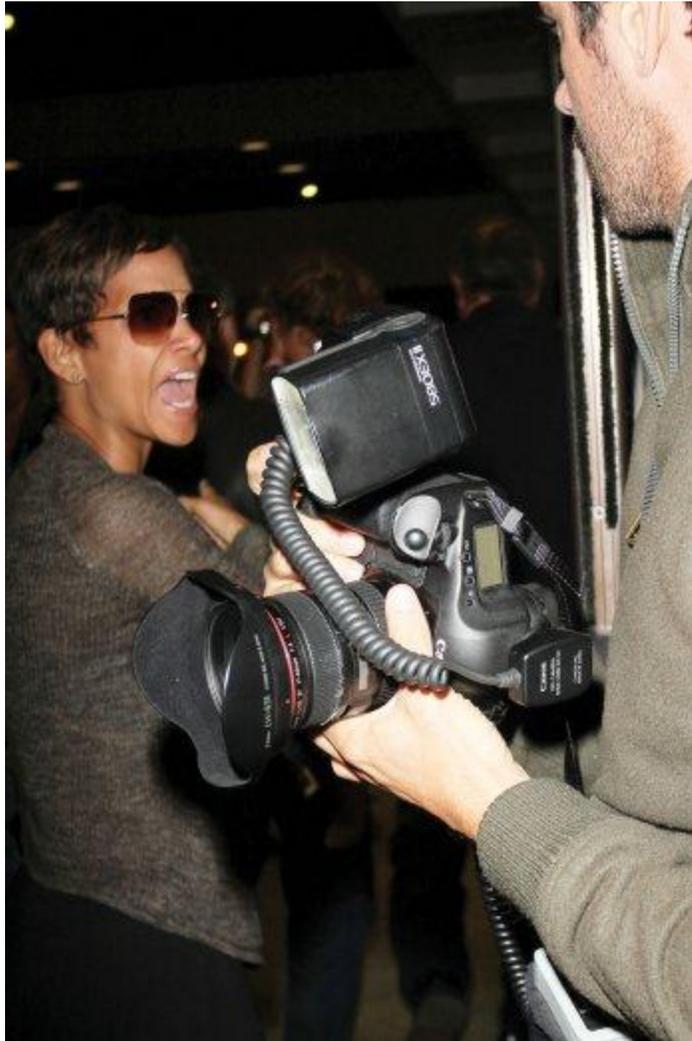


The Sky-High Cost of Keeping Stars Safe

8:30 AM PDT 10/2/2013 by Michael Walker



Celebrities pay six to seven figures to keep paparazzi, overzealous fans and the occasional stalker at bay.

*This story first appeared in the Oct. 11 issue of **The Hollywood Reporter** magazine.*

"I've had clients spend a hundred grand to secure a house," says Summit Business Management's **Scott Feinstein**. "They get stalkers showing up, dropping off animals at your porch like it's a gift to you, climbing into the trees to take pictures." From elaborate home-security systems to 24-hour security details to bulletproof luxury cars, minor celebrities increasingly feel compelled to pay to have what's left of their privacy secured in a world in which their addresses and every movement are open to 24/7 scrutiny on the Web.

PHOTOS: (Don't) Call 911: Celebrity 'Swatting' Victims

Twilight stars beefing up security because of fans who conflate the actors with their roles are the latest casualties in a war that veteran celebrities have waged for years. "We have full-time security all the time," says **Fred Nigro**, **David Letterman's** business manager. "We have

Berry confronts a paparazzo, a pitfall of fame that security officers can help guard against for the show, and we have it for everything else. First he had a stalker, then he had a kidnapping attempt, then extortion. In 30 years, he's gone through it all." it

The cost is between \$500 and \$1,000 an officer a day for a coordinated team of bodyguards (or "executive protection," in current parlance) to steer a star from house to set to dinner, says **Anthony Davis**, founder of AD Entertainment Services, which has provided security for the Osbournes, **Barbra Streisand**, **Stevie Wonder** and **Steven Tyler**.

Although not his clients, Davis cites **David** and **Victoria Beckham**, a high-visibility couple who has cut a broad swath through the tabloids, as a hypothetical case study. For the Beckhams, Davis would deploy a team of three officers --

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/celebrity-bodyguards-sky-high-cost-639496>

"one for the Mr., one for the Mrs. and an advance person" -- at a cost of \$2,500 to \$5,000 an officer weekly to run interference at restaurants, shoots or a night at the Hollywood Bowl. A three-day trip to New York with a team of four officers would cost \$9,000 before factoring in travel expenses, per diems and other incidentals, says Davis. He adds: If flying commercial, the officers travel first class or business to keep in proximity to the celebrity and stay in the same hotel, usually in an adjacent suite.

LIST: THR's Power Business Managers 2013

On the extreme end of the scale, the annual cost to protect a celebrity family like **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie's** could approach \$2 million, according to **Aaron Cohen**, director of IMS Security in Hollywood, whose clients have included **Kate Moss**, **Katy Perry** and **Charlie Sheen**. Securing the family's home runs \$500,000 and includes shifts of security guards installed in a command center -- often the garage -- who watch high-definition video from cameras throughout the premises.

When the family leaves the house, each adult is assigned a "close security" agent -- the children would share one -- at a cost of \$500,000 annually, per agent. (**Halle Berry** spearheaded California's tough anti-paparazzi statute, provoked by photographers shooting her daughter, **Nahla**; a close security agent could have kept offending photogs at bay.) A stalker adds a \$20,000 fee for surveillance to build evidence so that a restraining order or arrest can be made. In the meantime, says Cohen, "I'd keep him as far away as possible."