

EDDIE MURPHY AND EN VOGUE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL 1993 SOUL TRAIN MUSIC AWARDS



EDDIE MURPHY

Los Angeles, CA— International motion picture superstar Eddie Murphy and recording superstars En Vogue have been announced as special honorees at the Seventh Annual Soul Train Music Awards. Murphy was named recipient of the prestigious Heritage Award for career achievements, and En Vogue will be honored with the Sammy Davis, Jr. Award as Entertainer of the Year, according to the program's executive producer Don Cornelius. The awards will be presented during the live two-hour telecast of the 1993 Soul Train Music Awards, hosted by Luther Vandross, Patti LaBelle and Natalie Cole, from the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium, Tuesday, March 9, 1993, 8 - 10 p.m. (EST.)

Murphy, in just over a decade, has established himself as one of the true giants in the entertainment industry. This past year he was named NATO/ShowWest "Star of the Decade," retaining his rating as the world's No. 1 film star. Since debuting in the box office hit, "48 Hrs." for Paramount Pictures in 1982, Murphy has starred in eleven motion pictures compiling a staggering worldwide film gross surpassing \$1-billion dollars. Some of Murphy's top grossing and most important films include, "Another 48 Hrs.," "Trading Places," "Beverly Hills Cop," "Beverly Hill Cop II," "Coming To America," "Harlem Nights" and this year's classy and highly-acclaimed "Boomerang."

En Vogue, the California-based female sensations comprised of Dawn Robinson, Terry Ellis, Cindy Herron, and Maxine Jones, burst onto the music

scene with their platinum selling smash hit, "Hold On" from their Atlantic Records' platinum album, "Born to Sing." This year the divas have enjoyed a string of hit singles from their second album, "Funky Divas" which is on its way to triple platinum. They also just completed a sold out, 26 city, national concert tour, their first as headliners, which has firmly secured their status as major R&B/Pop superstars.

"En Vogue has set a new standard for female groups," praised Cornelius. "Over the past year they have made the most dramatic across-the-board impact of any artist through the tremendous success of their innovative music videos, stage performances and record sales, and as a group, they are extremely deserving of the Sammy Davis Jr. Award as entertainers of the year."

En Vogue joins previous Sammy Davis Jr. Award honorees Janet Jackson, M.C. Hammer, Michael Jackson, and Arsenio Hall.

"Eddie Murphy is without a doubt one of the most successful African-American entertainers of our times," commented Cornelius. "The impact of his comedy characters on Saturday Night Live are legendary and his ongoing career contributions as a motion picture actor, comedian, recording artist, entrepreneur and humanitarian are simply incomparable for an individual of his age," he added.

Murphy's meteoric rise to international superstardom, at age 31, is indeed remarkable, and he joins previous Heritage Award recipients Prince, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Gla-

dys Knight & the Pips, Quincy Jones and Smokey Robinson. In addition to his phenomenal record-breaking and award-winning success as a motion picture actor and box office giant, Murphy has also recorded two albums for CBS records, completed sold out concert tours and developed several companies to facilitate an array of motion picture and television projects including: Eddie Murphy Productions, Eddie Murphy Television Productions, and Eddie Murphy Television Enterprises Ltd., a separate entity which produces series pilots and specials for network television through an agreement with CBS.

Murphy's companies have also been in the forefront of Hollywood in providing opportunities for African-American "behind-the-scenes" talent such as writers, producers and directors. He has also vigorously supported, among other charitable causes, the AIDS Foundation, served as a former Honorary Chairman of the United Negro College Fund, "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon, and currently chairs the Paramount/Eddie Murphy Fellowship, a minority outreach effort administered by Eddie Murphy Productions and Paramount.

Adding to the STMA star power this year is multiple

Grammy Award winning songstress Natalie Cole, who joins repeating co-hosts Vandross and LaBelle. The official STMA nominations honoring the top rhythm & blues, jazz, gospel, and rap artists in twelve categories

will be announced Tuesday, February 2, at Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles, CA.

The seventh annual Soul Train Awards will be telecast live to 90 percent of the country, though syndication by the Trib-

une Entertainment Company. Cornelius will be co-producing with Anthony Sabitino, Ron de Moraes of "Entertainment Tonight" will direct, and George Duke will serve as musical director.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH IS CORPORATE SPONSOR OF NAACP IMAGE AWARDS



Actress Lynn Whitfield (second, left), a past winner of an NAACP Image Award for her dramatic portrayal of the legendary Josephine Baker, is shown with (from left to right), T.H. Poole Sr., chairman, Image Awards Committee; Wayman F. Smith III, corporate affairs vice president for Anheuser-Busch Companies; and Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors. The foursome was among a group of celebrities and NAACP officials who recently announced a record number of entries for the 25th Annual NAACP Image Awards, which will be shown Jan. 23 on NBC. Anheuser-Busch Companies will be the first corporate sponsor of the show, which honors individuals and groups that contribute to the positive portrayal of African-Americans in the entertainment industry.

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