

Leela James - It's A Man's Man's Man's World

“RuPaul’s Drag Race” Season Finale – Episode 108 Premieres Monday, March 23 at 10 PM / ET



NEW YORK, NY â€“ March 17, 2009 â€“ â€œThe time has come for you to lip-synch for your lifeâ€” as RuPaul, the worldâ€™s most famous drag queen, declares on Logoâ€™s new competition reality series, â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Race,â€” which of the three final drag contestants Bebe Zahara Benet, Nina Flowers, and Rebecca Glasscock will earn the title of Americaâ€™s next drag queen superstar.

SEASON FINALE: â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Raceâ€” Episode 108
Premieres Monday, March 23 at 10 PM ET/PT and on
rupaulsdragrace.com

The final three put the stiletto to the metal as it comes down to the final challenge to determine who will become Americaâ€™s next drag superstar. The race to the finish line has the finalists shoot the music video for RuPaulâ€™s latest dance hit â€œCover Girl (Put the Bass in Your Walk)â€” from his new album, â€œChampion.â€” These divas hold nothing back as they fight to prove to RuPaul why they should receive the

title and tiara for this competition. This episode promises a meal fit for a diva, as each contestant dines with RuPaul to demonstrate if they have what it takes to be a megastar. Music artist Cazwell and renowned photographer Mike Ruiz stop by to help the judges cast their final vote. Who will â€œChampionâ€ the competition and be crowned â€œAmericaâ€™s Next Drag Superstarâ€?

â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Raceâ€ Reunion Special Premieres Monday, March 23 at 11 PM ET/PT and on rupaulsdragrace.com

The winner has been declaredâ€|and now they can let it all hang out! Watch the nine contestants reunite for the first time and dish the good, the bad and the downright ugly about this past season of â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Race.â€ Wigs fly as the contestants talk to RuPaul about their take on the challenges, the judges and each other. Be sure to also tune-in and see who won the coveted title of â€œMiss Congeniality,â€ as picked on RupaulsDragRace.com by the fans of the show. This reunion promises to be glamorous, scandalous and wall-to-wall drag-tastic. You better work!

The grand finale of â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Raceâ€ Episode 108 & â€œRuPaulâ€™s Drag Raceâ€ Reunion Special, Premieres Monday, March 23 starting at 10 PM ET/PT and on rupaulsdragrace.com

Holland-Dozier-Holland To Receive The Prestigious

Johnny Mercer Award At The 2009 Songwriters Hall Of Fame 40th Anniversary Event On 6/18

New York, N.Y. – March 17, 2009 – Hal David, Chairman/CEO of The Songwriters Hall of Fame, today announced that Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland (Holland-Dozier-Holland) will be this year's recipient of the prestigious Johnny Mercer Award at the 2009 Awards dinner, slated for June 18 at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel.

With a catalogue of seminal pop songs, an overwhelming number of which are still in strong demand many years after they were first written and recorded, the songwriting powerhouse of Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland, aka Holland-Dozier-Holland, are the stuff of songwriting legend. Penning smashes for the Supremes, The Four Tops and Marvin Gaye, among other Motown artists, Holland-Dozier-Holland were often credited with developing the Motown Sound and were largely responsible for ushering in one of the most powerful and memorable eras in popular music.

"Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland's massive stream of classic songs changed the face of popular music in a way that has endured, creating a style that is highly influential and relevant today," commented Chairman/CEO Hal David. "The Songwriters Hall of Fame is proud to bestow our prestigious Johnny Mercer Award upon this groundbreaking team."

Early on, Holland-Dozier-Holland took Diana Ross and the Supremes under their wing, writing and producing the group's

first smash recording, "Where Did Our Love Go?" with many more to follow. During their incredibly prolific and successful Motown years, from 1962-1967, H-D-H wrote 70 Top 10 songs, 50 of them #1's and 13 of those #1's in a row! Of the Top 100 Songs of the Century, Holland-Dozier-Holland hold three prestigious places for "Baby, I Need Your Loving," "You Can't Hurry Love" and "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)." H-D-H-composed hits that brought them a combined total of 79 BMI Pop Songwriter Achievement Awards, including "Reach Out I'll Be There," "Love Is Here And Now You're Gone," and "Standing In The Shadows Of Love." In 1988, Holland-Dozier-Holland were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and in 2003 they were honored with the BMI Icon Award. Other H-D-H hits include such pop classics as "Stop In The Name Of Love," "Baby Love," "Can't Hurry Love," "Reflections," "You Keep Me Hanging On" "Nowhere To Run," "Same Old Song," "Can't Help Myself, " "Heatwave," "Quicksand," "Jimmy Mack" and "Heaven Must Have Sent You," among a slew of other popular titles. But more than pop hits, Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland crafted a durable piece of Americana as the architects of the self-titled Sound of Young America, and created songs that helped shape our culture.

The Johnny Mercer Award is exclusively reserved for a songwriter who has already been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in a prior year, and whose body of work is of such high quality and impact, that it upholds the gold standard set by the legendary Johnny Mercer. Past Johnny Mercer Award recipients have included songwriting giants: Paul Anka, Dolly Parton, Kris Kristofferson, Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Carole King, Billy Joel, Jimmy Webb, Hal David, Burt Bacharach, Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller, Paul Simon, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Stephen Sondheim, Cy Coleman, Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne.

Inductees at this year's event include Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora; Felix Cavalieri and Eddie Brigati (The Young Rascals

); Roger Cook and Roger Greenaway; Crosby, Stills & Nash; Galt MacDermot, James Rado and Gerome Ragni (deceased); and Stephen Schwartz. Other honorees to be announced.

Photo caption: Songwriters Hall of Fame President Linda Moran congratulates Lamont Dozier on being chosen as a recipient of the organization's Johnny Mercer award at it's upcoming gala on June 18th. Dozier met Moran last week at the BMI Latin Music Awards where he was one of the night's honorees.

Photo ID (from left to right): Lamont Dozier and SHOF President Linda Moran

About The Songwriters Hall of Fame:

The Songwriters Hall of Fame celebrates songwriters, educates the public with regard to their achievements, and produces a spectrum of professional programs devoted to the development of new songwriting talent through workshops, showcases and scholarships. Over the course of the past 40 years, some key Songwriters Hall of Fame inductees have included Desmond Child, Loretta Lynn, John Sebastian, John Fogerty, Isaac Hayes and David Porter, Steve Cropper, Dolly Parton, Richard and Robert Sherman, Bill Withers, Carole King, Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Sir Elton John, Bernie Taupin, Brian Wilson, James Taylor, James Brown, Curtis Mayfield, Hal David and Burt Bacharach, Jim Croce, Phil Collins, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, Jimmy Webb, Van Morrison and Cy Coleman among many, many others. The Songwriters Hall of Fame was founded in 1969 by songwriter Johnny Mercer and publishers Abe Olman and Howie Richmond.

Full biographies and a complete list of inductees are available at the Songwriters Hall of Fame's Virtual Museum at www.songhall.org.

Ticket Information:

Tickets for the Songwriters Hall of Fame event begin at \$1000

each, and are available through Buckley Hall Events, (212) 573-6933. Net proceeds from the event will go towards the Songwriters Hall of Fame programs.

Throwback: The Brand New Heavies-Stay This Way

The Brand New Heavies were labeled as heavy players on the London Acid Jazz scene of the '90's by Black music impresario Gilles Peterson. Their feverish quest for the essence of American soul, dance and jazz styles of the '60's and '70's with live playing made them immediately prized by hipsters and bohemians. The vim and soul of Atlanta born N'dea Davenport's vocals are an identifying component of the band despite the past presence of singers Jay Ella Ruth who was their first vocalist and Siedah Garrett, Carleen Anderson, Nicole Russo and Sy Smith who all came after Davenport. "Stay This Way" is from their first album which also has the favored ["Never Stop"](#) and ["Dream Come True."](#) There are plenty of nice dance remixes of their catalog with the Siedah Garrett lead ["Sometimes"](#) being a big club song in the late '90s. *Heavy Rhyme Experience Vol.1* was a successful take of a funk band with various rappers.

Davenport left the band for a while and released a striking solo album in '98 that was produced by Dallas Austin. She rejoined the band in '06 to record *Get Used To It*. Still funking and touring the band will play the Essence Music Festival's 15th Anniversary lineup this year.