

For Immediate Release

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Ebony Magazine Gets a Face Lift

New York, NY (9th June 2003) - The editors of *Ebony* magazine, published by Johnson Publishing Company, held a special Launch Party on 9th June in New York City to announce the new look for *Ebony* magazine which will debut in July.

With its first issue published in 1945, *Ebony* magazine, after nearly 60 years, continues to assert itself as the premier magazine for contemporary African American business, culture and achievement.

The event was held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and was attended by Mr. Cordell Thompson of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism office in Atlanta, numerous publishers, educators, politicians, entertainers, businesspersons, and members of the Bahamian American Partnership (BAP), including CEO Frank Minaya and BAP partner, Howard Dodson, Chief of the Schomburg Center and author of the just-published non-fiction book entitled *Jubilee: The Emergence of African-American Culture*.

Howard Dodson traveled to The Bahamas recently in reference to a collaborative effort with Dr. Gail Saunders of the National Archives to bring the Schomburg Center's *Africana Age: African Diasporan Transformations in the 20th Century* photographic exhibition to The Bahamas as part of the 30th Anniversary of Independence celebrations.

Mr. Dodson also made international headlines when he intervened on behalf of the Schomburg Center to quell the attempted Ebay.com sale of a large quantity of previously unknown Malcolm X documents. Mr. Dodson, as guest on ABC

television programme *Like It Is* with Gil Noble, spoke of the Schomburg Center's attempts to procure these documents in order to guarantee their preservation and ensure that their contents would be made available to historians, researchers, educators and students throughout the world. Shortly after Mr. Dodson's appearance on *Like It Is*, an anonymous, international Malcolm X collector came forward to secure the historical documents for the Schomburg Center.

Renowned gospel singer, Ms. Vickie Winans, was also in attendance at the *Ebony* event, as was seasoned actor Keith David, born and raised in Harlem, New York. Mr. David, known for his imposing presence and deep, commanding voice, has appeared in such films as *The Quick and the Dead*, *Barbershop*, *Head of State*, and Spike Lee's *Dead Presidents*. Mr. David has also lent his voice to characters in two Disney-produced animated series, *Aladdin* and *Gargoyles* and has provided narration for National Geographic specials.








Having worked at *Jet* magazine early in his professional career, Minister of Tourism's Cordell Thompson had an opportunity to meet many former associates and contemporaries at the invitation-only *Ebony* event, including the magazine's Food Editor, Charlotte Lyons and Associate Publishers; Lerone Bennett Jr. and Jeff Burns.

Mr. Thompson also had an opportunity to exchange greetings with Lloyd Williams, President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Percy Sutton, former Manhattan Borough President and Apollo Theatre owner, and Al Sharpton, who is currently seeking a Democratic Presidential Nomination in the United States.

The *Ebony* magazine event was sponsored by Hennessey Cognac, and its United States distributor, 207-year-old wine and spirits importing firm Schieffelin & Somerset Co., headquartered in New York City and responsible for importing and marketing such luxury brands as Dom Perignon Champagne, Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky, Moet & Chandon, Tanqueray and Grand Marnier.

Schieffelin & Somerset is sponsoring an industry conference in The Bahamas later this month. The conference will be held at the Lucayan in Freeport, Grand Bahamas.

Photos & Captions

#	Thumbnail	File Name	Caption
1		cinq100a.jpg	(l to r): Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism, Sybil Chester, Marketing Manager, Schieffelin & Somerset Co., Lloyd Williams, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Lerone Bennett Jr., Associate Publisher, Ebony Magazine, and Frank Minaya, CEO of the Bahamian American Partnership.
2		leronetrio100.jpg	(l to r): Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism and Ebony Associate Publishers; Lerone Bennett Jr. and Jeff Burns.
3		four100.jpg	(l to r): Lloyd Williams, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Howard Dodson, Chief, Schomburg Center, Cordell Thompson, Ministry of Tourism and Frank Minaya, Bahamian American Partnership.
4		hdct100.jpg	(l to r): Howard Dodson, Chief of the Schomburg Center and Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism.
5		ctas100a.jpg	(l to r): Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism and Al Sharpton who is currently seeking a US Democratic Presidential Nomination.
6		three100.jpg	(l to r): Frank Minaya, Bahamian American Partnership CEO, Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism and Al Sharpton who is seeking a United States Democratic Presidential Nomination.
7		cordell100a.jpg	(l to r): Actor Keith David, Gospel Singer Vickie Winans, and Cordell Thompson of the Ministry of Tourism.