

Beyonce, Akala, Rae win MOBO Awards

LONDON (AP) - The MOBO, Music of Black Origin, awards have been criticized for favoring U.S. artists, which didn't stop American star Beyonce from winning three Wednesday — for best international female, best song and best video for "Deja Vu," featuring Jay-Z.

Other American winners were the Black Eyed Peas for best group, while the best international male award went to Jay-Z.

Meanwhile, Akala followed in the footsteps of his older sister, Ms. Dynamite. The 22-year-old London rapper (real name: Kingslee Daley) took the best hip-hop prize, his victory coming just four months after the release of his acclaimed rock-infused album "It's Not a Rumour."

"I didn't expect this," Akala said. "I know the album did really well, but I was the least known in my category."

Akala beat more established names such as Busta Rhymes and Kanye West at the ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

He said of his sister: "Every time she won an award, I felt like I'd won an award as well, and I think she feels the same for me. There's no rivalry or competition at all."

Ms. Dynamite won three MOBO awards in 2002.

Corinne Bailey Rae, 27, whose song



Corinne Bailey Rae arrives for the Music of Black Origin Awards at the Royal Albert Hall in west London last week.

"Put Your Records On" took home two prizes — for best U.K. female and best U.K. newcomer.

Outside the hall, jazz fans protested the removal of that music category from the awards.

Cosby: All should give \$8 to slavery museum

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Bill Cosby called Friday on each American to contribute \$8 to help build a national slavery museum amid the battlefields of the Civil War. Cosby, who already has committed \$1 million to the project, joined Richmond Mayor L. Douglas Wilder on last Friday in launching a new campaign to raise \$100 million toward the Fredericksburg museum's \$200 million price tag.

"The incentive is that they would join in with the rest of the United States of America in saying yes, as an American, I gave \$8 to help build something that tells the story," he said in a teleconference with Wilder.

In a nation of some 300 million people, even a tepid response would surpass the \$100 million goal, Cosby said.

He admitted this kind of campaign "generally fails badly." "But I'm going to try again because I'm going to present this national slavery museum as a jewel that's missing in a crown."

The campaign marks the latest attempt at fundraising for the U.S. National Slavery Museum, a project in the works for more than a decade.

Wilder struggled to find a location before settling on a site near the Rappahannock River, a region where many

Civil War battles were fought.

For Wilder, \$8 has symbolic significance in a campaign to create what is billed as the first national museum dedicated solely to telling the story of American slavery.

"The figure 8, in shape, is both of the shackles, which is the symbol of slavery," said Wilder, a former Virginia governor and the grandson of slaves. He thought up the museum concept during a visit to Goree Island, the infamous slave shipping post in West Africa.

"If you turn it on its side, it's the symbol of infinite freedom," he said. Wilder said the museum has about \$50 million on hand.

Giving

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Carson's advice for the Black Philanthropy Initiative was to remember that it's not all about money, it's about speaking truth to power and being a voice for the voiceless. The money will come when you're doing the right thing, he said.

His advice for the audience was to give what they can — whether it's time or money. He also advised them to make a will and pass their estates on to their children so that the African-American community can accumulate wealth over generations.

Richard Davis, the chair of the Initiative's Advisory Committee, said he was delighted to get Carson's insight. He echoed Carson's words that there are no limits on the amount or type of giving. Davis also said that by uniting with other community organizations and churches, the initiative's advocates can accomplish more. "We can be far more successful working together than each one of us pursuing our separate goals," Davis said.

The lecture was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Foundation's Black Philanthropy Initiative, which strives to increase Black philanthropy in Forsyth County. Carson told members of the initiative to be patient in their work because they're investing in the future.

"You are pioneers in what you're doing," he said. "You are building something that you will not see happen in fulfillment in your lifetime."

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Todd Luck writes for the Winston-Salem Chronicle.

Man charged, linked to death

DETROIT (AP) - The man authorities say killed the rapper Proof in lawful defense of another man during a nightclub shootout was convicted last Wednesday of two weapons charges related to the incident.

Following a three-day trial, a jury found Mario Etheridge, 28, guilty of carrying a concealed weapon and discharging a firearm inside a building.

The concealed weapon charge is punishable by up to five years in prison; the second charge carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison.

However, Etheridge could be sentenced to only probation because he has no criminal record, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth Walker told the *Detroit Free Press*.

Authorities say Etheridge shot and killed Proof, whose real name was Deshaun Holton, after Proof fatally shot Etheridge's cousin, Keith Bender. Etheridge's lawyer has said that Proof was set off by a dispute over a game of pool at the CCC, an after-hours nightclub on Detroit's Eight Mile Road.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has said Etheridge acted lawfully in defense of Bender when he

fired at Proof. But she said Etheridge shot twice at the ceiling in an effort to stop Proof before aiming the gun at him. Those shots were the basis for the charge of illegally firing a weapon.

"No one can calm a violent situation down by introducing a weapon," said Walker, who handled the case. "Today's verdict proves this."

A message seeking comment was left for Etheridge's attorney.

Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 17 before Wayne County Circuit Judge Vera Massey Jones.

Proof, 32, was a member of the rap group D12 and was a close friend of Grammy- and Oscar-winning rapper Eminem, who spoke at his funeral.

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