

Def Poetry Jam Returns in an Online Special Event on May 23rd

The Streaming Event Will Raise Money for Newark, NJ COVID-19 Relief



RUSSELL SIMMONS
Def POETRY Jam

hosted by
**THE Legendary
Black Ice &
Jessica Care Moore**

**AN EVENING OF
HEALING, POWER &
POETRY**
STREAMING LIVE

special guest
**Newark, NJ Mayor
Ras Baraka**

SATURDAY MAY 23rd • 4PM PST • 7PM EST
twitch.tv/defpoetryjam • facebook.com/russellsimmons

Philadelphia, May 20, 2020 (IssueWire.com) - Def Poetry Jam returns for a mega marathon of Healing, Power & Poetry with a very special streaming event benefitting COVID-19 relief. It will premiere on Saturday, May 23, 2020, at 7 pm ET/4 PM PT. The program will stream online on Twitch at www.twitch.tv/defpoetryjam and Facebook Watch at www.facebook.com/russellsimmons. The online show will also be simulcast on Newark, NJ's municipal access channel NWK 78.

This epic evening of artistry will be hosted by The Legendary Black Ice and Jessica Care Moore with special guest poet Ras Baraka, Mayor of Newark, NJ. More than two dozen poets have been confirmed to perform, including Def Poetry all-stars such as Georgia Me, Roger Bonair, and Sunni Patterson. The production will introduce powerful new voices like Brandon “Real Talk” Alexander, Elisabeth Velasquez, Khemist, and Jasmine Mans and feature legendary spoken word voices like Abiodun Oyewole of The Last Poets. Actor and Def Poetry veteran Malcolm-Jamal Warner will make a special appearance and the show will also have a performance by Def Poetry Jam co-creator Danny Simmons, accompanied by jazz legend Ron Carter.

"The goal of our Def Poetry Jam streaming event is to raise funds to provide basic needs for members of Newark, NJ's vulnerable and underserved community," said Danny Simmons, chairman of Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation (Rush Arts). "All funds from the fundraiser will be collected by Rush Arts and administered by Newark Symphony Hall's #EmbraceNewark initiative, with 25% going to artists in need."

Russell Simmon's Def Poetry Jam opened on Broadway in November 2002. A television version of the show ran on HBO from 2002 to 2007. The TV series featured performances by established and up-and-coming spoken word poets as well as famous actors and musicians and was key in advancing the cultural importance of spoken word poetry. The Broadway show won a Tony Award and the television series won a Peabody Award.

The May 23rd fundraiser is produced and curated by Lamar “The Legendary Black Ice” Manson and Jessica Care Moore and presented online by Gushcloud Studios in association with Newark Symphony Hall.

ABOUT RUSH PHILANTHROPIC ARTS FOUNDATION (www.RushPhilanthropic.org)

Co-founded by Danny Simmons in 1995, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation (Rush Arts) is dedicated to providing underserved youth with contemporary art education, and developing and supporting emerging artists and curators and cultivating new audiences.

ABOUT NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL (www.newarksymphonyhall.org)

Born as the Salaam Temple in 1925, Newark Symphony Hall has been the home of almost a century of arts and culture in what is now New Jersey's oldest arts and entertainment venue. #EmbraceNewark is Newark Symphony Hall's artist-activated initiative facilitating resources for food distribution, personal protective equipment, and wellness checks while producing online artistic programming designed to engage and inform.

ABOUT GUSHCLOUD INTERNATIONAL (www.gushcloud.com)

Gushcloud International is a global talent agency group, focused on marketing and entertainment. The company connects audiences and brands to influencers and content creators through representation and management, brand strategy, marketing and activation services, media production, sales and

distribution, licensing and co-creating significant IP in the content, media and event spaces. The holding company has three business units: Gushcloud Marketing Group, Gushcloud Talent Agency, and Gushcloud Entertainment Group and has more than 200 employees in ten offices globally including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, China, and the United States of America.

Media Contact

Kennedy Robinson PR

niesha@kennedyrobinsonpr.com

2155156615

Source : Def Poetry Jam

[See on IssueWire](#)