

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

Singer Lionel Richie has revealed how he helped save his daughter Nicole from her heroin addiction - by checking into rehab with her.

In an exclusive interview with *The National Enquirer*, the 56-year-old superstar said he spent two weeks in a clinic after Nicole pleaded with him to join her.

Lionel explained: "Nicole said to me, 'Dad, I want you to check in with me.' So I did, without a second's hesitation. I wanted to show her all the support I could.

"I admitted myself into the rehab center, where I stayed for two weeks.

"It was my way of telling her that no matter what trouble she got herself into, I loved her, and wanted to help her get clean."

Nicole, who is 24, hit rock bottom in February 2003 when cops found heroin in her car after pulling her over in Malibu, California for driving with a suspended license.

The *Simple Life* star was sentenced to probation and ordered into a drug rehabilitation program. She chose to be treated at Sierra Tucson, an exclusive treatment center in Arizona.

Speaking for the first time about his daughter's ordeal, Lionel, known for the mega-hit