



Youth Development Foundation, Inc.
Promoting Culture & Education through the Performing Arts

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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**AMERICAN IDOL POP R&B AND GOSPEL STAR RUBEN STUDDARD
TO HEADLINE 38th ANNUAL HAL JACKSON
TALENTED TEENS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

**The Beautiful Island Of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands
Is the Site for the 2008 Hal Jackson International Talented Teens Competition**

Ruben Studdard, American Idol pop, R&B and gospel star will be the headline performer at the 38th Annual Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International (HJTII) Scholarship Competition presented by the Youth Development Foundation, ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc. and B Mobile. The event will take place on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the Multi Purpose Complex in Road Town which will be converted to a magnificent Broadway theater with lights, cameras, and loads of action thanks to the brilliance of local producer Neil Blyden of Neil Blyden Associates.

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 this year's International Competition. The week long event will be held on the beautiful island of Tortola. The Talented Teen Summit will take place from Saturday, July 12th through Sunday, July 20th. The Talented Teens, HJTII Directors and VIPs will stay at Long Bay Beach Resort & Villas as well as other hotels around the BVI. During their week, the young and talented contestants will break bread with dignitaries from the BVI Tourist Board at Treasure Isle Hotel; meet the Honorable Ralph T. O'Neal Premier; take a cruise over the Virgin Gorda; have a beach party on Cane Bay; and attend the Shooting Star Awards Dinner. Very special thanks must go out to Lynette Harrigan with the BVI Tourist Board who was very instrumental in assisting at high international levels.

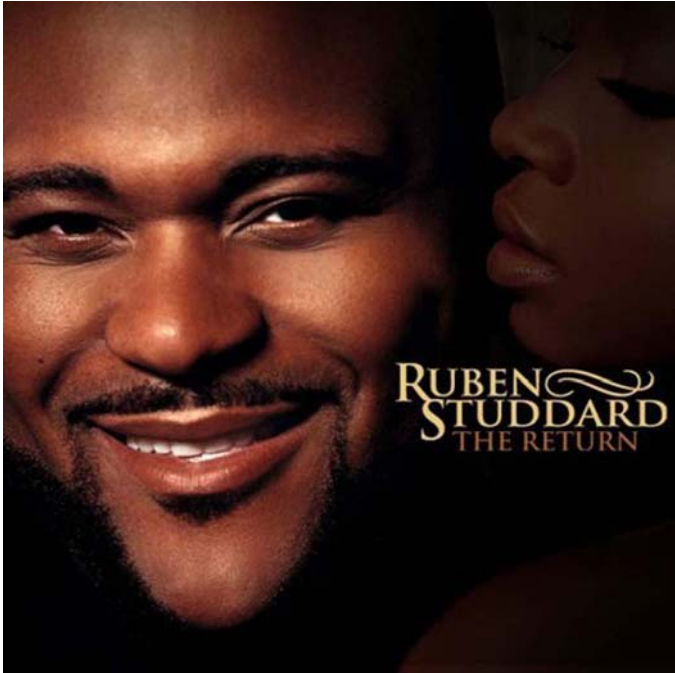
The 38th annual HJTII will draw a minimum of 300 individuals from across the United States, the Caribbean, Canada and Nigeria. Along with superstar Ruben Studdard, there will be well known actress Kimberly Brooks, singer Alyson Williams, from the Lion King choreographer Keisha Clarke, singers, actresses, dancers and radio industry executives who will attend, perform and judge the

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young women to see who will be named the most talented teen in the world for 2008. Some local judges include LaVerne Hodge of B Mobile, entrepreneur Patsy Lake, Director of the International Affairs Secretariat Lorna G. Smith, Director of Music Lelia Burke, and Former Miss Universe BVI Anne Lennard.

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 (HJTII), is searching for the world's most talented teen participating in his annual scholarship competition. "I am pleased to announce that our International Teen Competition will be held in the BVI this year," 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 and we know that the best is yet to come from our group of 2008 promising entertainers."

HJTII 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. The 2008 winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to the college of her choice, a diamond ring, and trips to Jamaica and Italy as well as other gifts and prizes. "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," stated Mr. Jackson. "Debi and I look forward to bringing our competition to Tortola 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, and Ramapo College of New Jersey.



(Left to Right) Debi Jackson, Bob Lee, Naomi Rahn, Hal Jackson, Kimberly Brooks

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