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Urban And Urban AC Winners

□ **WBLS/New York takes PD and MD of the Year**

This year's R&R's Industry Achievement Awards were handed out two weeks ago at the R&R Convention, which took place June 13-15 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, CA.

First, a short rundown of our winners: WVEE (V103)/Atlanta won for Urban Station of the Year, while WDAS/Philadelphia took home Urban AC Station of the Year honors. WBLS/New York came away with both Urban Program Director of the Year, for Vinny Brown, and Music Director of the Year, Deneen Womack. WHQT/Miami's Derrick Brown won Urban AC Program Director of the Year, and WDAS/Philadelphia's Jo Gamble scored Urban AC Music Director of the Year.

KKBT/Los Angeles morning man Steve Harvey was voted the Urban Air Personality of the Year by R&R readers, and WVAZ/Chicago's Tom Joyner was our Urban AC Air Personality of the Year. Def Jam/Def Soul secured the Platinum Label of the Year award for both Urban and Urban AC, and DreamWorks won the Gold Label of the Year in both. J Records' Cynthia Johnson and Ken Wilson collected awards for Promotion Executive of the Year for Urban and Urban AC, respectively.

Below, some of this year's award winners give us their thoughts on being honored by their industry peers.

Urban AC

Station Of The Year:
WDAS/Philadelphia

WDAS VP/GM Joe Tamburro

tire staff who come in every day and give the station their best. Their efforts help us maintain a leadership position in the market and make my job that much easier."

Program Director Of The Year: Derrick Brown, WHQT-FM/Miami

Asked how he feels about his award, Derrick Brown exclaims, "God is good! I am absolutely humbled and honored by this award. I never expected to be nominated, let alone win. I really want to thank management and the WHQT staff for their support and encouragement."

Music Director Of The Year: Jo Gamble, WDAS-FM/Philadelphia

Reflecting on her success, Gamble remarks, "I want to thank R&R and all those involved with the selection process for considering me as a nominee and selecting me as the recipient. I am truly honored and consider it a blessing to receive this recognition by my peers, because it's my first year as MD.

"My 11 years at WDAS-FM reinforce my belief that this award is made possible by the dedication of our on-air talent, as well as the en-

tire staff who come in every day and give the station their best. Their efforts help us maintain a leadership position in the market and make my job that much easier."

Air Personality Of The Year: Tom Joyner, WVAZ/Chicago

Tom Joyner, the "fly jock" who is also known as the hardest-working man in radio, invites a nationwide — he's syndicated through ABC Radio Networks — audience into his studio home every Monday through Friday. *The Tom Joyner Morning Show* treats listeners to his upbeat attitude and humorous insights, in addition to news, celebrity guests and more. And now Tom's peers have saluted him as Urban AC Air Personality of the Year!

Platinum Label Of The Year: Def Jam/Def Soul

Def Jam/Def Soul's consistent performance has been solidly built on the success of its commitment to its diverse roster of talent. Def Jam/Def Soul continues to bombard radio with hits from such artists as DMX, Ja Rule, Ashanti, Kelly Price, Redman, Method Man, Jay-Z, Musiq and more. With all those accomplishments, how could this label not earn Platinum Label of the Year recognition for both Urban and Urban AC?

Gold Label Of The Year: DreamWorks

DreamWorks takes home the Gold Label of the Year award for both Urban and Urban AC. With projects like The Isley Brothers, the label's year was unbelievable, to say the least.

Promotion Executive Of The Year: Ken Wilson, J

With artists like Alicia Keys, Busta Rhymes, Luther Vandross, Angie Stone and Next, one would think success would be automatic. However, great talent is nothing without a smart, hard-working promotions team behind it, and J Records has one of the great teams in the industry. Ken Wilson is a key player on the incredible J Records promotions staff, and for that he has been honored as Promotion Executive of the Year for Urban AC.

STATION of the YEAR

Urban



Urban AC



Urban

Station Of The Year:
WVEE (V103)/Atlanta

WVEE, under the guidance of PD Tony Brown and Asst. PD/MD Tosha Love, continues to dominate the Atlanta market, staying on top of the hits, executing great promotions and showcasing an incredible airstaff.

Program Director Of The Year: Vinny Brown, WBLS/New York

Brown's accomplishments and his years of radio experience have made him into one of the most successful and influential programmers in the country. He joined 'BLS in 1998, and his guidance has led Inner City Broadcasting's flagship station to its highest levels of performance in 10 years. Congratulations to Vinny Brown, the Urban Program Director of the Year.

Music Director Of The Year: Deneen Womack, WBLS/New York

A delighted Deneen Womack tells R&R, "It's always nice to be acknowledged for the work you do, and being chosen as R&R Urban

Music Director of the Year is a highlight in my career. Thank you to R&R and my peers!"

Air Personality Of The Year: Steve Harvey, KKBT/Los Angeles

Steve Harvey is no doubt one of the most talented and busiest comedians in the country, and now he's on the list of the most talented air personalities. R&R congratulates Steve on winning the Urban Air Personality of the Year award.

Promotion Executive Of The Year: Cynthia Johnson, J

Remarking on her win, Johnson says, "I want to thank the R&R staff and the music industry for this award. I am very happy, proud and thankful for the recognition, but, as you know, a job isn't finished alone. So I want to thank all the promotion managers I worked with over these past two years and the great PDs and MDs I have encountered over the years, in addition to my J Records family of Clive Davis and Ken Wilson. I can honestly say my life has been enriched by these relationships. I will put my award on the wall in my office at J Records as a constant reminder of this incredible year."



THE GANG'S ALL HERE

A crowded room for the "Future of the Urban World" session at the R&R Convention.



FOR US? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE

J Records' Stephanie Lopez (l) accepts the Urban AC Promotion Executive of the Year award on behalf of J's Ken Wilson. She's seen here with R&R's Kashon Powell.

LABEL of the YEAR Urban

PLATINUM



GOLD



LABEL of the YEAR Urban AC

PLATINUM



GOLD

