

S. Epatha Merkerson only Black winner

Emmy Awards continues to be White affair

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

One would think that with the explosion of television programming to the point where we now have hundred of stations and thousands of entertainers of all hues to choose from, the Emmys would reflect the rainbow of talent that we presently find on the air.

So, it seemed silly, artificial and oddly otherworldly to watch an award show which ignored the evolution of the medium, where virtually no people of color were even nominated.

The otherwise lily-white parade of winners was only broken up by S. Epatha Merkerson, who took home her trophy in the Outstanding Actress in a Movie or Miniseries category, beating out her "Lackawanna Blues" producer, Halle Berry who was up for "Their Eyes were Watching God."

Though her first name is really Sharon, she has lately been claiming that the "S" stands for Sweet.

Regardless, the 52-year-old veteran of stage and screen is an accomplished actress who has enjoyed a long showbiz career. She got her big break from Spike Lee who cast her in his first film, "She's Gotta Have It" (1986). In 1990, she was nominated for a Tony for her work in August Wilson's play, "The Piano Lesson."

She has also appeared on sitcoms like "Frasier" and

"The Cosby Show," and in such feature films as "Terminator 2," "Radio," and "Jersey Girl." Still, she's probably best known for her recurring role as Lieutenant Anita Van Buren on NBC's "Law & Order," work which has landed her four Image Award nominations from the NAACP.

However, the Emmy was S's first win, and she all but lost her composure when her hand-written acceptance speech disappeared into her ample cleavage.

"Oh my God! I actually wrote something, and it went down my thing, and I can't get it," the breathless thespian panted. "It's probably stuck to me," she added after fishing around futilely.

"Oh God, it's down there. My mother's watching. She's going to die. Ma, I lost it," she concluded before finally proceeding to thank people off the top of her head.

The problem was that at this point, she was just about out of time, and she finally did find something to read aloud, a teleprompter. "Wrap it up? Okay. Thank you," she concluded, leaving one wondering whether Halle might have had something more meaningful to say or, at least, experienced a more revealing wardrobe malfunction while digging around in her décolletage.

Drama Series: "Lost," ABC.

Comedy Series: "Everybody Loves Raymond,"



S. Epatha Merkerson (left) is joined by Halle Berry at the Governor's Ball after the 57th annual Primetime Emmy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday. Merkerson won Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Movie for her role in the acclaimed film "Lackawanna Blues."

CBS.

Miniseries: "The Lost Prince" (Masterpiece Theatre), PBS.

Variety, Music or Comedy Series: "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart," Comedy Central.

Made-for-TV Movie: "Warm Springs," HBO.

Reality-Competition Program: "The Amazing Race," CBS.

Actor, Drama Series: James Spader, "Boston Le-

gal," ABC.

Actor, Comedy Series: Tony Shalhoub, "Monk," USA.

Actor, Miniseries or Movie: Geoffrey Rush, "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," HBO.

Actress, Drama Series: Patricia Arquette, "Medium," NBC.

Actress, Comedy Series: Felicity Huffman, "Desperate Housewives," ABC.

Actress, Miniseries or Movie: S. Epatha Merkerson, "Lackawanna Blues," HBO.

Supporting Actor, Drama Series: William Shatner, "Boston Legal," ABC.

Supporting Actor, Comedy Series: Brad Garrett, "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS.

Supporting Actor, Miniseries or Movie: Paul Newman, "Empire Falls," HBO.

Supporting Actress, Drama Series: Blythe Danner, "Huff," Showtime.

Supporting Actress, Comedy Series: Doris Roberts, "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS.

Supporting Actress, Miniseries or Movie: Jane Alexander, "Warm Springs," HBO.

Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program: Hugh Jackman, "The 58th Annual Tony Awards (2004)," CBS.

Directing for a Drama Series: "Lost: Pilot (Part 1 & Part 2)," ABC.

Directing for a Comedy Series: "Desperate Housewives: Pilot," ABC.

Directing for a Miniseries, Movie or Dramatic Special: "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," HBO.

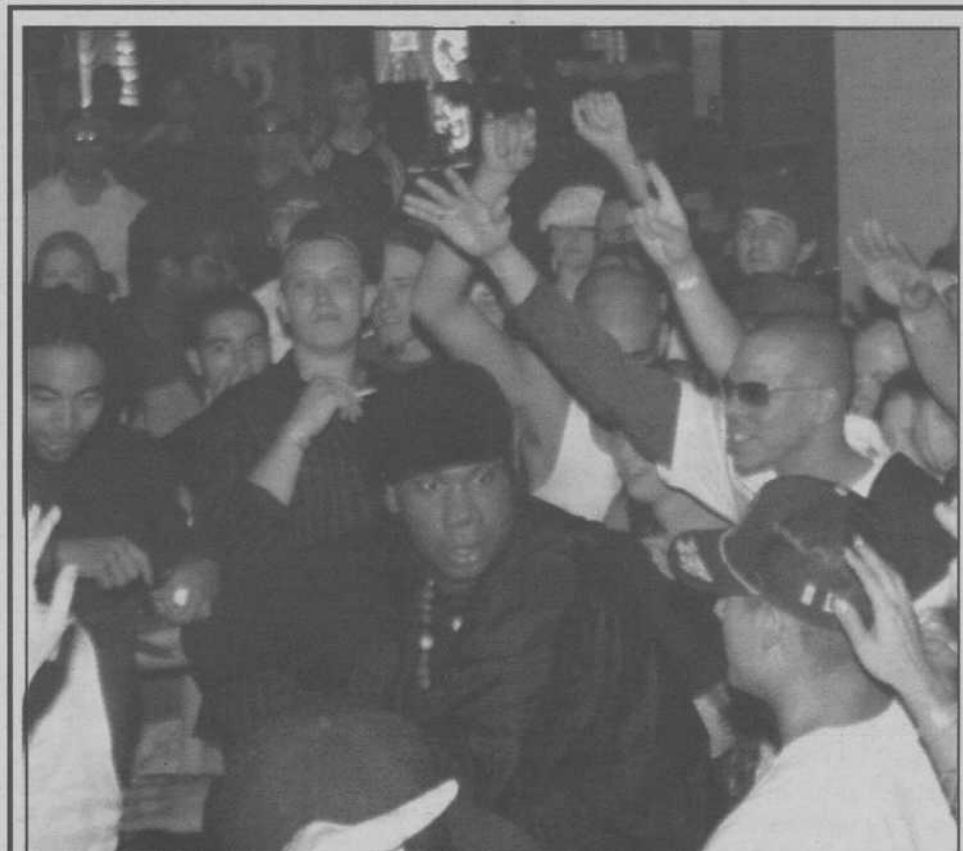
Directing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Program: "The Games of the XXVIII Olympiad — Opening Ceremony," NBC.

Writing for a Drama Series: "House: Three Stories," Fox.

Writing for a Comedy Series: "Arrested Development: The Righteous Brothers," Fox.

Writing for a Miniseries, Movie or Dramatic Special: "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," HBO.

Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Program: "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart," Comedy Central.




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