



**JULIANNE HOUGH, JAKE OWEN & ZAC BROWN BAND
NAMED WINNERS OF NEW ARTIST AWARDS
FOR THE 44th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**

**ALL THREE TO COMPETE FOR OVERALL
TOP NEW ARTIST DURING THE LIVE TELECAST OF THE
44th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC® AWARDS**

Fans Can Name One of These Three Overall "Top New Artist" By Voting at VOTEACM.com

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Encino, CA (March 6, 2009) - The Academy of Country Music, dick clark productions and Great American Country (GAC) announced today that **Julianne Hough, Jake Owen** and **Zac Brown Band** have been named Top New Female Vocalist, Top New Male Vocalist and Top New Vocal Duo or Group, respectively. The three winners are now considered nominees for the **Top New Artist** award, which will be given out on the **44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards** broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network.

Julianne Hough, released her self-titled debut album, "Julianne Hough," in May 2008 which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Country Album chart. Her Top New Female Vocalist nomination was her first Academy nomination.

Jake Owen's fourth official single, "Don't Think I Can't Love You," was released in August 2008 and is the first single from his second album entitled "Easy Does It." He was nominated last year for Top New Male Vocalist and Vocal Event of the Year.

Winner of Top New Vocal Duo or Group, **Zac Brown Band**, released their fourth album, "The Foundation," in November 2008. Their single "Chicken Fried" reached #1 on the country charts in November. This is their first nomination and win for an Academy of Country Music Award.

Each winner will perform and receive their trophy on the Sara Evans hosted GAC special, "ACM Top New Artists" premiering March 19 at 10pm ET.

Voting for Top New Artist takes place at www.VoteACM.com beginning March 16 and ends at 8 p.m. ET on Sunday April 5th.

About the Academy of Country Music Awards

The 44th ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS is dedicated to honoring and showcasing the biggest names and emerging talent in the country music industry. The show is produced for television by dick clark productions and will be broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network. Orly Adelson and R.A. Clark are executive producers, Barry Adelman is producer and Bob Bardo is executive in charge of production.

About Great American Country (GAC)

Great American Country is the leader in country music entertainment. GAC delivers to viewers the widest variety of country music, its artists and the lifestyles they influence. GAC broadcasts original country music programming, country music performance specials, live concerts, music videos, and is the exclusive television home of the Grand Ole Opry. GAC is available in more than 55 million households and online at <http://www.GACTV.com>. GAC is owned by Scripps Networks, the leading developer of lifestyle-oriented content for television and the Internet, including [HGTV](#), [Food Network](#), [DIY Network](#) and [Fine Living Network](#). Scripps Networks is based in Knoxville, Tenn., with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta and Nashville, and is a unit of Scripps Networks Interactive (NYSE:SNI).

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