

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Beyonce, Hudson Shine at Image Awards

As NAACP celebrates 100 years

(AP)—It was a dreamy night for a couple of "Dreamgirls." Beyonce and Jennifer Hudson both glided away with trophies and wowed the audience with individual performances during the 40th annual NAACP Image Awards.

Beyonce, who opened the show with a wind-swept rendition of her song "Halo," won the female artist category while Hudson, who performed "The Impossible Dream" for President's Award recipient Muhammad Ali, picked up the new artist award. They costarred in the 2006 film "Dreamgirls."

The Feb. 12 show coincided with the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and kicked off a year-long centennial celebration.

"The Secret Life of Bees" won for motion picture. "Grey's

Anatomy" won for TV drama. Several of the winners were awarded before the live ceremony, including Chandra Wilson from "Grey's Anatomy" for actress in a drama series, Columbus Short from "Cadillac Records" for supporting actor in a motion picture and singer-actor Jamie Foxx for male artist.

Sean "Diddy" Combs picked up the TV movie actor trophy for his role in "A Raisin in the Sun." Other acting winners included Hill Harper for "CSI: NY," Tracee Ellis Ross for "Girlfriends," Taraji P. Henson for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and Will Smith and Rosario Dawson for "Seven Pounds."

The awards honor achievements and performances of people of color in TV, film, music and literature. Former Vice President Al Gore and Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai re-



Singer Jennifer Hudson greets President's Awards recipient Muhammad Ali, who is accompanied by his wife Yolanda Williams, at the conclusion of her performance at the NAACP Image Awards.

ceived the Chairman's Award. Boxing legend Ali won the President's Award. Hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons was given the Vanguard Award.

The inspirational evening was accented with praise and appreciation for President Barack Obama, who received the Chairman's Award in 2005 but was not in attendance at this year's glitzy star-studded ceremony. Smith and others used their time in the Image Awards spotlight to show their love for the newly elected president.

"This is a rare opportunity for me," said Smith. "I stand on this stage today after a dream

that I've dreamed for a long time because we have an African-American president. As a child, my parents always told me you could be whatever you want to be. You can do whatever you want to do."

The ceremony ended with Stevie Wonder performing his 1976 song "Black Man," which has lyrics referencing historic figures such as Sacagawea and Matthew Henson. During the song, hosts Berry and Perry recited the name-dropping refrain and added another person at the end: Obama. The audience enthusiastically raised tiny American flags in response.



Singer Beyonce accepts the award for Outstanding Female Artist at the 40th Annual NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles.

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