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Second Annual Series: Getting Real II

Hip-Hop Pedagogy, Performance and Culture in the Classroom and Beyond

MADISON, Wis. – (Jan. 16, 2012) – Using hip-hop pedagogy as a teaching tool to integrate topics from history, politics and art to culture and performance in the classroom will be the topic of the second annual lecture series “*Getting Real II*” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this spring. The free 15-week lecture series will begin Monday, Jan. 23 in Room 1101 Grainger Hall and is sponsored by the UW-Madison Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate and the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI). Each week’s lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Featuring internationally-renown educator and specialist on multicultural education UW-Madison Professor Gloria Ladson-Billings as host and a slate of guest specialists from the top colleges and universities across the nation and leaders in the growing field of hip hop studies in the United States today, this year’s series will examine how the pedagogy imbedded in traditional spoken word and the contemporary hip-hop movement is being used by educators to teach a broad range of traditional topics in the classroom and serve as an innovative approach to engaging students who have been historically under-served by traditional schooling.

Ladson-Billings is the current Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association. Her research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. Her work has won numerous scholarly awards, including the H.I. Romnes faculty fellowship, the Spencer Post-doctoral Fellowship, and the Palmer O. Johnson Outstanding Research Award.

Guest lecturers will focus on how hip-hop culture and culturally relevant pedagogy can serve as innovative approaches to help bridge the achievement gap in our nation’s public schools through the creation of new strategies and curricula to reach In a diverse, highly technological, global world we need citizens who are capable of, as Paulo Freire states, “reading the word and the world.”

“Educators give lip service to the concept of “critical thinking” but reduce the concept to the ability to perform on sections of standardized tests of conventional reading,” said OMAI Executive Director Willie Ney, whose office oversees the nation’s only college-level program dedicated to teaching through the use of hip-hop pedagogy in the nation. The internationally-recognized First Wave Hip-Hop Theater Ensemble is now in its fifth year at UW-Madison. “The basic premise of the series is that true critical thinking is stimulated through a critical pedagogy—one that challenges typical orthodoxy to help students ask incisive questions about the nature of the current social, political, economic, and cultural order.”

One of the more innovative strategies for engaging students in critical thinking is through hip-hop culture, Ney said. Similar to the work of the 1950s-60s citizenship schools and freedom schools, New Studies (e.g. Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Women’s Studies, etc.) and popular culture studies, hip hop culture pulls on the organic and local culture of students to help them see the ways grassroots movements engage learners and help produce transformation.

“This series will pull on educational theories such as socio-cultural theory, culturally relevant pedagogy, critical media theory, post-colonial theory and critical race theory to help participants connect hip hop as both an art form and a pedagogical tool to improve the academic success of students who remain marginalized in our schools,” Ney said.

For more information on the series call 890-1006 or visit www.omai.wisc.edu

Getting Real II: Hip Hop Pedagogy, Performance and Culture in the Classroom and Beyond
Monday evenings at 7 p.m., Room 1101 Grainger Hall
Free and Open to Public

Week One: January 23 – “Getting Real II: Setting the Stage”

Gloria Ladson-Billings, the Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association and Michael Cirelli, Director of Urban Word of New York City www.urbanwordnyc.org, director of the Annual Spoken Word & Hip-Hop Teacher & Community Leader Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin, and the annual Preemptive Education conference at New York University.

Week Two: January 30 – A Night of Hip-Hop Film Shorts curated by film director Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi.

Week Three: February 6 – “Why the Charter School Movement Has It Wrong and How We Can Make It Right” featuring guest speaker Kaleem Caire, CEO Greater Madison Urban League.

Week Four: February 13 – “When You See Me, See You”: Hip-Hop, Wealth and Social Justice,” Prof. Mark Anthony Neal of Duke University.

Week Five: February 20 – Guest Speakers Asst. Prof. Dawn-Elissa Fischer & adjunct Prof. and journalist Davey D of San Francisco State University.

Week Six: February 27 – “Developing Critical Hip-Hop Feminist Literacies of Black Womanhood in an Afterschool Program,” featuring Docta E aka Prof. Elaine Richardson of Ohio State University.

Week Seven: March 5 - “Everybody Make Some Noise: The Audience Dynamic in Youth Spoken Word” with Anna West, Youth Spoken Word Organizer and Doctoral Student from Louisiana State University.

Week Eight: March 12 – Global Ill-literacies: “Hip Hop Culture(s), Youth Identities, and the Politics of Literacy,” featuring Associate Professor Samy Alim of Stanford University.

Week Nine: March 19 – Prof. Gloria Ladson-Billings of UW-Madison – “Partners in Rhyme: Hip-Hop and Global Democracy.”

Week Ten: March 26 – Guest speaker and author Dr. Marc Lamont Hill of Columbia University.

Week Eleven: April 9 - “Re-Imagining Teaching and Learning: A Snapshot of Hip-Hop Education” featuring guest speaker New York University Adjunct Prof. Martha Diaz and Eddie Fergus, Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and Research Assistant Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at New York University.

Week Twelve: April 16 – Guest speaker TBA

Week Thirteen: April 23 – “Into the Traffic Jam: Contradictions, Interruptions, Classrooms and Hip-Hop” featuring guest speaker Associate Professor David Stovall of the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Week Fourteen: April 30 – “First Wave Pedagogy: Roots to Routes to Roots” featuring guest speaker UW-Madison Assistant Professor of Dance and First Wave Hip-Hop Theater Ensemble Artistic Director Christopher Walker.

Week Fifteen: May 7 -- Final Cypher: Showcase Performances of Curriculum & Instruction featuring 375 Seminar Participants, H'Doubler Performance Space, Lathrop Hall, 1050 University Ave.