

TTI Update

California Tap Dancer Wins International Crown

The Youth Development Foundation, Inc. (YDF) conducted its 30th annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (HJTTI) Scholarship Competition week of activities July 23 - 30, 2000 in New York City with the final competition held at Aaron Davis Hall on the campus of the City College of New York. The 2000 HJTTI winner is Nicole Nicholas a 15-year-old tap dancer from Los Angeles, California. There were 32 young ladies from around the world who flew in and competed for the international crown as well as scholarship opportunities. The contestants came from the Caribbean, West Africa, Asia, and Canada as well as across the United States.

The young ladies and the HJTTI Directors were taken on a tour of New York, which included a visit to radio stations WBLS & WLIB where legendary Hal Jackson broadcasts his highly popular radio program the Sunday Classics. They took a virtual spaceship ride around New York on the Skyride in the Empire State Building. Enjoyed lunch as King Kong looked on, and had the opportunity to look at New York City from 107 stories above the ground. There was a fashion show and luncheon in their honor at Puff Daddy's Restaurant, Justin's. Everyone had dinner at Londel's in Harlem where they were serenaded by Jesse Jackson's daughter, Sentita Jackson and they all were judges during the world famous Amateur Night at the Apollo. Meanwhile there were plenty of seminars,

lectures and rehearsals as the young hopefuls got ready to compete for the contest.

The HJTTI week of activities continued with the Shooting Stars Awards Ceremony, a Black Tie Dinner Dance fundraiser, where Kool and the Gang performed. During that night's festivities an announcement was made that all college scholarships issued in the future would be in the name of the late Michelle Thomas. Michelle Thomas was the 1984 International Winner



Nicole Nicholas and Hal Jackson

who has gone on and joined the angels in 1999 and is the daughter of Dennis Thomas of Kool & The Gang. Beautiful Tiffany Shooting Star Awards were given to Bill Jones, HJTTI contest photographer extraordinaire for over 20 years, and corporate executive A. D. Washington, a long time supporter of the Youth

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Hal Jackson's
TALENTED TEENS INTERNATIONAL
 Top 10 Winners at 30th Annual Contest

California
 Nicole Nicholas, 15

Connecticut
 Kersten Stevens, 16

Maryland
 Shantrice Ridgeway, 16

Minnesota
 Ava Johnson, 15

Missouri
 Meleighsia Page, 16

Nevada
 Amanda Williams, 17

New Jersey
 Ayesha Faines, 14

New York
 Synchrona Elkerson, 14

Trinidad & Tobago
 Patrice Inglesbirth, 15

U. S. Virgin Islands
 Cubie-Ayah George, 16



Winter 2000



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of Future Stars*

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Please submit articles and photographs to HJTII addresses printed above.

The 2000 Winners of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition

The 2000 winner of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition (HJTII) is 15-year-old **Nicole Nicholas** a straight "A", energetic tap dancer from Los Angeles, California who danced to "This Could Be the Start of Something Big". Math and Science are her favorite subjects because she loves analyzing and seeing the steps required in reaching certain solutions. She would like to attend a college that offers Aerospace Engineering because she would like to become an Astronautical Engineer for NASA. Nicole entered this contest because she wanted the opportunity to be around girls similar to herself. She has learned from her peers and even more from those who live thousands of miles away. Miss California has won a \$5,000 scholarship.



The first runner up is **Kersten Stevens** a 16-year-old violinist from Stratford, Connecticut. Kersten's favorite subjects in school are World and U. S. History because through these subjects she has learned about different cultures of the world and the background of her African American heritage. She would like to attend Berkley College of Music, Boston University, Boston College or Brown University and do a double major in law and music. This will enable her to become an entertainment lawyer as well as a performing violinist. She entered this contest out of curiosity. She has learned that to reach her dreams she needs only to have the desire of her heart and the win in her mind. Miss Connecticut has won a \$2,000 scholarship.

Miss **Patrice Inglesbirth**, a 16-year old gospel singer is the second runner up of the contest. Patrice comes to us from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad in the West Indies and loves art because it is a way she can express herself through coloring schemes and pastels. Patrice would like to attend Julliard School of Performing Arts in order to continue studying the arts and afford her the opportunity of becoming a successful performing artist. She entered Talented Teens for the fun and exposure she would receive. Patrice says the experience has been wonderful and she's learned that she is not the only talented person who loves to do what they do best. Miss Trinidad & Tobago has won a \$1,500 scholarship.

The third runner up is **Cubie-Ayah George** a 16-year-old gymnastic dancer from St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands whose favorite subject is Science because it's what she likes to study. She will attend Julliard where she will receive a degree in Fine Arts, which will assist, in her goal of becoming a choreographer for Broadway productions and movie musicals. Cubie entered this competition because she felt that she would be a good role model for teens everywhere. She has learned to be steadfast in pursuing her goals and how to manage time. Miss USVI will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

And last but certainly not least is **Ayesha Faines** a 14-year-old ballet dancer from South Orange, New Jersey whose favorite subject is Language Arts because two of her favorite hobbies are reading and writing. She is currently in training to be a professional ballerina and would like to continue her education at New York University in the TISCH performing arts program and also major in the field of Journalism. Her ultimate goal is to become CEO of an African American Arts magazine. Ayesha has dreamed of becoming a Talented Teen since the age of 7 and wants to showcase her talents, which may open many doors for her. Miss New Jersey will receive a \$500 scholarship to the college of her choice. :)



Nicole shows us the Tower Bridge which everyone thinks is London Bridge

My Trip to London and Paris

by Nicole Nicholas, Miss HJTTI 2000

Not long after I won the title of Miss Hal Jackson's Talented Teen 2000, I was preparing to leave Los Angeles again but this time for London and Paris. Many people told me what to wear, what to pack, what to expect, what to be sure and see, where to be sure and go, and the like. I was just excited about having a great time in two cities that I often heard were the most memorable on earth. After kissing my Mom, Dad and sister good-bye, I was anxious and off on a 10 ½ hour plane ride to London.

We left LA on a Wednesday evening arriving in London on Thursday afternoon (there was a nine hour time difference) and Divita and I checked into the beautiful Kensington Palace Hotel. After dinner we saw the stage production *Chicago* at the Adelphi Theatre. I loved the way the songs were choreographed in *Chicago*. The next day we viewed Windsor Castle, and I was completely shocked when a guard asked me to take off my sash and crown because he said it was a form of advertisement. We also saw the Changing of the Guards ceremony at Windsor Castle. This was very fascinating to me because I saw a ceremony that is a part of England's history and culture. We don't really have an equivalent here in the US. That afternoon we went to Piccadilly Circle, which was filled with people, shops, and street performers. I even received a lollipop from a "human mannequin" who was silver from head to toe and communi-

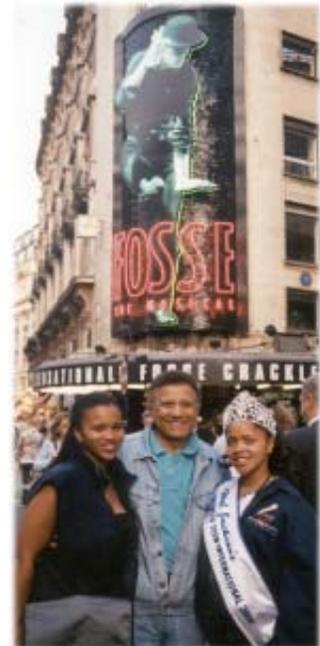
cated with a whistle in his mouth. Later that night we saw the production "*Fosse*" at the Prince of Wales Theater where the dancing was absolutely fabulous.

The next day we saw the Tower of London, the London Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, and a big red telephone booth that is unique to London. WHEW! We attempted to see Buckingham Palace but a sudden downpour of rain prevented it. Instead we sat and ate lunch in Movenpick for hours, this restaurant was like a heaven for vegetarians. I was truly disappointed I missed seeing the Palace, but these feelings quickly disappeared when we went to see "*The Lion King*" that night. I jumped to my feet as soon as the production was over. It was absolutely marvelous. I had hoped to see "*The Lion King*" while in New York, but that night in London, I realized why it received such rave reviews.

The next day we went to CARNI-

VAL. There were people, loud music, people, and different types of food, people in elaborate costumes, people, parades, and more people. It was estimated that there would be 2 million people there, and it was basically one big party. Countries from all over the world were represented and people danced and enjoyed the music all day long. It was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. It was great, and I bought the tallest hat I could find to always remind me of the fun we had! That night we ate dinner in an Indian Restaurant and Mr. Jackson and I proved that we were pros when it came to hot food. The next day we woke up at 5:15 and were ready to depart for Paris.

We rode an early ferry across the English Channel, and I was awed at the view of the cliffs that were literally all white. I later found out that they were the



White Cliffs of Dover. We checked into the Mercure Hotel - complete with a view of the Eiffel Tower from our window. (Well, actually it was the Jackson's window but the view was still spectacular.) That night everything was completely French. We had dinner at Le Bistrot de Jearrette complete with candles, an accordion player, singing, me dancing the cancan, French bread,

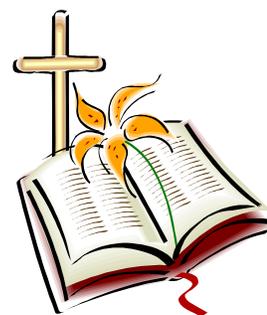
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We Will Always Remember...



Wilda LaBrie

Ms. Wilda LaBrie was affectionately known as "Mother LaBrie" and served as the Director of Sponsor and Contestant Relations since the inception of the Miss Black Teenage America contest which went on to become Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International. She would derive great joy in working with people. In her capacity as Director of Sponsor and Contestant Relations, she administered tender loving care in great doses to homesick contestants, applied healing hands to pulled muscles and assisted the HJTT Directors with solving problems that arose while attending the international finals as well as during the year. The Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition was indeed honored to have the unselfish contributions of Mother LaBrie. She will be greatly missed by us as well as her family. Ms. Wilda LaBrie passed away in November 2000.



Ms. Anne Elizabeth Scarbrough, 53, served on the board of Virginia HJTTI and as chaperon for the Virginia contestant for the five years after her mother Annabell Scarbrough passed away. Ann graduated from Xavier University in 1969 with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration. She worked with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. then moved to NYC and last worked at Bloomingdale's department store for 27 years. Ann's laugh and cheery disposition was always felt in our circle. Anne Scarbrough passed away in December 2000.



Anne Scarbrough



Lecia Swain Ross

Ms. Lecia Danee' Swain-Ross, 39, along with her mother Alice Swain have been sponsors of the Oklahoma HJTTI contest for many years. Lecia was extremely active in her community. She was the publisher and owner of the "Ebony Tribune" a weekly newspaper in Oklahoma City, and on the board of the National Newspapers Publishers Association a member of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority where she was a life member and served as regional director for the south-west region. She will be sorely missed by the Talented Teen Family. We lost Lecia in February 2001.

Washington State TTI Update

by *Eu-wanda Jenkins*



The State of Washington has had several of our Queens who are doing GREAT THINGS! We are proud of all of our girls who have been involved with the pageant. We would like to share some of our girls' accomplishments with you.

1980 - Miss Kimberly Bailey

An accomplished Actress, Playwright and Director, Miss Bailey has been involved in various aspects of Hollywood. Her activities in the Theater garnered her three NAACP Theater Award nominations. She has appeared on numerous films and television shows including *Martin*, *Living Single*, *Quantum Leap* and *Beverly Hills 90210*. She has also been involved through voiceovers in many films and television shows including *Jackie Brown*, *Soul Food*, *X-Files* and *Babe*.

1985 - Miss Eu-wanda Jenkins

Having matriculated through a rigorous dual degree Engineering Program, Miss Jenkins received a Bachelors of Science in Math from Spelman College, and a Bachelors of Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. She currently works as an Engineer for one of the largest companies in the world: General Motors. This fall, Miss Jenkins will be attending Columbia University in New York to earn her MBA through a fellowship award from General Motors.

1986 - Reverend Cecilia Johnson

Earning a Bachelors of Art in Music from Spelman College, Miss Johnson continued her studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She received her Masters of Divinity, and is now the Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Seattle, Washington.

1989 - Mrs. Leslie Smith-Driver

Leslie earned a Bachelors of Science in the Natural Sciences and a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering through a demanding dual degree program with Spellman College and Georgia Institute of Technology. She is currently an Engineer for the prestigious Ford Motor Company.

1992 - Mrs. Ujima Donalson

Mrs. Donalson graduated from Seattle University with a degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication. She currently works at the Bank of America as a Recruiting Specialist. Ujima and her husband minister through their gift of song. They perform together as a duet. They also volunteer many hours with the Washington Talented Teens Competition.



Let us know what is happening in your location and we will be happy to include it in TTI Update

Miss Michigan Talented Teen 2000



*Dana Noble & Kimberly Johnson HJTTI
Director for Michigan*

**Miss Congeniality – Michigan Finals
Miss Personality – International**

My name is Dana Denise Noble, a 15 year-old modern dancer from Romulus High School where I am in the 11th grade. I am actively involved in French, drama, band, dance, track and cheerleading. I'm also an Honor's Student.

This past summer, I represented Michigan in the 30th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition. The experience was absolutely breathtaking. Every moment of the week was exciting, but the best part was meeting all of the contestants from all over the world. I had fun getting to know all of them! We spent a lot of time in rehearsals preparing for competition night. We also found time to tour the Empire State Building, make a special guest appearance on WBSL 107.5 FM in New York, and enjoy a fashion show and luncheon at "Justin's" owned by Sean "Puffy" Combs, and see "Saturday Night Fever" on Broadway! Being a dancer, I especially enjoyed that! The best part was Amateur Night at the Apollo Theatre where I just couldn't sit still! After spending so much time with the other contestants, they voted me Miss Personality! I was just acting and enjoying myself.

The Talented Teen experience was so fun and truly a trip I will never forget. I had the time of my life. :)

The British Virgin Islands

by Nikiya Mathis, Miss HJTTI 1998



Nikiya with her mother, Lydia Mathis along with Neil Blyden, former Chairman of the BVI Tourist Board

Last stop on my talented teens journey—*Treasure Isle*. We made our way to the lobby of the BVI airport and a driver awaited our arrival. He drove what appeared to be a nice looking van, but when we stepped in, it was luxury. We were actually being chauffeured in a limousine! I let the soft leather seat recline as I laid back and pretended that I was actually a star. It was nice that they thought so highly of me. I looked out as we passed cows and horses, we drove up and down narrow roads, past multi-colored homes and we finally approached the Treasure Island Hotel. It sat, buried behind tropical trees and fantastic flowers, above a semi-busy street. Our car traveled a path, that seemed to be dug out from the greenery, between the trees, up the small hill, and around a curve, until it found an opening on *Treasure Isle*.

This was a place where even the caged bird could fly free. Indeed I had been liberated by pure white clouds that seemed to hover only a few feet above. The noonday sky sat as a weightless crown of blue crystal above my head. When night fell, the midnight sky lay across the island and around my body

with the intensity of a deep-blue velvet gown, embellished with stars of diamond.



The first night, I sat pool-side with my feet dangling in the water. My imagination traveled back to my reign as *Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International*. The year had ended all too soon, but at last I was getting a second chance

at a once in a lifetime dream — I was queen again, if only for a night... or three. But why did I leave my crown and banner at home?!!!

We had dinner at the hotel's restaurant. It's a small island after all! Little did we know that our waitress would be the mother of Ms. BVI 1997! We talked to her the whole time and she assured us that she would have her daughter to call us the next day.

The next morning, I stood on the balcony breathing in as much of the Caribbean as I could. I watched cars hurry off to the various destinations as girls and boys in their school uniforms, chit chatted along the way. I stood enraptured by the heat of the pure sun, the caress of a gentle morning breeze, and the sound of tropical island birds humming melodic love songs into my ear.

A little while later the phone rang. Sure enough it was Kishma Small



would be there. It made me feel special. I would come to find out that there were many advertisements of the competition that I was listed in and many people actually wanted to know who I was. *This international thing comes with a lot of perks!*

Kishma came to pick us up at 1:00. She took us to the village marina. I enjoyed an island favorite—Chicken Roti—chopped chicken in a dough-like shell, with a sweet pineapple sauce on the side. It was delicious. As we looked out into the water, we exchanged “talented teen” experiences.

Later that day, I met the other BVI queens and contestants, as we prepared to take part in a motorcade. I had never heard of it before, but I can only describe it as a small-scale parade. There was a line of cars. Asha Flax, Ms. BVI 99, and I sat in the first convertible, while the contestants and other queens rode in the cars that followed. As we rode along the streets of Tortola, all of the cars in the line proceeded to beep their horns to make sure that we would have everyone’s attention. Cars that passed us by even began to beep at us, while pedestrians waived back at us, facetiously. I blew kisses to small island boys and girls and I thought, just maybe, I had made a difference in their day or even their lives, as they waved back at me in excitement. Did they really see me as a royalty or were their vast minds imagining a world that they hoped to reach?

The next day Asha, my mother and I had a radio interview at Z103. The DJ asked us questions concerning the competition and she allowed us to intro-



duce some of the songs on the list. She also gave away free tickets to callers who could answer questions like, “where was the international competition held in 1999?” and “what are the names of the BVI queens from 1991 to 1999?” After a while someone actually called in and listed the names of the queens in order; however, after the interview, we found out that someone had been calling up the queens and asking them what year they had won the competition...no wonder.

The competition was held later that night and I was proud to be the first international queen to ever grace the stage of a BVI Talented Teens Competition. Asha led the contestants in a beautiful production number and as the night went on the contestants gave each other a run for their money. Each of the girls had lovely spirits, but only one would be Ms. BVI 2000, and she was Zena Newberry.

Before the trip had ended, I finally got to take a picture of the *Bomba Shack*. A man named Bomba had built a wooden *treasure* made of other people’s

junk. It was a sight to see, there was writing all over the walls, a speed limit sign hung inside, a toy car big enough to fit a small child into decorated the outside, (among other things), but the oddest things of all were the under clothes that were hanging

from the ceiling of the shack. When Bomba holds his Full Moon parties, he makes some type of mushroom tea and it is said to make people “go wild.” This was a treasure that you could only find in the BVI.

My last stop on this journey was the beach! I actually allowed myself to float after the 1999 international contestants tried to teach me. I had a won-



derful year and a wonderful second chance. But now it’s time to bury my treasure in the secret parts of my heart...until we meet again, on *Treasure Isle*. :)



My Trip as Chaperone

by Divita Wright, Miss California 1993

Immediately following my return from New York I was to begin my first day at work. I walked in and immediately went to my boss to ask for time off. Always a great way to start a new job, a request for vacation. I showed him the pictures of the trip and the next thing I knew I was preparing not just for the usual trip to talented teens that I make every summer. But I was preparing to leave the country as Nicole's Chaperone, with no parents.



Our journey began on Wednesday at 6pm, but not really, we sat on the runway for almost an hour before actually leaving. The one thought I could not steer away from was the 10 1/2 hour flight ahead of us. At this point the excitement of going someplace I had never been before had finally taken over us both. Getting Nicole on the plane was probably the hardest part (seeing how she was leaving the family and the country with just little ole me). At any rate when we landed in the airport in London the first thing Nicole looked for was a welcome sign (sadly to say she never found it). After finally making it to the hotel, mission number one was to get checked in, and then find Debi and Hal. We got to our room, it felt like a marathon walk, our room was on the third floor but it was really more like the second and a half floor. You had to take the "lift" up to the 3rd floor then you went down a flight of stairs and there was our room, all by itself, with no neighbors. When we

finally found the Jackson's the feeling of being tired shortly disappeared as the first thing on the agenda was dinner and the theatre to see *Chicago*. During intermission Debi introduced Nicole and I to London ice cream... now that was good ice cream. Nicole even had to take a double take, especially since she only likes strawberry ice cream here in the states. When the evening was over Nic and I went back to the room and commenced to taking pictures of the room, the bathroom really threw us both for a loop, it was like a climb into the tub, and the toilet was rather high as well, and being that there is a nine hour difference going to sleep was not in the near future.

The next day was the first of many tours, we went to see Windsor Castle, where we had the opportunity to see the changing of the guard ceremony. That afternoon we went over to Picadilly Circle where we got our tickets for *Fosse* and *The Lion King*... that was a major highlight because none of us expected to

get the tickets for *Lion King*. The evening was spent enjoying the dancing of *Fosse*, and of course ice cream at intermission. Saturday was yet another day full of sight seeing, we went to the Tower of London where we saw the Crown Jewels & Swords, Big Ben and St. Paul's Cathedral. Mother nature decided this was the day to introduce herself to us London style, and it rained. When we got off the "coach" (also known as the bus) to go to Buckingham Palace it was an open down-pour on our heads, so we shifted gears and went to lunch instead. We ate at this place called Movenpick, where Nic was in seventh heaven at their salad and vegetable bar. And yes, for dessert we had ice cream. The night ended with the *Lion King*... needless to say a dream come true.

Sunday we went to Carnival, where there were a lot of people to say the least. I had a meat patty for the first time (it was kinda spicy) and Nic had grilled corn, and sugar cane for the first time (I think she really liked it too), she gave it a



To London and Paris

thumbs up. On our way out Nic purchased an infamous Carnival hat, which she never wanted to take off afterwards. That night we went to Memories of India, where it was probably one of the best meals we had in London. Nicole and Hal dived straight into the hot stuff, Deb and I played it safe with the mild and sweet stuff. And guess what we had for dessert...yep ice cream.

The next morning it was off to Paris, with a wake up call for 5:15am, all of us were rather tired that morning to say the least. We took the ferry over to Paris across the English Channel, where we saw the White Cliffs of Dover. When we got off the Ferry Deb and Hal showed me a news paper which had the top five in it from the pageant, I thought it was rather funny to be in a completely different country and find Talented Teens in the paper. I noticed right away that the people in Paris drive on the same side of the street as we do in the US. London was the complete opposite including the steering wheel.

We checked into our hotel and then went to dinner where Nicole took part in dancing the can-can with the guy playing the accordion. We checked into the hotel and the first thing I noticed was the bathroom. It was nothing like here in the US. The toilet is in its own space, with its own door, and the tub with shower and sink are next to it with its own door... two completely different entities. That was very different then what I was use to at home. Our hotel was right next to the Eiffel Tower, and from the Jackson's room you could see an incredible view of it all lit up. I loved the night lights of Paris, it was like another city once the sun went down, especially the big wheel, which is only in Paris for the year 2000.

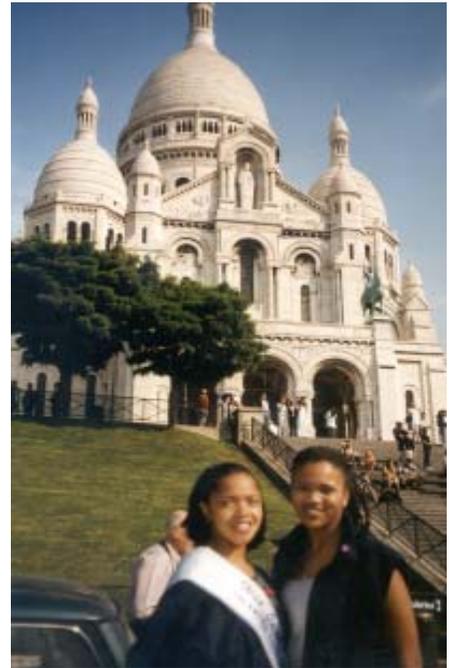
Our second day we saw Notre Dame Cathedral and the Palace of Versailles. At the Palace of Versailles Nic had the chance to carry a conversation in Spanish with a couple of ladies who wanted to know about the crown and sash. Deb and I were tickled by the exciting time Nicole and these ladies were having in Spanish.



That afternoon we took a boat ride and saw the sights of Paris, and what threw me for yet another loop was seeing the Statue of Liberty in Paris (of course a smaller version). After, we went to the Eiffel Tower, where we went up and could see all of Paris. The view was absolutely phenomenal.

The next day we went to Fragonard Parfumeur, where we spent the morning smelling about 15 different perfumes. After number ten my nose was ready to fall off, my favorite was the smell you got from putting all of them together. All three of us, Nic, Deb and I walked out the parfumeur with Cologne for someone back at home. After, we went to a little street area where there were nothing but artists painting, sketching, drawing and of course selling their artwork. It reminded me a lot of a street fair, except these people are there all the time. We decided to have lunch in the same little area, where I had the challenge of asking for a side of pasta sauce. That was a special sight, it became a conversation of gestures and pointing, Deb and Nic thought it was rather hilarious. In Paris I learned very quickly to ask for water "without gas," and french fries became the best thing on the menu. And finally but definitely not least the next day we went to the Louvre museum, where the infamous Mona Lisa resides, yes her eyeballs really do follow you around the room. The evening ended with a dinner and show Parisian style.

When the time had come for the week to end, and the farewells at the airport to begin, the only thing running through my mind was the feeling of family we had developed while out there. The trip which had been so anticipated had ended, and none of it would have been possible without Hal and Debi Jackson. My trip to London and Paris, as Nicole's chaperone was an absolute blast and honor. Summing up the week out of the country with Hal, Debi and Nicole could not be done very easily. The times spent hanging out in the hotel room passed out in the living room while Hal read the paper, or walking down to Starbucks and introducing Hal and Debi to Frappuccino, and of course we can not forget the spare time Nic, Deb and I spent increasing our brain cells by testing out our coordination (what a sight). Each and every



moment from departure to arrival will be cherished forever, and can never be duplicated. Thanx guys, this truly was a once in lifetime experience I will never forget :)

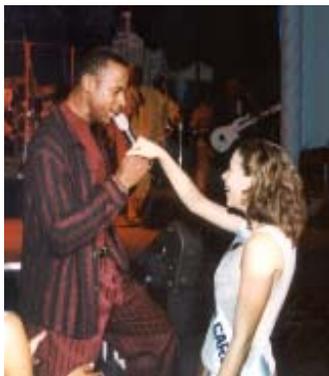
The Challenger - Arts & Education

2000 Miss Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International of North Carolina

by Pearl Marshall

NORTHCAROLINA – Toneasia Pettey is the 2000 Miss Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International – North Carolina. Toneasia represented the state during the week of educational and fun activities, and rehearsals in the 30th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Contest held in New York City.

The week began with a tour of the Empire State Building and the Skyline Ride over the city. *Saturday Night Fever* was the Broadway play that they were treated to. Afterward was dinner at Londell's and a visit to *Amateur Night at the Apollo*. Toneasia and the contestant from Vietnam were invited to the stage. Each received a T-shirt for their stage performance. All of the contestants introduced themselves and the state, country or province they represented. A fashion show and luncheon were held at *Justin's*, the restaurant owned by Puff Daddy. Models posed with the contestants after the show and signed autographs. All of the contestants toured



Toneasia gets serenaded by one of *Kool & The Gang*

WBLs radio station with founder of the contest and station owner, Hal Jackson and Dr. Bob Lee, radio personality.

Meeting people and participating in the activities were part of the week's events as well as rehearsals for the International contest. Toneasia met Jewell Jackson McCabe, founder of the Coalition of 100 Black Women, Sheryl Piland,

actress and the 1978 Talented Teen International Queen. She also met Cynthia Lewis Foreman (former wife of George Foreman, and the 1972 International Queen.) These two former International Queens took photos with contestants and signed autographs. Other former International Queens were: Nikiya Mathis (NJ 1998), Quianie Withey (USVI 1997), Tiffany Walker (NY 1996), Edna Hill (MD 1973), Denise DuMaine (MO 1974), Kristel Henderson (U.S.V.I. 1982), Delise Jones (NY 1983), Oween Davis (NY 1986), Rosa Sanchez (U.S.V.I. 1993), and Amanda Stanley (U.S.V.I. 1991).

The former queens helped to celebrate the 30th anniversary of HJTII which was formerly known as "Miss Black Teenage World". The formal dinner and show at The Supper Club with "Kool and the Gang" captivated everyone. They performed all of their famous hits, took pictures with the contestants and signed autographs. "Shooting Star Awards" were presented to outstanding corporate sponsors and former Talented Teens. A memorial tribute was dedicated to Michelle Thomas and a "Shooting Star Award" was given posthumously to her parents. Michelle played Justine on *The Cosby Show*, and Myra on *Family Matters* with Steve Erckle. She died in 1998. Michelle was 1984 International Queen from New Jersey.

In addition to all of the activities and rehearsals, Toneasia met and competed with young ladies 13 to 17 years old from around the United States, and other countries of Ghana, Viet Nam, Canada, British Virgin Islands, Trinidad and U. S. Virgin Islands. The winners and runner-ups were: Miss California, Winner (Tap Dancer), Miss Connecticut, first



Toneasia as Flo Jo

runner-up (Violinist), Miss U. S. Virgin Islands, Second Runner-up (Gymnastic Dancer), Miss Trinidad & Tobago, Third Runner Up (Singer), and Miss New Jersey, Fourth Runner-Up (Ballet-en-Point).

The theme of the 30th annual HJTII contest was "The House That Jack Built" that has expanded over 30 years. Contestants were assigned a decade to represent from 1970 to the present day.

Toneasia represented the decade of the 1980's with a salute to the Gold Medallist – Florence Griffith Joyner with the glamour she brought to track and being physically fit. Toneasia's talent was a creative dance to *Seminole Wind*, the selection she performed in June that won her the 2000 North Carolina title. Her costumes for the International contest were from the North American Costume Company in Eutaw Shopping Center, and the Dancer in Tallywood Shopping Center. Her International contest gown was from Janique's, Ltd. in Pamalee Plaza Mall of Fayetteville, N.C.

Winning the North Carolina State 2000 title earned Toneasia the honor of representing the state at the International contest, a college scholarship, and the all expense paid weeklong trip to New York City. The trip sponsors were Nationwide Insurance, Herbert Townes, Agent, GUF Insurance, Dr. Jerreyll Jackson, M.D., Dr. W. R. Heritage-Mitchell, and Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International. Toneasia is the daughter of Jan Pettey, the "Pride of the Carolinas" country singer and songwriter of Fayetteville, NC. She is a rising senior at Southview High School. :)



HJTTI Contest Locations & Dates

Alabama	Shearon Smith	5/01
Anguilla	Mona Harrigan	TBA
Antigua	Gilbert Laudat	4/01
Arizona	Mack Lee	5/31/01
Arkansas	Marilyn Hill	5/01
Bahamas	Brenda Russell	TBA
Canada	Norma Heitner	4/01
Bermuda	Everard Davis	5/19/01
British VI	Luce Smith	6/201
California	Divita Dutton	5/4/01
Connecticut	Margie Evans	4/21/01
DC	Jane Harley	6/2/01
Florida	Sarah Washington	5/01
Georgia	Tasha Dixon	3/3/01
Ghana	Kwaku Agyeman	TBA
Illinois	Verda Rodgers	5/01
Indiana	Verda Rogers	5/01
Maryland	Pinnie Ross	6/01
Massachusetts	Melvin Hill	TBA
Michigan	Kimberly Johnson	4/01
Minnesota	CeLois Steele	TBA
Missouri	Merdean Gales	5/01
Nevada	Vilma Farrar	5/01
New Jersey	Susan Warren	6/16/01
New York	Flora Haynes	5/19/01
N Carolina	Pearl Marshall	5/20/01
Oklahoma	Alice Swain	5/19/01
St. Kitts s	Louvina Maynard	TBA
S. Carolina	Wilhelmina Johnson	6/16/01
Tennessee	ElGrego Brown	6/01
Texas	Mildred Haughton	TBA
Trinidad	Anne James	5/26/01
US Vir Isles	Claire Roker	6/01
Virginia	Phillip Brooks	6/3/01
Washington	Maxine Jenkins	6/3/01
W. Virginia	Nina Chandler	5/26/01

Horner's Corner

We are proud to announce...The birth of Ty're Lamond Dixon, Jr. in Atlanta, Georgia to our Georgia Director, *Tasha Dixon* and her husband, Ty're Dixon, Sr. ...The birth of Journey Ananda Berry to HJTTI's official graphic artist, *Jacque Berry* and her Music Producer husband, *Clay Berry*, born in New York City on January 12, 2001... The engagement of *Lori Warren*, New Jersey Director for Union County... *Toya Rodriguez*, Miss Missouri 1997, is a singer with Arista Records. Her video and single is called "I Do" and she was discovered by the same camp that is tied in with Nelly...*CeCe Peniston*, Miss Arizona 1984 has a new single called "Lifetime to Love"...*Debelah Morgan*, Miss Arizona 1991 has a new cd which has gone gold on the record charts...*Tiffany Walker*, Miss HJTTI 1996, has been crowned Miss 5 Borough and will go on to the New York State level to compete for Miss America...*Hal Jackson's* book, "The House That Jack Built - My Life as a Trailbrazer in Broadcasting and Entertainment" is on the stands. Pick up a copy. It's chocked full of photographs of him with many notables... And what's happening with you???

California Dancer - International Winner

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Development Foundation, Inc.

One of the goals of the YDF is to provide travel to foreign countries for the contestants and international winner where they will experience inter-cul-



Former International Winners Kristal Henderson, Cynthia Foreman, Denise DuMaine, Sheryl Piland, Rosa Sanchez and Quianie Withey were on hand to celebrate 30th anniversary at the Supper Club

tural activities and meet young ladies their age from different locations around the world. Nicole Nicholas, the 2000 winner will be flown to England courtesy of Apel Travel where she will have first hand experience of the history she has been taught in school. Nicole will go to plays in Piccadilly Circus and the West End of London and explore the English countryside. She will spend 4 days in Paris where she will visit the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the home of Louis XIV, take a look at the Mona Lisa at the Louvre Museum, and be able to taste Parisian cuisine. As part of her winnings, Nicole will also attend HJTII contests in the British Virgin Islands and the U. S. Virgin Island as well as visit Disney World in Florida and the Caribbean island of St. Martin in the French West Indies.

A preliminary contest was held in the Roosevelt Hotel ballroom where the contestants and their chaperons stayed during the week. The judges, who included 17 past International Winners,

chose the top ten winners. The top ten winners are: Miss California - Nicole Nicholas, Miss Connecticut - Kersten Stevens, Miss Maryland - Shantrice Ridgeway, Miss Minnesota - Ava

Johnson, Miss Missouri - Meleigshia Page, Miss Nevada - Amanda Williams, Miss New Jersey - Ayesha Faines, Miss New York - Synchrona Elkerson, Miss Trinidad & Tobago - Patrice Inglesbirth, and Miss U. S. Virgin Islands - Cubie-Ayah George.

Saturday found everyone headed to Aaron Davis Hall on the campus of City College where the 30th annual HJTII Finals were held. Finals



Hal & Debi with Phynjuar Thomas, Kool Bell & Dennis Thomas after naming future scholarship in Michelle Thomas' name

night judges included world renowned choreographer George Faison, Dr. Walter Turnbull founder of the Boys Choir of Harlem, Nile Rogers of Chic, Jeff Burns of Ebony Magazine, Adrienne Lopez of Nickelodeon, Xernona Clayton of the Trumpet Awards and Cissy Hous-

ton.

Nicole Nicholas, the 2000 HJTII International winner will be awarded a scholarship totaling \$5,000, a diamond ring, and other gifts and prizes. The 16-year-old violinist who is the first runner up from Stratford, Connecticut, Kersten Stevens, receives \$2,000. The second runner up, 15-year-old Patrice Inglesbirth who is a gospel singer, from Trinidad & Tobago receives \$1,500. Cubie-Ayah George, a 16-year-old gymnastic dancer is the third runner up and came to us from St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands will receive \$1,000. The fourth runner up is an exceptional ballet dancer, Ayesha Faines 14 years of age, from the South Orange, New Jersey who will receive \$500. The scholarships are given to the colleges of the winners' choices.

Nicole Nicholas is a bubbly 15 year old that has long roots in the field of dance. Her grandfather is Fayard Nicholas of the famous Nicholas Brothers. Their act included the two brothers tapping and jumping over each other down huge steps. Well, Nicole took a page from her grandfather's book and wowed the judges with her performance by tapping up and down steps and ending her act with a jumping slip from the top of the steps. Nicole is a straight A student. Upon graduation from high school she would like to attend a university where she can study to be an astronautical engineer. She would like to work for NASA.

Should you be interested in running a contest or know of a young lady between the ages of 13 and 17 with a performing talent who may be eligible to enter this contest, write to Hal Jackson's Talented Teens, 1230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10128 or E-Mail us at HJTTeens@aol.com or call 212-592-0413.

The 31st Annual



*Will take place
July 22 – 29, 2001
In New York City*

The Week's Activities will Include:

*A Black Tie Dinner Dance at the Supper Club
Tuesday Evening, July 24, 2001*

*A Broadway Play
Seminars, Luncheons, Dinners & Receptions
A Tour of WBLS Radio Station & Essence Magazine
The HJTTI Preliminary Contest – Friday, July 27, 2001
The HJTTI International Contest – Saturday, July 28, 2001*

Don't Miss It!

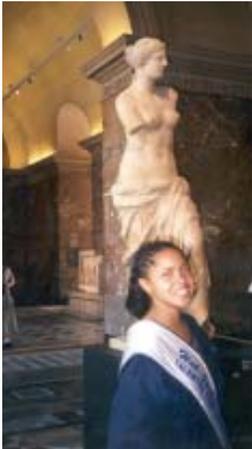
My Trip to London & Paris

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and French wine (for the adults of course). I even learned how to say, “do you have any vegetarian meals?” in French, (but don’t ask me about it now; I can’t begin to tell you). The next day we began to see the city.

We toured the world-famous Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Palace of Versailles, where we learned about all the people who lived there, what they did in different rooms at different times of the day, their life story, where they slept, what they liked to eat, why the palace was built the way it was, saw the hall of mirrors, and who would have thought that I would have carried on a complete

conversation in Spanish while viewing the palace’s garden. We ate lunch in a café that allowed you to see the Arc de Triumph. In the evening, we went on a boat ride on the River Seine and saw



many different buildings, monuments, and styles of architecture. That night we dined in an exquisite Parisian café, and after dinner we rode up in the Eiffel Tower. The view was amazing from up there. I could see all the huge monuments Paris is famous for.

My last day in Paris was most fascinating to me. Paris is famous for its quality perfumes, so we toured a perfume gallery, Fragonard, and smelled thirteen different perfumes that were made there. We also saw the Paris Opera House and the world famous museum - The Louvre. I absolutely loved this museum. We saw artwork from Rome, Greece, Italy, France, and other countries around the world. My personal favorite displays were the sculpture of Venus and the Mona Lisa. We had lunch

at a café by a church known as the Basilique du Sacré Coeur, but while we were waiting for lunch, we watched the different people who make their living painting pictures day to day of rivers, monuments, scenes, and the people who walk by; I had a silhouette made of my face.

As we made our way back to the hotel, we saw other sites that make Paris famous such as the place where Napoleon stayed and the tunnel where the Princess Diana tragedy occurred. That night we ate dinner in a small intimate theater. The night was concluded with a show. In the show there was dancing, singing, an acrobatic act, a juggling act, and a gymnast who performed on a rope. The show was funny and entertaining, and it was also culturally educational because the women performed topless in some dances. This is very normal in Paris; everyone acted the same as when it wasn’t happening.

The next thing I knew I was on a plane ride home singing “California, here I come, right back where I started from” The trip of a lifetime was over. It seemed as if it was only yesterday when I searched all over London’s Heathrow Airport for a WELCOME! sign. Now I would see one in Los Angeles in 11 ½ hours I cried at the thought of the piles, literally piles, of homework that awaited me, but it ended when I reminisced of my last few days.

If I could go back to Europe tomorrow, I would return to London first. In London, I saw so many things that I could relate to as an American (after all, the United States is British in origin, and we were strongly linked to England for many years). I truly appreciate the time I spent in London; it makes the words in my history book seem so much more real. I have a deeper understanding of the things I read because of what I learned from the tour guide, museums, royal palaces, and seeing the city for myself. Facts are interesting to me if they are proposed in a certain way, and facts somehow tied in with the ‘up close and

personal’ approach happen to be the most appealing. I could sit for hours and listen to the British accents, but it would take me a little while longer to get used to the food. (Blandness can be a good thing, but they had really good vegetables, so I’d survive happily.)

I must admit that the food in Paris was always absolutely delicious, but other than that, the city was everything I expected it to be. I didn’t feel the same connection and sense of excitement with Paris that I did with London except when it came to the artwork and the glass pyramid in front of The Louvre that was on the cover of my history book two years ago. I read about both cities before I visited, but it seemed as if London was the city the writers weren’t able to truly and fully depict on paper. Both cities were absolutely gorgeous in their own respects and filled with beautiful sites and buildings that are probably older than any building will ever be in the United States.

Needless to say, I did a lot in the seven days that I spent in Europe. My US history teacher just can’t get enough from me because I know the answers to all of his questions. I absolutely loved every second of the trip, and it could not have been possible without great people. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Jackson for the opportunity you provided for me to explore a foreign land. Thank you for keeping every moment interesting and upbeat. I loved London and Paris and how there was something to do during every second of every day. I also want to thank Pita (Divita Wright II, my chaperone). I know she loved being with me 24/7, but she was still the ‘adult’ responsible for me and really took care of me. I loved it all; my trip was a hoot, but sadly, the greeting hugs turned to an “I’ll see you soon!” all too suddenly. Every great time must, sadly, come to an end, but my first trip to these world famous cities will never be forgotten. I will always treasure the memories of my first trip to London and Paris, and will always remember Hal and Debi Jackson who made it possible.