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Youth Speaks Presents: The Living Word Festival
Curated by the Living Word Project
under the direction of Marc Bamuthi Joseph
contemporary urban poetry • dance • theater • funk • hip hop
Oct 6 - Nov 3, 2007 | San Francisco, CA

Developed and held annually since 2001, The Living Word Festival (LWF) challenges contemporary urban artists to present groundbreaking, interdisciplinary material. During the course of the festival, The Living Word Project showcases the flavor and vitality of Bay Area artists and their international peers. We deepen these performances and presentations with a commitment to youth education and intergenerational discussion. We incite dialogue about the role of literary performance in social transformation.

In 2007, LWF functions under the theme of “Traditions in Transition” and unites artists from around the country, and across discipline to represent the future of urban folkloric elements in America.

2007 Living Word Festival *Traditions in Transition* Events:
BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, October 6 | *Sterling James Celebrates 20 Years in Bay Area Radio*
|The Independent | 628 Divisadero, SF | \$20 | 21+ w/ID

Sterling James celebrates 20 years in Bay Area radio by hosting a benefit for Youth Speaks featuring **Youth Speaks Poets, Martin Luther, Jennifer Johns, The Brown Fellinis** and **DJ Wisdom**.

HIP-HOP

Friday, October 12th | *Old to the New* | SFMOMA, Yerba Buena Gardens, YBCA | Mission at 3rd St., SF | Registration at 10am | FREE | All Ages

SFMOMA hosts a morning discussion with **Jorge “Popmaster Fabel” Pabon** of the Rock Steady Crew, led by author **Jeff Chang**. Then, LWF presents a free concert in partnership with the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, featuring world-famous **DJ Qbert**, and a \$1500 3-on-3 ALL STYLES dance battle with **DJ’s Celskiii** and **Deeandroid**. Winning murals from the \$1500 LWF Graffiti King/Queen contest will be on display. The morning ends at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, with legends **Grandmaster Caz, Grandmixer DXT, and Popmaster Fabel** in conversation with emerging artists **Ise Lyfe** and **DJ Qbert**. Talks will be moderated by **Jeff Chang, Kimberly N. Cooper, Weyland Southon, and Adisa**

Banjoko, and witnessed by public high school students from San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland.

Friday, October 12th | *Old to the New Throwback Concert* | Shattuck Down Low | 2284 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley | 9pm | \$15 | 21+ w/ID

Honoring the best legacies in Hip Hop, while signifying towards emerging styles, the Bay is home to some of the world's most noted trailblazing, youthful emcees. This unprecedented evening highlights their contribution to the culture we love. Ise Lyfe, The Attik, Rico Pabon and Special Guests will cover Hip Hop classics as the dynamic Agua Libre provides unparalleled live instrumentation. Also featured will be winning dancers from the Living Word Festival's all-styles dance battle.

POETRY

Saturday, October 13 | *The Women and the Men* | The Black New World | 836 Pine St, Oakland | 8pm | \$10 General, \$5 for Youth 18 and under | All Ages

In celebration of **Nikki Giovanni's** seminal volume of verse, 6 artists of 3 generations will create new spoken word or dramatic responses to classic poetry. Featured performers are HBO Def Poets **Staceyann Chin, Amir Sulaiman, Dahlak Brathwaite** and **Lauren Whitehead**, educational activist **Greg Hodge**, and 2006 SF poet laureate **devorah major**. The event is hosted by West Oakland's most vibrant African-centered performance space, The Black New World.

HOLISTIC HEALTH

Sunday, October 14th | *Devotion: The Live Yoga Series* | The Malonga Casquelord Center | 1428 Alice St. Oakland | 10am | Free w/ Book Donation to Youth Speaks | All Ages

Yoga and dance instructor **Candida Martinez** leads an inviting blend of Ashtanga, Hatha & power Vinyasa movement. Designed for novice and expert urban practitioners, the class will be set to the live sounds of worldly soul singers, **Khalil.Anthony, Viveca Hawkins and Jennifer Johns**.

DANCE

Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th | *The People Could Fly* | Dance Mission | 3316 24th St., SF | 8pm | \$15 | All Ages

Two evenings in tribute to the wide spectrum and long continuum of black dance in America. Featuring **Laura Elaine Ellis** of the Black Choreographers Festival; L.A.'s, **untitled dance company** featuring Kanye West collaborator **Eclipse**; and

San Francisco's Deep Waters Dance Theater under the artistic direction of Urban Bush Women alum **Amara Tabor-Smith**. Also included is the West Coast debut of **AsÈ Dance Theater Collective**, an NYC based dance company directed by MANCC Fellow and San Francisco native **Adia T. Whitaker**.

THEATER

Thursday Oct 25-27; November 1-3 | Scourge | ODC Theater| 3153 17th St., SF | 8pm | \$25 General, \$10 Youth 18 and Under, Plus \$65 Benefit* | All Ages

"Fabulous Choreography... beautifully and seamlessly integrated... biting, clever wordplay... this 75-minute, perfectly paced work of dance theater is sharpened by its heartfelt integrity." – The Boston Globe

The Living Word Project repertory piece, *Scourge*, completes an international tour with a return to the Bay Area, where it originally premiered as a commission by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in 2005. It has since earned critical acclaim across the U.S. and Europe and earned its lead artist a Creative Capital award and an inaugural United States Artist Rockefeller Fellowship. **Marc Bamuthi Joseph** and his cast of musicians, poets, and dancers present a powerful look at Haiti in its 200th year as a sovereign nation on two consecutive weekends at San Francisco's ODC Theater.

*Attendees of the *Scourge* benefit on October 27th are invited to a complimentary reception prior to the show and to continue celebrating afterwards as VIPs at Bruno's with **Clyde Stubblefield** and **DJ Kool Herc**.

FUNK

Saturday, October 27 | The New Note: A benefit for Youth Speaks | Bruno's | 2389 Mission St, SF | 9pm | \$15, Free with Scourge Benefit Ticket | 21+ w/ID

The unprecedented collaboration of pioneering hip hop **DJ Kool Herc** and James Brown's original drummer **Clyde Stubblefield**. The two legends play side by side, one on the decks and one on the traps, and remind us all why we first fell in love with the breaks. They are joined on this historic evening by **DJ Funklor**.

NOTES ABOUT MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH AND THE LIVING WORD FESTIVAL:

" [H]e continues to excel as a cutting edge artist forging his own hybrid medium—an amalgam of rap music, poetry, movement, and theater...he's an electrifying performer and a great storyteller." - **THE SEATTLE TIMES**

www.youthspeaks.org