

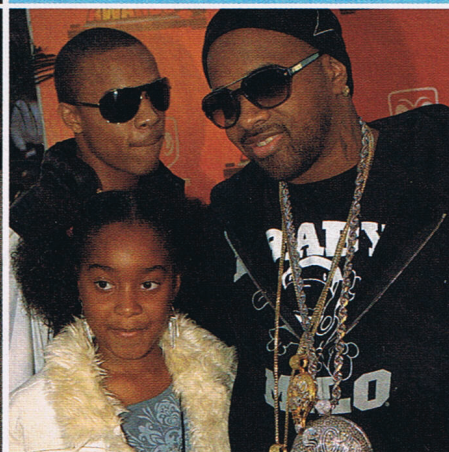
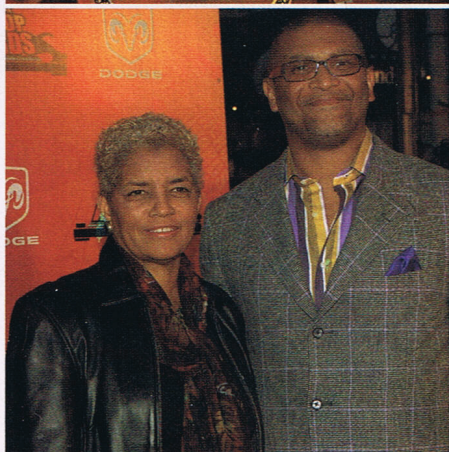
OUR★TOWN

BET on It

SCENE Hip-hop's biggest stars shine on Atlanta. By Chandra R. Thomas



"GIVE ME
HIP-HOP OR GIVE
ME DEATH!"
—HOST KATT
WILLIAMS



IT COULD BE A SIGN THAT Atlanta has officially taken over the world of hip-hop, or perhaps it was home court advantage, but most of the artists, presenters, and winners at the first annual BET Hip-Hop Awards, held at the Fox Theatre, had ties to our fair city. Ludacris, Lil' Jon, and Jermaine Dupri opened the show with their popular paean "Welcome to Atlanta," rapper T.I. took the first award, and Diddy and Monica nabbed coveted presenter spots.

Clockwise from top left: The prize; Michael Knight and Toccara Jones; Fabolous and Jazze Pha; Snoop Dogg; Monica; Flava Flav with Deelishis; Mayor Shirley Franklin and BET President of Entertainment Reginald Hudlin; Center: Bow Wow with Jermaine Dupri and daughter Shaniah

Hip-hop heavyweights spotted on the red carpet, which, fittingly, stretched down a section of Peachtree Street, included Nelly, Jay-Z, Busta Rhymes, The Game, Jazze Pha, and Young Jeezy. Other memorable moments included Snoop Dogg, performing in all his "Shirley Temple curl" glory; a Janet-less Dupri with his adorable daughter; Flava Flav, proudly flaunting his

latest acquisition; and the surprising presence of the show's host, comedian Katt Williams, who'd been arrested just days before. T.I. and newcomer Chamillionaire were the night's big winners. Surprisingly, Dre and Big Boi of OutKast were nowhere to be found. ❖

