



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Speaks Presents:
**The 10th Annual Brave New Voices International
Youth Poetry Slam Festival**

Presented By: Youth Speaks in partnership with MACLA & The San Jose
Museum of Art
Publicity: Candida Martinez 415.505.5559 // spreadlovemedia@sbcglobal.net
General Info: Youth Speaks 415.255.9035 // youthspeaks.org

10th Annual International Youth Poetry Slam Festival draws top Youth Poets from around the country to San Jose, CA for an exhilarating five-day literary arts festival, including the International Youth Poetry Slam Finals, a spoken word program on global warming, and a day of free workshops.

TUESDAY JULY 17 – SATURDAY JULY 21, 2007
Various Downtown San Jose Locations
ALL EVENTS ARE ALL AGES & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Complete Schedule and Information at <http://www.youthspeaks.org>
Ticketed Events:

Friday July 20th

“Grand Slam Finals”

Marc Bamuthi Joseph *special guest emcee*

Saul Williams *live performance*

The California Theater

345 South First Street

San Jose, CA

Doors 6pm, Show 7pm \$15 General Admission / \$5 for Youth under 20

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

Saturday, July 21st:

“Bring the Noise” Benefit Concert

Special Surprise Headliner TBA!!

Strange Fruit Project *live performance*, DJ Funklor

San Jose Civic Auditorium

135 West San Carlos Street

Doors 7pm, Show 8pm \$25 - \$65

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com>

Youth Speaks, the nation's leading spoken word organization, is very proud to present the 10th annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival taking place July 17-21. Convening the top young poets and spoken word artists, aged 13-19, from across the United States and internationally, Brave New Voices 2007 is a one of a kind festival that truly engages everyone involved – from the participants, to the adult mentors, to the audience members. Each year, Brave New Voices is held in a different city, giving the youth opportunities to explore a new cultural landscape and region. For

the first time ever, the five-day festival will be held in San Jose.

Brave New Voices 2007 features over 450 teen poetry slam champions from 45 parts of the country and will reach an audience of over 10,000 throughout the week. These young writers are a diverse, creative, intelligent group of trendsetters, community and cultural leaders. They come to Brave New Voices each year not only to compete, but to attend world-class workshops led by renowned poets and writers, build community and to hone their craft.

The 5-day festival features 23 events in 11 venues; spawning from a collection of San Jose's cafes, galleries, museums and theaters. Youth Speaks is also curating a special benefit concert featuring world-class talent on Saturday, July 21st at San Jose's Civic Center Auditorium, and is partnering with Robert Redford's Sundance Preserve and the Sundance Channel to host a special spoken word event taking on Global Warming from the perspective of American teens. The proceeds from these events will match a multi-year grant from the Ford Foundation to underwrite the housing and accommodation costs for all 450 poets and their adult mentors.

Following regional events around the country, qualifying teams meet in San Jose for the renowned event, hosted by Youth Speaks, who produced the first teen poetry slam in the nation in 1996. Brave New Voices 2007 includes teenagers 13-19 years of age and embraces "The Slam" as a way to gather top young poets from around the country (and beyond) to share their work with peers and a larger public audience. Celebrating its 10th year, this venture creates a forum and community for youth who engage literature, education and personal growth through the power of the spoken word. Building bridges across diverse ethnic, racial and socio-economic lines, Brave New Voices supports a generation of young people speaking for themselves.

Brave New Voices 2007 participants come from:

San Francisco , Kansas City , Ann Arbor, New York City, San Jose
Madison/Milwaukee, Seattle, Chicago, Ypsilanti, Ft. Lauderdale , Miami, Los Angeles,
Compton, Connecticut, Honolulu , Austin, Leeds , Maryland, Albuquerque,
Savannah, Denver, Detroit, Washington D.C. , Taos, St. Louis, Grand Rapids
Fontana, Providence, Chapel Hill, New Orleans, Humboldt, Chico, Minneapolis/St. Paul
Cleveland , Newark , Anchorage, Philadelphia , Charlotte, Worcester, Rochester, Kansas
City, Santa Fe & more.

Special to this year is a partnership with Blue Marlin (a San Francisco clothing company) who will be donating jackets to all of the participants in the style of the USA Olympic track jackets worn by Tommy Smith and John Carlos during the 1968 Olympics. As a tribute to these young poets who use a public stage to speak about important and topical events, these jackets will directly reflect the lineage and continuum of poetry, art, and social justice.

Brave New Voices was started by Youth Speaks founder James Kass in 1997 after the preliminary success of the first Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam, the first teen slam in the country. With 8 teams participating in Albuquerque, NM, the event was filmed for the PBS documentary Poetic License. Brave New Voices has since been held in San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Burlington, VT. BNV 2008 will take place in Washington D.C.

“BRAVE NEW VOICES 2007” SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Tuesday July 17th :

“Opening Ceremonies”

San Jose Museum of Art, Courtyard
110 South Market Street San Jose, CA
Event 5pm-7pm

After their arrival in San Jose, youth poetry teams gather for a kick-off the San Jose Art Museum. This official meet-and-greet event will be followed by the Opening Ceremonies later that evening in the same location. Youth will have a chance to hear presentations from city officials and conference organizers, network with one another and share something from their city. A team photo op will complete the San Jose welcome and the day's festivities!

Wednesday, July 18th :

“Arts In Education Writing Workshops”

San Jose State University Student Union
1 Washington Square
San Jose, CA
Workshops 10:00-5:00pm // FREE & Open to All Youth

Arts-in-Education Writing Workshops are a full day of writing workshops led by some of the nation's top poets and spoken word artists. Each participant will be able to participate in at least 3 different workshops. These workshops feature world class spoken word artists, poets, writers, performers, and community activists from across the country.

“Bridging The Beat” Block Party
Michelle Lee & Mike McGee *special guest hosts*
Femi, Butterscotch *live performances*
South First Street (W. Reed & W. Williams)
San Jose, CA
Event 7:00pm-10:00pm // FREE

“Bridging The Beat” Block Party with spoken word artists & musicians – A Free block party on First Street, hosted in partnership with MACLA, includes an indoor cipher and an outdoor stage.

Thursday, July 19th :

“Quarter Final Rounds 1&2 of International Youth Poetry Slam”

Event 10:00am-2:00pm // FREE
All Teams in Participation

“Quarter Final Rounds 3&4 of International Youth Poetry Slam”

Event 3:00pm-6:00pm // FREE
All Teams in Participation

Venues:

MACLA
510 South First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

San Jose Stage Company
490 South First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Works/ San Jose
451 South First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Camera 3 Cinema
288 South Second Street
San Jose, CA 95106

All day Thursday, the Quarter Finals of the Poetry Slam will be underway. Each team will perform in 2 separate bouts in that day. A bout pairs 4 teams up against each other to perform individual and group poems in the Poetry Slam format.

Friday, July 20th:

“Semi-Final Rounds of International Youth Poetry Slam”

Special Guest Emcees: Beau Sia & Suheir Hammad

San Jose Rep.

101 Paseo de San Antonio

San Jose, CA

Event 11:00am-2:00pm // FREE

4-5 Teams in Participation // 2 Bouts Each

“Poetry in Pedagogy: A Teacher’s Institute”

The San Jose Museum of Art

110 S. Market St.

San Jose, CA

Event 3:00pm-6:00pm // FREE

Workshops facilitated by some of the leading poet educators in the country, and supported by the work of teacher educators Dr. Jamal Cooks, SFSU, and LaShawn Route-Chatmon, Executive Director of the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools.

“Grand Slam Finals”

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Saul Williams *live performance*

The California Theater

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San Jose, CA

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Saturday, July 21st:

“Brave New Voices on Global Warming”

Featured Youth Poets

Center For Employment Training (CET)

701 Vine St

San Jose, CA

1pm, FREE

Sundance Preserve & Youth Speaks proudly present “Brave New Voices on Global Warming”. Ten pre-selected youth poets compete for a trip to the Sundance Summit in Utah where they will perform at the Mayor’s Gathering on Climate Protection conference in September, 2007. The summit presents a rare moment for the youth to speak directly to political leaders and lawmakers.

Saturday, July 21st:

“Bring the Noise” Benefit Concert

Special Surprise Headliner TBA!!

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135 West San Carlos Street

Doors 7pm, Show 8pm, \$25 - \$65

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Hosts for Brave New Voices San Jose: this event is hosted and organized by Youth Speaks, the leading nonprofit presenter of Spoken word performance, education and youth development programs in the country. Presenters of the annual youth speaks teen poetry slam, the Bringing the Noise Reading Series, Spoken city, the Living Word Festival, The Hip Hop Theater Festival (Bay Area), First Word Press and more. Youth speaks also offers a comprehensive slate of literary arts education programs during the school day and after school. All told, Youth Speaks works with over 45,000 teens per year in the Bay Area alone, and has partnered with programs nationwide to build the Brave New Voices Network. Founded in San Francisco in 1996, Youth Speaks has since opened chapters in New York City, Seattle, Madison, Honolulu as well as many other programs across the country.

Brave New Voices 2007 is made possible through the contributions of the Ford Foundation, the Walter and Elise Hass Fund, Blue Marlin, The Sundance Preserve, ICLEI, the W.A. Gerbode Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The Doris Duke Foundation’s MPO Initiative, The Tides Foundation, BAVC, The James Irvine Foundation, Youth Speaks and Individual contributions of generous poetry fans.

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