



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

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Angela Hollis  
609-977-7587  
Fred Yaeger  
914-525-9198

**38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HAL JACKSON TALENTED TEENS INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION TO BE HELD ON THE ISLAND OF TORTOLA**

Young women from around the world who are gifted in the fields of music, dance, stage performance, or acting will come together and participate in the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (HJTTI) Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Youth Development Foundation. The week long event will be held on the beautiful island of Tortola, the largest of the islands in the British Virgin Islands. The Talented Teen Summit will take place from Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 20. The Talented Teens and HJTTI Directors will stay at the International official hotel, Long Bay Beach Resort & Villas.

Announcement of the event will be made by Hal Jackson, the Department of Tourism, Long Bay Beach Resort and Villas, the Department of Culture and B Mobile on Tuesday, April 29, 10:00 AM in Tortola at the Central Administration Complex in Conference Room #2.

Harold "Hal" Jackson, Group Chairman of Inner City Broadcasting and founder of the New York City based Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Program (HJTTI), is searching for the world's most talented teen participating in his annual scholarship competition. "I am pleased to announce that our special International Teen Competition this year will be held on the beautiful island of Tortola," said Hal

Jackson. "We have been able to offer thousands of young women from around the world the opportunity to receive educational scholarships and trips abroad while sharing their gifts of talent on a professional stage." The theme of this year's event is "The Best is Yet to Come."

The event is sponsored by The Youth Development Foundation which provides a support system for young women and offers exposure to the entertainment industry, encourages cross-culture exchange, and nurtures emerging talent from around the world while providing training, educational scholarships, and travel opportunities for these young women. HJTII has awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and prizes to its participants over the 37 years of its existence. Some of the past winners of HJTII are Jada Pinkett Smith, Sheryl Lee Ralph, and Vanessa Williams. Mr. Jackson said, "I believe in giving back and have all my life extended a hand to others to encourage them to be the very best they can be. Debi and I look forward to bringing our competition to the BVI and awarding this year's participants with an intercultural experience in the BVI as well as scholarships to the colleges of their choice." HJTII wishes to thank our sponsors ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc., the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, B Mobile, the Department of Culture, Long Bay Beach Resort and Villas, Tropical Shipping, American Airlines, and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

For information contact our local coordinators Luce Smith, Executive Director of the BVI HJTII and Neil Blyden of Neil Blyden Associates.