

NEWS RELEASE

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DOMINICANS IN THE U.S. CROWN A NEW QUEEN, MIO AMONTE, MISS REPUBLICA DOMINICANA US® 2011

Mio Almonte is crowned as the new Miss Dominican Republic US® 2011 at a final gala presented by Laila Ali Professional™, Samsung Experience, American Airlines, Ron Brugal and with performances by Yunel Cruz and former Miss Universe Amelia Vega.

Monday August 22nd, 2011, New York, NY-- This past Saturday August 20th, 2011 at the Symphony Space Theatre in New York City, a group of eight distinguished judges including members of the Miss Dominican Republic Universe and Miss Universe organizations, celebrities and renowned business personalities, **Mio Almonte**, Miss Sanchez Ramirez, was crowned as the new Miss República Dominicana US® 2011. With this title, Mio will now enter a process of preparation and training as she heads to Santo Domingo in March of 2012 to represent the Dominican community in the U.S. as a participating province in the Miss Dominican Republic Universe pageant.

The stunning twenty-year old (20) winner resides in New Jersey with her parents, who are both from Dominican decent. Her dazzling beauty, exotic features and distinction, caught the attention of the judges and fans. While at the gala, something that set her apart was her eloquent English and Spanish answer to the final question sent by Miss Dominican Republic Universe Dalia Fernandez, as she addressed the importance of spirituality and faith in life. After the gala, when asked about her journey and purpose as the new ambassadors to Dominicans in the U.S. she said *"I want to make a positive impact on my community, but most important I want to touch the lives of those around me the best way I can"* said Mio, who considers herself a very spiritual person focused on helping and touching others. One of her main causes this year for example will be supporting the Latino Commission on AIDS.

The final gala was presented by Laila Ali Professional™, Samsung Experience, American Airlines and Ron Brugal featuring top artists like **Yunel Cruz** with his hit song and official song for the pageant "Dominicanita" and former Miss Universe and artist **Amelia Vega**, giving attendees an exclusive preview of her unreleased album "Agua Dulce", coming soon August 30th. The evening was hosted by **Liliana "Lili" Gil**, award-winning entrepreneur, executive from XL Alliance and news contributor for Fox News Latino, Hispanic Ad, Huffington Post, among others, and **Eliceer Marte** presenter and reporter for CNN en Español, Telemundo 47 among others.

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The panel of judges included: **Steve Lee**, Events Coordinator Samsung Experience, **Candida Lara**, Miss Dominican Republic 1995, **Lenin Lopez**, renowned businessman and concert producer, **Lu Sierra**, catwalk instructor and top model, Miss Universe Organization, **Alex Sensantion**, radio DJ and media personality, La Mega 97.9FM, **Angel Villagomez**, reporter for Escandalo TV Telefuturo, **Rose Cordero**, renowned Dominican Top Model, future cover of the September issue of Vogue Magazine, **Julio Isidor**, General Manager of Cibao Meats and **Magdalena Ureña**, Commercial Director of the Miss Dominican Republic Universe Organization.

The total eleven (11) semifinalists included: Miss Duarte, Ana Guerra, Miss Puerto Plata, Thatiana Diaz, Miss Montecristi, Julissa Nunez, Miss Santo Domingo, Kristy Abreu, Miss Ma. Miss Trinidad Sanchez, Hernandez, Andrelis Miss San Pedro, Orquidea de Leon (selected through voting by the public), 4th runner-up, Miss Espaillat, Leidy Rodriguez, 3rd runner-up, Miss Santiago, Jeimirys Rosario, 2nd runner up, Miss San Juan, Diana Saldaña, 1st runner up, Miss Hermanas Mirabal, Nathalie Muñoz and the winner Miss Sanchez Ramirez, Mio Almonte. Special Awards included: Miss Congeniality, Miss San Jose de Ocoa Miss Photogenic, Miss San Pedro (selected by the public through online voting) and Miss Glamorous Face: Miss San Juan, who won a contract with Glamorous Cosmetics.

Other participating partners included: **Glamorous Cosmetics, Cibao Meats, Yager Esthetics and Spa, Piatto D'Oro, Vimar Martínez, Icel New York, Danelle I Dungca, Helen Rojas Trajes de baño, Creative Capital Ad Agency, Núñez Dental Services, Lucia Rodríguez, José Guerra Photography and Víctor López Lama fotógrafo.**

For more information visit www.missrdus.com and for video contact you can visit the pageant's official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/dominicanbeautiesusa and fans and followers can like the pageant on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/missrdusoficial.

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Associated entities specializing in production, brand marketing and uniquely differentiated for their approach to branded entertainment. With offices in New York, Denver, Los Angeles and Bogota, Colombia, the organization has a team of over thirty professionals specializing in various areas of strategy, marketing and production. For more information visit: www.xlalliance.com/ www.bliptv.latineando