

Hudson nabs Golden Globe for acting

HOLLYWOOD - Former American Idol season three finalist Jennifer Hudson came up big at Monday night's Golden Globe Awards ceremony, winning the best supporting actress in a movie musical or comedy award for her "Dreamgirls" performance.

"Oh, my God, thank you so much," Hudson said as she accepted the award for her portrayal of powerhouse singer Effie White in director Bill Condon's critically acclaimed film adaptation of Broadway's "Dreamgirls" musical.

"Wow. I have always dreamed but never, ever this big... ever. This goes far beyond anything I could ever have imagined," Hudson said in her acceptance comments.

"You do not know how much this does for my confidence... because of this, it makes me feel like I'm part of a community, and it makes



Jennifer Hudson poses backstage with her Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting role for her work in "Dreamgirls." The musical also won for Best Picture in the comedy or musical category.

me feel like an actress. And you do not understand how much that feels good to say."

Hudson dedicated her award to Florence Ballard, the late Supremes singer upon which her fictional "Dreamgirls" character was loosely based.

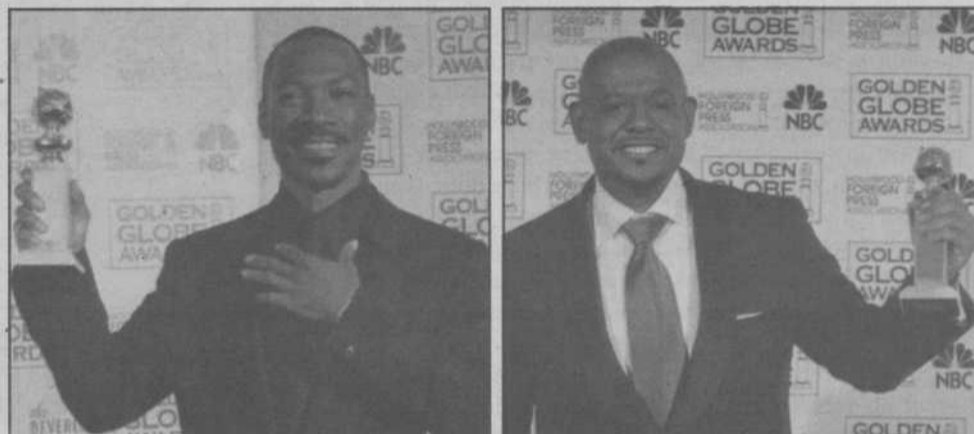
Hudson's riveting portrayal of Effie is her first acting role. The 25-year-old beat out fellow nominees Adriana Barraza ("Babel"), Cate Blanchett ("Notes on a Scandal"), Emily Blunt ("The Devil Wears Prada"),

and Rinko Kikuchi ("Babel") to win the award.

The win continues an impressive early awards season run for Hudson, who beat out more than 300 other women — including Fantasia Barrino, American Idol's third season winner — for the "Dreamgirls" role that represents her big-screen debut. In December, she co-won (along with Kikuchi) the National Board of Review's Best Female Breakthrough Performance award for her "Dreamgirls" role. Last Fri-

day, she won the Broadcast Film Critics Association's Critics' Choice Award for Best Supporting Actress.

The Golden Globe Awards, awarded based on the voting ballots of the nearly 90 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are widely seen as a forerunner to the Academy Awards. The nominees for the 79th Annual Academy Awards, scheduled to be awarded on Sunday, February 25, will be announced on Tuesday, January 23.



Veteran actor Eddie Murphy, left, and Forest Whitaker pose backstage with their Golden Globe Awards. Murphy won for Best Performance by an actor in a supporting role for his work in the hit musical film "Dreamgirls" and Whitaker won for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading role for his work in "The Last King of Scotland" during the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Monday.

Houston gear on auction

IRVINGTON, N.J. (AP) - Designer costumes worn by Whitney Houston hit the auction block Tuesday, along with some cast-offs typically seen on the curb after a yard sale: water-damaged vinyl records and a battered coffee maker.

Those items and 400 other lots were being sold because the Grammy-winning singer, 43, had fallen about \$175,000 behind on storage fees for several tons of concert gear, including speakers and amplifiers, used on her 1999 tour.

Figures on the proceeds may not be released due to the litigation that prompted the sale, said Steve Newmark, co-owner of A.J. Willner Auctions. Any money earned beyond what is owed for storage will go to Houston's company, Nippy Inc., said Jeffrey Campisi, a lawyer for Speed of Sound, which has been tending to the items.

The auction drew about 200 people to a dim, dusty and chilly warehouse about 15 miles west of New York.

Fair Lawn magician Meir Yedid made \$400 disappear as winning bidder for 16 music awards given to Bobby Brown, the singer Houston is divorcing after 14 stormy

years of marriage.

"I just collect ephemera," said Yedid, 46. Most of the early items, including keyboards and synthesizers, went for several hundred dollars apiece, with auctioneer Michael Sklar repeatedly imploring the crowd to stop talking so he could hear the bids. No such cautions were needed, however, when onlookers hushed as urgent bidding pushed the price of a Yamaha grand piano to \$12,000.

That was topped minutes later when a man carrying cash in a plastic bag had the winning bid of \$20,000 for a clear acrylic grand piano made by Schimmel.

The winner, clad in snakeskin boots, identified himself to reporters as "an anonymous buyer for resale." The man, who said he was an antiques dealer from Mississippi, said he got a good deal, asserting that a new model of the piano would fetch \$121,000.

As for the damaged vinyl records, they were in a lot that included a room fan, gardening gloves and a crumpled poster of some young baseball players and their coaches: the "Whitney Houston Little League Team, Newark, New Jersey."

Brown museum eyed in S.C.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - The children of late soul singer James Brown are planning to turn his home into a Graceland-like museum and build a mausoleum on the site for his body, an attorney for Brown said Friday.

The plans for the Beech Island site are being discussed by Brown's children, several close friends and the singer's trustees, said attorney Debra Opri, an attorney for Brown.

The group wants to con-

sult with Elvis Presley's family to see how they did Graceland, Opri said.

"Mr. Brown was a great fan and truly, truly cared about Elvis Presley," Opri said.

No attempt had been made to contact Presley's estate by late Friday, said Jack Soden, CEO of Elvis Presley Enterprises. But he said it's not unusual for family members of deceased entertainers to contact the Presley estate.

"We've been happy to

give the benefit of what we've learned to heirs," Soden said.

Soden said Graceland "is very profitable," generating "millions in revenue."

There are around 600,000 visitors each year, he said.

The Godfather of Soul died of heart failure Dec. 25 at age 73.

The entertainer's body lies in a sealed casket in his home on Beech Island until his children choose his final resting place.

James Ingram

R&B and Soul Artist

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