

House of Usher

AWARDS

By MICHAEL GILTZ

USHER, who has not one but three singles high on the charts, is the star performer at this week's "Black Entertainment Television Awards," held at Hollywood's Kodak Theater. Host Mo'Nique has a message for him. "I would like to tell him, 'I'm here for you.'"

Last year's awards show — Mo'Nique's first as host — was BET's highest rated entertainment special. Mo'Nique's good-natured humor and jaw-dropping costume changes (seven in all, including) were a major reason why. Now she just has to top herself.

She promises to deliver. "Trust me, you're gonna say, 'Wow! How much further are we gonna go?'" says the 36-year-old Baltimore native.

As for the show's other singers, she's most excited about seeing Janet Jackson perform for the first time.

"I was a fan when she was on 'Good Times,'" says Mo'Nique. "I was at the Super Bowl last year. [What happened on stage] was an accident. But in honor of Janet, I'm going to have two malfunctions!"

BET AWARDS '04
Tuesday, 5 p.m., BET



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