

Nicole Richie
and Joel Madden
leave the Kate
Somerville Clinic
on June 12

Troubled star's drug use started early

NICOLE RICHIE – the adopted daughter of R&B legend Lionel Richie – first became involved with drugs and booze while barely a teenager.

She was smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol at 13, using cocaine by the time she was 14 and heroin when she was 19 and 20.

In 2001, she was charged with her first DUI. In February 2003, she was arrested for driving with a revoked license and possession of heroin – and was sentenced to three years probation.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT she checked into Sierra Tucson, an Arizona rehab facility, followed by rehab at Cirque Lodge in Utah.

At the end of 2006, Nicole was arrested, but has pleaded not guilty to a DUI after she was stopped in the early morning hours for driving the wrong way on a freeway. She admitted to the patrolman that she'd taken Vicodin and smoked pot. A hearing on the case is set for June 21.

Nicole Richie:

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73,000 PILLS IN 4 YEARS

PLUS Her coke and booze binges