



**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 8PM TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006 \*\***

## **The UK leads the way in the first live MOBO Awards.**

The MOBO Awards 2006 is set to be one of the most exciting shows in its 11-year history. For the first time ever the event will be broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall on BBC 3. The show hosted by comedian Gina Yashere for the second year running, will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September and will feature exclusive new performances from the king and queen of UK R&B Jamelia and Lemar and Hip Hop's brightest star Sway.

Voted for by the newly organised MOBO academy which now includes 500 members of the public, the nominations this year are led by global megastar Beyonce Knowles with her fans voting her in for a staggering four awards including Best Song in association with Galaxy, Best International Female and Best Video in association with MTV Base.

However the big news is that the force of UK talent is snapping at the heels of established US artists with our megastars in the making Corinne Bailey Rae and Kano leading the field with three nominations each.

Leeds-born, Corinne who is one of the few UK acts to break the American market, (debuting at number 12 in the US Billboard charts) features in Best Song in association with Galaxy, Best UK Female and Best UK Newcomer in association with London Tonight. East Londoner Kano is in the running for Best Video in association with MTV Base, Best UK Male and Best Hip Hop.

This year also sees the addition of four new categories. Best UK Female and Best UK Male have been created to highlight and focus on the wealth of talent coming out of Britain. The sirens of UK R&B; Jamelia, Keisha White, Alesha Dixon, Beverly Knight and Corinne Bailey Rae are battling it out for Best UK Female.

There is a hip-hop dominance in Best UK Male, which sees last year's Best Newcomer winner - Sway, Kano and newcomer Plan B competing against soul boys Lemar and Nate James.

US newcomers Chris Brown and Ne-Yo who both had great success with their respective hits 'Run It' and 'So Sick' face stiff competition from MOBO veterans Jay Z, Kanye West and Pharrell for the title of the newly created Best International Male category. International Female is filled to the brim with stalwarts from the R&B scene with Nelly Furtado currently riding the wave of a successful comeback competing against Alicia Keys, Beyonce, Mary J Blige, and Janet Jackson.

Best UK Newcomer in association with London Tonight is going to be a closely fought category with all the contenders; Corinne Bailey Rae, Fundamental 03, Lady Sovereign, Soundbwoy and Plan B all having made an impressive impact in the last twelve months. For young trio Fundamental 03 this nomination marks their arrival on the mainstream stage.

Aside from the music, there is also the creation of a new award titled BEMOBO. This award will go to an individual or organisation who exemplifies the MOBO social ideals of being courageous, forward thinking and active within the community.

Premier global money transfer company Western Union have also signed a three-year partnership deal, which will commence with the sponsorship of this years show.

Having played host to huge international artists including Janet Jackson, Lauryn Hill and Kanye West, over the past decade the MOBO Awards have become a highlight of the music calendar and grown into the Europe's leading urban brand. With Asher D, Roots Manuva and Wale Adeyemi confirmed as guest presenters and with more performances to be announced, this year's MOBO Awards 2006 looks set to be bigger than ever.

BBC One will broadcast the edited show on Friday 22nd September.

Following is the full list of nominations:

**Best Group**

Black Eyed Peas  
Gnarls Barkley

**Best Song in association with Galaxy**

Beyonce ft Jay Z- Deja Vu  
Corinne Bailey Rae- Put Your Records

Outkast  
Pussycat Dolls  
The Streets

Gnarls Barkley- Crazy  
Mary J Blige- Be Without You  
Ne-Yo- So Sick

**Best UK Female**

Alesha Dixon  
Beverly Knight  
Corinne Bailey-Rae  
Jamelia  
Keisha White

**Best International Female**

Alicia Keys  
Beyonce  
Janet Jackson  
Mary J Blige  
Nelly Furtado

**Best UK Male**

Kano  
Lemar  
Nate James  
Plan B  
Sway

**Best International Male**

Chris Brown  
Jay Z  
Kanye West  
Ne-Yo  
Pharrell

**Best UK Newcomer  
in association with London Tonight**

Corinne Bailey Rae  
Fundamental 03  
Lady Sovereign  
Plan B  
Soundbwoy

**Best Video  
in association with MTV Base**

Beyonce ft Jay Z- Deja Vu  
Busta Rhymes- Touch It (remix)  
Chris Brown- Run It  
Kano- Brown Eyes  
Roll Deep- Shake a Leg

**Best Hip Hop**

Akala  
Busta Rhymes  
Kano  
Kanye West  
Sway

**Best R&B**

Beyonce  
Jamie Foxx  
Mary J Blige  
Ne-Yo  
Rihanna

**Best Reggae**

Anthony Hamilton  
Burning Spear  
Damien Marley  
Sean Paul  
Shaggy

**Best Gospel**

Alan Charles  
Kirk Franklin  
Mary Mary  
Noel Robinson  
Nu Life

**Best DJ**

Semtex  
Shortee Blitz  
Steve Sutherland  
Tim Westwood  
Trevor Nelson

**Best African Act in association with AUMG Live**

Batman Samini  
Lebo Mathsa  
P Square  
Jose Chameleon  
Tony Tetula

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**Ticket Information**

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