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Miss America Pageant goes on with patriotic tone

by Jeanine Noce
a & e editor

First there were 51 women, then 20 women, then just five women until one stood alone. The sparkling crown, the flowing dress and the cutthroat competition are just a few of the elements. What is all of this? These are the elements involved in the 81st Miss America Pageant, which was held Friday in Atlantic City before a sell-out crowd of 13,800.

Tony Danza (better known as Tony from the television show "Who's the Boss") was this year's host. He began the show speaking of the tragedy that has engulfed every American's mind for the past 18 days.

"The Miss America Pageant producers and organizers had spent a great deal of time discussing whether the pageant should have gone on or not. The producers, the contestants and [myself] have decided that we are going to carry on and make the most of it. We are going to dedicate the show to all of those involved and their families and to all of the Americans who promise to carry on," Danza said.

Danza then addressed the crowd with the most patriotic words that every American knows: the Pledge of Allegiance. The entire audience also spoke these words, along with the host.

Then the lights shined and 51 beautiful and talented women emerged throughout the crowd wearing glistening white gowns. Each state was represented along with the District of Columbia and the contestants introduced themselves and described their state

in one patriotic sentence.

The remaining 20 were then selected from this group of 51. This year was the first time that 20 girls were chosen instead of 15. Also, due to the importance of peer respect and leadership in this event, the remaining 31 women stayed involved in the pageant. Also, for the first time, the women who were not selected to continue collectively became the eighth judge for the competition.

The evening gown competition was the next event. Tom Scott played the clarinet accompanied by Louis Fonzie singing "You Are So Beautiful." The women were escorted by a family member who played a significant role in their life. While the women were modeling their gowns, each individual's baby picture was on the screen behind them in the background as a cute remembrance of the women as young girls.

A portion of the 10 contestant's lives was then shown to the audience. However, this section of the evening was not judged. The Miss America Pageant organization traveled to each state's titleholder to discover small tidbits about their daily life, family and hobbies. Danza then asked each contestant a question pertaining to the video.

One of the most relaxing parts of the evening for the women was the tap dance in which everyone took part. Danza also showcased his tap dancing talent and danced alongside the contestants.

The always controversial bathing suit/fitness competition was the next event. Each of the 10 remaining chose



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSAMERICA.COM

Miss Oregon Katie Harman was crowned the 2002 Miss America. Harman was selected after judges reviewed and selected five finalists from the original 51 contestants.

a swimsuit to wear for the fitness judging.

A contestant scrapbook was then shown to the audience with pictures of the 51 contestants throughout their 16 days together with LeeAnn Womack's hit "I Hope You Dance"

playing in the background. This was then dedicated to the United States.

Finally, five women were chosen out of the 10. A \$10,000 scholarship was awarded to the five who did not make it. The artistic expression and talent portion of the evening was

'America: A Tribute to Heroes'

by Breanna Bush
staff writer

With more than 26 TV stations airing the same program this past Friday at 9 p.m., what else was there to watch? This two-hour special, "America: A Tribute to Heroes," united national television channels by raising money and lifting the nation's spirits after the tragic event of Sept. 11.

This special brought together entertainers and musicians at a time when those in New York and Washington D.C. needed help the most. During the show, no entertainers or musicians were announced by name. They were not present to promote themselves, but rather to make the world aware that the U.S. is a strong nation and the American people will rebuild themselves and the parts of the country that were destroyed by the terrorist attacks.

During the special, "America: A Tribute to Heroes," donations could be made many ways, including telephone. Answering the phones were many actors and actresses including Sally Field, Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, Mark Wahlberg, Michael Keaton, Hallie Berry, Whoopie Goldberg, Brad Pitt, Goldie Hawn, Jack Nicholson and many others.

Worldwide donations could be made to the Sept. 11 Telethon Fund, P.O. Box 203103 Houston, TX 77216. Another way contributions could be made were by the Internet at www.tributeheroes.org. All donations collected were given to the United Way, which will determine the way that the funds will be distributed to help those involved in the tragic event.

Multiple actors and actresses gave speeches. Tom Hanks gave a heartfelt speech mentioning that the country is "standing united." He also spoke of the United States saying that the American people are "one nation indivisible."

Will Smith and Muhammad Ali gave an extremely powerful speech. Ali said that he is Muslim and that all Muslims are not responsible for the terrorist attacks, but rather blamed the terrorists. Even though his speech was somewhat hard to understand due to his medical condition - he has Parkinson's disease - he gave it his all.

Jim Carrey seemed somewhat nervous during his speech, but he was sincere. It looked as if his eyes were watering throughout it. This speech was one of the few times Carrey has been completely serious.

Cameron Diaz's dialogue was about the children and their teachers who were so close to the Trade Center as it collapsed. She stated that there were 8,000 students in class surrounding the area of the Twin Towers. The students are lucky to have such caring and brave teachers.

Robin Williams reminded everyone about the courage that men and women have during this ordeal and asked to help the injured and deceased

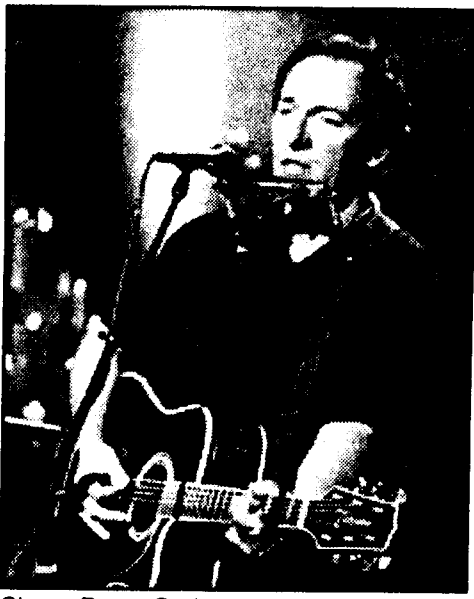


PHOTO COURTESY OF ABCNEWS.COM

Singer Bruce Springsteen opened the live telecast with the song, "My City in Ruins." Actors and musicians donated their time for the two-hour telethon on Sept. 11.

by making donations.

Lucy Liu stated, "America's greatest enemy is hatred itself." How true that phrase is.

Julia Roberts spoke about the Pentagon. As her eyes became moist she stated, "Before we save ourselves, we save each other." This is how many people survived both in New York City and in Washington D.C: people cared more about helping others than themselves.

Besides speeches, songs were a part of the show "America: A Tribute to Heroes." The special opened with Bruce Springsteen singing and playing the guitar and harmonica. In his song, he sang about a "city in ruins" and that the nation needs to "rise up."

Stevie Wonder sang while he played on the piano. In his song he mentioned that "love is in need" and Americans need to "start keeping peace before it's gone too far."

One of the hits of the show was Neil Young singing John Lennon's "Imagine." The key line of this song was "the world will live as one." Neil Young sang with passion, which fit perfectly into the reason the show was put on.

New artist Alicia Keys proclaimed in her song that "someday we'll all be free." She gave her viewers a marvelous performance with her incredible talent and the beauty of her music. Celine Dion gave

the most amazing performance singing, "God Bless America." Willie Nelson sang the final performance, "America the Beautiful." Not only was this another patriotic song, but all of the actors and singers joined together to sing with him. This showed how everyone, as a nation, needs to come together and overcome this hardship which was thrown before us.

Many other entertainers and musicians also made an appearance on the special. Each person involved did an excellent job raising money for such an important and needed cause.

Throughout the show, families who lost loved ones showed their pictures in the hopes of remembering them across the world. People who helped in this crisis, such as fire fighters and police officers were shown along with people in foreign countries that had a moment of silence for the tragedy that struck the U.S.

This special showed how everyone in the nation joined together to help those who were struck by the Sept. 11 tragic event and showed the world that the U.S. will not be overcome by terrorists.

'Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back'

by Rob Wynne
editor-in-chief

Perhaps you caught a scene of them in "Dogma," "Clerks," or "Chasing Amy," but this time around Jay and Silent Bob have the screen all to themselves. They express bodily noises, sell pot, and fantasize about women at every possible opportunity, but there is much more to this comedy that keeps the audience laughing.

The story is based upon two stoners (Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes) who waste away their days beside a quickie-mart selling pot and perfecting the use of multiple profanities in one sentence. They quickly become involved with four sexy jewel thieves while on their way to Hollywood to stop a movie that is about, well, them. Interestingly, the scope of the movie changes to even poke fun at the audience every once and a while.

Director and writer Kevin Smith (who also stars as Silent Bob) manages to flavor the movie and establish a lot of credibility by casting actors and actresses

from his previous movies. In what he announced would be the last of the "Jay and Silent Bob" flicks, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Chris Rock, Shannon Elizabeth, Jason Biggs, Will Ferrell, and George Carlin (among many others) all play significant parts in the movie and help the stoner stars pull off a hit. For the cost of one movie ticket, the viewer gets to see a whole reunion of starts this Jay and Bob finale.

Viewers should exercise caution in the movie theatres, though. Aside from the humor, there is a great deal of profanity and sick uses of swear words that were not even invented until this movie. The movie is rated 'R' for obvious reasons but still manages to carry a solid and hilarious plot with a number of stars and guest appearances.

*** out of 4

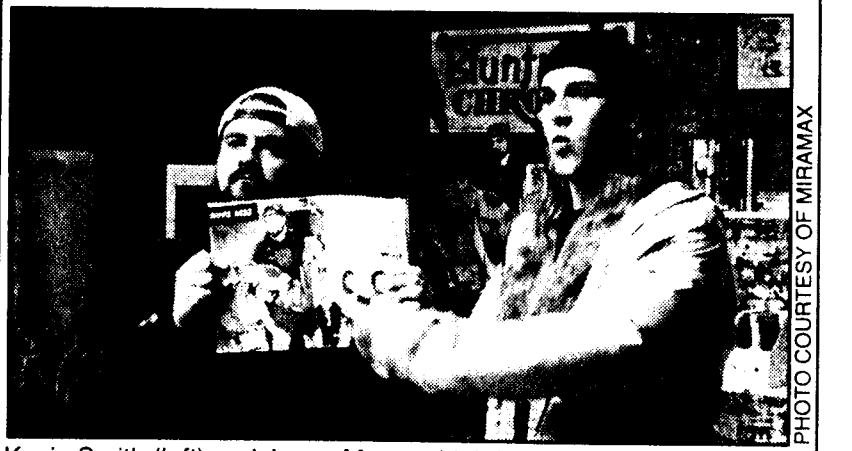


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRAMAX

Kevin Smith (left) and Jason Mewes (right) are Jay and Silent Bob. Smith not only directed and wrote this movie, but has directed such films as Chasing Amy and Dogma.

New Releases

Movies

- 'Don't Say a Word'
- 'Zoolander'

Video*

- 'Along Came a Spider'
- 'A Knight's Tale'
- 'The Forsaken'

Music*

- 'Totally Hits 2001'
- 'Zoolander' soundtrack

DVD*

- 'A Knight's Tale'
- 'The Forsaken'
- 'The Mask of Zorro' - special edition
- 'Exit Wounds'

*Release Date: 9/28

Special thanks to Media Play for providing information

