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Chance the Rapper and New Edition to Be Honored at the 2017 "BET Awards"

New Edition to Be Honored with Prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award

Chance the Rapper to Be Recognized with Humanitarian Award for Supporting Educational and Social Initiatives

SNL Favorite, Leslie Jones, to Host "BET Awards" Airing Live on Sunday, June 25 from Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles at 8 P.M. ET

#BETAWARDS

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Today, BET Networks revealed iconic R&B group **New Edition** will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 "[BET Awards](#)". In addition, multi--Grammy Award winning hip-hop artist and singer-songwriter, **Chance the Rapper**, will receive the evening's Humanitarian Award presented by Walmart. This year's broadcast marks 17 years of unexpected performances, trailblazing moments, super dope talent, and entertainment's most provocative players. The iconic show continues to be a cultural rule breaker steeped in reinvention with some of the most memorable moments in Award show history. The "[BET Awards](#)" has set the standard for one of the most intently unconventional, news-provoking broadcasts. The 2017 "[BET Awards](#)" will air LIVE on Sunday, June 25 at 8 pm ET from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, CA on BET.

New Edition is a legendary R&B group consisting of members **Bobby Brown, Michael Bivins, Ralph Tresvant, Ronnie DeVoe, Ricky Bell** and **Johnny Gill**. Throughout the course of their extensive musical career, New Edition released several chart-topping hits including "Candy Girl", "Cool It Now", and "Mr. Telephone Man" - for which they received multiple Soul Train Awards and American Music Award wins. In January 2017, BET launched *The New Edition Story*, a three-part miniseries that was also BET's first scripted music-focused program. The show profiled the New Edition journey from the little-known boy band from the Orchard Park Projects of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to one of the most successful adult acts ever in the music industry. To date, New Edition has sold over 20 million records world-wide.

Chance the Rapper is a hip-hop artist, singer-songwriter and philanthropist who rose to popularity with his highly awarded and recognized mixtapes *Acid Rap* and *Coloring Book*. Chance has consistently used his musical platform to support a number of impactful educational, social and political initiatives - positively impacting both local and national communities. In 2016, Chance worked closely with President Obama on My Brother's Keeper Challenge, an initiative of the United States Federal Government to promote intervention by civic leaders in the lives of young men of color - working to address their unique challenges and to promote racial justice. Chance has also actively fought gun violence, leading social campaigns in his home-town Chicago. Most recently, Chance the Rapper pledged to donate \$1 million to in-need Chicago Public Schools in an effort to offset the lack of government funding provided to the area.

Hosted by **Leslie Jones**, the "[BET Awards](#)" 2017 will include performances by **Bruno Mars, Future, Migos, Trey Songz and Tamar Braxton**. The star power continues as **Yara Shahidi, Cardi B, Issa Rae, Jamie Foxx, La La Anthony, the cast of Universal Pictures' "Girls Trip" (Regina Hall, Tiffany Haddish, with Jada Pinkett Smith and Queen Latifah), Trevor Noah, Robin Thede, Cari Champion and Demetrius Shipp Jr.** and many others will take the stage as presenters during the 17th anniversary of the annual highly-anticipated televised event.

A full list of the 2017 "[BET Awards](#)" nominees is now available [here](#).

The 2017 "BET Awards" will premiere around the world on BET's international networks. It will air in the UK on Tuesday, June 27th at 9:00pm BST, in Africa on Tuesday, June 27th at 8:00pm CAT, and in France on Wednesday, June 28th at 8:00pm CEST. Internationally, fans in 100 countries can also stream the 2017 "BET Awards" live with BET Play, BET International's subscription video on demand application. The iOS and Android app, which also features current and classic

BET television series, documentaries, standup comedy and legendary musical performances, will carry a live feed of the red carpet and the Awards, and is available for download now in the iTunes and Google Play stores for \$3.99 a month following a seven-day free trial.

Jesse Collins, CEO of Jesse Collins Entertainment serves as Executive Producer. Connie Orlando, BET's Interim Head of Programming serves as Executive Producer for BET Networks.

To apply for media credentials for the 2017 "BET Awards" please head to www.betpressroom.com

The "BET Awards" will take place along with the BET Experience at L.A. LIVE in Los Angeles from June 22-25, 2017. BET.com/betawards is the official site for the "BET Awards" and will have all the latest news and updates about this year's show. VIP Packages for the 5th year of the BET Experience weekend are better than ever and now on-sale. In addition to VIP amenities throughout the weekend and incredible seats for STAPLES Center shows, three levels of BETX VIP Packages offer guests the only opportunity to purchase tickets to the highly-anticipated BET Awards, broadcast live from Microsoft Theater. Last year the in-demand VIP Packages sold out, so guests are encouraged to purchase now before the allotment is depleted. Full package amenities and pricing for the Diamond, Platinum and Gold VIP Packages can be found by visiting BETExperience.com or by calling (877) 234-8425.

General tickets for the BET Experience at L.A. LIVE presented by Coca-Cola® are on sale now at <http://www.axs.com/betexperience>.

Download the BETX '17 app powered by AT&T, the #1 source for everything BETX, including real-time event updates, full schedules, BET Fan Fest wristbands, daily prizes, ticket giveaways, live streams and much more.

Follow the BET Experience on Twitter @betexperience for the latest and greatest and join the hottest conversation by using #BETX. Feel free to also check us out online at <http://www.betexperience.com>.

ABOUT BET NETWORKS

BET Networks, a subsidiary of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIA, VIA.B), is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African-American audience. The primary BET channel reaches more than 90 million households and can be seen in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa. BET is the dominant African-American consumer brand with a diverse group of business extensions: BET.com, a leading Internet destination for Black entertainment, music, culture, and news; CENTRIC, a 24-hour entertainment network targeting the African-American Woman; BET Music Networks - BET Jams, BET Soul and BET Gospel; BET Home Entertainment; BET Live, BET's growing festival business; BET Mobile, which provides ringtones, games and video content for wireless devices; and BET International, which operates BET around the globe.

ABOUT "BET AWARDS"

The "BET Awards" is one of the most watched award shows on cable television according to the Nielsen Company. The "BET Awards" franchise remains as the #1 program in cable TV history among African-Americans, and it is BET's #1 telecast every year. It recognizes the triumphs and successes of artists, entertainers, and athletes in a variety of categories.

BET EXPERIENCE AT L.A. LIVE PRESENTED BY COCA-COLA®

BET Networks, an entertainment powerhouse, and AEG, the world's leading sports and live entertainment company and developer/operator of L.A. LIVE, have teamed up once again to create the BET EXPERIENCE AT L.A. LIVE (BETX), June 22 - 25, 2017 presented by Coca-Cola®. This four-day festival will be filled with music concerts taking place at The Novo by Microsoft and STAPLES Center; BET Fan Fest at the Los Angeles Convention Center including seminars, celebrity basketball games, celebrity meet & greets; and other special appearances. The weekend will be capped off with the "BET Awards" on Sunday, June 25, 2017 at Microsoft Theater.

ABOUT AEG

Headquartered in Los Angeles, California, AEG is the world's leading sports and live entertainment company. With offices on five continents, AEG operates in the following business segments: AEG Facilities, which is affiliated with or owns, manages or consults with more than 120 preeminent arenas, stadiums, theaters, clubs and convention centers around the world including The O2 Arena, the Sprint Center and the Mercedes-Benz Arenas; AEG Presents, which is dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performances, including producing and promoting global and regional concert tours, music and special events and world-renowned festivals; AEG Real Estate, which develops world-class venues, as well as major sports and entertainment districts like STAPLES Center and L.A. LIVE; AEG Sports, which is the world's largest

operator of sports franchises and high-profile sporting events; and AEG Global Partnerships, which oversees worldwide sales and servicing of sponsorships including naming rights, premium seating and other strategic partnerships. Through its worldwide network of venues, portfolio of powerful sports and music brands and its integrated entertainment districts, AEG entertains more than 100 million guests annually. More information about AEG can be found at www.aegworldwide.com.

ABOUT JESSE COLLINS ENTERTAINMENT

Jesse Collins Entertainment is a full service television and film production company founded by entertainment industry veteran Jesse Collins. For more than a decade, Collins has played an integral role in producing some of television's most memorable moments in music entertainment. Formerly Executive Producer/EVP of Cossette Productions, Collins has produced ground-breaking and award winning television programming including the BET Awards, the GRAMMY Awards, Soul Train Awards, BET Honors, UNCF An Evening of Stars, ABFF Awards and the BET Hip Hop Awards. Collins is an executive producer of the hit TV series, Real Husbands of Hollywood starring Kevin Hart and the upcoming original miniseries based on the iconic music group New Edition that will debut on BET in 2017. He has worked with a myriad of superstar talent including Will Smith, Chris Rock, Jay-Z, Rihanna, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar, Drake, Prince and Mariah Carey. Follow Jesse Collins Entertainment @JesseCollinsEnt on Twitter and Instagram and go to <http://www.jessecollinsent.com/> for more information on the company.

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