

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 2, 2023

Event Series: HIP HOP MIDWEST: HEALING CIRCLE ©

Event Dates: November 10 & 11, 2023

Locations: November 10 th 4-5:30pm 4028 Vilas Hall, 821 University Avenue, Madison WI
November 11th 5:30-8pm Madison Youth Arts Center, 1055 E. Mifflin, Madison WI

Organizing Committee:

Lacour “Spirit” Yancey, lacouryancey@gmail.com Co-Producer, Event Director, Hip Hop Community Liaison

Peggy Choy pachoy@wisc.edu, Co-Producer, UW-Madison Contact, Dance Dept/Asian American Studies Program

Langston Collin Wilkins, UW-Madison Folklore Program/African American Studies Department

HHMWHC is in partnership with the UW-Madison School of Education’s Office of Professional Learning and Community Education (PLACE). This partnership was made possible by the generosity of the School of Education Dean’s Office.

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HIP HOP MIDWEST: HEALING CIRCLE ©, brings together a diverse group of 13 outstanding Midwestern Hip Hop artists and UW-Madison faculty and staff presenters, for 2 days of exciting Hip Hop events, Nov. 10-11, that are open to the Madison and UW-Madison community, that highlight the interrelatedness of the Hip Hop elements (dance, music, poetry, graffiti and knowledge) to our healing processes.

With ongoing occurrences of police violence, anti-Asian and LGBTQ+ hate crimes, in a world haunted by health and environmental crises, our own UW-Madison students and the Madison community live with trauma and uncertainty. Recognizing these challenges, we celebrate Hip Hop as a Movement--now recognized as one of the most powerful cultural forces world-wide. We bring attention to the history of Hip Hop in the Midwest and particularly to our own State of

Wisconsin. Our headliner artist, Jezelle Shawanokasic (a.k.a. J25, is a Native American woman DJ, poet and activist from Appleton, Wisconsin. Hip Hop Midwest: Healing Circle © not only upholds the Wisconsin Idea and philosophy that “the boundaries of the university should be the boundaries of the state”, but also gives primacy to the diverse communities and the 12 Native Nations residing within our State. These communities must transcend all boundaries and actively engage with the University of Wisconsin System to inform its mission.

This project continues the 10-year legacy of the historic Breakin’ the Law” series, which began in 2004 and ended in 2014. The series, innovated by former UW students Katrina Flores and Jarius King. They gathered support from units across campus that spanned the sciences to the arts and humanities, uniting campus and community with events such as Hip Hop Revival Organized by Roberto Rivera and Lacour D. Yancey of Elements of Change celebrating Hip Hop dance, music and poetry.

On November 10th, 4-5:30 pm, Langston Collin Wilkins (African American Studies/Folklore) will moderate a panel, “Roots to Fruits”, that introduces notion of Hip Hop roots and healing. Panelists include Professor Kamau Rashid (Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago) and Lacour Yancey (a.k.a. Spirit, project co-producer & event director).

On November 11th, the main public events, “Fruits to Roots”, will take place from 12 pm–8 pm, at Madison Youth Arts Center, 1055 E. Mifflin. Master artists CM huu Nguyen, Turbo Roc, and Jr. ammo. will teach workshops from 12 to 5:30 pm. The final healing cypher (circle) and performance event, from 5:30 to 8 pm, will be hosted by Lacour “Spirit” Yancey, will feature Hip Hop dance, music and spoken word, inviting community participation in the final concluding cypher.

Presenting Artists/Scholars:

Jezelle Shawanokasic (J25, DJ) & HM Music Ensemble

Kamau Rashid

Lacour Yancey (Bboy Spirit of the Soul Hydraulics Crew)

Kobina Brewoo (Jr. ammo & Hitterz Collective)

Contra Mestra huu nguyen

Rene (Turbo Rock) Avilla

Langston Collin Wilkins

Adem Tesfaye

Theodore Yancey (Emcee Thee) & Sadella Yancey (S Boogie)

Nathan Greer (Nate G)

Yorel Lashley

Roberto (HPMC) Rivera

Nate Foulks (DJ VPS)

Peggy Choy

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION/ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Peggy Choy

Choy is Professor of Dance and Asian American Studies at the UW-Madison., and founder of The Ki Project, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports creative thinking and intercultural performance for future generations. Choy teaches Asian American Movement, Afro Asian Improv: From Hip Hop to Martial Arts Fusion, and is the Chair of the Dance Department's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She produced, curated and directed the 2021 online event, "Performing Mind, Body, Spirit: Community Healing in the Time of #BLM, Anti-Asian Violence & BIPOC Solidarity" that brought together 11 BIPOC performing artists from Wisconsin, New York and California, and was sponsored by 22 UW-Madison campus units and national institutions from NY to Chicago. She is featured in the "Sifting & Reckoning: UW-Madison's History of Exclusion & Resistance" exhibition, and the Asian American Studies Oral History Project exhibition at the Multicultural Student Union in the Red Gym.

Lacuir D. Yancey a.k.a. Bboy Spirit

Yancey is the founder of the Soul Hydraulics crew of Madison, Wisconsin. He is a licensed Chinese Massage and bodywork therapist, ACE certified personal trainer, Biomechanics and Movement Specialist, Youth Fitness Specialist, and Breakdance, Capoeira and Martial movement instructor. He is the owner of Ymassage Bodywork & Natural Fitness, and an East West Healing Arts Institute Senior Instructor of Chinese massage/tuina. Yancey has produced pioneering events, including Mad City BBoy Battles, Soul Sessions (holistic, all-elements battles), and has taught and mentored many local BBoys and BGirls throughout the Midwest.

Langston Collin Wilkins (Committee Member)

Wilkins is Assistant Professor of Folklore & Afro-American Studies at the UW-Madison. He is currently the Director of the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, a collaboration between Humanities Washington and the Washington State Arts Commission that seeks to document and preserve the traditional culture of Washington state. His research interests include hip hop culture, urban folklife and African American music. He received his PhD in Folklore & Ethnomusicology from Indiana University in 2016. He also holds a Master's degree in African American and African Diaspora Studies from Indiana University and a Bachelors of Arts in English from the University of Texas at Austin.