BET Awards Celebrates The Career Of Michael Jackson

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By Thomas Freeman

LOS ANGELES (RPRN) 6/29/2009--BET broadcasted their 9th annual award show last night (June 28) live from Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium. **Jamie Foxx** was the host of the 3 plus hour show and the major theme was a tribute to the brilliant career of the king of pop **Michael Jackson**.

The show was re-organized in just a four day period to include special guest comments and tributes to the recently deceased entertainer. **Michael's** dad, **Joe Jackson**, was in attendance and his sister **Janet** came at the finally saying she had been chosen by the family to appear and thank the fans and BET for all their support.

Performers at this year's awards included **Beyonce**, **Maxwell**, **Kanye West**, **Ne-Yo** & **Fabolous**, **Jay-Z**, **Mary Mary** featuring **Queen Latifah**, **Keyshia Cole** & **Monica**, **Soulja Boy**, **Keri Hilson**, **Ciara**, **Drake**, **Lil Wayne** and **Young Money** as well as old school performers; The O'Jays, New Edition, Guy and Bel Biv Devoe.

Lil Wayne picked up the award for *Rapper Of The Year* and **T.I.** and **Rihanna** won for *Best Collaboration*, although neither was there to accept the award. Other winners included **Beyonce**, **Day26**, **Keri Hilson**, **Ne-Yo** and **Lebron James**, **Alicia Keys** and **Wyclef Jean**.

The show was preceded by a two hour episode of *106 & Park* that featured performances by **Hurricane Chris**, **Day26** and others as well as red carpet interviews. The pre show was hosted by *106 & Park* regulars **Rocsi** and **Terrance** and the red carpet interviews were performed by former top model contestant and Black Carpet host Toccara Jones.

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