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Billboard Announces Winners of the 2006 Touring Awards --The Rolling Stones and Madonna Take Home Multiple Honors --

New York, NY (November 9, 2006) – Billboard, the world's most trusted source of music, video and digital entertainment news, charts, reviews and analysis, announced tonight the winners of the 2006 Billboard Touring Awards at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. The awards reception honored the concert industry's top artists and professionals for the year, based on actual box office figures reported to Billboard Boxscore from December 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

The Rolling Stones' A Bigger Bang tour was recognized as the Top Tour, based on gross dollars, and Top Draw, based on ticket sales. This incredibly successful tour grossed nearly \$230 million for the period that the awards cover, and drew nearly 2 million fans to shows all over the world.

Another multiple winner was Madonna, who was a finalist in four categories. She won the Top Boxscore Award for her \$22 million, eight-sellout stand at London's Wembley Arena on her Confessions tour, while her management team of Guy Oseary and Angela Becker picked up the Top Manager Award.

Nickelback won the Breakthrough Act Award, given to a band still in its first decade of touring that breaks the Billboard top 25 tours for the first time, and Kenny Chesney received the Top Package nod for the second consecutive year. In addition, Billboard's two new awards, Top Comedy Tour and Creative Content, went to Larry the Cable Guy and Cirque Du Soleil's Delirium, respectively.

"2006 was a very good overall year for the touring industry, and we're proud to have recognized the artists, agents, promoters, managers and venues that contributed to this success," says Ray Waddell, Billboard's senior touring editor.

Other highlights of this year's reception included the Legend of Live and Humanitarian Awards. Billboard presented Sir Elton John with the Legend of Live Award for his significant and lasting impact on the touring industry. John was the first artist to receive this honor. Billboard's Humanitarian Award, which acknowledges philanthropic efforts within the music industry, was given to Music Rising, the instrument replacement fund for Gulf musicians founded by Gibson CEO Henry Juskiewicz, legendary producer Bob Ezrin, and U2's the Edge. President Bill Clinton congratulated both John and Music Rising in a taped message that was played at the event.

The following is a list of this year's winners:

TOP TOUR

The Rolling Stones, A Bigger Bang

TOP DRAW

The Rolling Stones

TOP PACKAGE

Kenny Chesney with Dierks Bentley, others

TOP BOXSCORE

Madonna at Wembley Arena, London

BREAKTHROUGH ACT

Nickelback

TOP ARENA

Madison Square Garden, N.Y.

TOP COMEDY TOUR

Larry the Cable Guy

TOP SMALL VENUE (Resident)

Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

TOP SMALL VENUE (Under 10,000 seats, Non-Resident)

Fox Theatre, Atlanta

TOP CLUB

House Of Blues, Atlantic City

TOP AMPHITHEATER

Nikon at Jones Beach Theatre, Wantagh, N.Y.

TOP FESTIVAL

Bonnaroo Music Festival, Manchester, Tenn.

TOP MANAGER

Angela Becker and Guy Oseary (Madonna)

TOP AGENCY

Creative Artists Agency

TOP PROMOTER

Live Nation

TOP INDY PROMOTER

Jam Productions

LEGEND OF LIVE

Sir Elton John

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Music Rising

CREATIVE CONTENT AWARD

Cirque Du Soleil's Delirium

The 2006 Billboard Touring Awards capped off the 3rd annual Billboard Touring Conference, which was attended by over 500 of the top players in the touring business. This 2-day event is the premier gathering for the concert industry, and featured a keynote Q&A session with 3 Doors Down, informative panels, controversial discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities.

About Billboard:

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