

Funda Fest 9: A Celebration of Black Storytelling: January 15-21, 2007
For Tickets: www.ArtTixRi.com

Monday, January 15

MLK Amazing Grace

Providence Children's Museum

RIBS tellers Rochel Coleman and Valerie Tutson return with their moving tribute to Dr King and the Civil Rights Movement

1 and 2 pm

For info: 401 273 5437

January 16-19, 2007

Tellers in the schools

RIBS tellers and invited guests perform in schools statewide

For info: Carolyn Martino (401) 351 8090

Friday, January 19, 2007

Family Storytelling Concert

6:30-8 pm

Kevin K. Coleman Elementary School

96 Second Avenue

Woonsocket, RI

Free

Directions to Coleman Elementary School:

From I-95 or I-295, take Route 146 North to Route 146A. At the third set of traffic lights, take a right onto Providence Street (you will see a little plaza and a baseball field). Follow Providence Street to the end and turn left on South Main Street. Immediately take the first right onto Mason Street (CVS Warehouse will be on your left). Proceed down the hill and under a railroad trestle and then right onto Second Avenue (you will see a foundry on your right). Proceed 200 yards and Coleman Elementary School is on the left side of the street. Parking is on the side of the building.

Spoken Word

9 pm

Mixed Magic Theatre

171 Main Street Pawtucket (Corners of Main and Roosevelt Sts).

Local artists and old school poets take the stage for this popular event

\$5/advance \$7/door www.ArtTixRi.com

Directions to Mixed Magic Theatre

95 N to the School Street exit. Left at bottom of the ramp; Proceed under the highway.

At first light, bear left down the hill. Left at light onto Roosevelt. Mixed Magic on left

on the corner of Main and Roosevelt Streets in the Pawtucket Visitor's Center Building.

Pass building on left and park in lot.

Saturday, January 20, 2007

Intergenerational Workshop: Tell a story; Do a story; Sing a story; Dance a Story!

10:30 am- 12 noon

Mama Koku from Atlanta engages all ages in a unique style designed to help us tell stories together.

Description:

Listener participation strengthens the bond between the storyteller, the story and the audience. Learn how to move your listeners, be they preschool, middle school or senior citizens, from spectators to committed listeners and active participants who connect to and live the story you tell. It's not just "call and response," any more! This workshop is a "don't miss"

Central Branch: Providence Public Library

225 Washington Street

Providence

Free

Storytelling Concert

1-3 pm

Youth performers and professional tellers provide lively entertainment for the whole family.

Community MusicWorks, Rhythm and Roots Ensemble and the Eyes on the Prize Project

Central Branch: Providence Public Library

225 Washington Street

Providence

Free

Directions to Providence Public Library:

From the South:

Take 95 North to the Broadway exit (Exit 21) and merge right as you come off the exit ramp. Stay in the right lane and continue straight through the light. You will see the Holiday Inn and the Civic Center on your left. The road curves to the right. Go straight through the next light (Fountain Street). Turn right at the next light onto Washington Street to the Library's main entrance.

From the North:

Take 95 South to the Atwells Avenue exit (Exit 21). Turn left off the exit at the light, and cross over 95. You will see the Holiday Inn and then the Civic Center on your left. Stay in the right lane. Continue through the one light. Go straight through the next light (Fountain Street). Turn right at the next light onto Washington Street to the Library's main entrance.

African Market Place

7 pm

RISD Auditorium

South Main Street

Providence

An opportunity to find fine cultural arts, crafts, gifts and jewelry, as well as storyteller's products: books, CDs, RIBSWEAR and more

Evening Storytelling Concert

8 pm

RISD Auditorium

South Main Street

Providence

\$10/advance \$15/door www.ArtTixRi.com

RISD students w/ID free; \$12 RISD Museum member w/ID at door

Directions to RISD Auditorium

Interstate 95 N or S: Take exit 22 to downtown Providence. Continue straight onto Memorial BLVD. Turn Left onto College St. Cross over the bridge and turn Left at first set of traffic lights onto South Main St. RISD Auditorium is immediately on Left. Street parking and lots available.

West on Interstate 195: Take exit 2 to South Main Street and continue ½ mile straight through first set of traffic lights. RISD Auditorium is immediately on left.

Sunday, January 21, 2007

Family Storytelling Concert

2 pm

Martin Luther King Center

Newport

Free

Directions to the Martin Luther King Center

From 95 S: To Exit 9 Rt 4 North Kingstown. Rt 4 becomes Rt.1. Continue on Rt 1 to Rt 138 E over the Jamestown and Newport bridges (\$2 toll). Take first exit off bridge, Scenic Newport Exit. Follow to stop sign at the bottom of the exit. Take a right onto Farewell St. Go through 2 stoplights, pass the cemetery. At next stop sign, turn left onto Warner St. Take first Right onto Tilden Ave. (parking lot on corner). Dr. MLK Center is on the right at the end of Tilden (corner of Tilden and Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd).

From 195 E: East on 195 over Braga Bridge into Fall River. Take exit 8A, Rt 24 Tiverton/Newport. Continue south on Rt 24 through Fall River and Tiverton, over the Sakonnet River Bridge into Portsmouth. Highway ends as Rt 24 becomes Rt 114 (West Main Rd) Continue South on Rt 114 through Portsmouth, Middletown and into Newport. West Main RD (114) becomes Broadway as you enter Newport. Continue South. Pass Newport Hospital on left, a brown church. After the church make first

possible right turn (next to Newport Police Headquarters) At first stop sign, turn left onto Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd. The MLK Center is 1 ½ blocks ahead on the right.

FUNDA Fest Program Partners:

Providence Children's Museum
Connecting For Children and Families
Fairmont PTO
Kevin K. Coleman Elementary School
Mixed Magic Theatre
Providence Public Library, Central Branch
RISD Museum
Martin Luther King Center

Program Sponsors:

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
CITIZENS Bank
Providence Department of Art, Culture and Tourism
Lifespan

Media Sponsors

WLNE-TV ABC 6
Rhode Island College Campus Center
ArtTixRi.com
Motif Magazine

The Tellers:

RIBS MEMBERS

Len Cabral is a nationally acclaimed storyteller and author who has been enchanting audience since 1976. His strong Cape Verdean ancestry comes alive in his exuberant retelling of Cape Verdean, African and Caribbean tales.

Rochel Garner Coleman, actor, singer, storyteller, has been performing since he was 9 years old. He travels nationally and internationally sharing stories of Black historical legends such as Nat Love and Cool Papa Bell in shows developed using the research to performance method.

Abigail Ifatola Jefferson brings to life traditional, historical and personal stories through a unique blend of story, dance and rhythm. Her performances are highly interactive, educational, and fun-filled. Audiences of all ages have described her as inspiring, informative, and energizing

Raffini, a self-made artist, actress, and teacher from the South Side of Providence has long been committed to the community, teaching Black History, and theatre, telling stories and nurturing the spiritual and creative abilities of youth.

Melodie Thompson Thomas tells stories in many different ways-through plays, poems, dance...and through storytelling. She is committed to promoting laughter, life's lessons, history, and heritage through the power of performing arts.

Valerie Tutson has traveled in Africa, Europe and North America to gather and share stories. Her repertoire includes myths, folktales, historical and personal stories with an emphasis on African traditions. Listen to her, and you, too, will be singing Zulu!

Local Artists:

In House FreeStyle is a strong collective of socially conscious artists between the ages of 16-27 committed to expressing life from the perspective of urban communities of color. They use sketch comedy, music, poetry and direct social commentary to educate as well as elevate the masses of underserved souls in ghettos across the globe

YOUTH Performers

Community MusicWorks has spent the past 10 years providing free after school music education programs that build meaningful long-term relationships between musicians and children in the West End and South Side of Providence.

Rhythm and Roots Ensemble: A dynamic group of young drummers under the direction of Nisha Purushotham

Eyes on the Prize Project: RIBS teller, Raffini, and students from UCAP and the MET share their work on the Civil Rights Movement.

National Invited Guests:

Brother Blue, also known as Hugh Morgan Hill, Ph.D, transforms the classics into modern settings. For 30 years he has been telling stories to the public. He is the official storyteller of Boston and Cambridge, MA.

Mama Koku is a storyteller, children's writer and educator from Atlanta, GA. With her unique style, Mama Koku not only uses her whole body to tell stories, she gets you into the act as well!

Teju Ologboni is a verbal illusionist. Whether serious or humorous, political or festive, Teju's stories reflect on long-standing and contemporary cultural perspectives to give

listeners greater understanding of the profound influence of African heritage on our traditions and identities.

Laron Williams is a nationally acclaimed, award-winning storyteller whose music-filled, highly participatory performances present a dynamic blend of original and traditional tales.