



▲ The outstanding entertainment contributions of Kimberly Elise, Cicely Tyson, John Singleton and entertainment manager Dolores Robison were honored.

EBONY Celebrates 2nd Annual Hollywood In Harlem™ Pre-Oscar Party

EBONY
Presents
Hollywood
In Harlem

A who's who of Hollywood heavyweights came out for EBONY Presents Hollywood In Harlem, the magazine's second annual pre-Oscar bash in Hollywood.

Held at the Jim Henson Studio in Hollywood, the gala honored the enduring accomplishments of director John Singleton, entertainment manager Dolores Robison and actresses Kimberly Elise



◀ The South African film *Tsotsi* was honored at the party. Sizakele Marutlulle, chief operating officer of South African Tourism (c), appears with the film's director Gavin Hood (l) and cast members (l-r) Presley Chweneyagae, Terry Pheto and Zola.



◀ Mrs. Linda Johnson Rice, president and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company and husband, Triple M Acceptance Corp. President Mel Farr, greet guests.

▶ At right and below are celebrity guests Samuel L. Jackson and wife LaTanya Richardson, former Detroit Piston star John Salley and wife Natasha, C.C.H. Pounder and Ludacris at the Jim Henson Studios in Hollywood.



and Cicely Tyson.

Also honored was the South African film *Tsotsi* which went on to win the Academy Award as best foreign language film.

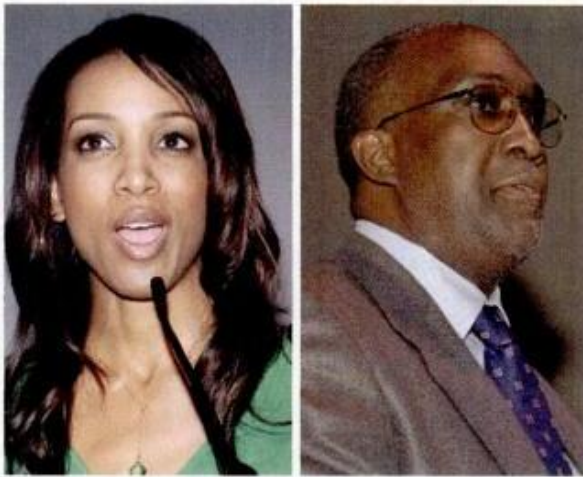
Mrs. Linda Johnson Rice, Johnson Publishing Co. Inc. President and CEO, told the crowd: "Sixty years ago, my father (John H. Johnson) founded EBONY to showcase Black accomplishments." She went on to say, "I'm honored to uphold his legacy" and told the audience, "We're moving forward with indomitable spirit."

Sponsors of the gala were Southwest Airlines, South African Tourism Board and Moët Hennessy. Dr. Jannette Dates, dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications at Howard University, accepted a check for \$25,000 from Southwest's Rob Brown. She also accepted a check for \$15,000 from Noel Hankin of Hennessy. Hankin said, "We're proud of the longstanding relationship with Johnson Publishing Company. We were the first spirits company to advertise in EBONY in 1951."

South African Tourism will establish internships for Howard University students from the John H. Johnson School of Communications.



▲ On hand for the festivities are actress Victoria Rowell, casting director Reuben Cannon, actresses Jasmine Guy and Debbi Morgan and singer Natalie Cole. Below, Shaun Robinson, host of "Access Hollywood," emcees the program and introduces Dr. Lloyd Williams, CEO of the Harlem Chamber of Commerce.



Dr. Lloyd Williams, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, said that Harlem Week will focus on New Orleans this year. "We're going to work with EBONY on the Bayou Classic to help Dillard University come back."

Sizakele Marutlulle of South African Tourism said: "We'd like to thank the African-American community for being there for our struggle and sharing in our joy. In all our 11 languages there is no word for 'stranger.' Thank you EBONY, and we're looking for a long and sustained

relationship."

Kimberly Elise, honored for continuing to prove herself as one of Hollywood's most versatile talents, said: "I'm tremendously honored. EBONY is a staple in all our lives. I have that EBONY with Miss Tyson on the cover (1981), and I guess I've gone full circle."

Legendary actress Cicely Tyson told the audience: "I've been a member of the Johnson Publishing family since I became a fledgling actress. Mr. Johnson mentored me. He was the first person to acknowledge me as a rising star. He gave me the opportunity to cover the movie, *Cry Freedom*. He hired me to write a children's story for EBONY Jr! He never wavered, whether I was begging for money for some worthwhile cause. I have been a part of the Johnson family and I will continue to be."

Singleton, honored for his directing skills as well as his recent success as producer of *Hustle & Flow*, said "I started reading Ebony Jr! when I was 3. I'm



Dr. Jannette L. Dates, dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications at Howard University, is presented a check for \$25,000 from Rob Brown of Southwest Airlines for the school.



◀ Noel Hankin of Moët Hennessy presents a check for \$15,000 to Dr. Dates for the John H. Johnson School of Communications.

humbled to be up here with Cicely.”

He looked at the veteran actress and said, “I really want to work with you.”

He went on to say: “Too many times with Black people, we think we have to be the only one in the room. I don’t want to be the only one. I want to foster others. How can we push forward? How can we green light our own



◀ Nicole Buchanan (2nd, r), EBONY Magazine senior account executive, joins Southwest Airlines execs (l) Rob Brown, director of sales and multicultural marketing and (2nd, l) Marian Thompson, multicultural marketing specialist; Darian Daniels, a guest of Ms. Thompson; Raquel Allen, media manager, Camelot Communications, Inc.; and actress LaTanya Richardson.



▲ Joining the festivities are (l) Desiree Rogers, president, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas, and Valerie B. Jarrett, chairman of the Chicago Stock Exchange. Mrs. Rice welcomes (c) Felicia Suttle, president South African Tourism, USA, and Claude Pretorius of South African Tourism.

movies? I had been in the business for 13 years before I did my own movie, *Hustle & Flow*.”

Dolores Robinson, mother of actress Holly Robinson Peete, was called “one of Hollywood’s greatest dealmakers.” “First of all, if I’m doing my job right, I should have my clients up here, not me. I read EBONY when I was 10—from cover to cover. I memorized it before the next one came. The magazine gave me

and other girls things to dream about. We didn’t have the Bill ‘Cosby Show.’”

Jokingly, she said she wasn’t sure she’d even be invited to the second Hollywood in Harlem after her daughter went into labor at the inaugural event.

“The Johnsons have been wonderful to the Robinsons and Peetes. To show you how good they are to us, not only did we get invited back, but my daughter and her baby were on the last cover approved by

▼ Watching the awards presentations are (l-r) actress Tisha Campbell and singer Freda Payne; Dale Cochran, widow of Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. and actor Eriq LaSalle and Roger Ebert and wife Chaz.





Enjoying the music and festivities are (above, l-r) Cookie Johnson, wife of Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Pauletta Washington, wife of actor Denzel Washington; honoree Cicely Tyson and event organizer Bill Hammond; and Jimmy Jam and wife Lisa.

◀ Honoree Dolores Robison (c) is congratulated by daughter Holly Robison Peete and son-in-law, NFL great Rodney Peete.

Mr. Johnson."

Guests were serenaded by jazz violinist Karen Briggs, and Shaun Robinson of the syndicated "Access Hollywood" emceed the event. Bill Hammond of Hammond Entertainment produced the gala.

Among other celebs on hand for the festivities were Quincy Jones, Judge Mablean Ephraim, Vanessa Bell Calloway, BET host Melissa Ford, Chicago Sun-Times columnist Bill Zwecker, George Duke, Leon, Byron Allen, former NFL star Willie Gault, John Rogers, **Neal Zucker**, president of

Corporate Cleaning Services, and Jeannette Ndhlovu, consul general of South Africa. □

—Photos by Vandell Cobb and Valerie Goodloe



▲ Jeff Burns Jr., associate publisher of EBONY Magazine, greets event promoter Lydia Davis-Eady.

▶ Music executive Clarence Avant and wife Jacqueline acknowledge the gathered media.



