

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tavis Smiley Statement Regarding His Decision  
to Leave The Tom Joyner Morning Show**

There is no way to put into words the love and respect that Tom Joyner and I have for each other, or the love affair that I've had with *TJMS* listeners for almost 12 years now.

Due to the overwhelming amount of phone calls and e-mails I have received from listeners and other media, I wanted to briefly clarify a few issues that I will address more fully in my regular *TJMS* commentary on Tuesday morning, April 15, at 8:20 a.m. ET.

I did not "quit" the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* effective immediately. In July, I will celebrate my 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the show, and as I discussed with Tom, it is my intention to take on the issues of the day in my commentary twice every week with the same energy, passion and commitment until the end of June.

Contrary to what has been suggested, I have decided to clear some things off my plate so that I can devote my time and attention to some exciting and empowering projects that The Smiley Group, Inc. and other divisions of my company have underway this summer, this fall and beyond.

I look forward to continuing the dialogue on Tuesday and in the coming months.

***About Tavis Smiley***

*In addition to his PBS weeknight series, Tavis Smiley is the host of The Tavis Smiley Show from PRI and the author/editor of 11 books, including The New York Times best-sellers Covenant with Black America and What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America. His latest book, THE COVENANT In Action is in stores now. For more information, visit [www.tavistalks.com](http://www.tavistalks.com)*

*Tavis Smiley is produced by The Smiley Group Inc./TS Media Inc. in association with KCET/Hollywood. For more information visit [www.pbs.org/tavissmiley](http://www.pbs.org/tavissmiley)*