

# Woody of Dru Hill at Uplifting Minds II Entertainment Conference in Baltimore

Woody of Dru Hill spoke at recent Baltimore "Uplifting Minds II" entertainment conference as judge of the competition showcase.

**LOS ANGELES, CA (PRWEB) SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**

Woody of platinum R&B group Dru Hill spoke at the recent Baltimore "Uplifting Minds II" Entertainment Conference which was presented by Boosweet Records. Woody served as judge at the conference's national talent competition showcase with legendary publicist and image consultant Angelo Ellerbee (The Ellerbee Group), producer/song writer/author Vaughan Mason (The Game); booking agent Norman Gibson (Woody); entertainment attorney Paul Gardner, II, Esq., and singer/song writer/producer Thomas Huggins (RawTech Productions).

Woody shot to fame as a member of the R&B group Dru Hill, with members Jazz, Sisqo and Nokio. The group was groomed and scouted to labels by manager Kevin Peck when they were of high school age. Peck at the time was a DJ and marketing director for the Afro-American newspaper. He gained the attention of Haqq Islam, whose "indie" label University Records was an imprint on Island/Universal Records.

After their sophomore album's success Island merged with Def Jam forming Island Def Jam/Def Soul and the majority of the group decided to sign with new management, and pursue solo careers. As a result Woody released a solo gospel/inspirational album as Big Woody Rock on Kirk Franklin's GospelCentric label. The group notes Woody as the most spiritual of the members, in fact, Woody almost didn't take the platinum ride with Dru Hill because his late mother, a devout Christian, had reservations and forbid it. It was the persuasion by the group members that made her change her mind.

The members are now back together, managed again by their original manager Kevin Peck who is still DJing, but is also an ordained minister. Dru Hill is currently in the studio as Woody promotes his sophomore solo album release, which is in stores now. He collaborates on this CD with such gospel sensations as Mary Mary. Members Jazz and Sisqo are also about to release another solo album as well.

"I missed church to come here, but I'm glad I had a chance to get my church-on," Woody says to the artists singing gospel and inspiration songs at the competition showcase.

Others on the panel with Woody was his booking agent Norman Gibson, who has booked for Vivica A Fox and Queen LaTifa; entertainment attorney Paul Gardner, II, Esq., who is currently fighting to free his client Young City of the Making The Band fame from a five-year old charge where authorities thought he had a "dangerous weapon," but later found it was a BB Gun. Paul says, "It's really ridiculous and.. This happen so long ago"; producer/singer Thomas Huggins, and publicist Angelo Ellerbee who represents such artists as Mary J Blige and Vanessa Williams of Destiny's Child.

"Bravo, bravo!...thank you for including me in a wonderful, splendid, youth oriented program, Uplifting Minds. It was my pleasure to watch the wonderful performances and encourage them to seek achievements. I am here for you..." said Ellerbee after the event.

Winners were sixteen year-old Karron Johnson from Windsor Mill, Maryland for the Grand Prize Song Writing Award for a lovely R&B ballad he wrote at age 12 and 20 year-old Carlos Elazier from Woodbridge, Virginia who tied for the Music Grand Prize Award by belting out a beautiful gospel selection.

Already in preparation for 2007's "Uplifting Minds II" entertainment conference tour, coordinator Eunice Moseley (Freelance Associates) said that a third date for Los Angeles will be added to the line-up making the tour three times a year in Los Angeles (February, June and October) and twice a year in Baltimore (April and August).

For more information on attending the conference or competing in the competition showcase call toll free (866) 366-2160.