

SAY YOUR PEACE



KEEP THE PEACE NOT THE HEAT

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COMMUNITY AGENCIES • SCHOOLS • POLICE PARTNERS

SLAM POETRY

Slam Poetry event gives artists a chance to speak and entertain around issues of importance. 2

CELEBRATION



Peace youth and partners attend the Black History Month launch. 3

YOUR ROLE MODELS

Peace youth speak about their role models. 4



SLAM POETRY

PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, February 5th, York Wood Public Library hosted “Lyrical Fireworks”, a black history event, that included several talented slam poetry artists.

The night began with Dwayne Morgan presenting a series of poems that expressed the importance of woman in our communities. He also spoke on the “sum of her parts” which was actually on point towards the self-esteem issues of women in society. This poem was one of my favourite pieces that evening.

The next poet that performed, Michelle Muir, I did not enjoy as much (sorry to say) but I’m pretty sure her poem “Planet Irresistible” caught my friend’s attention as well as a few others in the audience.

Up next poet was Boonaa Mohammed (MY BOY) who started out by doing a piece about the issues surrounding being a first generation Canadian. The best thing about Boonaa is his sense of humour and his storytelling ability when it comes to the crowd. He went on a rant (about stigmas he has run into) after his first piece. He did the funniest interpretation of African Canadians who get offended at being called black; quote Boonaa’s line “Listen. If the police stop right beside us we are BLACK man” (You needed to be there to get the full meaning of joke). Boonaa’s set ended on an even funnier note as he performed what he claimed was his first time performing a new piece. It was

literally about his weight...you needed to be there.

Ending the evening was Oni the Haitian Sensation who spoke on the political agenda of African descendants and the consistent struggle for equal opportunities in our society. I was really not expecting anyone to top off Boonaa’s set, but I got a lyrical seizure from just hearing her first few lines... this woman could flow. The atmosphere in the auditorium quickly shifted as she touched on heritage issues surrounding Canada and what she saw as a history that ignored the contributions of black people and denied them their rightful place in history. The best part was when Oni was being cut off (they tried) because the set was going on too long, or so it seemed to the host of the show. Although she tried frantically waving her hands to catch her attention, Oni did not stop to acknowledge her plea, and silently the audience was cheering her on.

After such an amazing performance the show ended and the people in attendance were given the chance to meet and converse with the artists over refreshments. After taking in the event itself and hearing the motivating words from such amazing artists I have no doubt they will inspire our shared passion in our black history. I am very proud of my history and more so of the achievements we’ve made. The only wish I have is that more of our youth will take an active role to help keep our history



alive. The youth of this generation and the generations to come need to be continually reminded of the great sacrifices that were made to place us where we are today.

In conclusion the event itself was intellectually uplifting and inspiring. If you ever get the opportunity to hear them speak I recommend you take advantage of the experience, record it or even jot down a few notes. You can also Google their names and get information on their sites about upcoming shows as well as possible downloads of their slam poetry. Oni wrote and performed a brand new piece for Barrack Obama’s visit to Ottawa. You might be able to spot it online.

By Joel and Chamaikha

Spoken Word Artists

Dwayne Morgan:
www.upfromtheroots.ca

Michelle Muir:
www.michelle-muir.com

Boonaa Mohammed:
Google him or Youtube him.

Oni The Haitian Sensation:
www.mesooni.com

CELEBRATION

PEACE youth, staff and partners headed down to Police Headquarters to join in on the launch of Black History Month. There was time for discussion, opportunity to meet new people and a chance to hear speakers acknowledge those who've gone before and those who are making a difference today.

Be a part of it!



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2.



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13.



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12.



9.



11.



8.

Who was there? 1. Breaking the Cycle's Julien lends support, 2. Peace team makes their entrance, 3. Peace youth get into the act, 4. Police partners show support, 5. Lobby of Police HQ, 6. Moose, 7. Young girl looks on, 8. Young women enjoy the celebration, 9. People from all over were represented, 10. Joel "sexy" D. flashed a Peace sign while the other guys pretend not to be with him, 11. Listening, 12. The first black officer on the Toronto police force, 13. Scaming.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE YOUTH MEETING

*All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.

When: Every Thursday from 5:30pm - 8:30pm.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.
Tel: (416) 597-8297, Email: savannah@tgmag.ca

OPERATION SPRINGBOARD

The Resource Room is a walk-in service providing Scarborough youth aged 15-30 with strategic support in effectively searching for jobs. The Resource Room is a friendly place and we welcome visitors!

Drop by whenever we're open.

When: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am - 7:30 pm, Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Resource Room, 2568 Lawrence Ave. East

YOUNG VOICES WRITING AND DRAWING WORKSHOPS

(Attention teens 12-19 years old)

Work with professional writers on your creative writing endeavours. Work with comic-maker Matthew Blackett on your artwork. Get your stories, poems and drawings ready for submission to *Young Voices*, Toronto Public Library's magazine for teen writing and art. Register now, space is limited. Contact Ken Sparling at ksparling@torontopubliclibrary.ca.

CONFLICT MEDIATION SERVICE OF DOWNSVIEW

For a volunteer position please contact Gregg Fenten, Coordinator, Community Transformation Program at (416) 740-2522, ext. 22 or send an e-mail to gfenten@cmsd.org.

MEDIATION STATION

*A radio program presented in partnership with Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview.

When: Every Sunday from 8:00pm- 9:00pm

Where: Tune in to *Voces Latinas* CHHA 1610 AM on the radio dial or to www.sanlorenzo.ca and click on the *Voces Latinas* icon or at Rogers Digital Cable Channel 951.

Our Role Models

Some of the role models Peace youth identify as important to them:

CHE (Revolutionary leader):

He did what he had to do for his people.

BOB MARLEY (Musician):

His message of peace and love changed lives for the better.

HUSSEIN BOLT (Sprinter):

As a gold medalist he shows us you can do anything you want to.

GOD:

He's why I'm alive right now.

MY GRANDMOTHER:

My grandmother because she went through a lot and never lost hope.

FATHER:

Because he was always there for me.



Participants felt many of their role models are similar because each took the initiative, did what they thought was right and challenged or broke down barriers.

MYSELF:

I am my own hero because only I have the power to learn, no one else. Knowing who you are is key.

THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE:

Knowing that everyone who came before struggled to create a better world for us inspires me to do better.

MY MOTHER:

Because she gave me life and always was there to support me.

OBAMA:

The whole world seems to be behind him and he seems to want to include everyone.

HISTORY

Youth spoke about how Black History Month gives us a chance to...

- Commemorate Black History
- Look back at all the black people who have made a difference
- Share what each of our communities has to offer
- Learn about different cultures
- Celebrate what has gone before with a month-long history class

What do you think?

What is Black History to you?

Let us know at www.peace-project.org

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522, www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411, www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization

SAY YOUR PEACE

Say Your PEACE is here to give youth an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the things that are important to them and their community. Want to help prevent the negative effects guns and gangs are having? Join the movement.

Call: (416) 597-8297