

# Awards honor artists, high school students

By Mark Bialczak  
Staff writer

The men in Syracuse hip-hop collective Big Boyz called out their affection Saturday night as they strode to the stage of the Palace Theatre to accept three hip-hop and rap awards at the second edition of the Upper State Independent Awards.

"I thank God," said Section Q, after accepting the best hip-hop male award. "I share this award with all of you. All the independent artists."

That kind of spirit is what makes the Upper State Independent Awards stand out. It carries a do-it-yourself attitude and a devotion to presenting a positive attitude to and about the community. Among the awards for music and the arts were awards given for best athletes and most improved students from the Syracuse school district.

The night won over the city Police Department's Deputy Chief Frank Fowler, who told the crowd of around 200 when presenting the award for favorite DJ: "Everybody who's here now has to bring five people with them next year. Can you make that promise?"

The music onstage included the cool R&B/funk blend of Diversity, hip-hop of Dutch Beetz, rock 'n' roll of Chuck Schiele and the Whole Thing, and rap of Jimmy Black, the performing name of Kendrick T. Bedell. Adding to the stew was the comedy of Mr. Link, poetry reading of Sabrena

Thomas and a fashion show.

Thomas' poem was about keeping your head high. She talked about times when African-Americans had to sit in the back of the bus and said, "It really doesn't matter because now we're up in the front."

The winners:

Gospel, The Foundation; Jazz, Madeline Forster; DJ, DJ Geda; Blues, Dave Hanlon's Cookbook; R&B Band/Group, Innasense; Female R&B, Alma V; Poet, G Dash; Male R&B, Micheal Mackintyer; Folk, Michael P. Ryan; Alternative/Pop, Bethany Davis; Reggae/Cultural Roots, BoBo Camp.

Country/Bluegrass, Michael P. Ryan; Reggaeton, Nico Canada; Hip-Hop Male, Section Q; Hip-Hop Female, Shy Thoro; Hip-Hop Group, Crime Street.

Models, Bethany Davis; Favorite Designer, Angel Face Perceptions; TV Show, Food For Thought; Producer, EmJay; Independent DVD, Cuse DVD Vol 2; International, Fritz's Polka Band; Online Radio, DJ NY & Runnamuck.

Dancer, No Outlet; Choreographer, K.L.M.; Mixtape, Runnamuck "Ear to the Streets"; Comedian, Nikki Carr; Rock & Roll Original Band, Born Again Rebels; Rock & Roll Cover Band, 3 Inch Fury; Photographer, C.C. Bedell.

Student Athlete Male, Marsean Brown, Corcoran High School; Student Athlete Female, Krystal Tull, Corcoran High School; Most Improved Student Female, Xanna Sankiy, Corcoran High School; Most Improved Student Male, Gabriel Mitchell, Corcoran High School; Humanitarian Award, Geneva Hayden.

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