February 18, 2009



Beyonce, Hudson Shine at Image Awards As NAACP celebrates 100 years

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."

with the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the People and kicked off a yearlong centennial celebration.

(AP) -- It was a dreamy night 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 singeractor 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 The Feb. 12 show coincided Rosario Dawson for "Seven Pounds."

The awards honor achieve-Advancement of Colored ments and performances of people of color in TV, film, music and literature. Former Vice "The Secret Life of Bees" President Al Gore and Kenyan won for motion picture. "Grey's activist Wangari Maathai re-



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



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.

Boxing legend Ali won the because we have an African-President's Award. Hip-hop American president. As a child, mogul Russell Simmons was my parents always told me you given the Vanguard Award.

was accented with praise and appreciation for President Barack Obama, who received the Stevie Wonder performing his Chairman's Award in 2005 but 1976 song "Black Man," which was not in attendance at this has lyrics referencing historic year's glitzy star-studded cer- figures such as Sacagawea and emony. Smith and others used Matthew Henson. During the their time in the Image Awards song, hosts Berry and Perry respotlight to show their love for cited the name-dropping refrain the newly elected president.

"This is a rare opportunity for me," said Smith. "I stand on enthusiastically raised tiny this stage today after a dream American flags in response.

ceived the Chairman's Award. that I've dreamed for a long time could be whatever you want to The inspirational evening be. You can do whatever you want to do."

> The ceremony ended with and added another person at the end: Obama. The audience



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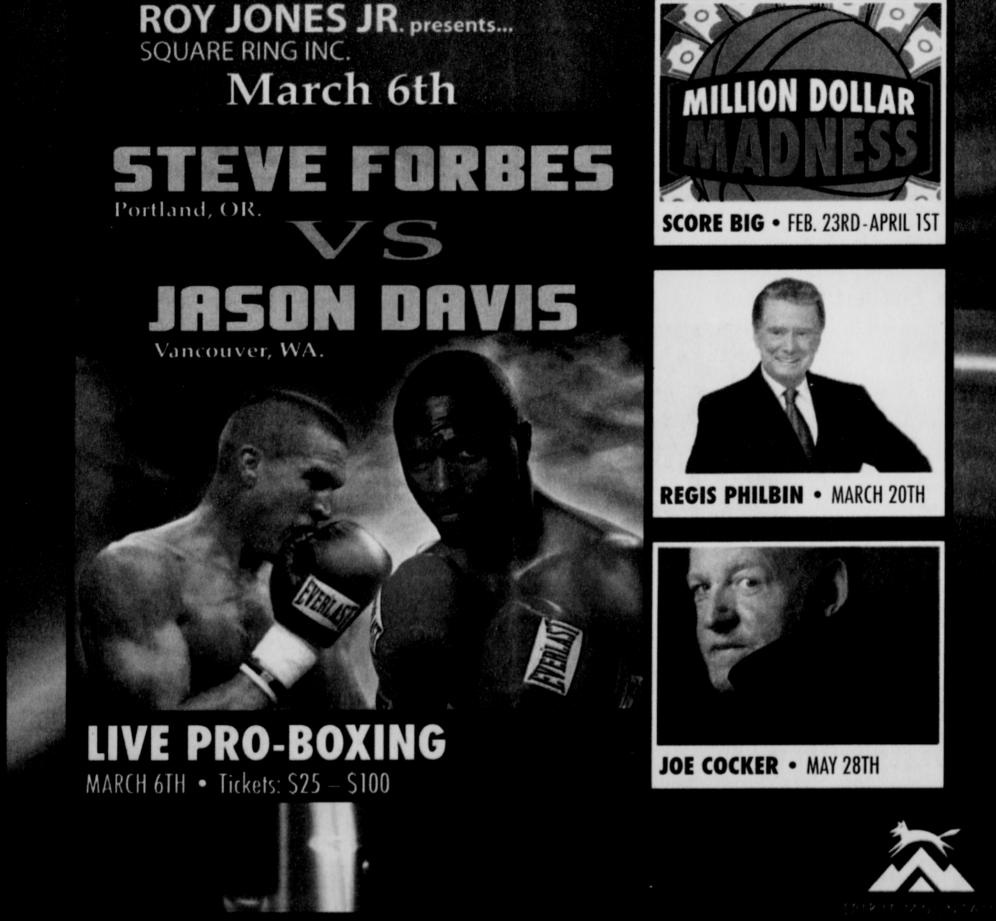


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