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**ACTOR JAMIE FOXX ENJOYS OSCAR BUZZ FOR 'RAY'
PRESENTED ON THIS WEEK'S AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM**

Jamie Foxx Discusses Biographical Movie on Life of Ray Charles with Julian Bond

(Washington, D.C) – “I’m glad they are saying Oscar. It would bring lots more attention to the Ray Charles story,” says **actor Jamie Foxx** in an interview on this repeat edition of **AMERICA’S BLACK FORUM**, the Emmy Award-winning nationally syndicated television news and information broadcast with an African American perspective. **Foxx** stars in the Movie ‘*Ray*,’ about the life of legendary musician Ray Charles. **Foxx** says, “I believe this is a beautiful testimony to this man’s life and we want everybody to get a chance to see it. This will do a lot of things if it is nominated. It will do so much for the movie, for my career—for everyone.”

Actor and **comedian Jamie Foxx** gives a powerful portrayal of music legend Ray Charles in the movie ‘*Ray*.’ Ray Charles died June 11, 2004, of complications from liver disease, but collaborated on the film and met with Foxx during production. Frank Sinatra dubbed Ray Charles “The Genius” for his innovative musicianship and for combining gospel and blues into what became Rhythm and Blues. Foxx makes an amazing transformation to become Ray Charles in the movie and critics have given ‘*Ray*’ an early buzz for Academy Award nomination.

The movie chronicles Ray Charles’s journey from early childhood blindness to early days performing on the road and negotiating music rights to his bouts with drug addiction. Through it all, Ray Charles remained true to his music. Says Foxx, “When we met Ray Charles, he said, ‘I’m no angel. I want you to show the real side of Ray Charles.’ So this movie deals with women, it deals with drug addiction and kicking drugs. Those were the things that were exciting to me about the movie.”

‘*Ray*’ highlights the fight against racism that was a part of the Ray Charles story. For his refusal to play to segregated audiences, Charles was banned from performing in Georgia. However, in 1978 the state of Georgia apologized to Charles and his rendition of the song “Georgia On My Mind” became the official state song. Julian Bond plays a cameo role in the movie announcing the historic moment.

This week, **NAACP Chairman Julian Bond** conducts the interview with Jamie Foxx on **America’s Black Forum**, which is hosted by **Juan Williams**. Also appearing are syndicated columnists **Deborah Mathis** and **Armstrong Williams**, the broadcast’s co-hosts and commentators. Check local listings for exact air times and dates.

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