2nd Annual Hip-Hop & Higher Education Symposium
Howard University – Cramton Auditorium
March 30, 2007

Hip-Hop for the 21st Century: Bridging the gap between the academy, the industry, and underground hip-hop

Schedule of Events

10:00 – 11:30 am Hip-Hop Is Dead? The Current State of Hip-Hop

Gabriel “Asheru” Benn
Dr. Greg Carr
Michael Holman
Genevieve Nixon
MC: Dr. William Smith

11:30 – 12:00 pm Lunch Break

12:00 – 1:00 pm Keynote Address: Hip-Hop for the 21st Century

Doug E. Fresh, Speaker
MC: Terrence J. and Rocsi

1:00 – 2:30 pm Make It Happen: Business skills for the hip-hop generation

Chuck “Jigsaw” Creekmur
Consequence
Shakir Stewart
“Grouchy” Greg Watkins
MC: Britney Davis

1:00 – 2:30 pm Book signing at Howard University Book Store

Natalie Hopkinson & Natalie Moore, Deconstructing Tyrone: A new look at black masculinity in the hip-hop generation

2:30 – 3:00 pm Break
3:00 – 4:30 pm  *The Wire and the Media’s Portrayal of Back Males in the Hip-hop Generation*

Dr. Jared Ball
Anwan “Big G” Glover
Natalie Hopkinson
Rev. Tony Lee
Natalie Moore
MC: Steve Robinson

4:30 – 6:00 pm  *Sex, Violence, and Disrespect: What hip-hop has done to our women?*

Dr. Abena Clark-Mhoon
Melyssa Ford
Shani Jemila
Lil Mo
Rocsi
MC: Terrence J.

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**Biographical Sketches**

**Hip-Hop is Dead? The Current State of Hip-Hop**

**Gabriel Benn (a.k.a Asheru).** Mr. Benn is an educator, hip-hop artist, and community activist based in Washington, DC. Benn has served as a teacher/administrator in DC public schools for the last ten years. In 2006 Benn founded H.E.L.P, a creative reading program that combines the power of hip-hop music with proven reading instruction. Mr. Benn is also the founder of Guerilla Arts Ink and he wrote the theme song for the *Boondocks* television series.

**Dr. Greg Carr.** Dr. Carr is an assistant professor of Afro-American studies at Howard University. He recently designed the curriculum for the Philadelphia School District’s mandatory African-American history course, the first for a major school district in the country. In 2006 the Howard University Student Association and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council named Dr. Carr the 2005-06 professor of the year. Dr. Carr will teach a course on hip-hop at Howard in the fall.
**Michael Holman.** Mr. Holman is a screenwriter/director based in New York City who currently teaches in Howard University’s School of Communications. Mr. Holman produced and directed the first breakdancing film *Catch a Beat.* He founded New York City’s first hip-hop club, the Negril. Afrika Bambaataa, DJ Kool Herc, and the Rock Steady Crew are some of the hip-hop legends that appeared at the club. He wrote the very first news articles on hip-hop and was an associate producer for the classic hip-hop film *Beat Street.*

**Dr. Velma LaPoint.** Dr. LaPoint, a professor of human development in the Howard University School of Education, taught Howard’s first course on hip-hop. In Fall 2007, she will teach a new course entitled Black Youth and Hip-Hop. Her recent publications include a chapter on “Commercialism’s Influence on Black Youth: The case of dress-related challenges” that was published in the book by Kasser and Kanner entitled *Psychology and Consumer Culture: The struggle for a good life in a materialistic world.* Dr. LaPoint is a founding member and faculty advisor of the Hip Hop Curriculum Development Planning Committee.

**Geneviève Nixon.** Ms Nixon is an entrepreneur who aspires to build an empire by establishing an international, multi-media enterprise. Currently, Geneviève is making her mark as a freelance producer and photographer. During her career as Supervising Producer of BET’s *Bobby Jones Gospel Show,* she has made BET history by producing 25 of the highest rated BJT shows, within the 28-year history of the BET network, reaching over 1 million viewers per show. Most recently, Geneviève has founded the Raymond L. Nixon Scholarship Foundation, Incorporated, a non-profit dedicated to providing scholarship, mentorship and career placement assistance to high school seniors and freshman or sophomore college students who currently attend or will be attending a historically black college or university (HBCU).

**Keynote Address: Hip-Hop for the 21st Century**

**Doug E. Fresh.** Dubbed the "World's Greatest Entertainer" for his unrivaled ability to rock a crowd, Harlem native Doug E. Fresh, the originator of the human beat box helped put hip-hop on the map. He is the first rapper to perform in Africa and the Caribbean. Fresh’s multi-platinum hits include "The Show" and "La Di Da Di". Throughout his 20-year career, Fresh has collaborated with the world’s top artists. He has performed or recorded with fellow rap legends Tupac Shakur, the Notorious B.I.G, Slick Rick, Eminem, Diddy and Dr. Dre. Fresh has also taken on the big screen, appearing in such films as Brown Sugar, Paid in Full, Whiteboys and Let's Get Bizzee Man. Beginning this April you can watch Fresh host the second season of P.Diddy’s Bad Boys of Comedy on HBO.

With the same ease as he takes the mike, Doug E. Fresh takes on social responsibility. A tireless hip-hop activist, he has fought against racism, drugs, illiteracy, police brutality
and homelessness in communities around the world. A vocal proponent of artists' rights, he's a hands-on board member of The Artist Empowerment Coalition. He's also used his skills and clout to call to task gangsta rap posturing in his 1993 hit 'I-light.' "Hip-hop is supposed to uplift and create, to educate people on a larger level and to make a change," said Fresh. "Hip-hop artists need to grow to use it like that, not just to get some paper."

**Make It Happen: Business skills for the hip-hop generation**

**Consequence.** Consequence is a rapper from Queens, New York. He first appeared on the scene in the 1990s rhyming on A Tribe Called Quest’s album *Beats, Rhymes, and Life*. In recent years Consequence has been heard rhyming on Kanye West’s grammy award winning albums, *The College Dropout* and *Late Registration*. Consequence is currently signed to Kanye’s record label, G.O.O.D Music. He is preparing for the release of his first solo album, *Don’t Quit Your Day Job*. The album received 4 out of 5 mics in the April issue of *The Source Magazine*.

**Shakir Stewart.** Shakir is the senior vice president of A & R at Island Def Jam Music Group. That is, he reports directly to music icons Antonio LA Reid and Shawn Carter (a.k.a. Jay-Z). At Def Jam, Shakir is responsible for discovering and developing new talent. He signed Young Jeezy and Rick Ross to the label. Before joining Def Jam in 2004 he worked for LaFace records and Arista Records, where he signed R & B superstar Ciara. He also signed Beyonce to the Hitco Publishing Firm.

**“Grouchy” Greg Watkins and Chuck “Jigsaw” Creekmur.** They are the founders of allhiphop.com (a.k.a. the world’s most dangerous site). Since its inception in 1998, allhiphop.com has grown into a frequently visited news source, delivering more than 27 million page views per month to over 2 million visitors. Since 2002 the company also hosts a week of offline programming in New York City, a seven day event called "AllHipHop Week", featuring a number of events ranging from fashion shows to gaming tournaments to events dealing with social issues, and has featured celebrities such as Remy Martin, Jim Jones, Gloria Velez, Russell Simmons. In 2006 Greg and Chuck were named Rising Star award winners for their business skills by Black Enterprise Magazine.

**The Wire and the Media’s Portrayal of Black Males in the Hip-hop Generation**

**Dr. Jared Ball.** Dr. Ball is an assistant professor of Communication Studies at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. He is the editor-at-large of the *Journal of Hip-Hop and Global Culture* from Words, Beats, and Life. Dr. Ball also hosts Jazz & Justice Mondays from 1-3 pm on DC’s WPFW 89.3 FM. Dr. Ball is also the founder and creator of Free Mix Radio: The Original Mixtape Radio Show, a hip-hop mixtape committed to the

**Anwan “Big G” Glover.** On *The Wire* Big G plays the character Slim Charles. In reality Big G is the lead rapper and founder of the DC Go-Go band, “The Backyard Band”. Big G has appeared in music videos for Boyz N the Hood, Raheem Devaughn, Tabey Bonney, and Vivian Green. He has hosted his own show Washington DC’s 95.5 WPGC. In 2004 G won NAACP Youth Leadership award and Outstanding Spokesman to Youth for HIV/AIDS Prevention.

**Natalie Hopkinson and Natalie Moore.** Natalie Hopkinson and Natalie Moore are the co-authors of *Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation*. Ms Hopkinson is a graduate of Howard University, a staff writer for the Washington Post, and a Scripps Howard doctoral fellow at the University of Maryland College Park, where she is a visiting professor of journalism. Ms Moore is also a graduate of Howard University. She is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Detroit News, and Black Enterprise.

**Rev. Tony Lee.** Rev. Tony Lee is the founder and Senior Pastor of the Community of Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church, which opened its doors for worship on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006 at the Legend Nightclub. Outgrowing the nightclub in less than a year with over 500 members Community of Hope is now located in the Iverson Mall. Rev. Lee received national media attention on BET’s Cousin Jeff’s Chronicles, CNN and CSPAN. He also spoke at the 2005 Millions More Movement, the ten-year commemoration of the Million Man March. Rev. Lee serves on the leadership team of “Saving Our Selves” (S.O.S), an organization working in the gulf coast on behalf of those victimized and impacted by the social, economic and physical devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

**Sex, Violence, and Disrespect: What hip-hop has done to our women?**

**Dr. Abena Clark-Mhoon.** Dr. Clark-Mhoon is a professor at Coppin State in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Howard University. Dr. Clark-Mhoon’s museum exhibits and publications include: “A Stitch in Time: An Introduction to Afro-Americans in the Fashion Industry, 1800-2000” (The Black Fashion Museum); “Dress and the Civil Rights Movement” (The Negro History Bulletin); “Women and Work” (Smithsonian Institution).

**Melyssa Ford.** Melyssa is best known for her unforgettable appearances in several popular hip-hop music videos. She is the former host of the BET series BET Style and will star in the new film God’s Work coming to theaters later this year. She is a spokeswoman for rapper Nelly’s “Apple Bottom” clothing line for women. Melyssa is
also a sought out public speaker. She has appeared on academic and professional panels for the likes of the Congressional Black Caucus, Essence Magazine, and Russell Simmons’ Hip Hop Summit Action Network.

**Shani Jamila.** Shani is a journalist, scholar & traveler. As a host & producer on WPFW’s hip hop strip Decipher, she has interviewed a wide array of leading artists, authors, & activists. Her own writings on race, gender, & culture are regularly taught in university curricula. Her work, which has taken her to thirty plus countries, compelled ESSENCE Magazine to name her One of the 35 Most Remarkable Women in the World.

**Lil Mo.** Lil Mo first caught people’s attention on the hit songs like Hot Boyz by Missy Elliot and Put It On Me by Ja Rule. In 2001 Mo released her debut album, Based on a true story, featuring the hit single Superwoman Part II featuring Fabolous. In 2003 Lil Mo released her sophomore album, Meet the girl next door. Lil Mo is currently signed to Mike Jones’ Ice Age Entertainment label and preparing to release her third album, Pain and Paper.

**Rocsi.** Rocsi is the host of the #1 rated show on BET 106 & Park. She is also radio jockey for Power 92FM in Chicago, the voice for the new video game “Def Jam Icon” and the founder of R.O.C.S.T.A.R, a non profit organization which assists her hometown of New Orleans in the collection of health and educational supplies in the aftermath of HurricaneKatrina.

**Terrence J.** While attending North Carolina A&T Terrence led a radio show, hosted parties, fashion shows and other local events around campus all under his promotions group, Team Dolla. After graduation, Terrance landed a job in Florida as an Account Executive with motor sports giant, NASCAR, and soon after made his way down to the ATL to continue his quest for stardom. Chosen from a pool of over 5,000 applicants in BET’s nationwide “New Faces” search, Terrence landed his dream job by becoming the co-host of BET’s #1 rated show 106 & Park.

**Dr. William E. Smith.** Dr. Smith is an assistant professor of music at American University and conductor of its Jazz Ensemble. He completed a dissertation on hip hop and its relationship with performance at the University of Maryland.

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