

TTI Update

New Jersey Actress Wins International Crown

The Youth Development Foundation, Inc. (YDF) conducted its 32nd annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (HJTTI) Scholarship Competition week of activities July 21 through 28, 2002 in New York City with the final competition held at the Hudson Theatre on Broadway. The 2002 HJTTI winner is Teena Marie Lugo, a 17-year-old actress from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Young ladies between the ages of 13 and 17 with outstanding performing talents and exceptional academic achievements from across the United States and abroad flew in and competed for the international crown as well as scholarship opportunities.

The contestants along with their HJTTI Directors had a full week of activities in the entertainment capitol of the world, New York City. The week started with a luncheon hosted by JRecords recording artist, Mario, at Planet Hollywood in Times Square where he took photographs with all of the 2002 hopefuls. The day continued with everyone taking a tour of New York including going to Ground Zero. The contestants were interviewed on WBLS & WLIB radio stations, owned by ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc. of which Hal Jackson is Group Chairman and the host of his Sunday Classics radio program. The week continued with a black tie Shooting Stars Awards dinner at the elegant Supper Club where Terrie Williams, Cynthia Horner and Ken Wilson were given awards for their commitment to



Teena Lugo & Hal Jackson

HJTTI. Stephanie Mills was on hand to give a keynote address which included words of encouragement to the Talented Teens contestants. Everyone enjoyed the Broadway play "Thunder Knocking on the Door" starring Leslie Uggams, then had a down home meal at Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem and was off to become judges at Amateur Night at the world famous Apollo Theatre. Meanwhile there were plenty of seminars, lectures and rehearsals as the young ladies got ready to compete for the 32nd annual contest.

One of the goals of the Youth Development Foundation is to provide travel to foreign countries for the contestants and international winners where they will experience inter-cultural activities and meet young ladies their age from different locations around the world. Teena Lugo, the 2002 winner will be flown to

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Top 10 Winners in New York City

Bermuda
Twanee Butterfield, 16

California
Nayanna Holley, 17

Florida
Rachael Brummond, 16

Jamaica
Ana Strachan, 17

Michigan
Diamond Moore, 17

New Jersey
Teena Marie Lugo, 17

Pennsylvania
Jenna Martin, 14

Trinidad & Tobago
Christiana Roopnarine, 13

Washington
Ayesha Brooks, 17

West Virginia
Sarah Moore, 16



Spring 2003



*Promoting Culture & Education
Through the Performing Arts*

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Meet Our 2002 Winners

The winner of the 32nd annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition is **Teena Lugo**, a 17-year old young lady from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Her favorite subject in school, where she is class president, is public speaking because it affords her the opportunity to talk aloud, write, and discuss what is going on in the world and in our lives. After attending Rutgers University, Miss Lugo would like to become an actress or a teacher in secondary education, as she believes it is important to educate our children. She entered the contest because she thought it would be a great experience and she loves trying new things. She has learned that you should never give up, and with God, all things are possible. Her mother is the most significant influence in her life, because she has supported her through all of her endeavors and has never let her down. Miss New Jersey has won a \$5,000 scholarship and trips to Bermuda, the US and British Virgin Islands, England, Anguilla and a diamond ring.



Seventeen-year old **Nyanna Holley** hails from Los Angeles, California where she is a senior attending Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Nayanna is a member of the Young Black Scholars, California Scholarship Federation, and Interact Community Service Club. Her favorite subjects in school are Literature and English. She enjoys reading literary critiques, writing television and film reviews and composing poetry. Miss Holley will be attending Western Michigan University in the fall of 2002, where she will double major in jazz voice and music business. In the future, she would like to become a professional jazz artist, as well as an acclaimed business-woman in the entertainment industry. She entered the competition in hopes of receiving a scholarship towards her education. She has gained friendships, support and encouragement through this experience, and has truly learned from and been inspired by fellow contestants. The biggest influences on her life are her mother, for teaching her responsibility and maturity; her father, for guiding her artistic talent; and the Lord, whose love, patience, blessings and care she could not be without. Miss California has won a \$2,000 scholarship a diamond ring and a trip to St. Maarten.

From the island of Jamaica is 17-year old **Ana Strachan**. Her favorite subject in school is mathematics, which she finds both stimulating and essential for everyday life. After attending the Juilliard School where she will major in voice, Miss Strachan would like to become an opera singer and actress. She entered this competition because she wanted to display her talents and possibly get a scholarship. She has learned to be tolerant and a team player. Ana has also made new friends, and discovered what it is like to perform under pressure. The most significant person in

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My Trip to Europe by Teena Lugo

Yes, mom, I have my toothbrush and soap. Yes, I have those too. No, we are not going to crash! I can't breathe you're hugging me too tight!

This is just a little bit of what I had to go through before even stepping a foot in John F. Kennedy airport. Well, after all of the goodbye kisses my mother, cousin Gina, cousin/god sister to the second power Ciara, and little sister Arownes then brought me to the airport. As soon as we entered the terminal I received a phone call from Asia (my chaperon/photographer/best buddy/HJTTI intern). She said, "Look Up", I did and all I saw was Asia jumping up and down and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson (soon to be adopting me, they don't know it yet) smiling and waving. I was so excited. Before we went on the plane we checked our luggage and went in this big VIP room where they had a bar, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, big comfy sofas, and chairs. I felt so important. It was finally time for us to be on our way.

The sights, the sounds, the castles! I mean where do I start? I loved it all. London, England. Paris, France. Who would have known? I know I sure didn't. I have never been on a train let alone an airplane. I was so scared but Asia was there to help me through it all. Oh, and I can't forget the funny Italian photographers that were sitting next to us; they

were so silly.

I can remember walking into Heathrow airport being so jet lagged it was not funny. I didn't know if I wanted to pass out or go out. Our hotel was smack in the middle of everything. As soon as we walked in, we went straight to the bathroom. Not to use it silly, to see it! I absolutely fell in love with the bathtub. It was so big and deep. I felt like it was calling my name, "T-e-e-n-a, T-e-e-n-a, come take a bubble bath", so I answered the call.

The hotel attendants were so nice and the room service was deeeelicious! For about three days straight I ordered nothing but tomato pies and orange Fanta for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I thing because everyone kept telling me to stay away from the beef, meat, milk, and water or I was going to get terribly sick. Knowing my appetite it didn't last for long. I am such a picky eater and I could not believe some of the things that were going in my stomach. I had Indian food for the first time in my life. Asia and I tried so hard to get Mr. & Mrs. Jackson not to go. We stalled for days, but when we started eating, it was surprisingly good. We then went to a Malaysian restaurant. I thought it was going to be like Chinese food. It surely was not. When Mr. Jackson got his meal and it started looking at me my appetite went

right out the door! One thing about London that is to die for is their cookies and cream ice cream. One thing about Paris to die for is their chocolate crepes. What I wouldn't give to have one right now. Believe me you never tasted anything so good! As you can tell I'm a food-loving girl.

When Mrs. Debi told me we were going to see "The Lion King" I was so happy. I love that movie and I heard so much about the play. The dancing, the singing, the costumes and the makeup were all so phenomenal. I was amazed by it all. We then went to see "My Fair Lady". I could not believe how the set changed so quickly and easily before my eyes. Oh, and the actors were so funny. We also saw "Chicago". That musical had me on the edge of my seat the whole way through. The women in that play knew they could throw down. After almost every play we took a bicycle driven wagon back to the hotel. The men that were bringing us home actually



started racing. Asia and I against Mr. & Mrs. Jackson. All you could hear was us laughing and screaming. It was so much fun.

Speaking about fun, all I can tell you is two words *Nottinghill Carnival*. That is like the West Indian parade of Brooklyn, New York but better. It is music,

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The Sojourner's Truth

The Miss Talented Teen International Scholarship Competition Comes to Toledo

By Tamir A. Mitchell

Over three decades ago, African-American radio pioneer Hal Jackson envisioned a forum in which gifted minority women who were typically underrepresented in mainstream talent competitions could be publicly recognized. In 1970, he created that avenue and named it the Miss Black Teenage America Pageant. Two years after its creation, the pageant received a warm welcome to Toledo and has been received similar greetings ever since.

As the event gained notoriety, other countries made requests to take part in the competition that has been renamed as Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition.

The current local competition director, Iva Farrow, held the crown of Miss Talented Teen Ohio in 1975 and has been involved with the organization ever since and is now attempting to recruit more participants for upcoming competitions. "When I entered the contest for the first time in 1972, I had no idea that 30 years later I would still be involved," Ms. Farrow said. "This program has withstood the test of time and it still provides an opportunity for young minority women in the Toledo, Ohio area." Farrow said that she has worked in every capacity of the competition and after all of her years of involvement, the International team has become much like a family to her.

"My involvement with the contest as a teen gave me the confidence to get



Iva Farrow, Miss Ohio Lauren Collins, Hal & Debi

on stage and I went on to attend the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music as an opera major." Farrow explained that one of the reasons she continues with the competition is that she would like to help instill positive qualities in the young ladies of today. "They learn how to compete and lose in a positive setting. We work on their self esteem and teach them how to be young ladies at all times," she said.

The 2002 Miss Talented Teen Ohio is Lauren Jaelyn Collins, daughter of Larry and Linda Collins of Toledo. Lauren, 15, is a sophomore at St. Ursula Academy where she is a member of the dance team and St. Ursula's Afro Ball court. Lauren maintains a "B" grade average while assisting with the Bible Way elementary cheerleaders, being a St. Francis DeSales football cheerleader and a Beta Gamma Xino member. Lauren, who tap dances for the talent portion of the competition, said she has wanted to become a professional dancer since she was 10 years old and sees the competition as one more positive step toward reaching her goal. Lauren wants to continue her involvement with the contest for as long as possible and

said that the organization has offered her many opportunities to better herself and see the world that exists outside of Toledo. "I plan to go to college at a fine arts school in New York City. After I graduate, I want to open up a studio with my sister Zahra who is currently majoring in dance at the University of Iowa," Lauren said.

This past July, Lauren traveled to New York City to represent Ohio in this year's international final. While in New York and in addition to meeting other talented teens from around the world, Lauren met with program founder Hal Jackson and his wife Debi at his radio station and lunched with teen idol and singer Mario at Planet Hollywood. There was also a "sobering" trip to ground zero and a black tie dinner at Manhattan's Supper Club where Stephanie Mills was the guest speaker. Right On! Magazine's Cynthia Horner was honored and Lauren met recording artist Olivia.

Lauren said that although participating in the competition is demanding, she has enjoyed the experience and would encourage others to get involved. The 2003 Miss Talented Teen Ohio Scholarship Competition will be held April 12 at the Ohio Theatre. Interested applicants must be between 13 – 17 years old. For more information contact Iva Farrow at 419-539-9565.

Baltimore Afro-American

An Unforgettable Itinerary

By Pinnie L. Ross

Mr. Hal Jackson – I Call him “The Godfather” – founder and CEO of this great competition, and his wife Deborah Bolling Jackson, the producer, know how to select competition week activities that are exciting and entertaining for the contestants. Mr. Jackson is group chairman of Inner City Broadcasting and an internationally known radio personality. He is also considered the “Dean of Black Broadcasters.”

The young women visited radio stations WBLS-FM and WLIB-AM, Mr. Jackson’s flagship stations. They had lunch at Planet Hollywood and dined at the world famous Sylvia’s Restaurant, enjoyed a guided tour of New York City and saw “Thunder Knocking on the Door” at a Broadway theater. They attended Amateur Night at the Apollo Theatre and a black-tie awards ceremony at the elegant Supper Club, honoring Cynthia Horner, editor of Right On! Magazine. Each morning, the contestants and their chaperons received complementary breakfast provided by the Jacksons.

The Competition

One of the highlights of the competition was the “Greatest Scene” during the first phase of the competition finals. The production was an offshoot of the Images of Greatness Program and features all 39 contestants arrayed in glamorous costumes.

Each contestant chose her favorite great person, place or thing and was costumed accordingly. Lena Horne, Carmen Jones, Dorothy Height and Halle Berry were among those represented. Our Maryland contestant, Nia Davis, chose Liberty as her symbol of greatness.

The winner of the Hal Jackson’s Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition was Miss New Jersey, 17-



Pinnie Ross and Miss Maryland Nia Davis, Della Hamby
Miss HJTTI 2001, Hal & Debi Jackson

year-old Teena Lugo, a budding actress. Her prizes included a diamond ring, a trip to London, England, trips to the British and U.S. Virgin Islands and a \$5,000 scholarship. The runners-up received scholarships of \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500 in order of succession.

The \$1,000 Wilda LaBrie Scholarship, named for the late competition Director of Contestant and Sponsor Relations, is awarded to the contestant with the highest grade point average for the immediate past school year. Miss North Carolina was the winner this year.

My sincere congratulations to the new international queen, the runners-up and all the lovely contestants. They are all super winners. They all wear crowns. Nia Davis, Miss Talented Teen Maryland, said: “I really believe that I am a winner because of the experience I had meeting so many girls of diverse cultural backgrounds and personalities. Some, I will cherish as long lasting friends. Then meeting entertainment legends like Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and the artists who appeared at competition events will be with me for a long time. Then knowing of the support of my family, Dad presenting a bouquet of roses at the theater and assuring me that they loved and were all proud of me was significant.”

Nia’s mother, Mrs. Dolly Davis was not able to attend the competition, but

was in contact with her lovely daughter daily.

Nia, 17, is a student at Milford Mill Academy whose talent was dancing. She plans to become a psychologist. Nia is active in her church and school and is a modeling student at A Studios in Randallstown, owned by Adrienne Watkins-Carver, a former Maryland Talented Teen and an associate director of the state competition.

A special loving thanks to this year’s sponsors of our participation at the Hal Jackson Talented Teen International Scholarship Competition, Mr. & Mrs. James H. Gilliam, Sr. of Wilmington, Delaware, William A. Ross, Jr. of Conakry, Republic of Guinea, West Africa, and Dr. and Mrs. Roger Lewis of Columbia.

International Teen Scholarship Competition Holds Extravaganza

The level of excitement ran exceptionally high as Hal Jackson’s 32 annual scholarship competition unfolded at the Hudson Theatre on Broadway in New York City.

The competition was held during the week of July 22 with the finals on July 27. The Broadway Millennium Hotel hosted the 39 U.S. and international contestants, their chaperons and competition staff.

All the young women were a bit nervous at the beginning, but very excited to be a part of the noted international competition. Their nervousness vanished as the girls participated in rehearsals and events. The very able choreographer, Leslie Dockery, and her staff worked hard to prepare the ladies for the competition



The Road to London: An Internship Experience

by Asia Robinson

A while ago I was asked to write a concise but telling article about my experiences as an intern for Hal and Debbie Jackson during the summer of 2002. I was only too pleased to tell my story, seeing as my internship contributed to the long list of blessings that I've been privileged enough to experience. I always thought the Jacksons felt the same way, since every time Mrs. Jackson introduced me to her associates or wanted to tell them of how I came to be their first intern, I was always kindly referred to as a "god send".

It started with a phone call that my mother made to Mrs. Jackson one afternoon. I had come home the week before feeling totally defeated by an especially unsuccessful interview that I had had with a magazine I wanted to intern for. Being the enterprising mother that she is, she asked Mrs. Jackson if she just so happened to need an intern for the summer, and explained my situation. The response she received was an emphatic "Yes!", since just previous to the phone call, Mrs. Jackson was told by many of her friends and co-workers that she was, in fact, in need of an intern. I was more than pleased to meet the Jacksons, and it seemed was taken under their wing almost immediately, which I undoubtedly appreciated.

I began my weekly commute from Millstone, New Jersey to New York City, and the days I wasn't there I worked on a horse farm near my home (a job that seemed to fascinate most New Yorkers). Working in the office was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and became something that I always looked forward to. I especially liked the fact that I was given, and trusted with, certain responsibilities, and thus I did my best to take them seriously. Essentially, I helped with Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Competition, and was in charge of keeping track of the applications for all the participating girls. This included sitting in on meetings, and spending lots of

time making phone calls to parents, chaperones, and the like in order to help prepare for the upcoming week of the Talented Teen Competition. As a naturally talkative and outgoing person, my job fit me very well, and as a result, I got to know many of the people involved before I had even met them personally. This only added to the fun and excitement of the competition week.



Though I was not competing myself, I was just as excited as all of the girls who came from around the world to New York City that week. Since many of them had never been to New York before, the first few days were filled with activities (and rehearsals) to keep the girls active and entertained. We attended several restaurants, such as Sylvia's and The Planet Hollywood; saw a southern style musical entitled *Thunder Knocking On My Door*; met the popular singer Mario; and even visited Ground Zero. To add to my responsibilities, however, Mrs. Jackson, upon discovering that I have a love for photography, decided to make me her unofficial photographer. Needless to say, I was elated. So, in addition to visiting different sites such as the Statue of Liberty or the WBLS radio station

with the girls, I was able to hone my photography skills by taking shots every chance I could. As if that weren't enough, Mrs. Jackson even suggested that I sell my photographs to the parents, chaperones, and even the girls in the competition (seeing as many of the pictures I took most others did not have), just as previous photographers had done. Though I was a little nervous at first, I decided to undertake this challenge, and thankfully it turned out to be a very beneficial and profitable endeavor. Being the photographer allowed me to not only interact with the girls and others on a very unique and valuable level, but in selling them I also proved to myself, and others, that I was able to handle new responsibilities and challenges. Little did I know, though, what one acquaintance in particular would bring me.

The night of the competition had my stomach in knots. In fact, I am quite sure that at least a few people mistook me for the mother of one of the girls, I was so nervous. Running back and forth from the audience to backstage and back again, I was wrapped up in the whirlwind of the competition, until finally, after what seemed like forever, the winner was announced. Miss New Jersey, Teena Marie Lugo, was chosen as the new Talented Teens International, and as she received her crown and sash, I shouted for joy. Over the course of the week, I had become good friends with my fellow New Jersey resident, and so to see her receive that honor had me absolutely thrilled. After taking countless pictures of her family and friends, I breathed a sigh of relief with a smile on my face. However, what I did not expect came about a week later during what I thought was going to be one of my last times at the office.

In addition to receiving her crown and title, Teena had won a scholarship for the college of her choice, and trips to London and the Caribbean. The first trip that she would be making would be to

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New Jersey Actress is 2002 HJTT International Winner

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England courtesy of Apel Travel where she will have first hand experience of the history she has been taught in school. Teena will go to plays in Piccadilly Circus and the West End of London and explore the English countryside. She will spend a day in Paris where she will visit the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and take a look at Louvre Museum, and be able to taste Parisian cuisine. As part of her winnings, Teena will also attend HJTTI contests in Bermuda courtesy of the Bermuda Tourist Board, the British Virgin Islands courtesy of the BVI Tourist Board and U. S. Virgin Islands, courtesy of Claire Roker as well as visit the French West Indies island of Anguilla courtesy of the Anguilla Tourist Board.

A preliminary competition was held on the campus of the City College of New York at Aaron Davis Hall in the Marion Anderson Theater. The judges, who included producers, writers, performers and etiquette professionals, chose the top ten winners. The top ten winners were: Miss Bermuda - Twanee Butterfield, Miss California - Nayanna Holley, Miss Florida - Rachael Brummond, Miss Jamaica - Ana Strachan, Miss Michigan - Diamond Moore, Miss New Jersey - Teena Lugo, Miss Pennsylvania - Jenna Martin, Miss Trinidad - Christiana Roopnarine, Miss Washington - Ayesha Brooks and Miss West Virginia - Sarah Moore.

Saturday everyone headed to Hudson Theatre on Broadway where the 32nd annual HJTTI Finals were held. Finals night judges included world renowned dancer/choreographer/producer George Faison, Jeff Burns of Ebony Magazine, and Carole Gist-Stramler, Miss USA



1990. The Best Man, Trini-i-tee 5:7 and Tonex were guest performers. The theme this year was "Images of Greatness" in dedication to the World Trade Center tragedy. The young ladies were asked to dress as the person, place or thing which represented their image of greatness.

After all the votes were tallied, the five top winners are as follows: Teena Lugo, the 2002 HJTTI International winner will be awarded a scholarship totaling \$5,000 donated by the Holt Foundation, a diamond ring, and other gifts and prizes. The 17-year-old jazz singer who is the first runner up from Los Angeles, California, Nayanna Holley, receives \$2,000 as well as a diamond ring and a trip to St. Maarten in the Dutch West Indies. The second runner up, Ana Strachan, a 17-year-old opera singer from Kingston, Jamaica will receive \$1,000. Our third runner up is 13-year-old Christiana Roopnarine who is an east indian classical dancer from Trinidad & Tobago will receive \$1,500. The fourth runner up is another exceptional singer, Sarah Moore 16 years of age from the Williamson, West Virginia who will receive \$500. The Michelle Thomas Scholarships are given to the colleges of the winners' choices. Scholarships in the

amount of \$500 were awarded to Atilah Claiborne of Fayetteville, North Carolina and Sarah Moore of Williamson, West Virginia, who both had the highest grade point averages. The Youth Development Foundation will award scholarships directly to the colleges of their choices.

Teena Lugo is a bubbly 17-year-old dramatic actress from New Brunswick, New Jersey who aspires to become a secondary education teacher and an actress. Upon graduation from high school she would like to attend Rutgers University where she will major in Performing Arts and Secondary Education.

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 HJTeens@aol.com or call 212-592-0413. You can also visit us on line at TalentedTeens.Org.



What a Week In New York City!



We visited Harlem and met the Queen of Soul, Sylvia



We had lunch at Planet Hollywood in Times Square



We saw the Statue of Liberty from a distance



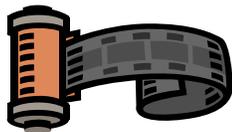
We met Leslie Uggams after seeing the play Thunder Knocking On The Door



We attended a black tie dinner at the Supper Club where Shooting Star Awards were given to Terrie Williams, Cynthia Horner and Ken Wilson. Stephanie Mills was there to give us words of encouragement



J Records recording artist Mario had lunch with us



My Trip to London & Paris

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food, dancing, singing, and shopping. Basically it was a big block party. Everyone was so happy to be there. I had sugarcane for the first time. Come to think of it I had a lot of things for the first time. You would think I ate nothing but fast food and cereal all day, even though it's the truth. Anyway if you do go there make sure you get a whistle because if you don't nobody will believe you.

While we were there we went to many different historical sights and saw so many wonderful things such as: Buckingham Palace, the changing of the guards, the crown jewels, Big Ben, London Bridge, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Tower Bridge, Queen Victoria's castle, Westminster Abbey, the doll house, the Eiffel Tower, Cleopatra's needle, Napoleon's arc, and many more. I also rode on the high speed Eurostar train through the Chunnel; it brought us from London to Paris in about three hours give or take a few minutes. I learned so much from our tour guides and asking ordinary people questions on the street. Everyone was so nice and would actually take the time to stop and explain things to us.

I most definitely had an experience of a lifetime. I have learned that Ms. Debi Jackson absolutely loves gardens and window boxes. That Mr. Jackson loves Indian cuisine and massages. Oh yeah, and that Asia snores really loud! (LOL) Mr. & Mrs. Jackson I don't know how I could ever thank you enough. You have provided me with an experience of a lifetime and I am truly grateful. I will never forget.

God Bless

Love Teena Marie Lugo

Meet Our 2002 Winners

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her life is her mother because of the principles she lives by the guidance she provides her children. Miss Jamaica has won a \$1,500.

Our 3rd runner-up came to us from Marabella, Trinidad. She is 13-year old Christiana Roopnarine who enchanted the audience with an East Indian classical dance. Christiana attends St. Joseph's Convent in San Fernando, Trinidad where she is in form 2 or 8th grade. She enjoys the practicality and usefulness of mathematics, and when she attends Oxford University in England, she would like to major in math to become a scientist, mathematician or professional dancer. Miss Roopnarine enjoys dancing, singing, modeling, painting, volleyball, tutoring children in dance, and helping raise funds for her church. Christiana's desire to showcase her talent, make new friends, and boost her self-confidence prompted her to enter Talented Teens. From her participation she has learned the value of confidence and a humble, competitive attitude. Her parents are the most influential people in her life because they have taught her to be disciplined and fun-loving, while always encouraging her to strive for excellence. Miss Trinidad has won a \$1,000 scholarship.

The 4th runner-up is 16-year-old Sarah Moore from Williamson, West Virginia where she attends Williamson High School. She finds science particularly interesting, and would like to attend Marshall University in Huntington West Virginia or West Virginia University to become an obstetrician or professional singer. Miss Moore enjoys singing, dancing, playing the piano, attending church and is a member of the NAACP and Hi-Y. She entered Talented Teens because she loves to sing and to share the messages that music conveys with others. She has learned much about the backgrounds of her fellow contestants, and about the art of singing and public performance. Her parents have always encouraged her to be the best that she can be, and they have helped her achieve her highest goals in all aspects of her life. Her grandmother has also been a significant influence in her life. Miss West Virginia has won a \$500 scholarship.



Our 2002 HJTTI Directors & Chaperons

An Internship Experience



Asia & Teena ride back to the hotel in a carriage after going to the theatre

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her chaperone was just recently married, she was not going to be able to accompany Teena and the Jacksons on the trip. So, when Mr. and Mrs. Jackson sat down with me in the office and said they wanted me to come to London with them, I was surprised, though I secretly had hoped they would ask me. But, after a few frantic and excited phone calls to both my parents and Teena, I emphatically accepted their kind offer.

Going to London was, without a doubt, one of the best traveling experiences I've ever had. On August 22, 2002, I found myself in a wonderful hotel in the center of Leicester Square, surrounded by great restaurants, tourist attractions, theaters, clubs, and countless shops. My week amongst the British went all too quickly, though I savored every sight and sound that I came across. We were treated to fabulous Italian, Mandarin, Indian and English cuisine. We visited Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, the River Thames, Buckingham Palace, and Windsor Castle. At night, we took rickshaws to the theatre to see *The Lion King* and *My Fair Lady*; and on the weekend, we danced in the streets of Notting Hill for their an-

nual Carnival. To top off the trip, we took an express train from London to France, and spent an entire day touring the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, and bustling streets of Paris.

As we headed home, it began to sink in just how wonderful working with the Jacksons had truly been. An inspirational and great experience, it was by far one of the best internships I've had thus far, and it is my sincere hope and desire that I will continue to be able to work with and be in the company of those wonderful individuals.

Interestingly enough, in November of 2002 I was calling both Teena and the Jacksons to tell them that their intern and friend had just received a crown of her own. After being accepted to the Kappa Kourt (an organization that honors African-American women and their achievements) from the Beta Omega chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc., I was later crowned as the new Kappa Queen for 2002-2003 at the 66th Annual Black and White Ball in Los Angeles, California. Apparently, working with the girls' competition

