

2011 BRE

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GO WITH THE FLO

By Syndicated Columnist FLORENCE ANTHONY

Mary J. Blige and Halle Berry smelled success at the 2011 FIFI

Awards presented by The Fragrance Foundation at the Tent at Lincoln Center in NYC. Mary walked away with the Direct To Consumer and Fragrance Sales Breakthrough Awards for her "My Life" perfume, while Halle, looking hot in a black cutout dress, took home a statuette as she was presented with the Fragrance Celebrity of the Year Award for her "Reveal" perfume.



Mary J. Blige



Halle Berry

of her very last "Oprah" show. She hosted Gayle King, Stedman Graham and Maria Shriver in a party of 18 at Spiaggia's Restaurant. The group began their meal with champagne. They continued with a four-course menu, featuring Gnocchi with Black Truffles and Wine Pairings. By the way, Oprah chose May 25 for her last taping because it was the anniversary of Madame C.J. Walker, the first Black millionairess' death. The legend, who invented the hot comb, died May 25, 1919.

Film Life, Inc. is proud to announce its lineup of the highly acclaimed Master Class series to be held during the 15th American Black Film Festival (ABFF) in Miami, Florida, July 6-9, 2011. Designed to incorporate a variety of disciplines such as screenwriting, producing, directing, acting, film scoring and cinematography, this year's workshop series will be led by renowned industry experts Michael Elliott, Bill Duke and Robert Townsend. Pre-registration is available through June 3 at www.ABFF.com and on-site registration opens July 6. The Pro-Hollywood

Initiative (PHI) returns for a second year to the festival with ABFF Founder Jeff Friday naming Baltimore Ravens All-Pro Linebacker Terrell Suggs, Sports Ambassador of this revolutionary initiative. With a film screening at Cannes this year, Suggs, has proven how influential the Pro-Hollywood Initiative has been to his growth as a serious filmmaker. The Pro-Hollywood Initiative is by invitation and limited to 20 participants. Current or retired athletes from any professional sport are eligible. Regular festival updates are available at www.abff.com

The Coalition of Theatres of Color honored actor/director Arthur French on May 19 at the Black Spectrum Theatre in Queens, New York. French received a Lifetime Achievement Award to commemorate his remarkable 50-year career in stage, television and film. Actor Ted Lange, best known for his role as Isaac the bartender on "The Love Boat," presented Arthur with the award.



Solange Knowles, Cassie and Selita Ebanks

Speaking of Mary, the fabulous diva was at Sephora on 34th Street in New York City, where she gave a heartfelt speech welcoming Solange Knowles, Cassie and Selita Ebanks, the three new spokes beauties for Carol's Daughter's multiracial Monoi Repairing Collection, to the brand. She also thanked Lisa Price and Steve Stoute for their support and guidance. She mentioned how amazing it was to be a part of the brand and to have created her own successful fragrance with their help. Lisa Price, founder of the hair and skin care line - designed the new campaign ad to reflect the recent demographic shift reported by the U.S. Census. The nationalities of each of the new Carol's Daughter spokeswomen - Cassie (African American, Mexican and Filipina), Selita (Native American, Irish and African-American), and Solange (African American and French Creole) - directly parallel Census figures showing at least 9 million people who identify themselves as bi- or multi-racial.

Oprah Winfrey's "Farewell" tour of Chicago restaurants continued after her taping



Queen Latifah

Queen Latifah threw a preview party in New York City to celebrate her new clothing line. The Queen Collection for women from size 2-22 will premiere on the Home Shopping Network (HSN) in August. The Cover Girl spokes model is also the producer of the new VH1 dramedy "Single Ladies," starring Lisaraye and Stacey Dash, which debuted on May 30. Queen Latifah plays a character in one of the episodes.

