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NEWS

Jennifer Hudson wows local notables at gala



Jennifer Hudson performing at the Roxbury Community Health Center's 23rd We Take Your Health To Heart gala at the Four Seasons.

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The Spotlight was on “Dreamgirl” **Jennifer Hudson** the other night at the glitzy glam **Roxbury Comprehensive Community Healthcare** benefit gala, where she wowed the crowd with her greatest hits. E

Hudson, who is back on tour after mourning the tragic murder of her mother, brother and young nephew six months ago, belted out some of her greatest hits at the fab **Four Seasons** . And during one audience fave, she invited **Julie Landrum**, bride-to-be of **Boston Celtics** big man **Paul Pierce**, to sing with her.

During the performance the **Oscar** gal, “All Dressed Up” in a luxurious lace wrap dress, said, “I love to come out and support anything with a good cause. It’s an honor to be in your presence.

“I appreciate all the overwhelming support from everyone – from the beginning of my career till now. So thank you for that. I don’t take it lightly,” the Chicago gal told the audience, which included Windy City natives Gov. **Deval Patrick**, his wife, **Diane**, and many other Hub VIPS.

Hudson, who was mistakenly introduced as **Jennifer Holliday** by a rather embarrassed **Karen Holmes Ward** of **WCVB-TV**, received a standing ovation and came out for an encore performance.

After the “American Idol” washout took her final bow, a live auction began. One lucky fan forked over \$3,500 for a Chicago getaway with tickets to a Hudson show, while another bid \$2,000 for a meet-and-greet with Jennifer after the show.

The Patricks, natch, didn’t have to pay to say hey to Hudson. The gov told her that he, too, was from the South Side of Chicago. And his wife said, “We’re such big fans of yours.”

Also in attendance were Mayor **Tom Menino** and wife **Angela**; **Bravo’s** “Project Runway” Season 4 winner **Christian Siriano**; **Big Papi’s** bride **Tiffany Ortiz**; **Ray Allen’s** wife, **Shannon**; **Kevin Garnett’s** wife, **Brandy Garnett**; former House Speaker **Sal DiMasi**; Cambridge Mayor **Denise Simmons**; **Mizu Salon** owner **Elan Sassoon** with his wife, **Adriana**; and many, many more.