

BET'S 'SUNDAY BEST' Returns for a Second Season of High Praise, Heartfelt Testimonies and Tough Competition Premiering Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 P.M.*

10-Week Singing Competition Welcomes Back Multi-GRAMMY Award Winners Kirk Franklin as Host Along With Siblings Erica and Tina Campbell of Mary Mary and BeBe Winans as Judges

NEW YORK, March 3, 2009 -- During last season's live finale, 1.7 million viewers tuned in to the excitement as Crystal Aikin, a nurse from Tacoma, Washington, won BET's first-ever gospel singing competition and took home a national recording contract, a brand new vehicle, a prize package for her community and the title of SUNDAY BEST.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20070716/BETNETWORKSLOGO>)

Back by popular demand, SUNDAY BEST returns for its second season on Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 p.m.* Host Kirk Franklin and judges Erica and Tina Campbell of Mary Mary and BeBe Winans are all back together to find America's next great gospel singer. Making stops in Atlanta, Chicago, and our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., SUNDAY BEST kicks off the season premiere with a special episode dedicated to the inspiring, hilarious and even sometimes challenging audition process.

"The level of talent for the second season is going to show the world what we've been saying since the beginning of the series...only on SUNDAY BEST will you find true, honest talent that hasn't been compromised," said returning host Franklin.

Season two of SUNDAY BEST will tape in its new home of Atlanta at Turner Studios. Each week during the hour-long competition, viewers will be treated to musical performances from the remaining SUNDAY BEST hopefuls along with candid feedback from the all-star team of judges and surprise visits from an array of celebrity guests.

"We're so excited about this season! The level of talent we saw was so amazing; which made it really hard to say no to some folks," said Erica and Tina Campbell of Mary Mary. "The viewing audience will be blessed, entertained and uplifted for sure!"

SUNDAY BEST is executive produced by D'Angela Proctor Steed and Nia T. Hill of Strange Fruit Films, Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, BeBe Winans as well as Brian Gadsby and Arnold M. Preston of The G Group, and co-executive produced by Marilyn Gill.

"SUNDAY BEST stands out in the world of talent competition shows because it is the only one where the judges critique the contestants one day and compete against them on the gospel music charts the next," said Steed.

"This season is a true testimony of hard work, dedication and pure raw talent," adds Hill.

SUNDAY BEST is sponsored by Nationwide Insurance, Pillsbury Grands, Lincoln, T-Mobile, Design Essentials, and Walgreens. The winner of SUNDAY BEST will receive a 2009 Lincoln MKS as part of the grand prize package.

For more on SUNDAY BEST, please visit www.BET.com/sundaybest .

*All times ET/PT

About BET Networks

BET Networks, a division of Viacom Inc. (NYSE: 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 98 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 businesses extensions: BET.com, a leading Internet destination for Black entertainment, music, culture, and news; BET Digital Networks - BET J, BET Gospel and BET Hip Hop, attractive alternatives for cutting-edge entertainment tastes; BET Home Entertainment, a collection of BET-branded offerings for the home environment including DVDs and video-on-demand; BET Mobile, which provides ringtones, games and video content for wireless devices; and BET International, which operates BET in the United Kingdom and oversees the extension of BET network programming for global distribution.

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