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**Billboard Announces Finalists for the 2006 Billboard Touring Awards  
--Madonna, the Rolling Stones and Bon Jovi Lead Finalists in Multiple Categories--**

**New York, NY (October 12, 2006)** – Billboard, the world's most trusted source of music, video and digital entertainment news, charts, reviews and analysis, announced today the finalists for the 2006 Billboard Touring Awards. The winners will be revealed at an awards reception, taking place on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City.

Madonna's Confessions tour leads the pack this year as a finalist in four categories including Top Tour and Top Draw, which are given to the top-grossing tour and the top ticket-selling tour, respectively. The other finalists in these categories are the Rolling Stones' a Bigger Bang tour, and Bon Jovi's Have a Nice Day tour.

"There have been some incredible touring successes in 2006, and these tours are definitely three of the biggest," says Ray Waddell, Billboard's senior touring editor. "There were also a lot of agents, promoters, managers and venues that helped make this a very good year overall for the touring industry."

Billboard will also hand out awards in other notable categories such as the hotly-contested Top Boxscore category, which goes to the top-grossing single engagement, Top Arena, and Breakthrough Act, which acknowledges the top-grossing artist or band among the top 25 tours still in its first decade of national touring. The finalists in that category are Nickelback, Brad Paisley and Shakira.

Another highlight of this year's awards reception will be the Legend of Live and Humanitarian Awards. Billboard will honor Sir Elton John with the Legend of Live Award for his outstanding career achievements. He will be the first artist to receive this award, which is given to concert business professionals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the touring industry.

Also being honored is Music Rising; a musical instrument replacement fund founded by U2's The Edge, producer Bob Ezrin and Gibson Guitar chairman Henry Juszkiewicz, with MusiCares and the Guitar Center Foundation. Some 60 artists worked with Ticketmaster, Live Nation, House of Blues, AEG Live and Nederlander Concerts on this fund-raising program that specifically targets Gulf Coast musicians who lost equipment in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Music Rising will receive the Humanitarian Award, which acknowledges philanthropic efforts within the music industry.

The Billboard Touring Awards honor the concert industry's top artists and professionals for the year, based on the Billboard Boxscore chart. The awards are based on actual box office performance from December 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

**The following is a list of this year's finalists:**

**TOP TOUR**

Bon Jovi, Have A Nice Day  
Madonna, Confessions  
The Rolling Stones, A Bigger Bang

**TOP DRAW**

Bon Jovi  
Madonna  
The Rolling Stones

**TOP PACKAGE**

Kenny Chesney with Dierks Bentley, Sugarland/Carrie Underwood/Jake Owen  
Def Leppard/Journey with Stoll Vaughn  
Rascal Flatts with Gary Allan and Jason Aldean

**TOP BOXSCORE**

Billy Joel at Madison Square Garden, New York City  
Madonna at Wembley Arena, London  
Luis Miguel at Auditorio Nacional, Mexico City

**BREAKTHROUGH ACT**

Nickelback  
Brad Paisley  
Shakira

**TOP ARENA**

Madison Square Garden, N. Y.  
TD Banknorth Garden, Boston  
Wachovia Center, Philadelphia

**TOP COMEDY TOUR**

Larry the Cable Guy  
Jerry Seinfeld  
Ron White

**TOP SMALL VENUE (Resident)**

Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

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

Auditorio Nacional, Mexico City  
Fox Theatre, Atlanta  
Gibson Amphitheatre, Universal City, Calif.

**TOP CLUB**

House Of Blues, Anaheim, Calif.  
House Of Blues, Atlantic City  
House Of Blues, Chicago

### **TOP AMPHITHEATER**

Nikon at Jones Beach Theatre, Wantagh, N.Y.  
PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J.  
Tweeter Center at the Waterfront, Camden, N.J.

### **TOP FESTIVAL**

Austin City Limits Music Festival, Austin, Texas  
Bonnaroo Music Festival, Manchester, Tenn.  
Lollapalooza, Chicago

### **TOP MANAGER**

Angela Becker and Guy Oseary (Madonna)  
Front Line Management  
RPM Management/Borman Entertainment  
Paul Korzilius of BJM (Bon Jovi)

### **TOP AGENCY**

Creative Artists Agency  
Monterey Peninsula Artists/Paradigm  
William Morris Agency

### **TOP PROMOTER**

AEG Live  
HOB Concerts  
Live Nation

### **TOP INDEPENDENT PROMOTER**

Gillett Entertainment Group  
Jam Productions  
Outback Concerts

The Billboard Touring Awards will cap off the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Touring Conference, which is being held on November 8-9 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. This 2-day event is the premier gathering for the concert industry, and will feature informative panels, controversial discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities.

For more information on the Billboard Touring Conference & Awards, visit [www.billboardevents.com](http://www.billboardevents.com) or contact Michele Jacangelo at 646-654-4660. For information on registration and group discounts, contact Erin Parker at 646-654-4643. For sponsorship information, contact Karl Vontz at 415-738-0745. For hotel information, contact the Roosevelt Hotel at 212-661-9600. For press credentials, please contact Lila Gerson at 212-255-8455.

### **About Billboard:**

Now in its 111th year, Billboard is the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events and brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends. Billboard is the flagship property for the Billboard Information Group, which also consists of Billboard.biz, Billboard.com, Billboard Chart Alert, Billboard Information Network (BIN), Billboard Directories, Billboard Books, Billboard Licensing & Events and Radio & Records. Billboard's many strategic partners include Fox-TV, Microsoft, Hands-On Mobile, Reuters, Sirius Satellite Radio, Telemundo, Univision Radio, ABC Radio Networks, Azteca America, BigChampagne and Billboard sister companies Nielsen SoundScan and Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems. These partnerships leverage Billboard's proprietary data, charts and information resources to develop broadcast entertainment, digital and mobile platforms and contextual commerce applications that expand Billboard's franchise and consumer reach.

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