



“We were re-introduced to ourselves.”
– Moshe Maboe
B’boy from Jo’burg

OTHER AVAILABLE PROGRAMS WITH DR. BANKS:

Youth Leading Youth: Hip Hop Theatre in the Community: A lecture demonstration on the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative’s work in Ghana and South Africa, focusing on how Hip Hop Theatre is used as a tool for self-empowerment and leadership training among young people.

The Limitations of Language: An interactive workshop on the legacy of language of representation, the origins of the term “race,” and creating a productive space for dialogue around issues of “race,” culture, ethnicity, heritage, and class.

The Artist as Revolutionary: A workshop on the role of the artist in society, activism, and how to structure a project for maximal impact.

August Wilson in Africa: A lecture on the production of *Jitney* directed by Dr. Banks at the National Theatre of Uganda in 2002.

Anna in Belarus: A lecture on Dr. Banks’ production of Nilo Cruz’s Pulitzer Prize winning drama *Anna in the Tropics* at the Belarussian National Drama Theatre in 2005.

LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION
Hip Hop Theatre: Theatre of Now
Late Afternoon/Evening, Day 1

Daniel Banks will discuss the origins, politics and aesthetics of Hip Hop Theatre, intercut by video excerpts from the top practitioners in the field. Dr. Banks will trace his involvement in this form and how it has provided an alternative methodology for performance and training in the professional theatre. Questions addressed include: where did this form come from, what is its connection to other Afrocentric modes of cultural production, and where is it going with its current swell of popularity?

WORKSHOP
We The Griot: Storytelling & Performance in the Age of Hip Hop
Afternoon, Day 2

Details: 4 hours, 25 people max, large, well-lit room needed where participants can move freely (observers allowed upon prior arrangement).

Dr. Banks will take participants through a progression to understand the dynamics of the African griot, the community storyteller, historian, and archive of communal knowledge. The workshop participants will take the role of the modern-day griot. After a physical warm-up, they will be led on a series of exercises where they develop their own stories, created out of the “cipher,” the circle that Hip Hop artists use for improvisation and rhyming. They will then explore how these stories interrelate and begin to think about staging their communities’ voices.

Program also available with the participation of students and alumni of HHTI.

