CSI: Miami*), and a mom. But none of that means she can't still ether your favorite pinup. "I'm in much better shape than I've ever been in, and I'm more self-confident now," says Richardson in a flirtatious tone. "I'll say something crazy to you now that I never would have at 20." Sounds like fighting words. *Shaheem Reid*



Photographed by
ERIC RAY DAVIDSON
in Los Angeles on
September 13, 2007

Jersey halter jumper by
Nonja McKenzie; gold
feather earrings and lotus
cuff, both by **H. Stern**