



John H. Johnson School of Communications

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Howard University

John H. Johnson School of Communications

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JHJSOC ALUMNUS JASON MICCOLO JOHNSON ('94) DEBUTS ON THE ESSENCE MAGAZINE BEST SELLER LIST



Jason Miccolo Johnson

Washington, D.C., (January 8, 2007) – John H. Johnson School of Communications alumnus, Jason Miccolo Johnson debuted at #6 on the ESSENCE Magazine Best Seller List for December 2006. His photography book, *Soul Sanctuary: Images of the African American Worship Experience*, has garnered attention across the country. Jason Miccolo Johnson is a nationally known award-winning documentary, editorial and fine art photographer recognized for his trademark "visual call-and-response" shooting style.

“It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be recognized by ESSENCE Magazine. It is validation that people really support this type of photography.” expressed Johnson. “We’ve always had faith that he would make his mark—as we recognized his outstanding abilities and competitive drive. He continues to be a source of great pride for the School.” expressed Jannette L. Dates, dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications.

Soul Sanctuary is the first photographic book to capture the essence and rhythms of the black Christian church. The book is a multi-denominational journey into the heart of the black worship experience. Johnson traveled across the country visiting rural, urban, inner city and suburban churches, taking 15,000 photographs, 165 of which are included in the book.

Johnson has taken exclusive photos of some of the world's most recognizable faces including Princess Diana, Nelson Mandela, Muhammad Ali, Colin Powell, and Oprah Winfrey. In 2003, Johnson received the ArtMaker award from the national HistoryMakers organization.

His trademark style has been featured in 15 books and 50 magazines including, *Songs of My People*, *Standing in the Need of Prayer*, *Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones*, *Black Mothers: Songs of Praise and Celebration*,

and Committed to the Image. Magazine titles include *Christian Singles*, *Glamour*, *Essence*, *Ebony*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Smithsonian*, *Jet*, and *Black Enterprise*.

His work has appeared in two major Smithsonian Institution exhibitions; "Reflections in Black" and "Speak to My Heart". Johnson is a former photo editor at USA Today's *Sports Weekly* and production assistant at ABC Network News' *Good Morning America*.

The traveling exhibition, *Soul Sanctuary*, is currently touring museums and churches throughout the United States. The exhibit recently opened at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. Johnson will visit the Chrysler Museum for a book signing and gallery talk on January 17, 2007. To view photographs from the book, and see the entire exhibition schedule, please visit www.soulsanctuarybook.com. *Soul Sanctuary* was named by Black Issues Book Review Magazine as one of the two best photography books in 2006.

Since its inception 35 years ago, the John H. Johnson School of Communications has been one of the fastest growing schools among Howard University's 12 academic schools and colleges. The School is a national leader in producing African Americans with baccalaureate degrees. The School offers undergraduate and with the Graduate School, masters and doctoral degrees in four departments: Communications and Culture; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Radio, Television and Film; and Journalism. The School offers an MFA in Film degree.

The Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications has produced many outstanding professionals in communications including: Keisha N. Brown, senior vice president and general manager, LAGRANT Foundation, Depelsha Thomas-McGruder, senior vice president, business operation & strategy, MTV Networks, Genelle Niblack, vice president, Clear Channel Radio Sales, Constance Cannon Frazier, vice president, American Advertising Federation (AAF), Serena Mann Ferguson, vice president and general manager, University of Maryland Television (UMTV), Fredricka Whitfield, CNN news anchor; Vicki Mabrey, ABC *Nightline* (formerly of CBS *60 Minutes II*); Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist at *The New York Times*; and Jeff Burns Jr., associate publisher of *EBONY*.

Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 13 Fulbright Scholars and nine Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world. The John H. Johnson School of Communications has produced a Fulbright Scholar and Howard University's first prestigious Marshall Scholar.