



▲ Richard D. Parsons, chairman and CEO, Time Warner, Inc. (5th, l) and Jeff Friday (5th, r), enjoy the American Black Film festival's Film Life Movie Awards with (l-r) Tonya Lewis Lee, Spike Lee, recipient of the Time Warner Innovator Award; Courtney B. Vance, Olivia Smashum, executive vice president, affiliate marketing, HBO; Angela Bassett, "Access Hollywood" co-anchor Shaun Robinson, Nicole Friday, wife of Jeff Friday; Rosario Dawson, recipient Rising Star Award; Bill Duke and hip-hop mogul and actor Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.

Filmmaker Spike Lee And Actress Rosario Dawson Honored At American Black Film Festival

Famed filmmaker Spike Lee and actress Rosario Dawson recently received top honors at the star-studded 8th Annual American Black Film Festival's (ABFF) Film Life Movie Awards ceremony in South Beach, FL.

Hosted by actor-director Robert Townsend and "Girlfriends" TV star Tracee Ellis Ross, the show featured an A-list of Hollywood celebrities including The Rock, Sean "P.Diddy" Combs, Angela Bassett, Courtney B. Vance, Vivica A. Fox, John Singleton, Guy Torry, Tamia, Grant Hill,

Bill Duke, Suzanne de Passe, Russell Simmons, Reverend Run, Bill Bellamy and "As The World Turns" soap opera actress Tamara Tunie.

Spike Lee received the Time Warner Innovator Award from Angela Bassett and Richard D. Parsons, chairman and CEO, Time Warner.

Dawson was presented with the Rising Star Award by The Rock. Her film credits include *Men in Black II* and Spike Lee's *He Got Game* and *25th Hour*.

Lady Sings the Blues was inducted into the Classic Cinema Hall of



▲ Spike Lee, whose latest movie is *She Hate Me*, holds his Time Warner Innovator Award. At right, actor *The Rock* congratulates actress Rosario Dawson on her Rising Star Award during the ceremony in South Beach.

Fame with Suzanne de Passe, the film's co-writer and chairman and CEO of de Passe Entertainment, accepting the honor. The film starred Diana Ross in a critically-acclaimed portrayal of Billie Holiday. Popular singer Tamia performed Holiday's signature tune, *Good Morning Heart-*

ache, during the tribute presented by Turner Classic Movies.

The HBO Short Film Award was given to director Xelinda Yancy for *Time Out*, who received a prize of \$20,000.

There was a tie for the Blockbuster Audience Award for Best Feature

▼ TV star Tracee Ellis Ross and actor-comedian-filmmaker Robert Townsend host the annual Film Life Movie Awards at the Jackie Gleason Theater in South Beach (Miami), FL.



FILM



◀ Film producer Suzanne de Passe, co-writer of the film *Lady Sings the Blues*, accepts honor as the movie was inducted into the Classic Cinema Hall of Fame. Vivica A. Fox lends her support to the American Black Film Festival.



▲ Singer Tamia performs *Good Morning Heartache* in tribute to *Lady Sings the Blues*, the life story of Billie Holiday. F. Gary Gray accepts Best Director Award for his blockbuster film, *The Italian Job*.

for her co-starring role in *Out of Time*, opposite Denzel Washington.

Chiwetel Ejiofor won the Best Performance by An Actor Award for his role in *Dirty Pretty Things*.

Best Director Award went to F. Gary Gray for *The Italian Job* and *The Fighting Temptations*, starring Cuba Gooding Jr., and Beyoncé, was named Film of the Year.

"The success of this year's Film Life Movie Awards show sets the stage for our upcoming television broadcast," said Jeff Friday, president and CEO of Film Life, Inc. and ABFF co-founder. "This show is not only about creating change in Hollywood, but also about making history."

Time Warner is the presenting sponsor of the American Black Film Festival and the Film Life Movie Awards (FLMA).

Other sponsors of the ABFF are:

founding sponsor HBO and platinum sponsor, Lincoln. The international film festival is dedicated to creating opportunities for emerging filmmakers and acknowledging the work of independent filmmakers and industry veterans and pioneers.

Photos by Alex Joseph / ABFF

Film between director Sudz Sutherland for *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones* and Michael Schultz for *Woman Thou Art Loosed*. The winners will split the \$20,000 grand prize.

In the Hollywood Film Awards category, Sanaa Lathan was awarded Best Performance by An Actress