

On June 27th, BET televised their award ceremony for 2010. Celebrating 10 years since the birth of **Black Entertainment Television** which was established in 2001. BET has been and continues to be, a prominent voice for African Americans and other minorities in music, acting, sports, and other fields of entertainment. And while over the years we've seen some impressive hosts adorn the stage such as the hilarious tag team of **Steve Harvey and Cedric 'The Entertainer'**, the unforgettable **Mo'Nique**, the dynamic duo, **Will & Jada Pinkett-Smith**, and even last year's 'You's a Bad Motha...., Shut Yo' Mouth, I'm just talking about' **Jamie Foxx** for what has become one of the most entertaining and highly anticipated events of broadcast history, this year's program was by far the best awards show to date, hosted by non other than the queen herself, **Queen Latifah**.



The massive creativity that was said to be 'challenging' by Queen, appeared to be effortlessly expressed. From the reunion of old characters; i.e the infamous 'Cleo' from *Set It Off*, to her opening Welcome Song that so eloquently told Trey Songz to 'take it off', to the brilliant line up of performers of yesterday and that of today's largest music artists, to the dazzling spotlight that shined ever so brightly on local community leaders to that of up and coming stars. Being that **Total Eclipse Magazine** is driven by the heartfelt desire to balance the spotlight between artists whom have made it with those who are trying to leave a mark, left me in awe as I watched feeling as though someone had torn a page out of our magazine and brought print to life. I gazed in amazement at the talent and recognition of those that may have never been noticed on such a plateau if it weren't for publications such as **T.E** or the inspiration given by Queen Latifah in showcasing them in front of an audience of millions, around the world! Though there's not enough ink created to fully recap all of the events of this extraordinary show, I would count it robbery if I didn't draw attention to some of the most memorable moments of the evening.

BET AWARDS 10

Recap

Tributes

Since we're on the subject of tributes, **Tyrese's** very capable performance paying homage to **Teddy Pendergrass** took you back to some of the very songs that your parents used while creating you. Obviously, I'm not the only one who thought that, considering there was a section of the audience strategically placed in front of the stage, with women waving panties in the air. I know what you're thinking, "Lord, please let those thongs had been fresh out of a packet and not unfreshly slid down from someone's leg!". How do I know you said that prayer, because I did too!

Trey Songz's performance of *Yo Side of the Bed/ Purple Rain* ushered us into an elevated state of mind for the tribute of a lifetime prepared for **Prince**, the (so appropriately named) Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Showing love to our heir of high heeled boots was a stellar set of ladies, starting with the insanely talented **Janelle Monae's** rendition of *Let's Go Crazy*, **Ezperanza** with *If I Was Your Girlfriend*, **Alicia Keys'** high stepping, piano climbing performance of *Adore* even had Prince (and many of us) wearing the same expression as to say, 'Now look here girl, you are definitely off the hook, representing mamas-to-be to the nth power, but could you please get down, before you hurt self'. But move over bacon, because now there's something meatier- the 'legendary, non-aging, need to bottle up and market her youth potion, still singing circles around women half her age', **Ms. Pattie LaBelle!** Pattie not only had you seeing colors of delight, but stars as this heavenly being sung *Purple Rain* with such passion and range that only the creation of she could be produce. Towards the end of the climaxed rendition, ol' Pattie kicked off her shoes and who leaped ever so smoothly for the personal memorandum? The man of the hour himself! Before presenting the the L.A.A, the 4 young ladies came together in closure of one unforgettable moment in time.

Bringing all hearts and minds to one accord were the uplifting voices of **Kim Burrell, Fred Hammond, Marvin Sapp, Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams and Karen Clark-Sheard** (not pictured) as they sang Haiti's *Theme Are You Listening*. Reminding us that Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will Haiti. Continuous efforts are still needed to support the Caribbean country that was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12th.



Performances

Kanye West kicked things off with his mountain top performance of *Power*. His latest single from the new album **"Good A--Job"** due to release in September 2010. The epic background visuals of a sky, the free falling 'snow' flakes and the mountain staged platform, catapulted everyone into a state of expectation for what was yet to come.



Throwback you say? Not hardly as far as **El DeBarge** is concerned. While there were some significant faces in the place such as Denise Williams and Chaka Khan, the rhythm of the night definitely belonged to the light skin crooner who took us down memory lane of some of our favorite songs. Even the off keyed, tone deaf 'couldn't hold a tune if someone held it for them' audience, jumped up and joined in when El sang I Like It and All This Love. Like many, once the star exited stage left, we all clapped and thought how good it was to see him again, but oh, oh, dude came back looking clean with it. I mean, 'so clean that I wish I could whistle' type of clean and hit us with *Second Chance*, the single from his new album- that's right, I said NEW album, set to be released in September. I don't know if he can top songs as timeless as 'I Like It', but I sure am gonna enjoy hearing him try. Welcome Back El!

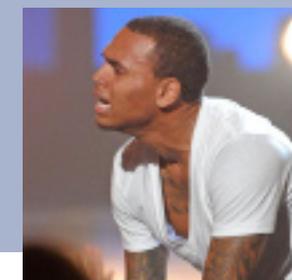


The sensual song *There Goes My Baby* caressed every woman's body with the seductive lyrics of 'oooh girl, look at you' had everyone looking at him, **Usher** that is. With his smooth, smoke filled performance. Nothing, but poetry in motion as he moved his mic stand around using only the tip of his shoe as if it were the perfect dance companion. A performance that had every woman wondering if the brother was still single and Chilli and Tameka (What Chilli Wants) probably thinking how they could change that.

With so many wonderful performances it's hard to make this next claim, HOWEVER, (next to Patti, which we'll get into next..lol) the best performance of the night was that of **CHRIS BROWN!!!!!!** OMGsh! The suspense of the 'chosen one' that would represent in tribute to our severely missed, Michael Jackson, started out as being the silhouette of one who's moves were so precisely executed, that for at least one minute, your heart and mind dared to think that God himself sent his angel MJ back for just one more night. As the curtain fell, 'this guy', 'this genius', continued with every dance movement that we've seen and cherished over years past. And then it happened.....The moment that the hat came off and we saw that the masterful MJ 'look-a-like' was our man-100 Grand, Chris Brown!!! The crowd went stupid with cheers and I can't front, so did I. We watched astonished as this young performer who's only mistake in life was simply being human, which in itself, is no mistake at all, took the stage by storm, commanded your attention and had you rooting for him and screaming his praises and declaring your love for him at the top of your lungs. As if the mere fact of him doing a bomb tribute to the man upstairs (no, not the Lord, but Mike) weren't enough, he then ended it with an emotional attempt in singing 'Man in the Mirror'. I don't know if there was a dry eye in the building, but certainly not one at my house. Yes folks, I am, have always been, never stopped and won't stop being a lover of Chris Brown. Hello, My Name is Sky and I'm a CBF. Chris Brown Fan.



Yeah you know that **T.I** ripped the stage with his performance of *Yeah, Ya Know* from the forthcoming album, **"King Uncaged"** due to hit the street August 17th, 2010. This hard hitting non stop floetic masterpiece had everyone up on their feet and hands in the air while he proved once again why he's the king of the dirty south. T.I, yeah, you know, you know, you know, we ride and we roll with you forever!



Don't call it a comeback, but more of a celebrated reunion of **Eminem** and his beloved audience as he set the stage a blaze alongside **Keyshia Cole** and **B.o.B** with the collaborated combo *Airplanes Part 2/Not Afraid*.

Awards & Recognition

Though it would have been impossible for BET to televise all of the night's winners, here is a complete list of the ones you saw and others you missed.

Best Female R&B Artist: Alicia Keys

Video of the Year: Beyoncé featuring Lady Gaga - Video Phone

Subway Sportsman of the Year: LeBron James

Best Male R&B Artist: Trey Songz

Best Actress: Mo'Nique

Viewers Choice Nominees: Rihanna featuring Young Jeezy - Hard

Best Gospel: Marvin Sapp

Best Actor: Idris Elba

Centric Award: Monica

Best Female Hip Hop Artist: Nicki Minaj

YoungStars Award: Keke Palmer

Best International Act: Dizzee Rascal (UK)

Best Male Hip Hop Artist: Drake

Best Movie: Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire

Humanitarian Award: John Legend

Best Group: Young Money

Subway Sportswoman of the Year: Serena Williams

Lifetime Achievement Award: Prince

Best New Artist: Nicki Minaj

Best Collaboration: Jay-Z & Alicia Keys - Empire State of Mind

The explosive performance *O Let's Do It (remix)/Hello Good Morning* featuring the magnetic moguls **Diddy-Dirty Money**, **T.I**, **Nicki Minaj** and **Ricky Rosay** (also known as Rick Ross) was bigger and better than the past 3 Superbowl Half-Time shows combined. As if you weren't already bed, couch or chair dancing, Diddy then told the world watchers at home to turn off their lights and enjoy what was this amazing performance that had you looking at your calendar just to make sure you hadn't stepped into a time machine that thrust you a week into the future landing on July 4th.



If there were any questions in regards to **Nicki Minaj's** abilities, the winner of the Best Female Hip Hop Artist and Best New Artist quickly dispelled them. We couldn't get enough of her including on stage, where once again, she lit it up, only this time with **Ludacris**, **Ricky Rosay**, **Diddy**, **T-Pain**, and even **Busta** came out with the huge production which included the incredible skills of **Tommy Lee** on drums, female violinists and a drum line entourage that would have Nick Cannon applauding.



Glass of Lemonade

Lorenz Tate and Nia Long's skit at the BET Awards took me back to the poem 'A Blue's For Nina', 'say baby, can I be your slave....' and while sippin' on some lemonade, I began reminiscing about back in the day when it was all good, well mostly good anyway. It's was about 106 degrees in the shade that day and I was just chillin', sipping on my glass of lemonade whatever...ooh so sweet, looking to quench my thirst, yet I'm wasn't satisfied. For those memories kept coming back to mind, of how cross colors was crossing over, trading out hoopdies and Chevy Novas for more upscale vehicles, hitting those switches, and all the chicks thought they was Apache' gangster misses, wearing those baggy jeans and big t shirts, yet not afraid to flirt. See, we left it up to The Brothers imaginations and with patience, if dude finally got some skins, he ran to tell all his friends, cus that was his first little piece of something, and all that time he was talking, that dude was frontin'. Thanks to some TLC, condoms were a commodity, not just wore on our clothes, and women were finally finding our voices, figuring out that we had choices, black people united to fight the powers that be and we were all on one accord with UNITY for Public Enemy. The 90's brought mad love, some tears and no fears, and we felt educated throughout, musically challenged in competition, yet wishing we could be on top of the world, dancing like P Diddy...Oops my bad, it was Puff Daddy at that time; and that's fine.... The West did it best, cus if somebody wanted to set trip, somebody would Set It Off in this piece and make a dollar out of fifteen cent over in New Jack City with the Boyz N' the Hood. Not really trying to be a Menace to Society, but figuring, they didn't eat if their ends couldn't meet. I'm not condoning this moment, It was just that I was being chased by cats that claimed they had a Love Jones in their bones for me and I was their Sugar, Hill didn't realize it then; but I was a dime piece in the making. He still looking back, but now I'm taken.... All this came from a glass of lemonade as I was reminiscing about back in the day when it was all good, well mostly good anyway....

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Lastly...

Before wrapping up the coverage of the BET 2010 Awards, we must give attention to the wonderful local heroes that are doing big things in their area and who were highlighted within the show.

Earl Martin Phalen: CEO

Organization: Reach Out & Read (ROR)

A non-profit organization, that promotes literacy and aids in the reading skills of children beginning as early as 6 months of age. Because of this unique program, 3.9 million families are served annually, allowing children to enter into kindergarten better prepared. Contact Info: Ph: 617-455-0600 Web: <http://www.reachoutandread.org/>

Coradina Barber

A teacher of 28 years and one whose bravery took on the mighty leaders of Sunflower Country School District where she has served faithfully for 25 years. After numerous events that severed as the continuous decline of a school district and the last straw being that of the murder of a student whose concerns of walking home due to threats of a boyfriend, were ignored by the principle, Ms. Barber had enough. Because of her aggressive strives, including a demonstrated rally to bring forth change, major attention was brought to the Sunflower School District. Resulting in not only the dismissal of the superintendent, but several teachers. A school that was once corrupted now thrives in a safe environment with new teachers and new procedures that are scheduled to begin next year.

Geoffrey Canada: President & CEO

Organization: Harlem Children's Zone

"Called "one of the most ambitious social-service experiments of our time," by The New York Times, the Harlem Children's Zone Project is a unique, holistic approach to rebuilding a community so that its children can stay on track through college and go on to the job market." With it's diverse set of programs ranging from early childhood to high school, HCZ is making amazing strides with its nearly 100 blocks of Central Harlem program aka "Promise Neighborhoods". His motto, "For children to do well, their families have to do well. And for families to do well, their community must do well. That is why HCZ works to strengthen families as well as empowering them to have a positive impact on their children's development."

Contact Info: Ph: 212-360-3255 Web: <http://www.hcz.org/index.php>

While word on the street is that Ms. Debra Lee (President and CEO of BET) is said to have her eye on Ms.

LisaRaye McCoy to host the 2011 awards show, you know TE will be following this info and will be the first to let you know if there's any truth to this claim. Till then, stay black, stay strong and we'll do it all again, next year.



Next, over in Dallas they opened up camp for some, as Superbowl favorites. They brought in a Rookie WR Dez Bryant in the off-season and he was given Hall of Famer Michael Irvin's number, 88. Now apparently its tradition or customary for rookies to do certain things like carry another players pads, pay for meals, sing songs etc. But Dez being the trendsetter that he has already been coined to be, refused to carry cowboys WR Roy Williams's pads. Well I'm sorry; I have to agree with Dez on this one. Roy Williams wasn't even the top WR on the team last year. Williams caught 38 passes for 596 yards last year. What does he need his pads carried for? Guess he can't hold onto them just like he can't hold onto Romo's passes!! I know that was a low blow, but if you're going to ask a rookie to carry some pads at least let it be Romo's or the leading receiver on the team.

During the last week of July NFL Training Camps opened around the league for all teams. This meant for football fans, we could finally breathe a sigh of relief. But, there are a few things that have already hopped off on the wrong foot. Let's start with our nation's capitol with the Washington Redskins. For those of you who may not know let me give you a brief synopsis. The Skins bring in pro bowl QB Donovan McNabb in a trade early in the off-season from the Eagles. With him also comes 2-time Super Bowl winning coach, Mike Shanahan. Sounds good so far right? Well peep this out, DT Albert Haynesworth was a no show for all of the off-season OTA'S (organized

team activities) and though these are voluntary workouts, when you're getting broke off 100 million you may want to show face. Well because he didn't; now he isn't looking too favorably by the coaching staff and some of his teammates. Now that training camp has started he did put his face in that place, but he's the only one that's required to pass a physical endurance test that no one else has to do. Now I understand as the coach you want to set an example about who's in charge, but it seems he's being punished now for something that's voluntary! Hmm, just something to keep an eye on over the next few weeks.



My last thought comes out of Vikings camp where of course Brett Favre hasn't shown up for training camp but what else is new. Everyone is under the presumption he will return for yet another season and considering the way he played last year I welcome him back with open arms. For the last 3-4 season's people have criticized him for "waffling" on his decision to return. Let me just say this as I depart...of the few people in this world that's actually doing what they love, would do it for free even if everyone else got paid and if that person were you and someone tried to take (that) away or said "It's your time to move on to another chapter in your life", how would you feel? Can we at least give him the space to make that decision whether it takes a few months or a few years? I think he's earned the right to take his time.

• Milton Durham