

★ SCENE ★



"GOOD EVENING,
GOOD EVENING,
TO MY PARTY
ANIMAL PEOPLE."

STEPHANIE HUGHLEY, ADDRESSING
THE NBAF CROWD DURING DINNER



NBAF gala live auction emcees, Todd Zeldin and Bill Nigut

ARTS & EATS

The famous girlfriend was a no-show, but many of the city's hottest hip-hop stars turned out for the grand opening of music producer Jermaine Dupri's new Buckhead eatery, **Cafe Dupri**. Although Janet (Miss Jackson to you!) was nowhere to be found, megastar Usher, producer Dallas Austin, TLC's Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins and rappers T.I., Da Brat and Too Short showed up for the standing-room-only event. Hot 107.9's Ramona DeBreaux, former Falcon Ray Buchanan and Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington were among the guests who mingled in the cozy booths while sampling the healthy menu, which included everything from gumbo to sweets made with Splenda. While Dupri's affinity for a healthier menu regulates the food, drinks flow freely. Dupri promises that drinks like the Mariah (Carey) Mimosa and Usher's Confession (one sip and you'll confess *something*) are on the way! ★ Thunderstorms added an element of drama to the already-exciting **National Black Arts Festival Gala**. Held at the StudioPlex, the evening included an auction of artwork by local artists, a Mercedes C-Class 230 and Adidas sneakers autographed by Atlanta Hawk Josh Smith. Organizers showcased art at every turn—even the fans used to combat the night's humidity were reprints of an Arthur Parks Jr. (who also designed this year's poster) painting, "Family." Executive producer Stephanie Hughley worked the crowd, which included actor Blair Underwood, Diddy protégé Fonzworth Bentley, TC Carson of *Living Single* and retired chairman/CEO of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, Jesse Hill Jr. and his wife, Azia. —CHANDRA R. THOMAS & KIM DIMSON

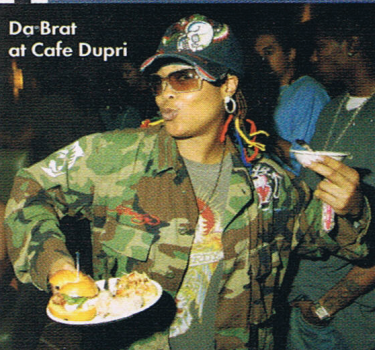
"IT'S GOING
TO BE THE
REGAL
BEAGLE OF
BUCKHEAD."

PRODUCER JERMAINE DUPRI
DESCRIBING HIS NEW BUCKHEAD
EATERY, CAFE DUPRI

"IT'S THE ONLY
PLACE WHERE
A BLACK MAN
CAN GET SOME
MATZO BALL
SOUP!"

MUSIC PRODUCER DALLAS AUSTIN
COMMENTING ON CAFE DUPRI

Da-Brat
at Cafe Dupri



NBAF producer Stephanie Hughley
and Young Hughley

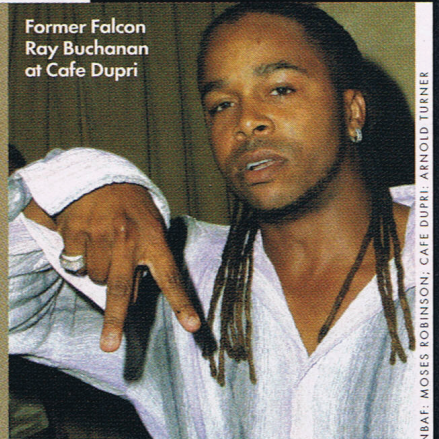


Rudolph Byrd, Ingrid Saunders-Jones
and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hill at the NBAF gala

"STEPHANIE
WILL GIVE YOU
A PERSONAL
MESSAGE IN
YOUR ROOM."

LIVE AUCTION CO-EMCEE AND NBAF
BOARD MEMBER, TODD ZELDIN, JOKING
ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF PURCHASING
THE AUCTION ITEM: "TWO NIGHTS
IN NYC WITH STEPHANIE HUGHLEY"

Former Falcon
Ray Buchanan
at Cafe Dupri



NBAF: MOSES TOBINSON; CAFE DUPRI: ARNOLD TURNER