

ENTERTAINMENT

# Beyonce, Jay-Z capture trophies at BET Awards

**HOLLYWOOD (AP)** — In a night filled with electrifying performances and special recognition of the best in music, film and sports, the 2004 BET AWARDS ceremony was held at the Kodak Theatre on Tuesday.

The evening was sent into spiritual elevation from the start with rising superstar Kanye West's "Jesus Walks" featuring Yolanda Adams in duet and a bevy of engaging young people in drum cadence and chorus.

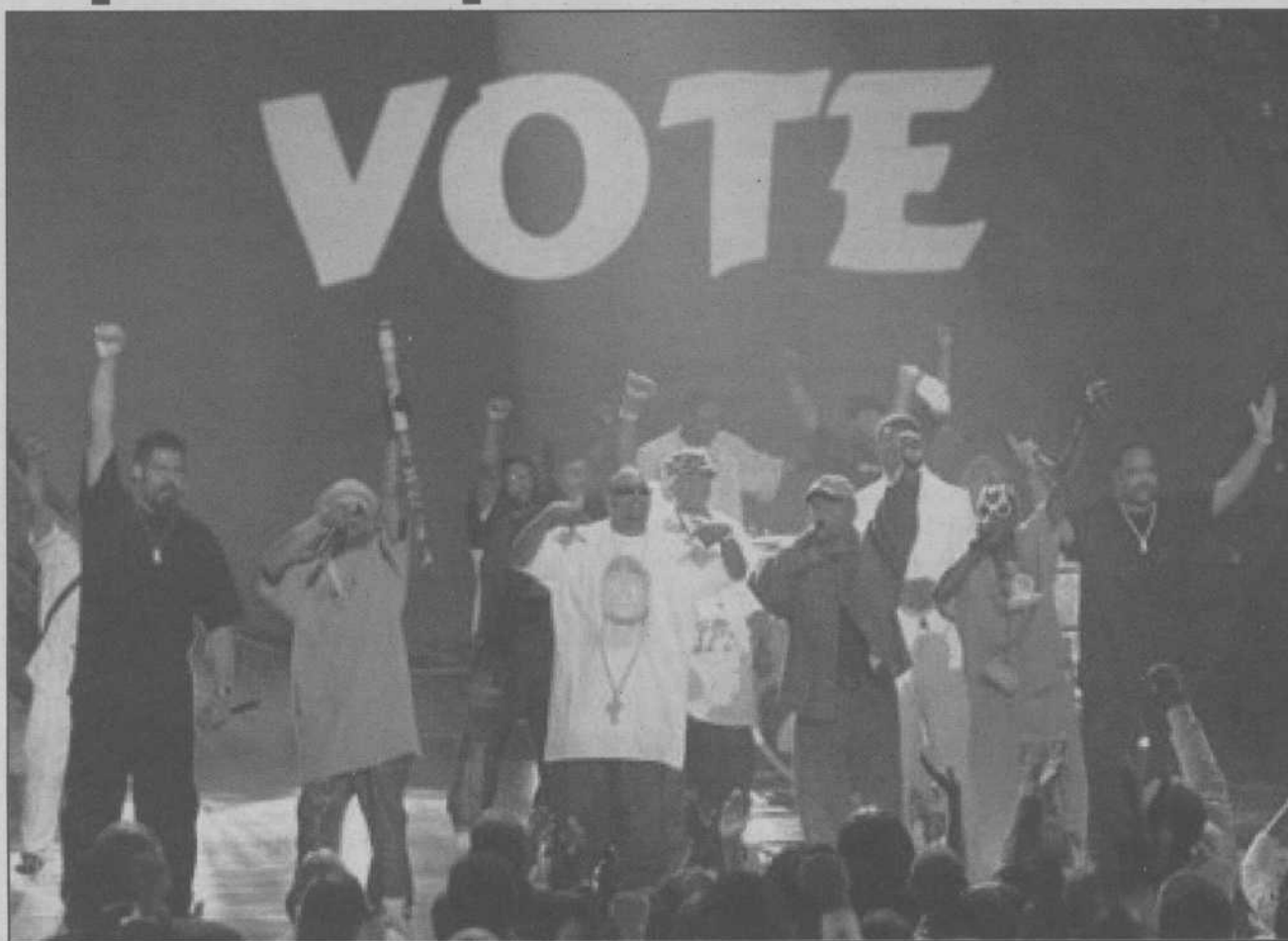
Returning host Mo'Nique, actress/comedian star of the sitcom "The Parkers," rocked the house in her opening segment with a comedic rendition of Beyonce's gyration-loaded "Crazy in Love" dance routine, complete with her own cast of plus-size dancers. There was loads of screaming when Usher went on to pick up his prizes for Best Male R&B Artist and Viewers' Choice.

There was a no-show from Halle Berry who won Best Actress. Kanye West won Best New Artist and Beyonce won Best Female R&B and Best Collaboration for Crazy In Love with her man Jay-Z, he took home honors for top male hip-hop artist. Despite spending most of her time these days on award platforms she seemed surprised at the win — and thanked her family for the honor:

"I wasn't expecting this! I have to first thank God for blessing me with all the opportunities I have."

"First I have to thank Jay for doing the song with me — thank you very much. I want to thank my cousin Angie and Ty. Solange I love you, and fans, thank you for all your support and love. God bless you!"

OutKast won multiple honors for video of the year and best group. Andre 3000 said 2003 had been an amaz-



The Isley Brothers singing group arrive at the Black Entertainment Television Awards Tuesday in Los Angeles. (From left to right) Ron Isley, Ernie Isley and Rudolph Isley.

Members of Public Enemy, the Sugar Hill Gang and other rappers perform a tribute to 25 years of hip-hop music during the 4th annual BET Awards on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

ing year and urged fans to get out and vote in the presidential election in November: "Incredible, blessed year. We didn't know what was going to happen with this album. A lot of people heard about the back-and-forthness of the album. Ain't nothing wrong with me and Big Boi for sure!"

"We have an OutKast album coming out at the end of this year. For all the people who bought the album I challenge you all just to vote this year. I'm not telling you who to vote for, but just vote, that's all."

BET honored actor/activist Danny Glover and leg-

endary music icons The Isley Brothers with the two most prestigious accolades of the evening — the 2004 BET Humanitarian Award and BET Lifetime Achievement Award, respectively.

The show also saluted the late Barry White with a special tribute to his accomplishments; and vocal enchantress India.Arie wowed the crowd with her guitar version of the late Ray Charles' "Georgia on My Mind."

The categories and winners:

- Video Of The Year: OutKast, "Hey Ya"
- Best Group: OutKast
- Male R&B Artist: Usher

- Female R&B Artist: Beyonce
- Male Hip Hop Artist: Jay-Z
- Female Hip Hop Artist: Missy Elliott
- Collaboration: Beyonce with Jay-Z, "Crazy in Love"
- New Artist: Kanye West
- Gospel Artist: Yolanda Adams
- Actor: Denzel Washington
- Actress: Halle Berry
- Male Athlete: LeBron James
- Female Athlete: Serena Williams
- Viewer's Choice: Usher, featuring Ludacris and Lil Jon, "Yeah!"

## Hip-hop forum aims to nix generation gap

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Bow ties and baseball jerseys converged last Thursday at the National Hip-Hip Political Convention, producing a sometimes contentious discussion between staid veterans of the civil rights movement and the younger, trendier hip-hop generation.

The convention, which ran through Saturday, was an attempt to mobilize Hispanics and African-Americans, ages 18 to 35, who are bound by common styles of music, dress and speech, but are not yet a cohesive political force.

"This conversation is important because it is an at-

tempt to bridge a generation gap," said the Rev. Calvin Butts, 54, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City.

In the gymnasium of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, about 200 delegates from across the country witnessed rousing discussions of spirituality, arts and culture, grass roots organizing and politics.

One of the afternoon's moderators, Gustav Heningburg, a veteran civil rights activist, compared activists of the hip-hop generation to those of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s.



The Rev. Calvin Butts speaks during the National Hip-Hip Political Convention which convened last week in Newark, N.J. Butts told the crowd: "This conversation is important because it is an attempt to bridge a generation gap."

Speakers ranged from clergy to New York City rapper M1, also known as Mutulu

Olugbala, 31, of the rap duo Dead Presidents. Participants acknowl-

edged the differences between the generations, but urged unity and political activity to reach a common goal of improving the condition of a largely disenfranchised segment of society.

Delegates earned their seats at the convention by registering at least 50 people to vote.

The convention's principal organizer was Ras Baraka, a 35-year-old Newark deputy mayor and son of the poet and activist Amiri Baraka. Some of the most animated dialogue arose between Ras Baraka's mother, Amina Baraka, 60, whose activism

dates to the 1960's, and Faheem Ratcliffe, 30, culture editor of The Source magazine, an arbiter of hip-hop style.

Baraka and her contemporaries decried what they consider the violent, sexist and materialistic imagery in rap and hip hop music and videos, imagery that supporters defend as a reflection of the realities and aspirations of the hip-hop community.

"Hip hop is much more complex than being positive or negative," Ratcliffe said. "We are the children of the civil rights and the Black power movements."