

For Immediate Release

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THE BRONX MUSEUM TO HOST “QUEERHOOD 2008: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION OF LGBT PRIDE IN THE BRONX”

An Exciting Afternoon of Short Films and Live Performances

(Bronx, NY, June 11, 2008) – In honor of Pride Month, The Bronx Museum of the Arts will host “**Queerhood 2008: A Cultural Celebration of LGBT Pride in the Bronx**” on Sunday, June 22, 2008 from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Organized by Hector Canonge, director of CINEMAROSA and alum of the Museum’s acclaimed Artist in the Marketplace (AIM) program, Queerhood 2008 will include the presentation of five short films, representing various countries and communities around the world.

The event will also showcase the performances of local New York City talent including **La Bruja, Miles Beltran, Simply Rob, Chanel International, Keith Mitchel, Pamela Lee (Sperm), and Q’ Doll**. Queerhood 2008 marks the second year The Bronx Museum and Hector Canonge have collaborated to celebrate and recognize LGBT diversity in the Bronx.

Schedule of program is as follows:

FILM SCREENINGS:

2:00 – 3:00 PM

On the Low

Dir. Luther M. Mace

(USA, 2005, 15 min.)

On the Low explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African-American high school boys.

Modern Day Arranged Marriage

Dir. Rehana Mirza

(USA, 2005, 5 min.)

Second generation, Indian-Americans Rajesh and Suna have arranged to meet at a café in order to discuss their potential matrimonial suitability.

Green Stalk

Dirs. D. Almoradie & C.Q. Ramilo

(Philippines/USA, 2004, 17 min.)

The street noise of Queens, New York, forms a rhythmic backdrop for a Filipina video clerk whose life of quiet isolation and routine is disrupted by an attractive older woman who frequents the store.

Transvestite Life

Dir. Diego Torres

(Bolivia, 2006, 18 min.)

“Beautiful Diana,” a 25 year-old Bolivian transvestite, gives an intimate account of her life through pictures and her wardrobe as she recounts how she had to work the streets to survive and support her family.

Latch Key

Dir. Garth Bardsley

(USA, 2005, 12 min.)

Award winning short tells the story of two brothers who plot separately for some after-school fun before mom comes home.

PERFORMANCES:

4:00 – 5:00 PM

LA BRUJA

Poet, Hip Hop Reggaeton Artist, Activist

Whether singing on Telemundo, performing on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, or appearing in History Channel docudramas, modern day renaissance woman, and Bronx native, La Bruja refuses to be put in a box. Her unique creativity and charisma have taken her from appearances in a Spike Lee film to running writing workshops for inner-city youth and even modeling for Levis in Glamour and Marie Claire. Since her auspicious spoken-word debut at the famed Nuyorican Poet's Cafe in 1996, Caridad De La Luz, aka La Bruja, has performed internationally at dozens of respected venues. La Bruja has long been regarded as one of the leading American spoken word poets. With the release of "Brujalicious" she joins the ranks of artists such as Mos Def who infuse music with the power of word.

MILES BELTRAN

Singer/Musician

An independent singer, songwriter and producer born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Miles' music has been distributed throughout the US, Australia and Japan. He is currently planning a new album and working on several music videos. Miles' new song, “Crush” (co-written by JR Vasquez), is soon to be released.

Works to be presented: “Give Me Love” and “Crush”

SIMPLY ROB

Poet

Roberto Esteban Vassilarakis a.k.a. Simply Rob is known as a spoken word artist, actor and photographer. He is the founding member of *El Grito De Poetas*, a diverse group of Latino and Latina poets and has worked with “at-risk” and LGBT inner-city youth in the Bronx and Manhattan for 15 years.

Work to be presented: Selection of readings

CHANEL INTERNATIONAL

Performer

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, Chanel moved to the Bronx where she started to cross-dress and work. As the disciple of club entrepreneur and performer, Jessica Foxx, she has been on the stage performing for diverse audiences and has joined three diva searches. Chanel works for Bronx Community Pride Center, is an HIV advocate and has received both the “Miss Tranz Empowerment Award” and the “Beyond the Street Award.”

Work to be presented: “The International Mix”

KEITH MITCHEL

Poet

Twenty-one year-old Bronx native, Keith Mitchel has been writing since the age of 8. Since coming out at 13, Keith has been performing and has had his work presented in the New York Rican Poets Café, the Gay Parade and in talent shows among other places.

Works to be presented: “Life (life there are those)” and “Proud”

PAMELA LEE (SPERM)

Performer

Colombian sensation and actress debutante has been impersonating since she was a “little girl.” Her shows are constructed around themes that are common in Latin American pop culture using theatrical arrangements and the collaboration of dancers, musicians, and stage groups.

Work to be presented: “Shakira Re-Loaded” (In collaboration with Lexter Green)

Q’ DOLL

Dancer

Saul Reyes, a.k.a. “Q’ Doll” is a writer, poet and dancer whose multimedia performances have been presented at the Pyramid Club, Queens Cultural Festival, The Queens Museum, and in bars and clubs in NYC. He has collaborated for the past few years with Hector Canonge, for the production of several multimedia projects.

Work to be presented: “Star”

THE BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS

The flagship cultural institution of The Bronx, founded in 1971, The Bronx Museum of the Arts focuses on 20th-century and contemporary art, while serving the culturally diverse populations of The Bronx and the greater New York metropolitan area. The museum’s home on the Grand Concourse is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally-renowned firm Arquitectonica.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts maintains a permanent collection of 20th and 21st-century works by artists of African, Asian, and Latin American ancestry. Additionally, the Museum collects works by artists for whom The Bronx has been critical to their artistic practice and development. The Museum’s educational offerings spring from these central programs with

outreach to children and families as well as adult audiences. For more information please visit www.bronxmuseum.org

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