



*Youth Development
Foundation, Inc.*

Hal Jackson's
**TALENTED TEENS
INTERNATIONAL**
Scholarship Program

The Best Is Yet To Come

38th Anniversary Issue

PRESENTED BY

WCBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc.



"The Best Is Yet To Come"



Youth Development Foundation, Inc.

SPONSORS THE

38th Annual

Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International
Scholarship Program

PRESENTED BY

B Mobile

Hal Jackson Productions

TCBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008

Multi Purpose Complex
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

FOUNDER & CEO

Hal Jackson

FEATURING

Talented Teen Participants Representing

2008 Talented Teens From

Around the World

and

The 2007 Talented Teen

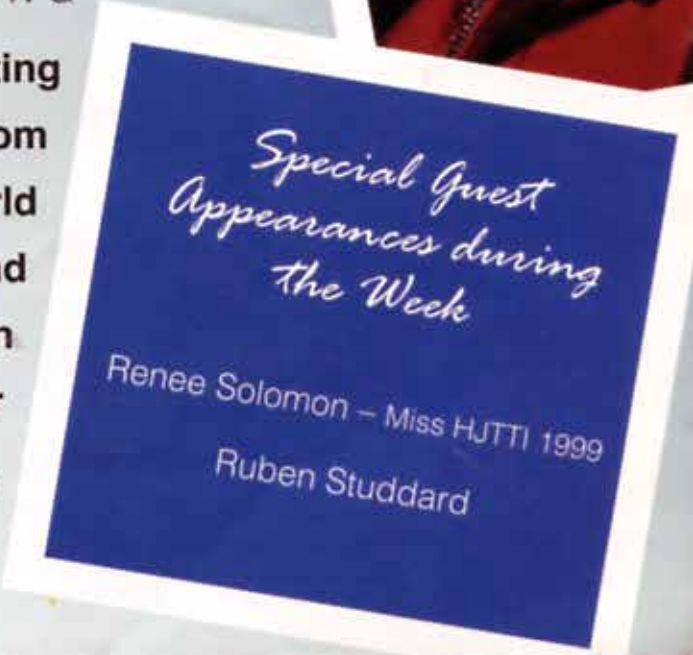
International Winner

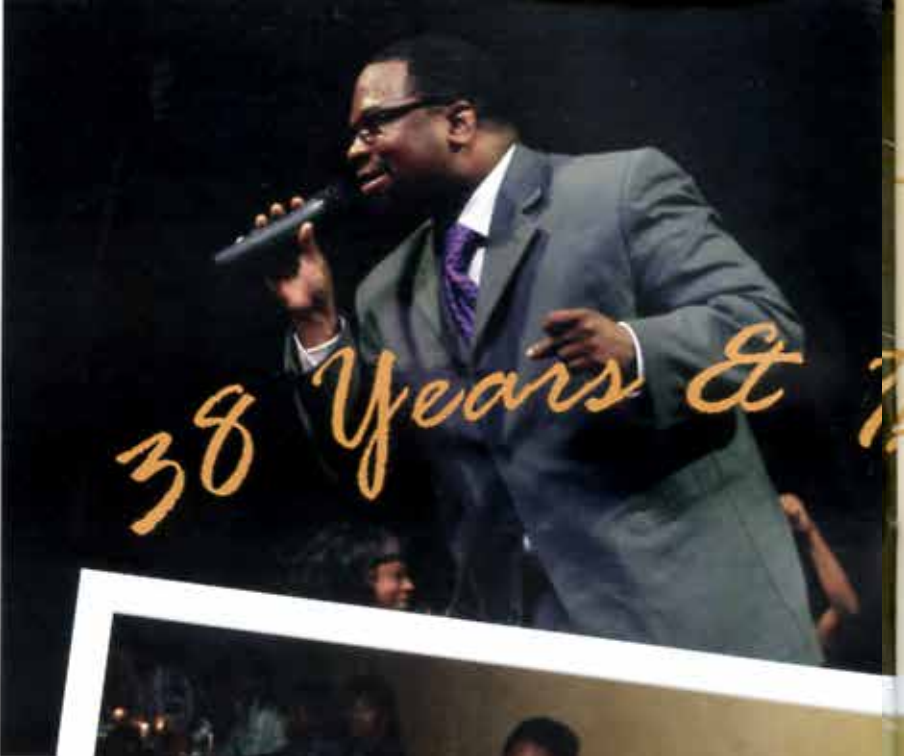
Naomi Rahn

*Special Guest
Appearances during
the Week*

Renee Solomon – Miss HJTTI 1999

Ruben Studdard





2008 Judges

Kimberly Brooks – Actress – Miss HJTTI 1981

Enga Davis – Singer – Miss North Carolina

LaVerne Hodge – B Mobile

Dr. Edna Hill-Sallah – Miss HJTTI 1972

Tanya Kennedy – Civic Court Judge – Miss New York State

Bob Lee – WBLS

Ann Lennard – Former Miss Universe BVI

Nikiya Mathis – Miss HJTTI 1998

Nicole Nicholas – Miss HJTTI 2000

Lorna G. Smith – Director of the International Affairs

Renee Solomon – Miss HJTTI 1999

Alyson Williams – Recording Artist – Former NYS Contestant



Program of Events 2008

Presented by

B Mobile

Hal Jackson Productions

ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc.

The Best Is Yet To Come

Featuring Our 2008 Talented Teens Contestants

Parade of States & Countries

Introduction of Hal Jackson

Introduction of MC

Top 10 Finalists Announced

Judging Segment 1 Personality & Achievement

Rules & Regulations

Entertainment

Introduction of Judges

Judging Segment 2 - Talent

Performance by 2007 Winner – Miss Naomi Rahn

Intermission

The Best Is Yet To Come – Our Tribute to Music

Performed by 2008 Contestants

Special Presentations & Acknowledgments

Entertainment

Judging Segment 3 Appearance

Entertainment

Farewell Address - Miss Naomi Rahn

Special TTI Awards

Crowning of the 2008 HJTTT Winner





Benefit Committee



Founder & CEO

HAL JACKSON

Executive Producer

DEBI JACKSON

BM Coordinator

NEIL BLYDEN

Director & Choreographer

KEISHA L. CLARKE

- Miss New York 1992

Assistant Choreographers

ESSENCE RANDOLPH

- Miss Missouri 1996

KEISA PARRISH

- Miss California 1993

Publicity

THE HOLLIS GROUP, LLC

YAEGER PUBLIC RELATIONS, LLC

Supervising Producers

NADINE ABRAM

Miss New York 1982

Audio Producers

CLAY BERRY

SHEILA EDWARDS

MICAH MOCH

Emoke Productions

ANTHONY RICHARDS

JASON ROBINSON

Production Managers

JAMES FARLEY

CHEYVONNE GRAVES

TONYA GRAY

PINESE HARRIS

TIFFANY JONES

DELISE JONES

- Miss HJTTI 1983

BOB LEE

KAREN MALONE

THERESA MERRING

BERNICE WHITE

Make Up

VERDA ROGERS

Hair Stylist

ANDREA SHELL

of Mo'Hair Salon, NYC

244 East 13th Street, NYC

International Coordinators

MERDEAN GALES

JANE JACKSON HARLEY

CLAIRE ROKER

PINNIE ROSS

Regional Coordinators

NINA CHANDLER

MARGIE EVANS

MAXINE JENKINS

WILEY MORTON

JANASEE SINCLAIR

SUSAN WARREN

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SKIP DILLARD

TERRY FORD

LAVERNE HODGE

ANGELA HOLLIS

CYNTHIA HORNER

SANDY JENNINGS

GWEN KINGSBERRY

ISABELLA LAFORET

DEON LEVINGSTON

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Videographer

THORNE MAXWELL

Graphic Design

JASON REYNOLDS



Youth Development Foundation, Inc.
Promoting Culture & Education Through the Performing Arts

July 19, 2008

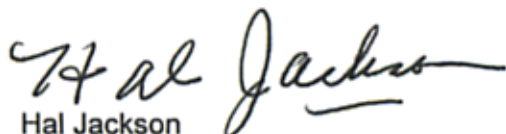
Dear Talented Teen International Family:

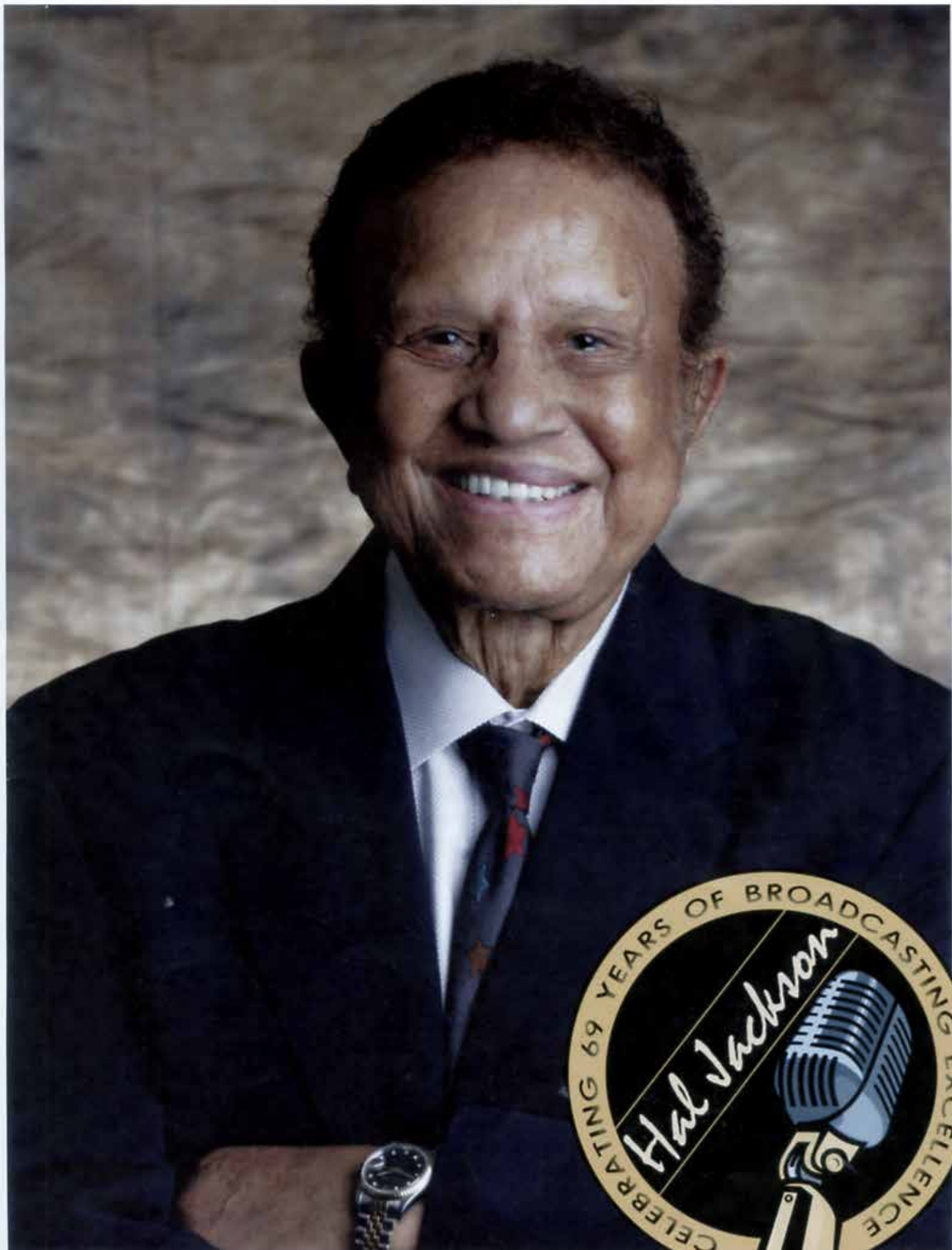
Thank you so much for supporting the 38th annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition (HJTTI) being held in the British Virgin Islands - one of "Nature's Little Secrets." We are so grateful to you for supporting teenage girls who are always looking for guidance, encouragement and understanding. We wish to thank all of the parents and guardians who allowed their young lady to participate in of this year's event. We hope your daughter has become more self-assured, acquired higher self-esteem, and is proud to be acknowledged as a member of the Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International family.

We know that visiting the British Virgin Islands as a prize for each Talented Teen International representative has been a fantastic, intercultural and educational experience. We are sure this will be a prize she will cherish for the rest of her life. Again we will show the world that "The Best is Yet To Come" and HJTTI has grown and is still growing. We want to thank our HJTTI Directors for being a part of our growth. HJTTI has been out there for 38 years, thank God, because of people like you. You and our corporate supporters have helped us to provide over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and prizes and assisted in cultivating the leaders of tomorrow today. We all have grown to be better people in the process.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the individuals and corporations who have donated their money, services, time and products to make HJTTI a success. We must especially draw attention to ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc., B Mobile, the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, Long Bay Beach Resort & Villas, the government of the British Virgin Islands, Ramapo College and Neil Blyden Associates.

God Bless You,


Hal Jackson
CEO & Founder



CELEBRATING 69 YEARS OF BROADCASTING EXCELLENCE
Hal Jackson

INNER CITY BROADCASTING CORPORATION

3 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016-5902 (212) 447-1000



PIERRE M. SUTTON
CHAIRMAN AND CEO

I congratulate Hal Jackson on another great year of the Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition. Thanks to Hal Jackson for reaching out to our communities, cities, states and countries in search of talented young ladies that wish to share their experiences, dreams and endeavors with us. Hal Jackson and his talented team of directors assist these young ladies in developing, enhancing and making their dreams come true before many audiences. Each year, we watch Hal Jackson deliver to us this talent. And, this time it's in the British Virgin Islands!

Also, I would like to recognize the directors and team members that unselfishly dedicate their time and talents to making this Competition a continued success. We are so blessed to have someone like a Hal Jackson walking the earth with us. It is this tireless effort that makes me, once again, applaud Hal Jackson and the wonderful work he started 38 years ago and we want to see continue on into infinity.

Again, Congratulations to you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Sutton', written in a cursive style.

Pierre M. Sutton
Chairman and CEO
Inner City Broadcasting Corporation



Office of the Governor
Government House
P. O. Box 702
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands

Telephone: (284) 494-2345/70
Facsimile: (284) 494-5790

4th June 2008

Dear Participants:

I am delighted to contribute these words of welcome to all those taking part in the 38th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International Scholarship Competition. With others here in the British Virgin Islands I am thrilled that the organisers of this renowned and prestigious event have chosen Tortola as the 2008 venue.



This competition has, since its inception in 1971, provided for many talented young artists their first critical career step. More than this, it has offered the incentive to many others to strive to achieve their very best in their chosen field and so to lead more fulfilling and rewarding lives. The Hal Jackson organisation has to be commended for offering such opportunities to so many and for continuing to inspire and lead for nearly four decades.

Let me extend too my very best wishes to the young contestants vying for the 2008 Talented Teen International Title. I applaud their courage and determination. I sincerely hope that by the end of the competition each of the girls, whether or not they emerge as overall winners, will feel they have done their talents full justice. And I hope too that all involved – contestants, organisers and audience alike – have tremendous fun.

Finally, for those joining us in the British Virgin Islands, I trust your stay here will be a memorable one and that you, your friends and family will become regular visitors here. We for our part will strive to make it a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all of you.



David Pearey
Governor



MESSAGE FROM PREMIER HON. RALPH T. O'NEAL, OBE

I welcome this opportunity to extend best wishes to all the contestants participating in the 38th Hal Jackson's International Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition being held in our beautiful Territory for the first time in its history.

Having the most "talented teen" in the world selected on our stage in Nature's Little Secrets will be quite a feat for this island destination. We welcome our guests who will be visiting for the first time and I hope that your stay is a memorable one.

I commend the organizers for choosing our destination as the venue for this year's staging of this very prestigious competition. My government always welcomes opportunities to host such events and I wholeheartedly support any venture that portrays young people positively.

The hosting of this pageant in the BVI will not only be a showcase of the finest talents embodied in young people but it also exposes the BVI's youth to a higher caliber of talent that other young people like themselves possess.

We will never take for granted the excellent publicity to be derived from the BVI's hosting of this international event and for that we are very appreciative.

I wish the BVI's contestant Cassandra Malone every success in this competition and I am confident that she will represent us very well. I extend congratulations to this year's winner and those who make it to the top positions.

On behalf of my Government and the people of this Territory, I wish the contestants and audience an enjoyable evening.

Ralph T O'Neal, OBE
Premier and Minister for Tourism



Deputy Premier
and
Minister of Health & Social Development

Government of the British Virgin Islands
Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

7 May 2008

Greetings:

The Government of the Virgin Islands is proud to be a sponsor and more so to be the Host of the 38th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International® Scholarship Competition.

I wholeheartedly give my support to events such as this and to organizations that encourage young women through educational programs. I applaud the efforts of all concerned in promoting positive activities for young people everywhere.

All of the participants deserve to be congratulated on their decision to enter the Competition. I am sure that each of them will enjoy the experience and benefit from it in many different ways.

I welcome all to these British Virgin Islands, and extend my best wishes for every success in this year's Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition.

Dancia Penn, OBE, QC
Deputy Premier and
Minister of Health and Social Development



RIDING THE WAVE INTO RADIO HISTORY

At The Age Of 92 Music Legend Hal Jackson Keeps The Good Times Rockin And Rollin

By Fred Yaeger

NEW YORK, NY — He's been called an icon, a legend, a pioneer, a crusader and an American original. At age 92 Hal Jackson is indubitably the king of radio disc jockeys, the quintessential master of his craft and the spirit of high-energy entertainment. He's also the oldest DJ in the United States still flying high on the airwaves decades after many of his counterparts and colleagues have retired. And he has no intention of giving up his lofty mantle, firmly entrenched behind the microphone at one of New York's hottest stations. It's where he's most comfortable, and most coveted.

Listeners who tune in to rhythm and blues station WBLS 107.5 FM in New York every week for "Sunday Classics" from noon to 4:00 p.m. know the voice, the man, and the legend behind it. Hal Jackson makes it look — well, sound — easy, only because he's the consummate professional. And he's a man of firsts: the first African American radio announcer in network radio; the first Black play-by-play sportscaster in America; the first co-owner of a Black radio station in New York City; the first African American inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters; the first African American host of a jazz program on the ABC network; not to mention a myriad other "firsts." Suffice it to say Hal Jackson is also the first of his kind to break barriers, move mountains, make waves, and entertain countless millions with his special brand of soulful sophistication.

As co-founder and group chairman of Inner City Broadcasting, Hal Jackson seemingly invented the concept of Black radio entertainment. Born in 1915 and reared in Washington, DC, he attended Howard University, where he broadcast the university's home baseball games as well as local American Negro Baseball League games over radio station WOOK in the nation's capital. At the age of 24 he approached the owners of Washington's WINX radio (then owned by The Washington Post) with the idea of producing a radio show. Despite being confronted with the wall of racism that permeated much of the country in that era, Hal Jackson prevailed. In doing so he broke new ground in establishing Black entertainment in America. The seeds of his prescient vision were to bear fruit for decades to come.

Hal Jackson used his radio pulpit not to proselytize, but to promote the achievements of Black Americans of the day. He interviewed entertainers, authors, teachers, scientists, sports legends, motivators, mover, shakers and great thinkers — all making their own contribution to the American mosaic.

With his unique approach to entertainment and his ability to attract talent, Hal Jackson broadened his horizons, and expanded his reach into larger and more influential markets, none more so than New York, the country's number-one market. In the 1950s and 1960s he was a fixture on the New York airwaves. Hal Jackson broadcast daily on WLIB, WMCA; ABC network; and was host of a TV program on NBC. He also hosted successful live weekly concerts from Palisades Amusement Park. Jackson's HBJ enterprise featured some of the most powerful and sought-after acts of the day, from The Supremes and The Temptations to The Four Tops and Stevie Wonder. Hal Jackson has always cultivated talent, nurtured it, and he knows how to showcase it.

Throughout his storied career Hal Jackson has remained a benevolent and driving force in the community at large, particularly with regard to minority youth. He has created numerous programs to assist youth in living up to their full potential while spearheading countless efforts aimed at lifting their careers, and their spirits. Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (originally conceived as Miss Black Teenage America) has evolved into a worldwide talent competition. Held in such venerated locales as New York's Madison Square Garden and the Coconut Grove in California, the annual event will be held this year in the British Virgin Islands on the Island of Tortola from Saturday, July 12th 2008 through Sunday, July 20th 2008.

At 92, Hal Jackson has the energy and the enthusiasm of a man of 29. As a broadcaster, entrepreneur, radio and TV personality, philanthropist, author and missionary for good causes everywhere, he exudes class and charisma. And he shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.



Hals Pals...

1. Quincy Jones 2. MC Hammer
3. Ne-Yo 4. Whoopi Goldberg
5. Wendy Williams 6. Maxine
Waters 7 Alyson Williams 8.
Marcus Miller 9. Louis Gossett
Jr. & Kim Coles 10. Scott Stringer
11. Fantasia



38 Years and The Best Is Yet To Come



1971

The first contest was held under the title "Miss Black Teenage America" on July 28 in Atlanta, Georgia and was taped for television syndication. The winner was Miss Texas, *June Kelly*.



1972

The site changed to New York City and the location of the contest was Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. Miss Texas won again, this time her name was *Cynthia Lewis*.



1973

The title changed to "Miss U.S. Talented Teen Pageant & Revue" and Miss *Edna Hill* from Maryland was the winner. Dr. Hill is currently the 1st Black plastic surgeon in the state of Maryland.



1974

Talent, intellect, determination and the ability to perform under pressure, all qualities that characterize Miss Missouri, *Denise DuMaine* who won the crown at Town Hall in New York City.



1975

Miss Georgia won the crown in New York City at Town Hall. *Renee Critcher* tours and sings with Harry Belafonte.



1976

Due to requests to extend its benefits to teens in other countries, the title was changed to "Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International." The 1st international finals took place in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, the winner was Miss New York, *Karen McClellan*.



1977

HJTTI offers an educational experience and a unique opportunity for thousands of teenagers 13 to 16 years who have a performing talent. *Melody Smith* from New Jersey was the winner at the Longhorn Theatre in Hollywood, California.



1978

Each year thousands of young ladies walk through the doors of HJTTI sponsors around the world. The winner's door opened for Miss Connecticut, *Sheryl Piland* and she was crowned by Michael Jackson at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles.



1979

HJTTI helps to raise the academic achievement of young ladies by providing scholarships to assist in education. This year's scholarship recipient was *Angela Pollack*. Angela resided in New Jersey and was crowned at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles.



1980

HJTTI assists young women by helping them express themselves with imagination and intelligence. *Annette Jones* expressed herself well and is currently a member of "101 North" signed with Capitol Records. Miss California won in L. A.

Talented Teens International



1981

Returning from California to share in the 50th Anniversary of the Waldorf Astoria, HJTTI enters its second decade from the worlds' premier city, New York. Miss *Kimberly Brooks* from Baltimore, Maryland won the crown.



1982

HJTTI gives ladies the opportunity of displaying their talents before a large audience, on a prestigious stage such as the John F. Kennedy Center For the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. where *Kristel Henderson*, Miss U.S. Virgin Islands took the title.



1983

HJTTI assists in building self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline and positive values. Miss New York, *Delise Jones* possesses all of these qualities and is currently teaching in the New York school system. Miss Jones displayed her talents in California.



1984

The contest was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on an extraordinary summer evening under the stars. The winner resided in New Jersey...her name *Michelle Thomas*.



1985

HJTTI competitions are conducted by civic-minded organizations and individuals. This year's winner is a ballet dancer who is currently dancing with the Dance Theatre of Harlem. *Tai Jimenez* "wowed" the judges at the Coconut Grove in Los Angeles.



1986

Prizes for the winners include scholarships, exposure to the music and film industries, and travel abroad which enhances cultural awareness. *Oweon Davis*, an accomplished violinist took the crown on stage at the Apollo in New York City.



1987

Cool breezes blew through the hair of the HJTTI contestants when they visited St. Croix, St. John and performed live in St. Thomas. The winning contestant was *Tammy Townsend* who hails from Carson, California



1988

The age of entering contestants was raised to 17. The HJTTI contest was held at the Arie Crown Theatre and *Kiya Dawn Winston* a gymnast from New Jersey stole the judges' hearts.



1989

HJTTI was designed as an outlet for untapped talent as well as training in staging, choreography, poise, grace, and diction. *Tamica Ellis*, a young lady from Wisconsin possessed all of those qualities and won on the Apollo stage in Harlem, U.S.A.



1990

For 20 years Mr. Jackson has taken on the tremendous task of providing a launching pad for hundreds of thousands of young ladies into the entertainment field. The Wilern Theatre in Los Angeles was the stage, the winner *Renisha Rayford* from Detroit.

38 Years and The Best Is Yet To Come



1991

The third decade of HJTTI was started with a triumphant return to the Apollo Theatre. Boyz II Men were on hand to help crown *Myisha Richmond*, 15 year old from Lawndale, Ca.



1992

Fakiya Munnerlyn, a 15 year old singer from Hillside, N.J. won the judges approval at the world famous Apollo Theatre in New York City.



1993

Rosa Sanchez, a 16 year old gymnast from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands won the crown in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. at the Reichhold Center for Performing Arts.



1994

Amanda Stanley, a 17 year old tap dancer from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands won the Judges hearts and the crown in Washington, D.C. at the historic Lincoln Theater.



1995

Ebony Mack, a 13 year old gospel singer from Irvington, NJ won the judges approval at the world famous Apollo Theatre in New York City.



1996

A 16 year old Modern Dancer from New York City won the International crown on the renowned Apollo stage in New York City. Her name is *Tiffany Walker*.



1997

Quianic Withoy leaped her way to the top of the judges score cards when she won the crown in the Bahamas after a wonderful week of sun, sand and surf. Quianic a 16 year old gymnastic dancer for the U S Virgin Islands.



1998

A Shakespearean actress from New Jersey won the International Crown at the world famous Apollo Theatre. She is 16 year old *Nikiya Mathis* from Elizabeth, New Jersey.



1999

A 15 year old opera singer from Trinidad & Tobago won the International crown in St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands. Her name is *Renee Solomon*.



2000

The 30th Anniversary HJTTI was celebrated in New York City. 15 year old *Nicole Nicholas*, the granddaughter of Fayard Nicholas and the great niece of Dorothy Dandridge, tapped her way into the hearts of our judges and walked away with the Crown. Alicia Keys & Musiq SoulChild were special guests.

Talented Teens International

2001



Brian McKnight was the chairperson for the 31st annual competition held in New York City where *Della Hamby*, a 16 year old gymnastic dancer won the judges' approval and walked away with the International Crown.

2002



Mario enchanted the young ladies at a luncheon for the 32nd annual competition. *Teena Lugo*, a 17 year old actress from New Brunswick, NJ won the International crown at the Hudson Theatre on Broadway in New York City.

2003



Tatiana McInnis sang her way into the hearts of our judges which included Cissy Houston in St. Thomas, USVI and won the International crown. Tatiana a 14 years old from Douglasville, Georgia

2004



Sheryl Lee Ralph was on hand as a judge when *Nicola Dalrymple* won the International Crown in New York City. Nicola a 15 year old dancer/singer/actress from Trinidad & Tobago

2005



St. Maarten was the venue of the 35th annual HJTTI. The winner a 16 year old Michael Jackson impersonator by the name of *Esonica Veira* from the US Virgin Islands.

2006



Raquel Winchester a 115 year old opera singer from Trinidad won the 36th annual contest in New York City. Pretty Ricky met the girls at Tavern on the Green. Freddie Jackson and Urban Mystic serenaded them at Symphony Space.

2007

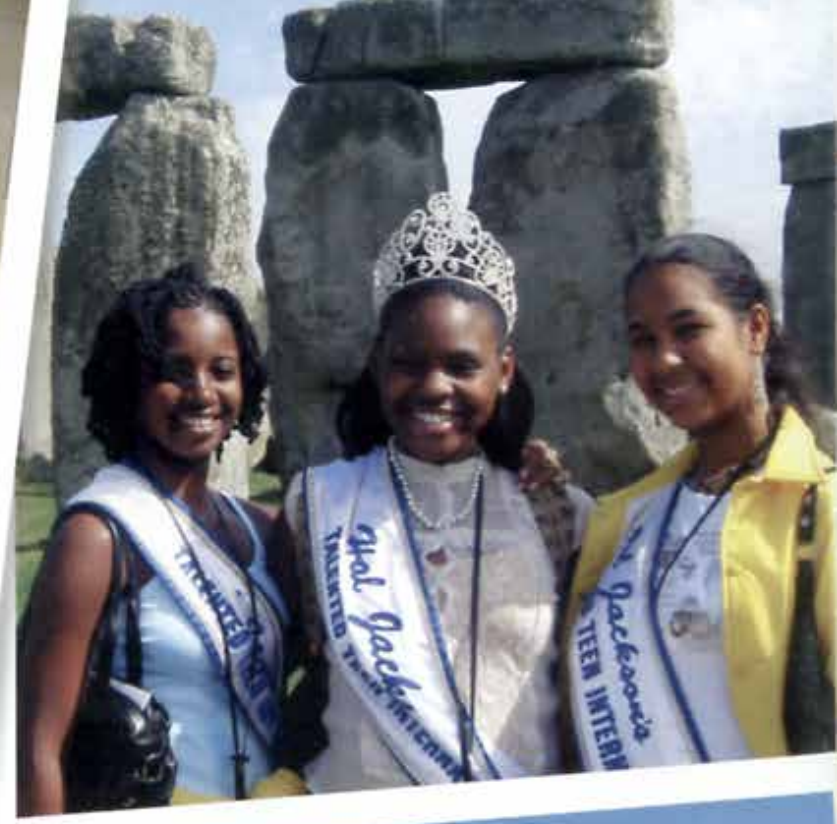


Naomi Rahn a 15 year old actress from the state of Washington won the crown at Aaron Davis Hall in New York City with a heart stirring soliloquy about being adopted and meeting her father for the first time.

2008



Who will be
the next Hal
Jackson's
Talented Teens
International



Miss HJTTI 2007

Naomi's European Adventure

As I strolled through London's Heathrow Airport, I felt a sense of queen-like regality. I received smiles, nods and waves of approval from travelers of many different cultural backgrounds and ethnicities. It was my crown that had been placed upon my head along with my Hal Jackson Talented Teen International 2007 sash, which was draped across my torso, that they recognized. As I boarded the plane, I gave my last queen wave to the heart of England and departed a country that thrives on culture and history. I sat next to the window and pondered over my memories, while looking out onto the landscape of London as it decreased in size. I thought to myself, I must be dreaming. Did I just travel to London, England and see all the historical buildings, statues, and monuments? Was I just inside the Eiffel Tower, where I gazed upon the city of Paris?

Reminiscing on all of the amazing and exhilarating moments, while the plane flew me back into Seattle, Washington, I remembered the first day my state director and I stepped out of the black cab and into the heart of Leicester Square, London. We then checked into the luxurious five star Radisson Hotel, which was decorated with a cutting edge modern décor. Later on that night we both greeted Uncle Hal and Auntie Debi, for the first time in a month ever since my victory on July 28, 2007 for Internationals. Also present were two previous Queens of Internationals 2004 and 2006. Both were from Trinidad and Tobago. Raquel Winchester reign was 2006, while Nicola Darymple's was in 2004; they too were experiencing London and Paris for the first time. First we started out the intercultural week with satisfying our pallets in an authentic Italian Bistro. As the day moved forward, the excitement and anticipation grew tremendously when we were told we would be attending a theater to watch the European version of the musical "Fame"


The next morning, we got an even earlier start than the day before. Our first endeavor would be to board The Original Sightseeing Bus, which gave an eclectic tour of London. Peering through my intrigued eyes at the historical buildings and monuments, I became astonished when we drove by St. Paul Cathedral and how it was being restored, after so many centuries of it standing. We walked the historic outskirts of the Westminster Abbey, a major land mark in the heart of London, which is also the site of Coronation for the English Monarchy. After we finished touring in the sightseeing bus, we moved with deliberate haste, so as not to miss the Catamaran Cruisers, which was the tour on the water of London. My attention was diverted towards the historical bridges and their intricate architectural structure. The bridges that we gazed our curious eyes upon was the Tower Bridge and the London Bridge, both bridges were ingeniously constructed in 17th century and still meets and exceeds modern day structural codes. After that day of touring in the heart of London, we all returned back to our lavish hotel rooms and try to let our tiresome bodies adjust to the European time, which was 6 hours ahead.

On the third day, we woke to encounter another new and thrilling experience, but this time it was attending the most lively and worldwide known carnival of the year in London, the Notting Hill Carnival. We walked to the Piccadilly Circus which took



Miss HJTTI 2007

all of us out of the heart of Leicester Square. Then we rode the bus towards the port of the world, which was the Notting Hill Gate Carnival. Vibrant costumes, music, exotic food, languages and traditional dances expressed every culture in a different way. At this particular carnival I had a craving for Americanized confections, until I was introduced to sugar cane. Returning back Leicester Square we ate at an Indian Restaurant, titled just that Indian Restaurant. It was such an honor to be in the presence of Uncle Hal, especially as he wore a genuine smile of gratification upon his face after watching his Queens being introduced into an entirely different way of living outside of our countries.



The very next day we traveled to Windsor Castle, where I received a chance to actually look at the precise historical architecture that the British hand crafted over centuries ago. I was astonished looking at the intricate detail of golden angelic images and painting on every ceiling inside the castle, while listening to the audio tour guide. The castle took centuries to make, but it was the mere fact that the British created something so beautiful and sturdy, that even Queen Elizabeth II lives in it to this very day. When the tour of the Windsor Castle was over, we headed towards the ancient Stonehenge; these particular stones have been sitting in the same position and area for 5,000 years. They originally came from South Wales located in England and have been dragged by man 240 miles to the Salisbury Plains also located in England. Grateful for our eyes to be able to see the greatness of history we headed towards the Roman Baths, this was one of the most highlights of the visit. Baffled by being in the same ancient place as the elite Roman scholars and aristocrats, who were the first to invent and experience hot tubs also known as "Jacuzzis." We ended our night with an experience of the world known play Phantom of the Opera, as an aspiring actress you know I was in my element.

The entire last day we spent in Europe, we took a 2 hour train ride to Paris, France on the Eurostar to see the lifestyle and culture of the French. We indulged ourselves on authentic French cuisine at the restaurant Voltaire. As Mrs. Jenkins and Auntie Debi decided to go shop for more souvenirs Nicola, Raquel, and I took upon the opportunity to go to a garden in Paris and walked around to see the beautiful scenery. Then we visited the Eiffel Tower, and cruised on a tour boat through the heart of Paris. Once again I was in amazement on how the Europeans preserve their history and culture through their monuments, statues, and buildings. McDonalds has nothing on the authentic French fries in France, they were "doigt bon léchage!"

Soon after, we returned back to the Radisson Hotel and prepared ourselves for departure the following day. I truly didn't want to leave just yet, but as you know all good things have to come to an end. I am deeply grateful for having the opportunity to spend quality time with Uncle Hal and Auntie Debi, who treated me with such love and kindness. Uncle Hal and Auntie Debi you have planted a seed that will only produce greatness as your previous Queens have already proven. Thank you and God Bless.

Miss HJTTI 2004

"When it's nice... do it twice."

It was not going to be just another vacation. I was finally going to have my first European experience. On the 23rd of August 2007, excited and anxious, Miss HJTTI 2006 Raquel and I departed Trinidad to arrive at London where we met the reigning queen Naomi and her chaperone as well as Mr. and Mrs. Jackson ...then the activities began.

We went to numerous tours which allowed us to expand our knowledge of the history of London and Paris. One notable tour was 'The Original Tour of London' where we visited Buckingham Gate, St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Additionally, we visited the Windsor Castle where we saw the Queen Mary's Dolls' House, St. George's Chapel, the largest dining table in the world and most importantly the guards in red and black with fluffy hats. I also got a picture with them...ha ha. I must mention that we also visited Stonehenge and the Roman Baths in Bath City. In Paris, we went to the renowned Eiffel tower and the Louvre. I was able to see for myself that the French are indeed very affectionate and are never shy to show it in public like my Caribbean people.

Many other cultural expressions that I was not exposed to in my home country were quite prominent in Leicester Square where our hotel in London was located. Mrs. Jackson referred to it as the 'Times Square' of London. If you stood in Leicester Square, you will be amazed to see a 'callaloo' of cultures around you. When you walk the streets, you will hear numerous different languages being spoken by persons from various races, ethnicities and nationalities.

I even had the cherished opportunity to meet some of these people. One such event that permitted this was the Notting Hill Carnival. It was the major event that showcased the high levels of cultural pluralism existing in this metropolitan country. There were representatives from France, Italy, China, Japan, Australia, Chile and many other regions including the most dynamic and the largest group; the Caribbean. It is said that approximately 2 million people visit the country to participate in this particular event, so one can just imagine how many nationalities were present. At the Carnival, there were many different stalls present, all of which literally gave the public a slice of the Caribbean.

In fact, Naomi and Mrs. Jenkins had the pleasure of tasting Trinidad's famous 'sugar cane', the plant material mainly used to produce sugar, and guess what? I think they loved it. I believe the words went something like, 'It's so pure and rich...hmmm'. We also tasted ackee and saltfish, a Jamaican dish, which I fell in love with. It was deeeelicious.

The British culture was not to be out done during my time in London, as there was the evident difference in terminology. For example, 'bacon' for the English was 'ham' for us and our 'elevator' was replaced with their 'lift'.



Nicola Dalrymple

Eating, speaking and sightseeing were not the only parts of my European experience. I had the pleasure of experiencing the creative and performance arts as well. These events included the stage production 'Fame' at the Shaftesbury Theatre and the 'Phantom of the Opera' at Her Majesty's Theatre. Viewing such stage productions was wonderful, as all three queens saw performances in their specific fields of opera, drama, and ballet, on a professional level ... and LIVE!!! These events exemplified just how much literature, art (graphics) and history are cherished in this modern society. Added to the performing arts, their fondness for these things are displayed everyday simply on the walls of their buildings. The architecture is breathtaking. The presents of bridges and large rivers possess historic value as they served to facilitate trade and transport in previous times. Today, they use it as an avenue to share their history with tourist by using fairies and buses. The fact that they take pride in their history and preserve it as they do is admirable to me.

The staff at the hotel was courteous and helpful, not to mention warm-hearted toward us, unlike the weather, which was 22 degrees Celsius on the best day. This was another significant difference between where I came from and London. The time difference between Trinidad and Tobago and London was that London was five hours ahead of our time, which was a bit difficult to adjust to. Up until the last day I had trouble adjusting to the time so much that I over slept. Luckily our Romanian taxi driver said he will wait as we (Raquel and I) are beautiful ladies. Thank God, other wise we would just have had to stay in London, which actually would not have been a bad thing ... at all.

One of the things I treasured most from this trip was receiving renewed strength to press towards unlimited success. Persons met and discussions I had, throughout this journey, from my point of departure from my homeland, to the time I got back, reminded why I should work hard, keep focused and enjoy the blessings of life. More importantly, it reminded me that the only person that can limit my success in life is me, once God wills it. Thank you, to all who contributed to that, appreciate it and love you.

So in conclusion... Did I love it?

Yes I did.

Would I do it again? ...

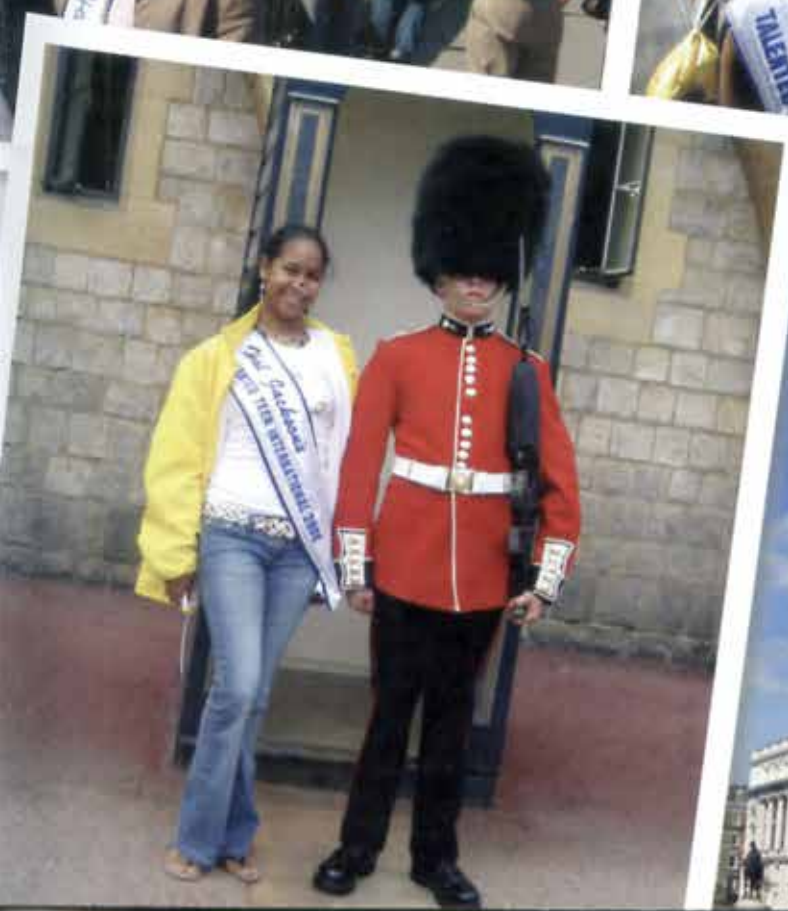
Hmmm, in a heart beat.

Yours truly,

Niki Rympie







2008 Scholarship Program



Antigua
No Info Available



Bahamas
Ferrice Kemp, 16
Vocalist



British Virgin Islands
Kirtis Malone, 16
Singing



District of Columbia
Brije Smith, 15
Dancer



Florida
Camila Johnson, 14
Vocalist



Georgia
Kierra Shivers, 17
Dancer



Massachusetts
Jessica Gordon, 13
Dancer



Missouri
Amirah Garwood, 15
Dancer



New Jersey
Daphne Lee, 17
Dancer

HJTTI Participants



Canada
Kayzia Hall, 15
Talent



Connecticut
Nikita Smith-Gittens, 16
Dancer



Delaware
Dietra Hunter, Age
Talent



Illinois
Nyna Campbell, 14
Actress



Louisiana
Alexis Keana Thomas, 14
Vocalist



Maryland
Bianca Dorsey, 17
Vocalist



New York
Nnecka Boyd, 17
Vocalist



Nigeria
Onyebuchi Chidinma Faith, 15
Actress



St. Lucia
Charlene Mohammed, 16
Dancer

2008 Scholarship Program



St. Maarten
Merugia Van der Mark, 15
Martial Arts



South Carolina
Deondra Gidron, Age
Vocalist



Tennessee
Miracle Jones, 14
Vocalist



Trinidad & Tobago
Renisha Brithnath, 16
Vocalist



US Virgin Islands
Elle A. Nielsen, 16
Dancer



Virginia
Ashley Beaman, 16
Vocalist



Washington
Talitha Fofana, 16
Actress

*Good Luck to all of you!
The Best Is Yet To Come*

HJTTI Participants



Are you a young lady between the ages of 13 and 17 with a performing talent? Will you be 17 until September 2009? Then you maybe eligible to enter the 39th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International competition. Are you a community minded individual or organization who would like to run a Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International competition in your location?

Then write to:

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Fax: 212.447.5197

Email: hjteens@aol.com

www.talentedteens.org

Official Ballot

You be the Judge!

Judge's Name _____

Judge's Name _____

Please make all final scores in ink. Initial any corrections.

AV = Average

GD = Good

VG = Very Good

I. Appearance (1-20 Points)

AV = 1-6

GD = 7-12

VG = 13-20

A Youthful Teenage Appearance

II. Personality and Achievement (1-15 Points)

AV = 1-5

GD = 6-10

VG = 11-15

A Good Public Speaking Ability

III. Performing Talent (1-30 Points)

AV = 1-10

GD = 11-20

VG = 21-30

Material with Universal Appeal

STATE/
COUNTRY

NAME

AGE

APPEARANCE
1-20

PERSONALITY
1-15

PERFORMING
1-30

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Awards For Our 2008 Participants



Michelle Thomas Scholarships

HJTTI Winner Receives a \$5,000 Scholarship
The 1st Runner-Up Also Receives a \$2,000 Scholarship
The 2nd Runner-Up Receives a \$1,500 Scholarship
The 3rd Runner-Up Receives a \$1,000 Scholarship
The 4th Runner-Up Receives a \$500 Scholarship

Wilda Labrie Scholarships

Awarded for the Highest Grade Point Average - \$1,000

- Donated by Make the Grade Foundation

Miss Talent	\$1,000	Miss Photogenic	\$500
Miss Personality	\$250	Miss Creativity	\$250
		Miss Congeniality	\$250

A Diamond Ring to The Winner and First Runner Up

Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Hal Jackson

A Trip to Europe

Courtesy of My Feet Travel & Apel International Travel

A Trip to Jamaica

Courtesy of Walt Crooks – Brystals Entertainment Group

A Trip to St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

Courtesy of Claire Roker, Talented Unlimited, Inc.

One Full Scholarship to Ramapo College of New Jersey

Awarded to the first entering high school senior
who applies and meets all requirements

Each Contestant Receives

- A Participation Trophy
- An Official HJTTI Sash
- An Official Talented Teens T-Shirt
- An Official Talented Teens Tote Bag
- A HJTTI Certificate of Achievement
- An Intercultural Experience for a Week in the British Virgin Islands



Delise Jones



Ruben Rodriguez



2007 Shooting Star Award Recipients



2008 Shooting Star Awards

Neil Blyden

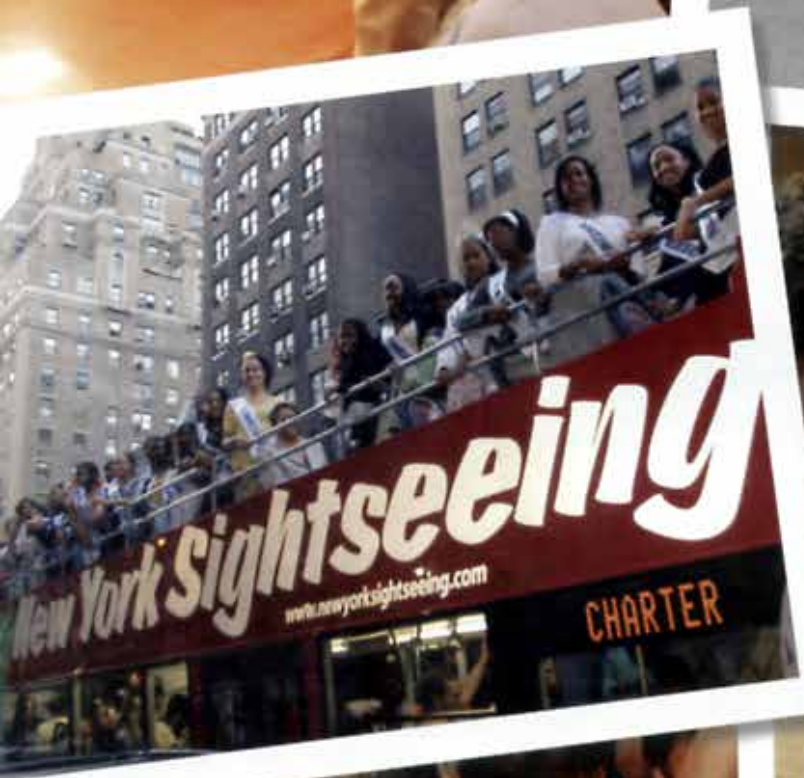
Mr. Neil Blyden was born on the island of Tortola, British Virgin Islands. He moved to New York City in the early 1960's. His drive for music and entertainment put him right in the center of the 70's music boom. He was a recording drummer at the age of 15 and by age 17, he was a DJ involved in the emergence of rap music. While at City College of New York, he got involved with WCCR City College Radio, where he was part of a group of young men who helped to change the music scene in New York. The group included people like Russell Simmons of Def Jam, Jerry Roebuck of Black Expo, and Andre Harrell founder of Uptown Records. In the late 1970's, Mr. Blyden's skills caught the eye of world famous promoter Sid Bernstein of Beatles fame, and he was exposed to the big side of the entertainment world. For the next couple of decades, Mr. Blyden worked with most major artists in the music and entertainment business. He was Technical Director and Production Coordinator of the Apollo Theatre from 1982 thru 1989. During this time, he helped develop the NBC Television show 'Showtime at the Apollo'. His international clients include Paramount Films, Aero Films, Caribbean Tourism Organization CTO Special Events, plus many more. Mr. Blyden has had a long history with Inner City Broadcasting and Mr. Hal Jackson, promoting and producing many events for them. Mr. Blyden returned to the British Virgin Islands in 1989 where he brought his marketing skills and worldwide connections to help develop the events marketing industry. He now owns radio station ZVGR 106.9FM and his own marketing events business, Neil Blyden Associates.



Nadine Shaw

Nadine Shaw Abram is the Production Supervisor/Script Coordinator for Hal Jackson Talented Teens International Scholarship competition for the last 10 years. She is a former HJTTI, crowned Miss New York 1982. After winning the title, Nadine immediately became and continues to be a "recruitment ambassador" for the talented teens program. Nadine is a proud alumna of Ithaca College where she received a B.A. in Television/Radio Communications and Theatre. Upon graduation, Nadine worked a number of years in public radio at WBAI in New York as a Reporter and Anchor. Wanting to expand her horizons, Nadine went on to work in publishing at Bantam Doubleday Dell as an Editorial/Production Associate. Working in publishing inspired Nadine to seek a graduate degree, and through a graduate assistantship, she received a M.A. in Media Management from Towson University in Maryland. Nadine presently works at Essex County College where she is the Director of the Media Production and Technology Center. Nadine attends D.A.W.N. Christian Fellowship in Brooklyn, where she is a member of the praise team, active with the drama ministry and General Manager of the church's internet global radio station, WDWN-FM.com. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., National Association of Black Journalists and an advisory board member for Newark Public Schools' Audio/Video Broadcasting Academy. Nadine gives all praise to God for making her into the extraordinary woman she is today. She also honors her parents, Naomi and the late Sylvester Shaw, for being the "gushing" wind beneath her wings!







Intercultural Week

The Ladies Visited Some of Nature's Little Secrets in The British Virgin Islands

OFFICIAL WELCOME TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Contestants and State & Country Directors were given a
Welcome to the BVI by the BVI Tourist Board

We Had a Guided Tour of Tortola Sponsored by the BVI Tourist Board

We had a Beach Party at Cane Garden Bay

We Cruised over to Beautiful Virgin Gorda, Had a Tour, Saw the Baths and Ate Lunch
Thanks to Premier Ralph T. O'Neal

We Shopped 'Til We Dropped in Road Town

8TH ANNUAL SHOOTING STAR AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2008 Representatives along with the State & Country Directors Saluted
Neil Blyden, Dr. Edna Hill Sallah, Nadine Shaw
At an Island Chic Affair
Sponsored by ZVCR

PRELIMINARY NIGHT RECEPTION

HJTTI Directors, Family & Friends Partied with the 2008 Delegates



Miss HJTTI 2007

Miss Naomi Rahn

At the age of 5, I was first introduced to the Hal Jackson Talented Teens program. I can remember to this very day the array of rainbow colored dresses, which were larger than life. Each and every princess', delightful and radiant smiles captivated my attention and I knew instantly that this was a dream and movement I wanted to be a part of and excel at. As time went on I would eventually witness my older sister Raven Rahn compete and win her Queen-ship. This increased my passion for the competition and deepened my desire to win. The standard had been set. I saw my sister transform right before my very eyes, from Contestant to Princess and then to Queen, all the while remaining my big sister that I'd grown to love and respect. The transformation increased her self worth, poise, grace and the ability to speak in public with confidence. It was a thrill to watch her in Washington and at the Internationals in New York. This dream had become even more tangible.

I was closing in on the dream of becoming Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International, but before I was able to reach my dream I was first crowned Hal Jackson Talented Teen of Washington State on May 6, 2007. This specific year a pyridine shift occurred, changing the course of my life forever. To be crowned Queen, the most prestigious title given to a fifteen year old in Washington State, made me feel like a celebrity. The only difference was, I didn't have as much paparazzi as Denzel Washington or Halle Berry - though I did have my share of the photo shoots and appearances over the course of the year such as Seattle parades, the Ebony's Fashion Fair Show, and television and newspaper interviews.

After winning the glory of Washington's heart, I traveled to New York City and competed in the Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Competition. Yes, that's right it's the city that never ever sleeps, the city that will make you or break you. The week in New York City burst into a surreal and fantastical experience - one, which I will cherish, with 32 other girls, from all over the globe for the rest of my life. A once in a lifetime window of opportunity that Mr. and Mrs. Hal Jackson opened for me to showcase my talents.

The activities were amazing; we started out the week meeting the Deputy Mayor of New York City, Dennis Walcott. Then we attended a variety of luncheons at Ashford and Simpson's Sugar Bar, you remember their famous duet "Solid as a Rock" Justin's; P. Diddy's restaurant that he named after his son, and let's not forget about the slammin homemade soul food at the famous soul café Miss Maude's Spoonbread in Harlem.... Did I say finger lickin good? We also received guided tours of New York City and Mr. and Mrs. Hal Jackson's Radio station 107.5 WBLS, as well as attending the Broadway play, the Color



Farewell Address

Purple. Last but not least, is the memory of the dance production with 32 other girls, done as a tribute to the Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown on the Harlem Stage at the Aaron Davis Hall.

Then we topped it off with the 7th Annual Shooting Star Awards Ceremony in the posh ambience of "Tavern on the Green" where we dined on exquisite five star cuisine and enjoyed artists, such as Andre, Najiyah, and Hezekiah Walker and Company. On the Night of July 28, 2007 at the Aaron Davis Hall in Harlem, NY, my loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ allowed me to fulfill one of my dreams and I was crowned Hal Jackson's Talented Teen Queen of Internationals for 2007. I was also recognized as the most talented teen of the competition, which is a separate award. Standing in shock and disbelief, the International crown was placed upon my head. I just didn't receive a crown, a sash, a diamond ring, and scholarship money to any college of my choice. I also received several all expense paid trips to London, Paris, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. The most gratifying experience received, was walking away with increased confidence, poise and the long lasting relationships of 32 other girls from all over the world. It would have been completely impossible to achieve this goal of wonderful success all by myself. First I thank God each and every step of the way, and for the people who helped me reach my goal, my parents, my sister, my state Directors, and various other important mentors. A sincere deep felt thank you to Mrs. and Mr. Hal Jackson for affording a little girl's dreams to come true. Grand merci spécial à M. et Mme Hal Jackson pour faire de cette toute la mesure du possible avec l'amour, de gratitude et de profonde admiration.

To all of the Talented Princesses of 2008, cherish every step you take on your journey towards success and treasure the memories of this wonderful moment. Let nothing hinder your walk, because what God has for you no one can take it away. For the future Queen of Hal Jackson Talented Teen Internationals 2008, stay strong and keep your head up at all times for you are now going to be carrying the prestigious title Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International. As you continue to walk on your path of life from here on out, you can use this victory and achievement to accomplish goals, conquer trials and tribulations. Life is like a math equation "Dedication + Determination x Discipline = Success" If you believe in yourself so will everyone else.

Farewell and God Bless

Naomi Rahn - Miss HJTTI 2007





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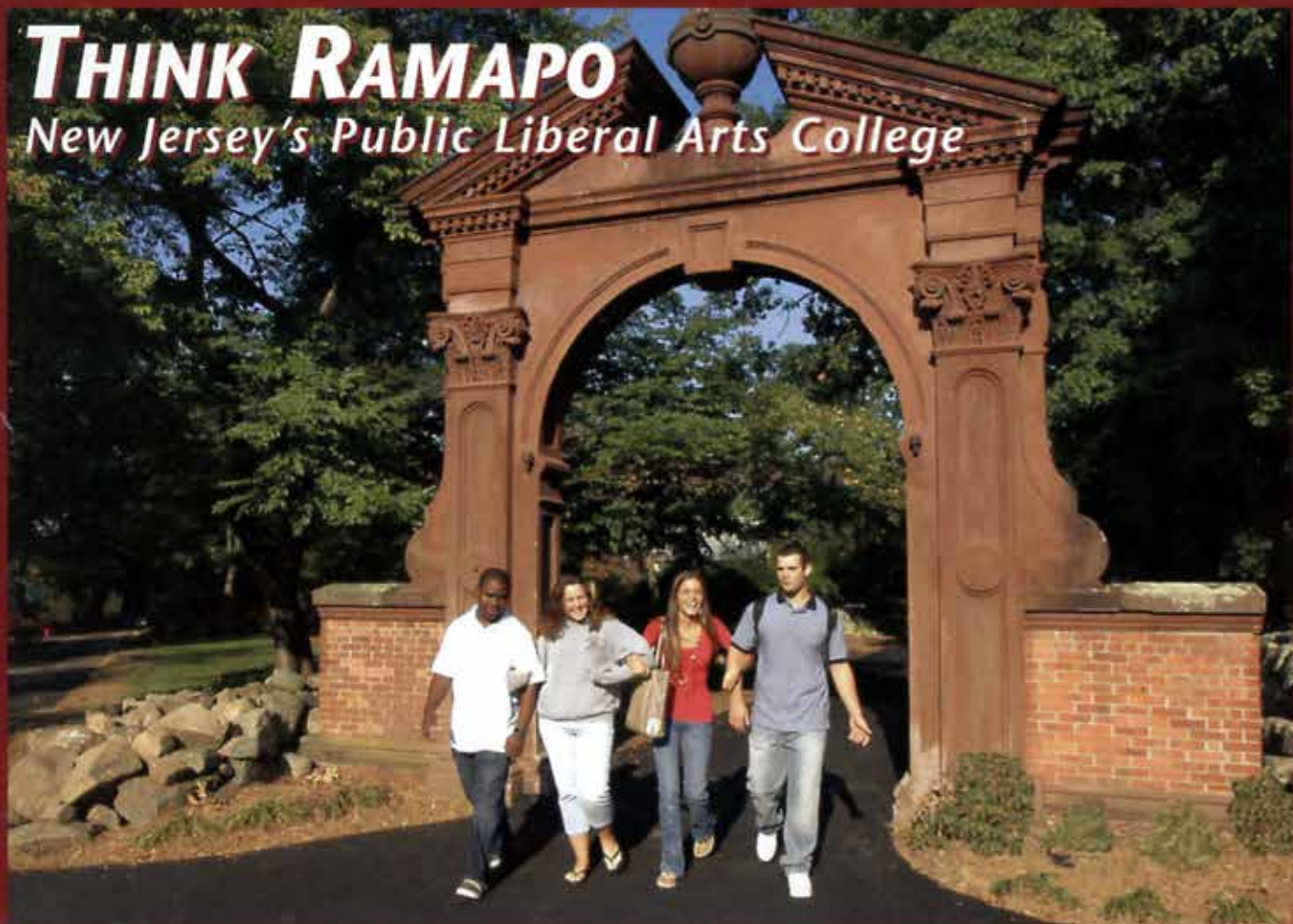
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- Chiropractic (New York Chiropractic College)
- Dentistry (New York University College of Dentistry)
- Dentistry (UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School)
- Medicine (UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine)
- Optometry (State University of New York (SUNY) State College of Optometry)
- Physical Therapy (UMDNJ-SHRP)
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- Bachelor of Social Work
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