

# DEF OSCAR JAM

Submitted by: Emma Diggory PR

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## DEF COMEDY JAMMERS STORM OSCARS

As Jamie Foxx made history at last night's 77th annual Academy Awards, the ceremony's controversial host, Chris Rock paid tribute to the show that gave them both their first big break: Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam.

Opening last night's awards show, Rock acknowledged the record number of black performers in the list of honours, saying,

"We have, like four black nominees. It's kinda like the Def Oscar Jam tonight."

For nine seasons, the land-mark 1990s US TV series exposed up-and-coming comic Afro-American talent to the public via HBO television and created some of today's biggest black film stars in the process, including Rock (Head of State, Madagascar, Bad Company, Nurse Betty, Beverly Hills Cop II) and last night's best actor winner, Jamie Foxx (Ray, Collateral, Ali). Def Comedy Jam alumni also include Chris Tucker (Rush Hour 2, Rush Hour 3, Jackie Brown, The Fifth Element), Martin Lawrence (Bad Boys, Bad Boys II, National Security, Big Momma's House), Bernie Mac (Ocean's Eleven, Ocean's Twelve, Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle), Eddie Griffin (Scary Movie 3), Steve Harvey (Racing Stripes, The Fighting Temptations), Cedric the Entertainer (Lemony Snickett's: A Series of Unfortunate Events, Intolerable Cruelty, Ice Age, Madagascar), Queen Latifah (Chicago) and Bill Bellamy (The Brothers).

Previously only available in the UK on import, the Def Comedy Jam All Stars series is now available on video and DVD (Time-Life) in 13 volumes featuring early stand-up routines by today's Hollywood A-list, before they were famous. All Stars Volume 5 features Jamie Foxx in an hilarious, stand-up performance as guest host and Chris Rock makes his large, loud and lewd debut on volume 2.

For further information, broadcast clips or DVD competition prizes, please contact:

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## HISTORY OF BLACK ARTISTS AND THE OSCARS

- Jamie Foxx is only the third black actor ever to win the Oscar for best actor in a leading role (Sidney Poitier in 1963, Denzel Washington in 2001);
- He is the second man ever to be nominated in the same year in both best actor categories;
- Fewer than 30 awards in the 77-year history of the Academy Awards have gone to black actors;
- 5 out of 20 of the most important nominations were made to black actors this year;
- John Singleton is the only black director to have ever been nominated for an academy award for film

direction (Boys 'N the Hood ) in 1991;

- 1939 – Hattie McDaniel was the first black artist to win a major award (Best Actress in a Supporting Role for Gone with the Wind)
- 1947 – James Baskett received a Special Award for his characterisation of Uncle Remus in Walt Disney's Song of the South;
- 1963 – Sidney Poitier was the first ever black artist to win the award for best actor in a leading role (Lilies of the Field);
- 1982 – Louis Gosset Jnr won the award for best actor in a supporting role (An Officer and a Gentleman);
- 1989 – Denzel Washington winner of award for best actor in a supporting role (Glory);
- 1990 – Whoopi Goldberg winner of best actress in a supporting role (Ghost);
- 1996 – Cuba Gooding Jnr winner of best actor in a supporting role (Jerry McGuire);
- 2001 – Both best lead acting awards went to black actors, Denzel Washington (Training Day), and Halle Berry (Monster's Ball).

#### DEF COMEDY JAM VIDEO/DVD TITLES AVAILABLE:

##### BOX SET 1 (RRP £59.99)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 1

(Martin Lawrence, DL Hughley, Adele Givens, J Anthony Brown and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 2

(Martin Lawrence, Chris Tucker, Chris Rock, Bernie Mac and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 3

(Martin Lawrence, Eddie Griffin, Mike Epps, Bill Bellamy and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 4

(Martin Lawrence, Dave Chappelle, Bernie Mac, Steve Harvey, Talent and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 5

(Chris Tucker, Jamie Foxx, Martin Lawrence, Adele Givens, DL Hughley and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 6

(Martin Lawrence, Ellen Cleghorne, Ricky Harris and more)

Bonus Disc: 2Raw4TV (Wildman Steve, Suzanne Suter, Will E DJ Robo, Charles Bennett, Rudy Ray Moore)

BOX SET 2 (RRP: £59.99)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 7  
(Mark Curry, Steve Harvey, Dave Chappelle and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 8  
(Martin Lawrence, Mike Epps, Michael Colyar and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 9  
(Martin Lawrence, Joe Torry, Sommore and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 10  
(Steve Harvey, Ricky Harris, Martin Lawrence, Royale Watkins and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 11  
(Joe Torry, Guy Torry, Rickey Smiley, Martin Lawrence and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 12  
(Bill Bellamy, Martin Lawrence, Tracy Morgan, Laura Hayes, Joe Torry and more)

Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam All Stars # 13  
(Ricky Harris, Cedric the Entertainer, Mark Curry, Martin Lawrence)

NB ALL VOLUMES AVAILABLE INDIVIDUALLY EXCEPT 2RAW4TV BONUS DISC.

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For further details, review/competition prize copies of Def Comedy Jam DVDs, please contact:

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