

Arts & Entertainment

NAACP recognizes top entertainers

Jason Smith
Arts Editor

Nia Long, Morris Chestnut and Judge Joe Brown will host the 31st annual National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Image Awards. The awards will take place on Feb. 11 and Feb. 12 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and will air on Fox April 8.

Since 1962, The NAACP Image awards has honored and recognized the achievements of individuals. The first Image Award was given to the late Sammy Davis Jr. for his work in achieving fair employment in Hollywood.

Five years later, a committee wanted to honor those who worked to improve the image of African-Americans in Hollywood and came up with trophy designed by artist Pico Williams and now is known as the Image Award statuette.

The award gives honor to the numerous African-Americans in the entertainment field for their accomplishments.

With nominations for best film, two for best actor, two for best actress, two for best supporting actor and two for best supporting actress, *The Best Man* has more than any other film in the NAACP Image Award's history. *Life* (Martin Lawrence), *The Hurricane* (Denzel Washington), *The Matrix* (Laurence Fishburne), and *The Wood* (Omar Epps), all give *The Best Man* a run in the Outstanding Motion Picture category.

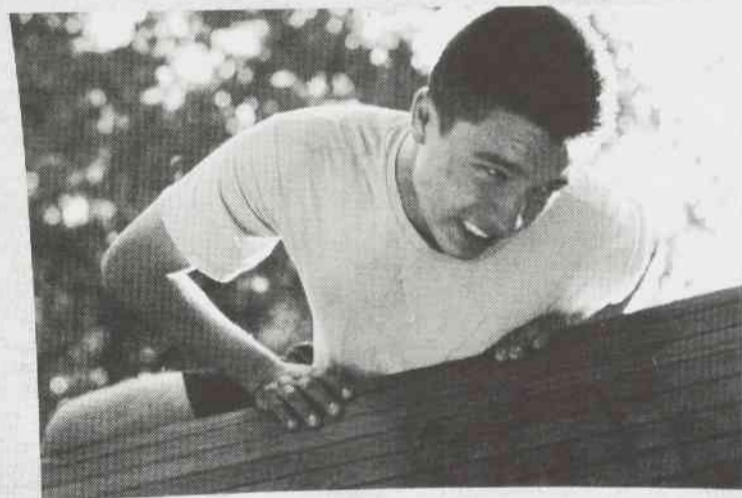
Also Halle Berry will join the elite few to be honored as the "Entertainer of the Year."

She will join past honorees Will Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Whitney Houston, Denzel Houston, and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. In August 1999, Berry undertook the challenge of executive producing and starring in the highly anticipated film of legendary screen icon Dorothy Dandridge in *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*. Berry will next star in the action movie *X-Men*.



Courtesy of NAACP
Nia Long and Morris Chestnut gives outstanding performances in box office film *The Best Man*.

Other entertainers nominated will be D.L. Hughley for his HBO comedy special *D.L. Hughley: Going Home*, TLC *Fannail*, *The Roots Things Fall Apart*, and Rosa Parks for her appearance in *Touched By An Angel*.



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