

¿QUE PASA?

Top Latin performers nominated for Ritmo awards

By RAMIRO BURR

Enrique Iglesias, Olga Tañon and Ana Gabriel were among the top stars recently nominated in the upcoming Ritmo Latino Awards at Los Angeles Universal Amphitheater.

The awards, now in their second year, are scheduled for Oct. 19. Nominees were selected on the basis of record sales between July 1999 and June 2000, as tabulated by SoundScan Inc. There are 14 categories including pop, ranchero, Tejano, regional Mexican, salsa, merengue, rock en Español, video, song and artist of the year.

The winners will be determined by a public poll where voters can pick up ballots at Vons grocery stores and Ritmo Latino record stores throughout the United States. "We are honored to be a major sponsor of the Ritmo Latino Music Awards El Premio de la Gente 2000," said Tom Keller, president of the Los Angeles-based Vons Grocers. "We recognize the growth of the Hispanic community and Latino music, and we want to celebrate that growth."

The awards show, one of more than a half dozen, is testament to the growing popularity of Latino music in the United States. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) reports 1999 Latin audio and video product shipments to domestic markets at \$626.7 million (up 10% from 1998).

Among the list of artists scheduled to perform that night are Son by Four, Chayanne, Emmanuel, Jaci Velasquez, Paulina Rubio, Jaguares and Charlie Zaa. Nominees in the pop categories are: Female artist: Ana Gabriel, "Soy Como Soy"; Jaci Velasquez, "Llegar A Ti"; Noelia, "Noelia"; Olga Tanon, "Olga Viva, Viva Olga"; Thalia, "Arrasando." Male: Enrique Iglesias, "Bailamos"; Mana, "MTV Unplugged"; Luis Miguel, "Amarte Es Un Placer"; Christian Castro, "Mi Vida Sin Tu Amor"; Son By Four, "Son By Four."

Ranchero Artist: Alejandro

Fernandez, "Mi Verdad"; Pepe Aguilar, "Por Una Mujer Bonita"; Vicente Fernandez, "Lobo Herido"; Placido Domingo, "Cien Anos de Mariachi"; Pablo Montero, "Que Voy A Hacer Sin Ti." Tejano: Intocable, "Contigo"; Jay Perez, "Siempre Contigo"; Los Palominos, "Por Eso Te Amo"; Michael Salgado, "Otra Vez A La Cantina"; Jennifer, "Mariposa."

Regional Mexican Artist: Los Tigres del Norte, "Herencia de Familia"; Conjunto Primavera, "Morir de Amor"; Banda El Recodo, "Lo Mejor De Mi Vida"; Los Huracanes del Norte, "Norteno 2000"; Los Angeles Azules, "Una Lluvia De Rosas."

Salsa Artist: Ibrahim Ferrer, "Buena Vista Social Club Presenta Ibrahim Ferrer"; Carlos Vives, "El Amor De Mi Tierra"; Gilberto Santa Rosa, "Expresion"; Gloria Estefan, "Alma Caribena"; Caribbean Soul"; Victor Manuelle, "Inconfundible."

Rock En Espanol Artist: Cafe Tacuba, "Reves / Yosoy"; Puya, "Fundamental"; Jaguares, "Bajo El Azul De Tu Misterio"; Chris Perez Band, "Resurrection"; Fiel A La Vega, "Tres."

New Artist: Son By Four, Jaci Velasquez, Tigrillos, Melina Leon, Priscila y Sus Balas de Plata.

TIDBITS: A new Tejano Music Awards concert series at Arjon's International Club continues Wednesday with Roberto Pulido. Following is Flaco Jimenez's CD release party for his new album "Sleepy Town" on the Back Porch record label, on Aug 29; and Sept. 6 with Joe Lopez. Coming in mid-September is the Bob Gallarza Revue.

"Since we don't have that many Tejano clubs right now, we felt it was important to do what we can to keep promoting Tejano," said TMA President Robert Arellano. "Our recent awards shows have featured salsa, merengue and international artists and since Arjons also features this type of music, it seemed only natural to team up and present Tejano there."

"We plan this series to go through September and we special want to feature legends and new faces. Of course, like every year, we're also going to be having showcases at other clubs as we get closer to the start of the TMA season."

TMA officials will have Tejano caps, cups, T-shirts and jackets for sale and informational brochures on the organization available.

The 21st Tejano Music Awards, which recognizes the most popular artists in the genre, are scheduled in March 2001. The Space City Car Show and Concert Sunday (Aug 20) at the Pasadena Fairgrounds in Paedena wil feature Lisa y Adventura, Joe Lopez, Hometown Boys, South Park Mexican, Lil' Keke, Nick Villareal and others.

Advanced tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12-5 for the Sept. 3 concert featuring salsa artist albeit and Jimmy Boost at Waterloo Park in Austin.

(Ramiro Burr covers the Latin music scene each week. Burr is also the author of "The Billboard Guide to Tejano and Regional Mexican Music," on Billboard Books. For questions or comments call Burr at (800) 555-1551, ext. 3429, or e-mail to rburr@express-news.net.)



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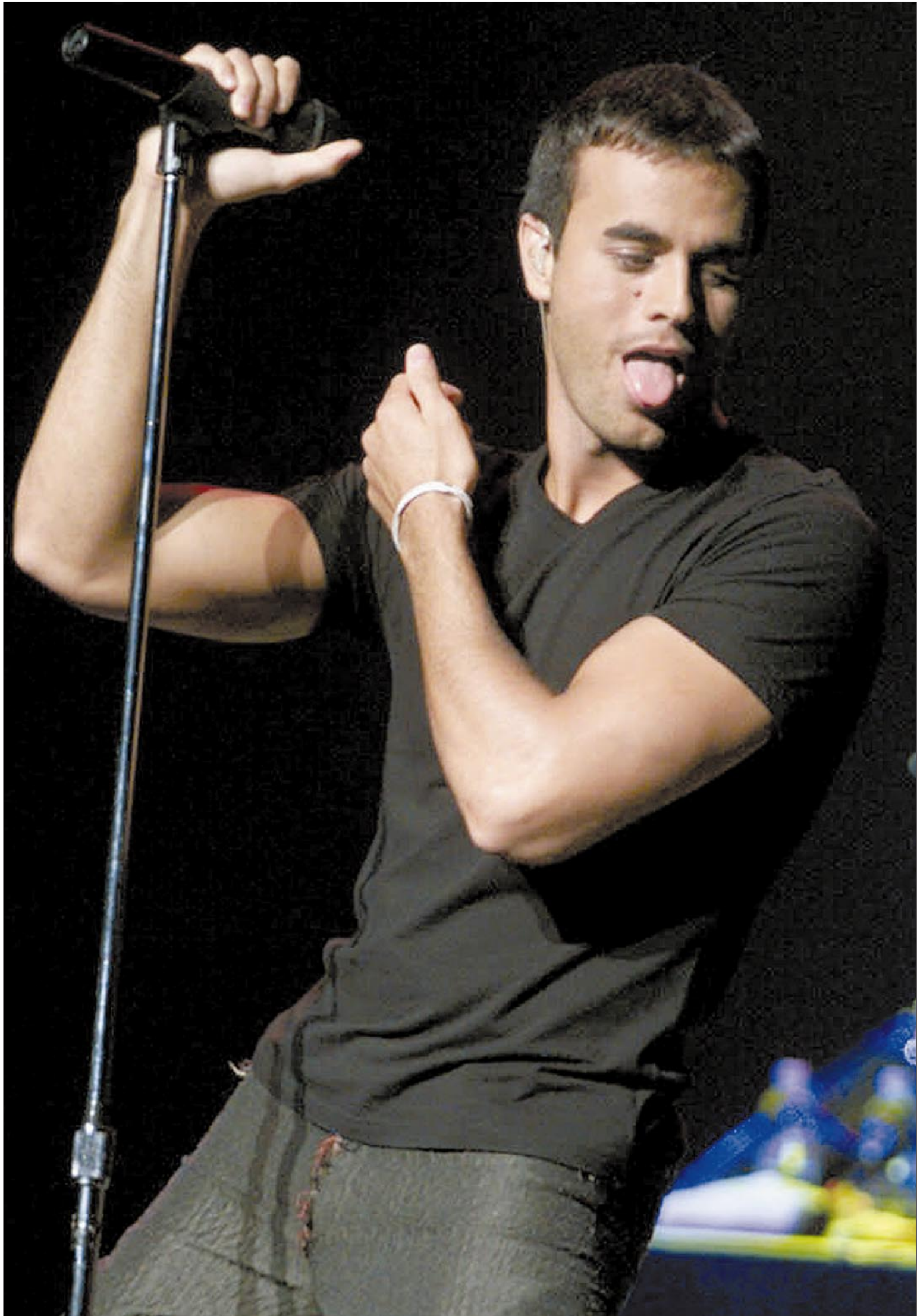
HISPANIC TALENT: Enrique Iglesias sings during the "Hispanic Talent Showcase" at the Universal Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2000. The "Hispanic Talent Showcase" is an all-star line-up of recording artists and entertainers who are performing in a live concert for delegates attending the Democratic National Convention.

Laredo's Entertainment Guide

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