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2011 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS IMAGE AWARDS HUGE SUCCESS Hollywood Celebrities, Nominees, & VIPs Honor NAIIA Award Recipients Rock Artist, Micki Free, Receives 2011 NAIIA Honorary Award

Albuquerque, NM, May 2, 2011 – Hollywood celebrities, VIPs, Nominees, Entertainment Industry Professionals, Sponsors, Tribal Leadership, supporters, and fans filled the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque showroom on Friday night, April 29, to honor and applaud the award recipients of the 2011 North American Indigenous Image Awards (NAIIA 2011). Celebrities and VIPs walked the Red Carpet and dazzled paparazzi, supporters, and fans alike. With a dramatic showroom stage and an Academy Awards show program format, the air was filled with excitement and anticipation, from the nominees, as award recipients were announced by celebrity presenters, one by one.

The show was lead by Master of Ceremonies, Pax Harvey, comedian and member of “49 Laughs Comedy Show”. Celebrity presenters, including Chaske Spencer (New Moon), Rene Haynes (Hollywood Native Casting Director), Supaman, (Hip Hop Rap Artist) and others took the stage to present the NAIIA Awards. Award nominees fell into fourteen (14) categories including: Outstanding Actor (Film or TV), Outstanding Actress (Film or TV), Outstanding Feature Film, Outstanding Album Single, Outstanding Blues Jazz Album, Outstanding Hip Hop Rap Album, Outstanding Country Album, Outstanding Comedy Performance, Outstanding Magazine, Outstanding Calendar, Outstanding Short Film, and more.

Georgina Lightning proudly walked away with two 2011 NAIIA awards for Outstanding Actress for the movie she wrote and directed “Older Than America” and for Outstanding Feature Film “Older Than America”. The other deserving 2011 NAIIA award recipients include: Outstanding Actor: Gary Farmer for “Good Neighbors”, Outstanding Album Single: Chase Manhattan for “The Original 2 Step”, Outstanding Magazine: Native Peoples, Outstanding Country Album: Desiree Dorion for “Soul Back Jack”, Outstanding Calendar: Pow Wow Model Calendar, Outstanding Hip Hop Album: Supaman for “Deadly Penz”, Outstanding Comedy Performance: Pow Wow Comedy Jam - Marc Yaffee, Vaughn Eaglebear, & Howie Miller, Outstanding Blues Jazz Album: The Jir Project Band for “Sun Child”, Outstanding Short Film “Search for the World's Best Indian Taco”, Outstanding Music Video: Jerry Sereda for “I Ain't Learned Nothing Yet”, Outstanding Rock Metal Album: Eagle & Hawk for “The Great Unknown”, and Outstanding Documentary: “Reel Injun”.

As a major highlight of the show, the legendary Platinum Rock Star, Grammy and multi-Nammy Winner, Micki Free, was honored with the 2011 NAIIA Honorary Award. This award was presented to Mr. Free by Maria Dadgar, Vice President of Marketing of Pace Pacific Corporation, a major sponsor of the awards show. Maria noted how native entertainers and artists from Hollywood Florida to Hollywood California to Canada were being recognized at this very important event. Micki received this award for his current and ongoing contributions and achievements in the native entertainment world. Micki commented “I am honored and blessed to be recognized by the North American Indigenous Image Awards executives and organization with the 2011 NAIIA Honorary Award. I am proud to represent the Native American entertainment community and send many congratulations to all of the other 2011 NAIIA Awardees and Nominees. I am proud to be part of this First Class event.”

Gary Farmer, recipient of the 2011 NAIIA Outstanding Actor Award, commented "I am humbled and honored to be recognized by the NAIIA organization with the 2011 NAIIA Outstanding Actor Award. I was in good company with other amazing North American Film and TV actors: Gil Birmingham, Chaske Spencer, Zahn McClarnon, and Noah Watts. I congratulate all of the nominees and award winners at the NAIIA Awards Show."

The two Hollywood actors from the Twilight Saga movie series, Gil Birmingham and Chaske Spencer, both nominated for 2011 NAIIA Outstanding Actor award, attended the event and created much buzz as they made their red carpet entrances at the Awards Show. Chaske delighted the audience and fans with his on-stage presentation of the Outstanding Music Video Award. Chaske commented "I know they say it is an honor just to be nominated and now I know why... it really is.... I am happy for Gary, he truly deserves the award and I was proud to be in his company."

Along with the star-studded award presentations, the show audience was entertained by four performances by award nominees including: Gary and the Troublemakers (Outstanding Blues Jazz Album), DOC feat. Spencer Battiast (Outstanding Album Single), Victoria Blackie (Outstanding Country Album), and the 2011 NAIIA Award Winners for Outstanding Comedy Performance, Pow Wow Comedy Jam – Marc Yaffee, Vaughn Eaglebear & Howie Miller.

The NAIIA 2011 event was hosted and sponsored by the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque. Other major sponsors included: United Global Shift, Pace Pacific Corporation, Fire Rock Navajo Casino, Gila River Indian Community, Seminole Tribe of Florida, RCFS, Amerind Risk Management, and more. NAIIA 2011 took place on Friday, April 29, 2011, in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque showroom.

Proceeds from the NAIIA Awards event benefit a scholarship fund at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A check was presented to the Dean of IAIA, Ms. Ann Filemyr, at the show.

ABOUT NAIIA

NAIIA, Inc. is an American Indian owned 21st century advocacy non-profit organization that seeks the advancement and accomplishments of American Indian, Canadian Aboriginal, and Indigenous People in the arts, media and entertainment industry by creating an avenue for international recognition, support, and promotion. For more information about the NAIIA signature awards event, visit www.indigenouimageawards.com.

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