

TJs DJs and Ozone Magazine a big hit in Orlando

By VAUGHN WILSON
Outlook staff writer

For the first time in history, two Florida-based companies put together an awards show honoring music professionals. TJs DJs, a music promotion company owned by FAMU alumnus Thomas "TJ" Chapman, and Ozone Magazine owned by Julia Beverly of Orlando, united to put on a world-class awards show and music industry conference.

The first-ever TJs DJs Tastemakers Conference and the Ozone Magazine Awards was held last weekend in Orlando. The TJs DJs music conference started on Friday with panels of industry professionals ranging from radio disc jockeys to A&R directors of major labels. The registered attendance was over 5,000 for the seminars.

The culmination of the weekend was the Ozone Awards show Sunday at the Bob Carr Auditorium Downtown. The awards show featured top hip hop and R&B artists from major labels, independent labels, and even unsigned artists. The show was hosted by Universal Records Recording Artist David Banner and Slip-n-Slide Records recording artist Trina.

Although the New York-based Source Magazine had hosted an awards show in Florida, this is the first time Florida-based companies pulled off the monumental task. Artists who attended the events included Ludacris, T-Pain, Eightball & MJG, Young Jeezy, Lil' Wayne, Rick Ross, Trick Daddy, Pitbull, Paul Wall, and a virtual who's who cast of others.

T-Pain unveiled a new single from his new album slated for a January 2007 release along with walking away with an Ozone Award. Sean Combs' Bad Boy Records artist Young Jeezy brought down the house with his performance of "It's Goin' Down." The night was capped by a performance by Lil' Wayne; but the highlight of the evening was a reunion of Rap-A-Lot Records group UGK. Group members Pimp C, and Bun B, were reunited for the first time on stage since Pimp C's release from incarceration.

Lil' Jon's BME Click held their own as well. They were major sponsors of the event along with Warner Bros., Atlantic Records, and A&M Records.

While thousands were in attendance of the events, no major disturbances of any type were reported.



Outlook photos by VAUGHN WILSON

From top: T-Pain performs "Sent me an E-mail" with J-Shin at Club Firestone at the Friday awards show pre-party. Lil' Jon's BME Records artist Chyna White arrives on the red carpet for the awards show. Local sensation Randy B. heats it up at the pre-party at Club Firestone. Eightball, left, and MJG arrive on the red carpet for the Ozone Awards Show.



TJs DJs CEO Thomas "TJ" Chapman pauses a moment from the hectic pace at the first-ever TJs DJs Tastemakers Conference and Ozone Magazine Awards Show. Ozone Magazine CEO Julia Beverly of Orlando collaborated with Chapman to produce the first-ever Florida-based music awards show. Chapman has been responsible for the promotion of artists such as David Banner, Trick Daddy and Rick Ross, while Beverly has provided a media outlet for them as well with her trade publication.

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