

Bravo keeping details of 'Real Housewives' under wraps

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When it comes to "The Real Housewives of New Jersey," it's hard to tell truth from the often contradictory rumors.



Teresa Giudice may or may not return to the 'Real Housewives.'

The Bravo show is reportedly now filming its third season all over North Jersey, yet the company that produces it appears to be casting for new housewives.

Teresa Giudice is said to be holding out for more money, yet she was supposedly at two events where cameras were rolling — including the Oct. 24 christening of her brother's baby, whose mom, Melissa Gorga, is said to be a new cast member.

Bravo not only declines to reveal anything about the new season, but tries to keep others from blabbing — as Heaven Hill Farm in Vernon discovered recently. After the farm sent out a press release saying "RHONJ" would be filming there on Halloween, the farm's outdoor lifestyles manager sent out another notice saying, "Bravo is considering cancelling the shoot if any existing Internet postings or reports are not immediately pulled." Bravo did, in fact, cancel that shoot.

Then, too, there are the confidentiality agreements that those in or close to the show must sign. Despite all the secrecy, though, we managed to get a few answers.

* Was there really a mash-up at The Manor?

Yes. According to Michael Mahle, director of public relations for the stately West Orange restaurant, the Manor booked a christening banquet for a Gorga family, who happened to be related to Giudice. At the event on Oct. 24, Mahle says, Giudice "showed up late and then, once inside, there was an argument between her and her brother and then the rest of the family. ... Before it got too out of hand, our staff got in and just said, 'Listen, knock it off,' and they broke it up. This was toward the end of the evening anyway, and at that time the parties kind of went their separate ways."

Did it actually come to blows, as rumored?

"It was definitely a heated argument [but] I don't know of any reports of fists or actual physical contact," Mahle says. "The police didn't need to get involved."

Was Bravo filming this? "There were, in fact, cameras there. From what I understand, they were not for the 'Housewives of New Jersey.' But I don't know what they were for."

* Will there be a public sale at Giudice's Towaco home?

Probably not. A.J. Willner Auctions, which was hired to conduct the sale, says that since being told that the sale was postponed indefinitely, they have not heard anything, and pretty much consider the auction to be dead.

The Giudices will probably wind up getting money from somewhere to essentially buy back their belongings, says [Ronald LeVine](#), a bankruptcy attorney in [Hackensack](#), who is not involved in the case.

"It would not be unlikely that [the Giudices] would make a deal with the trustee to pay the creditors the amount that they would get from the [public] sale and avoid the sale," says LeVine. "So if the value of the stuff was \$40,000 ... the trustee would have to get approval from the bankruptcy court to settle for, say \$20,000. That sort of thing. I think that's a likely resolution."

What LeVine found especially interesting is that on Aug. 11, the Giudices' bankruptcy attorney, Jim Kridel, filed papers saying that much of what's in the house was purchased after they filed for bankruptcy on Oct. 29, 2009. Kridel attached "receipt after receipt" to prove his point, LeVine notes. Included were invoices from Ivanka's in Wyckoff. One, for \$14,394.27, is dated Nov. 13, 2009 — two weeks after the bankruptcy filing. The others, for \$3,049.48 and \$5,103.84, were dated Oct. 14 and 18, 2009. In a filing on Aug. 15, court-appointed Chapter 7 trustee John Sywilok noted that there were "purchases totaling approximately \$60,000 within approximately 60 days after filing" for bankruptcy.

The obvious question: How did they suddenly have money to buy all this stuff?

* Why is Sirens Media searching for new cast members?

Who knows? The production company sent a notice to one of our sister publications that read: "Do you have what it takes to be on 'The Real Housewives of New Jersey'?" It went on to say, "Vinnie Potestivo Entertainment and the producers of the Bravo hit series are currently in search of fabulous NJ women as they conquer their careers, families, home and enviable social lives!" (A handout with the same wording was subsequently found in an [Englewood](#) store.)

Potestivo, through his assistant, declined to comment about the notice.

A "Housewives" insider says that while Bravo could decide to have eight or 10 housewives if the network wanted to, "we have a full complement of girls. We don't need anybody. But [Bravo is] looking for people and the people they find now may be Season 4 people."

And what about Melissa Gorga? "I don't know if she's a housewife, but she definitely is going to be on. There's a lot of people like Kim G. and Kim D. who are not housewives, but they get a reasonable amount of face time."

On Thursday, this insider confirmed that filming of Season 3 has been under way for about a week. "The season's going along. Lots of drama already, and it's gonna be a lot of fun. I expect it to be a really good season — maybe the best yet."

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