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Quintessential  
Quincy  
Jones



## The Essence of Q! . . . 4

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# Honoring The Incomparable Q

A Giver Of Gifts ... By Rosalind J. Harris



Quincy Jones accepts the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award from the Global Down Syndrome Foundation at the *Be Beautiful Be Yourself* Jet Set Fashion Show as John J. Sie, Michelle Sie Whitten and Diondra Dixon (Jamie Foxx's sister) looks on. Photos by Bernard Grant

**"J**ack of all trades, master of all" should be used to describe musician, composer, producer and arranger, Quincy Jones, aka Q, who was recognized last month at the *Be Beautiful Be Yourself* Jet Set Fashion Show, benefiting the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome in Denver. Presented by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award was established in his honor for his leadership and life-changing humanitarian work that has helped the disadvantaged, including the developmentally disabled.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of identifying the genetic cause of Down syndrome, a sold out audience of 1,200 attended a star-studded fundraiser. Co-Chairs of the event included Anna and John J. Sie.

While recognized and working in his various fields, Jones was always giving back. He began his humanitar-

ian work in the 1960s but is must recognized for pioneering the historic "We Are The World" model using celebrities to raise money and awareness for a cause. His leadership - along with 46 other entertainers - in producing, conducting and recording the best-selling single of all time raised \$63 million for Ethiopian famine relief in 1985.

Jones has a deep passion for children, especially disadvantaged children. In 2007, he wrote the winning score for the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics. In 2008, he committed to being a spokesperson for the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome.

"I believe from the bottom of my heart that every child on this planet has something to offer mankind, and they can soar to the highest mountain tops if they are given the opportunity to do so," Jones said during his spokesperson announcement event in 2008. "I have no doubt that the Linda Crnic Institute will be the world's leading care center for those impacted by this affliction, and will provide an avenue for obtaining undeniable and

fundamentally civil rights for these beautiful children, so they can achieve everything they can imagine. And I am enthusiastically looking forward to working with the patrons of this institution to bring those goals to fruition in any way I can."

As a young child growing up on the mean streets of Chicago, Jones also experienced affliction in more ways than one - violence, gangs, and a life without a mother.

He grew up with Al Capone, John Dillinger, Salvatore "Momo" Giancana, Two Gun Pete, and the Jones Brothers, the most notorious Black gangsters during that time. Since his father worked for them, that way of life appeared normal and natural.

"We were in the heart of the ghetto in Chicago - the biggest Black ghetto in America and probably the spawning ground for every gangster, Black and white in America. We were around all of that every day. Two Gun Pete was a Black policeman, who used to shoot teenagers in the back every weekend. There was a gang on every street. Our biggest struggle was either running from gangs or with gangs."

At seven years old, Jones said he got his medals. "With a switchblade in hand, I was pinned to a tree with an ice pick," he said. "But, when you're young, nothing harms you, nothing scares you or anything. You don't know any better."

Even though he remembers his mother being taken to the Manteno State Hospital for Dementia, Jones proudly says she was smart, attended Boston University in the '20s and spoke 12 languages.

At the age of 11, Jones was spending days burning down event halls, stealing honey and pies and having pie fights. After using sling shots and BB guns, he said let's get real and while selling papers at the army camp, he would take daily, piece by piece, artillery in his bag. Eventually, he and the other baby gangsters would possess four 30-caliber machine guns and enough ammunition to start a war.

Those pie fights ended along with the machine gun toting ventures when something caught his eye and forever changed the course of his life. After breaking into the superintendent's

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# ALAN BEALS – Social, Adventuresome, and Curious – And Just Happens To Have Down Syndrome

By Annette Walker

For Alan Beals participating in the Be Beautiful, Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show was the finale of a series of events that took place earlier this year. He auditioned for the show during the summer and was selected as a participant.

Then Channel 9 indicated that it would do a public service announcement about the event and wanted one of the youth to be involved. That prompted Darlene Beals, Alan's mother, to make a video of her son at a Boy Scout meeting. Channel 9 used footage from that video. Having jazz musician Quincy Jones as the narrator for the PSA made the event even more special for Alan. He and the other youth in the group had their photograph taken with Jones and singer/songwriter Josh Kelley.

"Alan is a vivacious 13-year-old Boy Scout who happens to have Down syndrome," said Anca Elena Call, Special Projects Manager at the Anna and John Sie Foundation.

In addition to regular participation in his Boy Scout troop's activities, Alan participates in programs of the Arapahoe County library. Only an adventuresome and fearless person would be willing to get involved in the library's Doggie Tails program. In this unique activity, people read stories to dogs. Darlene Beals reports that Alan enjoys this.



Thomas Malone (left) and Alan Beals (right) are escorted by a Denver Nuggets dancer. Photo by Bernard Grant

Alan is active in the youth group and attends catechism classes at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

A seventh-grade student at the Campus Middle School in the Cherry Creek School District, Alan participates in the Color Guard and in the band where he plays various percussion instruments.

"He can read the music notes for the percussion section," his mother said. "His great motivation is

that his brother and sister both play several reed and keyboard instruments," she continued. "Alan is not one to feel left out."

He also plays on the 7th grade basketball team. Darlene Beals points out that he's on the regular team, not a special one for students with disabilities.

Regular or typical versus special is a big issue for people with Down syndrome. There is a debate about whether those with this condition should be integrated into regular settings or isolated with people with special needs.

The Beal family prefers a mix. "Alan spends 60 percent of his time in school in regular classes, and 40 percent in special needs settings," his mother said. "Some of the students in his regular class and basketball team know him from elementary school and are aware not only of his needs, but his capabilities."

Darlene Beals describes Alan as "naturally agreeable" rather than shy. "He is compassionate, empathetic and has a sense of humor." She is aware that some people with Down syndrome are shy.

The Beal family prefers to explain Alan's condition to people. "I'd rather have people ask me questions rather than stare," said Darlene Beals. "I like helping them become compassionate rather than just curious." ■

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science to be successful with everything you are very emotional about, and you have to back it up with a strong sense of science. That's another reason why John Sie is so strong because of his technology background."

*"The truth is, you are terminal for a higher power. And you have to acknowledge that higher power and have humility with your creativity and grace with your success or God will walk out the room."*

After 60 years of being in the music business, Jones has seen and experienced many changes in it. In 1999, he was asked in USA Today which single piece of technology affected your genre the most? He emphatically said the Fender bass. "We had the first one in 1953 with Lionel Hampton. We didn't know what it was – an electric bass. We got blasted by critics in Paris who said this is a band that doesn't have a bass. What's the matter with them? We did jazz records with it at first. We didn't know," Jones said.

"But without that instrument, there would be no rock and roll, or no Motown. The electric guitar came about in 1939, and it was just waiting for a partner for all those years – before it became an electric rhythm section. It changed a lot of things and was powerful."

Needless to say, Jones has touched many lives. But he was also touched by the lives of others – one being Michael Jackson. As close as he was to Jackson, Jones feels there was nothing he could have done if given the opportunity to turn back the hands of time. "It doesn't work that way. People are going to do what they want to do, especially when they have that kind of impact, it is very hard to get through. And he was aware of his impact," Jones said.

Jones and Oprah jokingly talked about starting an Academy of Success to assist athletes, actors, rappers, musicians or whoever overcome challenges and learn how to prevent mistakes before they become successful. He said, "The problem is as a star, you get people around you who say you can do no wrong, everything is perfect and that's not real! Because if you think you deserve the success and adulation and money, you are wrong.

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## The Global Down Syndrome Foundation

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to significantly improving the lives of people with Down syndrome by supporting basic research, clinical research and clinical care.

Established in 2009, the foundation's primary focus is to support the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome. The institute is the first organization in the U.S. with the mission to eradicate the medical and cognitive ill effects associated with Down syndrome through basic and clinical research and clinical care. The institute incorporates scientific partners both locally and globally, with headquarters at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Colorado.

The foundation, originating from start-up funds made possible by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation, will provide desperately needed funds to underwrite research for people with Down syndrome. In doing so, the Global Down Syndrome Foundation is not just addressing the 400,000 people in the United States with Down syndrome but the millions of people affected by the condition worldwide.

The foundation builds community awareness by focusing on the abilities of and contributions made by people with Down syndrome, and creating awareness about the unique and sometimes heart-wrenching challenges that people with Down syndrome and their family members face.

The foundation intends to continue its successful Be Beautiful Be Yourself Jet Set Fashion Show fundraiser that highlights models with Down syndrome, and to co-host similar fashion show fundraisers in other states and countries.

In addition to fundraising that incorporates awareness, the foundation will partner with the Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Educational Fund and other organizations to organize and promote advocacy and educational events that will benefit people with Down syndrome.

The foundation has already taken a leadership role in educating members of Congress, the National Institutes of Health and other governmental organizations about the outrageous discrepancy in the research funding benefiting people with Down syndrome. Down syndrome is the least funded genetic condition by the National Institutes of Health, garnering only 0.0006 of the 2008 budget despite being the most frequent chromosomal condition with 1 in 733 children in the U.S. born with Down syndrome. This educational role is pivotal in accessing research funds that are crucial in creating a brighter future for people with Down syndrome.

For more information on how to join the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and its events, contact Executive Director Michelle Sie Whitten at 303-468-6663.

## Quincy Jones

*Continued from page 4*

office one day with his stepbrother, he saw a Spinet piano in the corner. When he almost closed the door, Jones heard God say, 'Idiot, go back into that room.'

"I walked back into that room and went to the piano. I never thought about a human being playing it, had heard it all my life but when I touched it, every cell in my body said, this is what you will be doing for the rest of your life. It saved my life – at 11 years old," Jones said.

That Spinet piano changed his life and consequently, many others lives he touched. In addition to the piano, he mastered other musical instruments including percussion, drums, tuba, sousaphone, French horn and trombone.

Jones said he was fortunate to work with so many great people such as composers Salvador Poe and Leonard Bernstein, French composer and teacher Nadia Boulanger, actress Bridget Bardot and others who helped shape his future. They saw the greatness in him before he saw the greatest in himself.

"And she (Nadia) also recognized that I was already corrupted because I had been in the night clubs since I was 13, and my school teacher did, too. But, it only takes three or four people to make a difference in your life. I lived right across the street from Garfield High School, and we played three clubs each night until 5:30 in the morning, and Parker Cook never scolded me for coming to school at 11 o'clock. He said this was what I was born to do. And I had a history teacher name Shnellung who encouraged me, also," said Jones.

He was "adopted" by many and taken under the wings of entertainers like Clark Terry, Benny Carter, Count Basie and Ray Charles who taught him Braille – all who helped mold him into the icon he is today.

Even though he had a scholarship to Seattle University, he didn't like the music program and really wanted to be back east with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie with the bebop sound. So, after receiving a scholarship to the Schillinger House of Music he went to school, but Lionel Hampton had invited him to travel with his band.

"I was sitting on that bus all day waiting. I was so excited I didn't tell anyone. They all got on the bus and then Gladys Hampton said 'Gates (the name she called Lionel), what's that child doing on this bus?' He mumbled something and then said 'I just hired him to go with the band.' She said 'Honey, get off this bus and go to school.' I was never so upset in my life," Jones said. "They said we'll get



Ted Polito (left) and Chuntelle Milton (right) are escorted by Delvin Hughley at the *Be Yourself Be Beautiful Jet Set Fashion Show*  
Photo by Bernard Grant

back to you later, and they did. They called me when I was about 19 and I played with Hampton for three years. That was the best thing that could happen to me. We made \$17 a night."

Jones respected the older guys and took to heart what they told him and taught him. Jones said they would say "Hey young blood. There are hills and there are valleys. Hills are easy. But the valleys are where you find out what you are made of and in Black show business, no one stays on top so we help each other."



Quincy Jones gives Diondra Dixon a hug and kiss.  
Photo by Bernard Grant

Other words of advice he has carried throughout his 76 years of life came from Ben Webster, who said, "Everyplace (country) you go, eat the food the real people eat, listen to the music the real people listen to and learn about 30 to 40 words of the language." And as a world traveler, he says he has followed that advice obediently and can speak in 14 languages, including Mandarin, Greek, Turkish, French, Swedish, Russian and Japanese.

Jones professes that he knows this country but never, never believed he would live to see a Black president in

his lifetime, and said that young people helped change this world. He admits that he did not know what they – Oprah, Barack and Michelle – were up to while sitting at his kitchen table back in March 2005. But today, Jones said, "He (Barack) is working it, probably doing more than he should, but doing some things that should have been done a long time ago. He is bringing people together. That is my foundation."

Wearing a bracelet with Hindu, Judaic, Buddhist, Christian and Islamic symbols, Jones reiterated that it's all about coming together and said, "If you don't have a diagnosis, you can't write a prescription. You have to know what is wrong."

In 1985, Jones wrote the perfect prescription when he orchestrated and brought together diverse entertainers for the "We Are The World" production. "When you do things like that, you don't know if it will work or not. You try your best shot and anyone who says they know that it will work, is lying. You just have to do your best. Try to get it together on a parallel course while trying to get a list of stars which is always hard."

Under his leadership, Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson wrote the music and 46 singers spent 12 hours in the studio immediately after the American Music Awards. Jones said it was a journey but the entertainers are there for everything – always, even if it works them because voices get tired – drums and synthesizers don't. They come with the purity of heart.

"That is the reason I am so honored to be part of John Sie's efforts. Passion is not enough. You have to have infrastructure and a step-by-step-plan and details of what makes it work. It is a

*Continued on next page*

## Quincy Jones

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If you don't think you deserve it and are fooling everybody, you are still wrong. The truth is you are terminal for a higher power. And you have to acknowledge that higher power and have humility with your creativity and grace with your success or God will walk out the room."

An Academy of Success would have been helpful for the likes of Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and others who were producing revolutionary music with the desire to be pure artists. They ultimately went over the heads of the audiences, ushering in doo-wap, rock and roll, mambo and folk music.

Music was changing. The first emotional revolution for white America was 1954 with Elvis Presley and Bill Haley. In 1964 in England, the Beatles

came along but they were totally different. Brits didn't sing like Brits - Phil Collins, Elton John, Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger where inspired by rhythm and blues - Tina Turner, Chuck Barry, Little Richard who swept the world.

Jones went on to produce Michael Jackson's multi-platinum solo albums, *Off The Wall*, *Bad* and *Thriller*; he won an Emmy Award for the music in *Roots*; he wrote 33 major motion picture scores; he co-produced Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*; he helped launch *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*; and has written several books.

From the mean streets of Chicago, he has traveled the globe becoming a citizen of the world. He has inspired mindsets and advanced the music industry. He has touched lives, changed lives and made lives.

When Jones talked about God-given talent among fellow artists, he smiled and said, "God leaves his hands on some shoulders a little longer than other people - like Michael."

But, we can all agree that the world is a better place - because God still has his hand on Q's shoulder. ■



Music icon Quincy Jones is pictured with good friend John J. Sie of the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation.

Photo by Bernard Grant

## Anna and John J. Sie Foundation

The Anna and John J. Sie Foundation is a catalyst for improving the lives of people with Down syndrome. The foundation is one of the leaders in funding programs and organizations that are dedicated to research, education, clinical care, and advocacy for people with Down syndrome.

In just three years, the foundation has committed more than \$36 million in grants and endowments, including funding for the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome that will fully integrate the highest quality basic, translational and clinical research, clinical trials, therapeutic development, medical care, education and advocacy.

The following is a timeline of the key accomplishments and commitments to date:

### 2006

- Raised \$1 million to establish The Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Educational Fund
  - ~• Held its first Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Educational Symposium Series with world-renowned expert William I. Cohen
  - Launched "The Sie Family Down Syndrome Break-Through Research Initiative" moderated by Nobel Laureate Tom Cech
  - ~• Resulted in a "Call To Action" where posters/grant proposals were submitted and \$1 million in new Down syndrome research funding was granted to 13 projects representing 28 scientists, 17 of whom were new to the Down syndrome field

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### 2007

- Held two more Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Educational Symposium Series
  - ~• World-renowned physical therapist and Down syndrome expert, Patricia Winders
  - ~• World-renowned psychologist and behavioral scientist and Down syndrome expert, Sue Buckley
- Helped fund the first life skills class in Colorado for adults with Down syndrome through the Denver Adult Down Syndrome Clinic
- Recruited Patricia Winders to Colorado as a first step towards establishing a clinical care center for children with Down syndrome
- Underwrote the labs of three key scientists working on Down syndrome who have consequently made groundbreaking breakthroughs

### 2008

- Provided a \$140K grant to fund the first research on how children with Down syndrome learn to read
- Established the Anna and John J. Sie Center for Down Syndrome at The Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado with a \$2 million endowment
- Established the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome at the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus with a \$34 million commitment

The Anna and John J. Sie Foundation supports the sharing of knowledge amongst peoples and cultures throughout the global community, with an emphasis on Down syndrome, international security and diplomacy, education, media, business and technology. The Foundation is a supporter of The Children's Hospital, the University of Colorado's "The Sie Family Down Syndrome Break-Through Research Initiative"; the University of Denver's "SIE CHÉOU-KANG Center for International Security and Diplomacy" and the "Anna Maglione-Sie Chair in Italian Language and Culture"; the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST); the Denver Art Museum, etc.