

NAACP ANNOUNCES FIRST ROUND OF WINNERS DURING THE 56TH NAACP IMAGE AWARDS PRE-AWARDS SHOW

February 18, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Virtual event hosted By Angel “ThatChickAngel” Laketa Moore And Marcus Tanksley and aired exclusively on NAACP Image Awards YouTube Channel

LOS ANGELES (February 18, 2025) – Tonight, the NAACP kicked off night one of the “56th NAACP Image Awards” Pre-Awards Show, announcing the first round of winners in the non-televised award categories. The two-night virtual event aired exclusively on the NAACP Image Awards YouTube channel—inviting NAACP Image Awards fans to experience two nights of culture, comedy, and celebrating Black achievement and excellence.

Tonight’s winners included Ayo Edebiri for Outstanding Breakthrough Creative for Television; Cree Summer for Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance; “Gracie’s Corner” for Outstanding Animated Series; Keke Palmer for Outstanding Host in a Reality/Reality Competition, Game Show or Variety (Series or Special); Marlon Wayans for Outstanding Guest Performance; Netflix’s “Jamie Foxx: What Had Happened Was” for Outstanding Variety (Series or Special); Samuel L. Jackson for Outstanding Actor in a Limited Television (Series, Special, Movie); and Taraji P. Henson for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Television (Series, Special, Movie).

The “56th NAACP Image Awards” is supported by the following sponsors: Wells Fargo (Image Awards Week Presenting Sponsor); Google; P&G; Airbnb; Bank of America; Diageo; Sanofi; Amazon; Coca-Cola; and FedEx. Our partners include: L'Oréal; Onyx Impact; Entergy; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; American Airlines; Intuit; Edelman; Uncle Nearest; Hyatt; and Variety Magazine.

The “56th NAACP Image Awards,” will premiere LIVE on Saturday, February 22nd at 8:00 PM ET/PT on BET and CBS.

The full list of winners from tonight can be found below:

Outstanding Children's Program
“Gracie’s Corner” - YouTube TV

Outstanding Performance by a Youth (Series, Special, Television Movie or Limited Series)
Leah Sava Jeffries - “Percy Jackson and the Olympics” (Disney+)

Outstanding Animated Series

“Gracie’s Corner” - YouTube TV

Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance (Television)
Cree Summer - “Rugrats” (Nickelodeon)

Outstanding Literary Work - Fiction
“One of Us Knows: A Thriller” - Alyssa Cole (William Morrow - HarperCollins Publishers)

Outstanding Literary Work - Non-Fiction
“Love & Whiskey: The Remarkable True Story of Jack Daniel, His Master Distiller Nearest Green, and the Improbable Rise of Uncle Nearest” - Fawn Weaver (Melcher Media Inc.)

Outstanding Literary Work - Debut Author
Sarai Johnson - “Grown Women” (Harper - HarperCollins Publishers)

Outstanding Literary Work - Biography/Autobiography
“Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America” - Joy-Ann Reid (Mariner Books - HarperCollins Publishers)

Outstanding Literary Work - Instructional
“Wash Day: Passing on the Legacy, Rituals, and Love of Natural Hair” - Tomesha Faxio (Clarkson Potter - Crown Publishing Group)

Outstanding Literary Work - Poetry
“This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets” - Kwame Alexander (Little, Brown and Company - Hachette Book Group)

Outstanding Literary Work - Children
“You Can Be a Good Friend (No Matter What!): A Lil TJ Book” - Taraji P. Henson, Paul Kellam (Zonderkidz - HarperCollins Publishers)

Outstanding Literary Work - Youth/Teens
“Brushed Between Cultures: A YA Coming of Age Novel Set in Brooklyn, New York” - Samarra St. Hilaire (Self-Published)

Outstanding Literary Work - Graphic Novel
“Punk Rock Karaoke” - Bianca Xunise

Outstanding Variety (Series or Special)
“Jamie Foxx: What Had Happened Was” (Netflix)

Outstanding Guest Performance
Marlon Wayans - “Bel-Air” (Peacock)

Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series
Crystal Jenkins - “No Good Deed - Letters of Intent” Netflix)

Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series
Ben Watkins - Cross "Hero Complex" (Prime Video)

Outstanding Writing in a Television Movie or Special
Juel Taylor, Tony Rettenmaier, Thembu L. Banks - "Young. Wild. Free." (BET+)

Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Television)
Ayo Edebiri - "The Bear" (FX/Hulu)

Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Television (Series, Special, Movie)
Taraji P. Henson - "Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist" (Peacock)

Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited Television (Series, Special, Movie)
Samuel L. Jackson - "Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist" (Peacock)

Outstanding Directing in a Television Movie or Special
Tina Mabry - "The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat" (Hulu)

Outstanding Directing in a Comedy Series
Tiffany Johnson - "How to Die Alone - 'Trust No One'" (Hulu)

Outstanding Directing in a Drama Series
Rapman - "Supacell - 'Supacell'" (Netflix)

Outstanding News/Information (Series or Special)
"The Reidout" - MSNBC

Outstanding Host in a Reality/Reality Competition, Game Show or Variety (Series or Special) - Individual or Ensemble
Keke Palmer - "Password" (NBC)

Outstanding Reality Program, Reality Competition Services/Game Show
"Celebrity Family Feud" (ABC)

Outstanding ShortForm Series or Special - Reality/Nonfiction/Documentary
"The Prince of Death Row Records" (YouTube TV)

Outstanding Short Form Documentary (Film)
"How to Sue the Klan"

Outstanding Short Form (Live Action)
"Superman Doesn't Steal"

Outstanding Short Form (Animated)
"Peanut Headz: Black History Toonz "Jackie Robinson" (Exhibit Treal Studios)

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About NAACP

The NAACP advocates, agitates, and litigates for civil rights due to Black America. Our legacy is built on the foundation of grassroots activism by the biggest civil rights pioneers of the 20th century and is sustained by 21st century activists. From classrooms and courtrooms to city halls and Congress, our network of members across the country works to secure the social and political power that will end race-based discrimination. That work is rooted in racial equity, civic engagement, and supportive policies and institutions for all marginalized people. We are committed to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities.

NOTE: The Legal Defense Fund – also referred to as the NAACP–LDF – was founded in 1940 as a part of the NAACP, but now operates as a completely separate entity.

ABOUT BET Media Group:

The BET Media Group, a unit of Paramount (NASDAQ: PARAA; PARA), is the world's largest media company dedicated to entertaining, engaging, and empowering the Black community and championing Black culture. Connecting Black audiences through a portfolio of brands including BET, BET+, BET Gospel, BET HER, BET International, BET Jams, BET Soul, BET Studios, and VH1, the BET Media Group is a thriving media ecosystem of leading interconnected platforms across cable TV, streaming, digital, studios, live events and international. For more information about BET, visit www.bet.com and follow @BET on social platforms. For more BET news announcements, visit betpressroom.com.

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