



Hal Jackson Is Looking For the World's Most Talented Teen!

NEW YORK — May 19, 2006 — Calling violinists, ballerinas, gymnasts, singers and actresses. If you can hold a note, dance like a diva or feel that you are a future Oscar winner, then Hal Jackson invites you to enter this year's Hal Jackson's Talented Teens Scholarship Competition.

Broadcast legend Harold "Hal" Jackson, Group Chairman of Inner City Broadcasting and founder of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Program, is looking for the world's most talented teen to win his annual contest which will be held during the week of July 22-30, 2006 in New York City. This year's theme is "Phenomenal Women".

Now in its 36th year, Hal Jackson's Talented Teens Scholarship Program has offered thousands of women an opportunity to receive educational scholarships and trips abroad while sharing their gifts of talent on a professional stage. Many of these young contestants have since become some of the brightest stars in the entertainment field, receiving record contracts and acting roles. Before they were stars, Vanessa L. Williams, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Jada Pinkett Smith were part of the Hal Jackson's Talented Teens family. Prior to entering the competition which usually takes place in New York City, these now household names had no idea that they would be so widely received by the judges, which catapulted into the careers of a lifetime.

Not all of Hal Jackson's Talented Teens have made a career in the performing arts; many contestants have segued into such careers as medicine, politics, education, law and finance. All, however, have continued to pursue the arts as a hobby, and many continue to give back to the community by participating as volunteers to the international program.

Contestants for HJTII must be between the ages of 13 and 17 and must have a youthful appearance, public speaking ability and have a performing talent which can be showcased within two minutes during the competition. Although the current reigning queen, Esonica Veira, a Michael Jackson impersonator, hails from St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, many of the winners have lived in California, New York and New Jersey. Among the prestigious lineup of winners are the late Michelle Thomas, co-star of "The Cosby Show" and "Family Matters;" Tai Jimenez, principal ballerina with The Dance Theater of Harlem, and recording artists Me'Lisa Morgan, Alyson Williams and CeCe Peniston.

For more information regarding HJTII, visit the website, www.talentedteens.org or call Debi Jackson, 212-592-0413.