



DRAFT 3

## GRAMMY™ GIRLS TAKE LAS VEGAS BY STORM AS CHRISTINA AGUILERA, MARY J. BLIGE AND TONI BRAXTON HEADLINE ALL-STAR 2007 ENTERTAINMENT

*-Aguilera and Braxton to Perform in the NBA All-Star Game Halftime Show with  
Blige Featured at NBA All-Star Saturday Night Presented by EA SPORTS™ -*

*-Sunday Player Intros by Wayne Newton-*

**NEW YORK, January xx, 2007** – The National Basketball Association announced today that pop icon and three-time Grammy™ Award-winning artist **Christina Aguilera** along with six-time Grammy Award-winning R&B artist **Toni Braxton** will headline the halftime entertainment for the 56<sup>th</sup> NBA All-Star Game on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. ET at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. The Game will air live on TNT, ESPN Radio and in 215 countries and territories.

This will be Christina Aguilera's last live performance before kicking off her nationwide tour February 20<sup>th</sup>. She will be performing two songs from her 2006 Grammy-nominated, certified platinum album *Back to Basics*, "Ain't No Other Man" and "Candyman" while Braxton, currently starring in her production show, "Toni Braxton: Revealed", at the Flamingo in Las Vegas, will take the stage to perform a two-song medley.

Prior to the start of the game, "Mr. Las Vegas" **Wayne Newton** will entertain the crowd by conducting the NBA All-Star player introductions.

On Saturday, February 17, Multi-platinum recording artist **Mary J. Blige**, who received eight Grammy nominations for her 2006 album *The Breakthrough*, will pay tribute to NBA Cares, the league's social responsibility initiative with a special performance of her rendition of the U2 original hit "One" during NBA All-Star Saturday Night Presented by EA SPORTS™ at the Thomas & Mack Center airing live on TNT at 8 p.m. ET. Footage from some of the hundreds of NBA Cares events, featuring current and former NBA players working in communities around the world will be thread into the performance.

### **About the Artists**

**Christina Aguilera** (RCA Records) -- One of the most accomplished performers of the last decade, Aguilera will be kicking off her "Back to Basics" nationwide tour on February 20. She has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide and cultivated a fan base that crosses generational, racial, and gender lines. Aguilera has produced three studio albums, each of which

was met with critical and commercial acclaim. She earned her first of three Grammy Awards in 2000 for Best New Artist following the release of her *Stripped* album, including singles “Dirrty,” “Beautiful,” and “Cant Hold Us Down.” Aguilera is also the recipient of a 2001 Latin Grammy Award for *Mi Reflejo* (Best Female Pop Vocal Album), a 2000 Billboard Music Award for Female Artist of the Year, and two 2004 Rolling Stone Music Awards (Best Female Producer, Readers’ Pick; Best Tour, Readers’ Pick, “Justified and Stripped”).

**Mary J. Blige** (Geffen Records) -- The owner of seven multi-platinum albums, Blige continues her impressive career in 2007, winning two BET awards, two American Music Awards, nine Billboard Awards, and a leading eight Grammy nominations for her 2006 album *The Breakthrough*, which holds the record for most albums sold by a female R&B artist in a week. “Be Without You,” a single from *The Breakthrough* broke records by being No. 1 on the R&B singles chart for 15 consecutive weeks.

**Toni Braxton** (Blackground/Universal Music) -- With four multi-platinum albums under her belt and one of the most distinctive and recognizable voices in contemporary music, Braxton has taken to the stage at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in her headlining show “Toni Braxton: Revealed.” Braxton, who performs five nights a week on the famed Las Vegas Strip, is a six-time Grammy Award winner, including nods for Best New Artist and Best Female R&B Vocal. Her 2005 album *Libra*, garnered critical acclaim as well as an NAACP Image Award Nomination for Toni in the Outstanding Female Artist category.

### **About NBA All-Star 2007**

NBA All-Star 2007 brings together the top NBA players and performers for a week of competition, community service, and world-class entertainment. Among the many events that reach fans in 215 countries are the T-Mobile Rookie Challenge & Youth Jam; McDonald’s NBA All-Star Celebrity Game presented by 2K Sports; Sprite Slam Dunk; Foot Locker Three-Point Shootout; PlayStation Skills Challenge; Haier Shooting Stars; NBA All-Star Jam Session presented by adidas, the league’s interactive event that attracts more than 100,000 fans each year; and the 56<sup>th</sup> NBA All-Star Game on Sunday, Feb. 18.

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