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Hall of Fame Honor for Eddie Murphy

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Stevie Wonder, Spike Lee, Ray Charles and Sidney Poitier. The most recent honorees to be inducted were Cheryl Boone Isaacs and Paris Barclay in 2014.

Murphy began his career as a stand-up comic while as a teenager and eventually joined the cast of "Saturday Night Live." He starred in the box office hit "48 Hours" and made his mark in a slew of films such as "Beverly Hills Cop," "Coming to America," "The Nutty Professor," "Dr. Dolittle" and "Dolemite Is My Name." His latest film "Coming 2 America" was released on Amazon this month.

The awards ceremony virtually aired live on BET. "Black-ish" star and comedian Anthony Anderson hosted the show for the eighth consecutive year.

The late Chadwick Boseman won best actor in a motion picture for his role in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." The actor, who also starred in the blockbuster Marvel film "Black Panther," died at 43

last year after he privately battled colon cancer.

"As always, he would give all honor and glory to the most high God," said the teary-eyed Simone Ledward Boseman, the actor's wife, who accepted the award on his behalf. "He would thank his mom and dad. And he would give honor to his ancestors as we now honor him. Thank you NAACP for always giving him his flowers. He was an uncommon artist and an even more uncommon person."

Boseman spoke about how common Black people have been diagnosed with or died from colon cancer. She urged Black people over the age of 45 to get screened.

"Don't put it off any longer," she said. "Please, get screened. This disease is beatable if you catch it in its early stages. So you don't have anytime to waste, even if you don't have any family history. If you think nothing is wrong, and younger than 45, please be proactive about your health. Know the signs. Know your body. Listen to your body."

LeBron James received the President's Award for his public service achievements,

Michelle Obama presented Stacey Abrams with the first Social Justice Impact award. Abrams was honored for being a political force and her voting rights work that helped turn Georgia into a swing state.

Abrams paid homage to her parents for her upbringing.

"They taught me and my five siblings that having nothing was not an excuse for doing nothing," she said. "Instead, they showed us by word and deed to use our faith as a shield to protect the defenseless, to use our voices to call out injustices, and to use our education and our time to solve the problems that others turn away from."

Viola Davis took home best actress for her film and television roles in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "How to Get Away with Murder."

Jazmine Sullivan gave the awards show's first performance with "Pick Up Your Feelings." Maxwell later performed "Ascension (Don't Ever Wonder)."

Police Reforms Gain Traction

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should clarify that force being used by an officer should be excessive to an objective, reasonable observer, not just to

the officer witnessing it. Democrats said that would cause an officer to think twice before intervening.

Sen. Manka Dhingra, the bill's sponsor, said good of-

ficers must be empowered to stop wrongdoing.

"They want to make sure they're doing the right thing. This bill helps them do that," Dhingra said

Tina: 'Goodness did not balance out Bad'

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her obscure but brilliant, moody interpretation of Joni Mitchell's

classic "Edith and the Kingpin." Her jazzy, earthy rendition is on Herbie Hancock's 2007 Grammy-winning album "River: The

Joni Letters." Turner's smokey, raspy voice was made for jazz, though she used it for rock, pop, R&B and soul. Listening to this particular vocal makes you wonder why she didn't record a jazz album as a fitting coda to a wondrous career.

If Tina Turner needs any further proof that she is truly loved—besides records sales, bestselling books and throngs of concert goers—she gets more verification with "Tina" which premiered on HBO in late March and is available for streaming on HBO Max. A touching evocative diary that chronicles Turner's past and present and cements her legacy.

Dwight Brown is the film critic for the National Newspapers Publishers Association, the Black Press.



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