

Foxx, Blige capture awards

Star power shines through at annual awards show

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - Jamie Foxx and Mary J. Blige took best album honors Saturday at the 21st Anniversary Soul Train Music Awards.

Foxx won best male album for "Unpredictable" while Blige won best female album for "The Breakthrough."

John Legend won best male single for "Save Room," and Gnarls Barkley won for best single in the category for group, band or duo for "Crazy."

"I want to thank Soul Train for appreciating my music and Black music over the years," said Legend, who did not attend the show, via a television feed.

Jennifer Hudson, who last month won a best supporting actress Oscar for the movie musical "Dreamgirls," was given the Sammy Davis Jr. Award for Entertainer of the Year.

After receiving her award, Hudson reflected on her rapid rise to stardom after being an "American Idol" finalist a few years ago.

"I just can't believe I got the Sammy Davis Jr. award," said Hudson, who also performed during the show. "I'm standing on the same stage where I made the top 32 of 'American Idol.'"

Jay-Z won the Michael Jackson award for best soul or rap video for "Show Me What You Got." The Isley Brothers Featuring Ronald Isley won best album for a group, band or duo for "Baby



Academy-Award winner and singer Jennifer Hudson performs the song "One Night Only" at the 21st Annual Soul Train Music Awards on Saturday, in Pasadena, Calif.

Makin' Music."

Ne-Yo was awarded best new soul or rap artist for "Sexy Love." Best soul or rap dance cut went to Webstar & Young B Featuring The Voice of Harlem for "Chicken Noodle Soup."

Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds was presented the Stevie Wonder Award for Outstanding Career Achievement in Song Writing.

"When you think of songwriting and where it comes from, you go to your

space in your room and you write, and you try to write from the heart," Edmonds said.

Beyonce won best female single for "Irreplaceable" while best gospel album went to Kirk Franklin for "Sounds from the Storm, Volume 1."

R&B stars LeToya and Omarion were co-hosts of the show at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, which was scheduled to be televised in syndication between March 17-25.

The Soul Train Music Awards are sponsored by the syndicated music show "Soul Train" and celebrate artists in R&B, hip-hop and gospel music.

Winners are determined by a group of radio-station professionals, talent managers and performers.



Producer Don Cornelius stands on the red carpet as arrivals are underway at the taping of the 21st Annual Soul Train Music Awards.

Fats Domino

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Surrounded by blocks of abandoned homes — many untouched since Katrina — Domino's house was buzzing with workers. Outside, they scraped away rust from the black iron fence that surrounds the home and gave it a fresh coat of paint.

Inside, they tried to decide how to replace the air conditioning system and electrical circuits.

Sitting in what used to be his pink entertainment room on a bench from the front porch, Domino recalled memories of his life in the 9th Ward — cutting grass for the neighbors, cooking red beans and rice for family and friends.

"It don't take a lot to be happy," he said with a smile.

The foundation, which helped scores of musicians after the storm find housing and new instruments, will spend upward of \$100,000 restoring Domino's home.

The foundation is working with Elton John, Tom Petty, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson, B.B. King and others who will record a tribute album of Domino's songs to benefit the foundation. Roughly 25 percent of the proceeds will go toward Domino's home, Taylor said.

The back end of a pink 1959 Cadillac that for years sat in the living area of his home and served as a couch is being restored. Plans also call for bringing back many original details, including pink walls to match the car. A mirrored glass balcony and brass railing, which were not damaged during Katrina, also will be kept.

James Elder, the man in charge of construction, expects the home to be finished by summer. Elder said the house's studs still have to be rid of mold before workers can put in new insulation and drywall, all of which should be done in the next few weeks.

"He could have moved anywhere in his life and career, and this is where he chose to stay," Elder said.

"We're going to try to put it back to what it was, as close as possible."

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Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Marty Frierson

GETTING THEIR GROOVE ON

Smooth C Entertainment returns with the Tuesday Afterwork Mix & Mingle at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. The weekly gathering starts at 5 p.m. and goes to 8 p.m. with local entertainers performing. Everyone had a rompin', stompin' good time as The Julius Show was the featured artist this week.

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