



# Youth Development Foundation, Inc.

## Promoting Culture & Education Through the Performing Arts

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact: Angela Hollis & Fred Yaeger 914-525-9198

### MISSOURI TEEN AMIRAH GARWOOD

### WINS 2008 HAL JACKSON TALENTED TEEN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



The winner of the 2008 Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (HJTTI) Scholarship competition is 15-year-old Amirah Garwood who is a student at Central Visual Performing Arts High School in Arsenal, Missouri. Amirah along with her chaperone and family traveled to the beautiful Island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands to participate in the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens Competition. Ruben Studdard, American Idol Pop, R&B and Gospel star was the headline performer along with teen heart throb Marques Houston.

Thirty young women from around the world who are gifted in the fields of music, dance, stage performance, and acting came together to participate in this year's International Competition. Amirah with her stunning dancing ability performed a contemporary modern dance to the song "Endangered Species." She was the recipient of this year's Miss Creativity Award and has won a total of \$5,250 to the college of her choice. Amirah has also won trips to New York City, the US Virgin Islands and Jamaica as well as a diamond ring and other gifts and prizes.

(Pictured from Left to Right): Juliuna Garwood, mother of Amirah, Amirah Garwood, Hal Jackson and HJTTI Missouri Director, Merdean Gales.