



It was motivating, inspiring and very much uplifting...opening receptors and just absorbing the positive radiation in the room was like having an outer body experience. Trust that we shall most definitely implement the knowledge acquired from the workshop and pass it on to others.

Jo-anne Peteresen
Hip Hop Connected
Cape Town

HIPHOP THEATRE INITIATIVE

ALL THE WORLD'S A CIPHER!

OVERVIEW: In the Spring of 2004, three BFA students in the Department of Undergraduate Drama at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, asked Dr. Daniel Banks, an internationally known theatre director and faculty member, to help

them advance the work they had been doing independently, outside of their training studios and academic classrooms. As the group of students and curricular activities grew, the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative was born – a response to student desire to marry their acting training with their love for and commitment to Hip Hop culture.

MISSION:

Integrate the rigors of theatre making with the performance elements and politics of the youth-driven, activist culture of Hip Hop.

Train practitioners in critical thinking, leading arts workshops in communities, and facilitating dialogue about the social issues pertaining to Hip Hop.

Under the leadership of Daniel Banks, the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative (HHTI) has produced:

- a curriculum of six courses
- a series of workshops and lecture demonstrations
- a full-length devised Hip Hop Theatre performance
- community action projects in Ghana, South Africa, Mexico, Pittsburgh, and New York

HHTI'S WORK HAS BEEN SEEN AT:

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| Rhodes College, Memphis, TN | New York University, |
| University of Western Michigan | Performance Studies Dept. & |
| S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook, New York | Tisch Scholars Program |
| West Virginia State University | Disney Theatricals, Orlando, FL |
| Naropa University | The Pittsburgh Project |
| Southeastern Theatre Conference, | Harlem Stages/Aaron Davis Hall |
| Greensboro, NC | International Peace Research |
| Bennett College for Women/ | Association Conference, |
| North Carolina A&T | Calgary, Alberta, Canada |
| Kent State University | The Market Theatre, |
| Black Theatre Network Conference, | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| University of Florida, Gainesville | University of Ghana, |
| University of Central Florida | Legon Buduburam, |
| University of California, Riverside | Former UNHCR Liberian |
| | Refugee Camp, Ghana |

Press and references available upon request.



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