

# H2A Brings the Unseen Light In London!



September 7, 2007 – (New York City) The Hip-Hop Association [H2A] is proud to partner with the bfm International Black Film Festival (BIFF) to provide a diverse segment of global Hip-Hop film programming from throughout the African Diaspora. The bfm International Film Festival is taking place from September 7–14 in London, England at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) and Stratford Circus.

BIFF is one of the premier black events held in London each year. The festival was established in 1999 with the aim of filling a void within London’s film exhibition scene. The work of many filmmakers had become virtually marginalized, and audiences, particularly within the African-Caribbean community, were eager to see films that reflected the cultural experience of the UK’s black communities. The festival’s purpose was, and still is, to make a difference by –bringing the unseen to light–.

This year, the festival will showcase at least a dozen of the films from the 2007 H2O International Film Festival. They will be presenting the UK premieres of *Bling: A Planet Rock*, *I Love Hip Hop Morocco* and the H2O award-winning films: for Best Feature Narrative, *Wholetrain* (Germany), and Best Feature Documentary, *Wu: The Story of the Wu Tang Clan*, (US) and the Freshest Youth Award Winner, *The Hip-Hop Project* (US). The creator of the Hip-Hop Project, Chris –Kazi– Rolle, will participate in a Q&A and will do special performance.

Other films screening include: H2O’s winner of the Best

Feature Documentary, Mr. Devious (South Africa); Best Music Video, When the Gun Draws (Pharoahe Monch) (US); Best Short Documentary, Guilty or Innocent of Using the N Word; Like an Ambassador For His People (Senegal/Germany), B.L.A.C.K.: An Aboriginal Song of Hip-Hop (Australia); and a special screening of Charlie Ahearn's, Bongo Barbershop (US/Tanzania).

Mona Ibrahim, the Hip-Hop Association's Director of Community Building and Program Development says "Once again, we are proud to partner with BFM this year to present a myriad of stories celebrating the rich diversity within our Hip-Hop community, globally. The voice of the Hip-Hop filmmaker echoes loudly, resonating throughout the world. We have been blessed to provide a forum of exhibition for these films not only at our own festival, but also at other festivals, conferences, museums, and educational forums worldwide. We are excited to team up with BFM to help facilitate their mission of bringing the unseen to light and look forward to continued partnerships in the UK."

For more information about the BFM festival and a complete schedule, please visit [www.bfmmedia.com](http://www.bfmmedia.com).

About the H20:

H20 [Hip-Hop Odyssey] is the media initiative of the Hip-Hop Association. Our media activities includes the H20 [Hip-Hop Odyssey] International Film Festival, the Odyssey Awards, and the Defuse Media Lab, its mission is to support the use of Hip-Hop culture as a tool for social awareness and youth empowerment. Through the development of innovative technological tools, the Hip-Hop Association has created opportunities for media distribution and information dissemination.

For more information, please log on to:  
[www.hiphopassociation.org](http://www.hiphopassociation.org)

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# Cipes and the Revolution CD Release



“Reggae is the weapon of the future,” explains Greg Cipes about The Conscious Revolution, the debut album from his group Cipes and the People. “It’s the music that unifies everyone and everything.”

An accomplished actor on hit TV shows *House*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Without a Trace* and *Deadwood*, a voiceover artist on Disney Channel’s *W.I.T.C.H.* and *Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!* along with Cartoon Network’s *Teen Titans* and a professional junior surfer, the Florida-born Cipes comes from a show business family. His grandparents both acted professionally and his father was a TV director who became successful in real estate, then traveled extensively with his family, often taking them to the Bahamas, where Cipes heard reggae music for the first time.

“I was divinely placed in a position to see how the music made those living in poverty feel so good,” he says. “The culture and the warmth of the people always intrigued me.”

Citing reggae, hip-hop and rock as his main influences, the 27-year-old packed up his yellow Nissan Xterra and moved to Los Angeles to study directing at USC, but dropped out within

weeks when he landed a pilot at Warner Bros.

“Music has always been part of my life,” he says, citing such disparate inspirations as Bob Marley, the Doors, Sublime and Miami bass rappers 2 Live Crew, whose battle for freedom of speech attracted a young Cipes as much as their music. “But it only started to take this form seven years ago.”

The album’s lead single, “Free Me,” is also the first song Cipes ever wrote seven years ago, inspired, he says, by his dog Timber and the spirit of Bob Marley.

“I called on Marley spirit to work its way through me,” he says. “I couldn’t even sing growing up. I just prayed to him to let me spread his message and be a conduit of his love, power and wisdom. And it happened.”

“I’m talking to Mother Earth in the song as a female whom I’ve disrespected. And this is my plea to heal that relationship. The other element is my own earthly relationships with women. My heart has been broken at least four times. But I’ve never stopped loving. I don’t regard women as the opposite sex anymore. I wasn’t always strong enough to do that. But I’ve vowed not to have sex until I’ve found my one true partner out there.”

Cipes’ music is part of his Conscious Revolution, his attempt to unite people’s beliefs and bring them together. “I do everything in the service of God,” he says, explaining that he no longer drinks, smokes, watches TV, goes to the movie, listens to the radio or has sex. “I’m being lifted up so I can shed light on others who have the knowledge, experience, heart and drive to unite cultures, religions and races. Reggae is all about the positive message, the positive vibration. It’s a music that unifies everyone and everything.”

The video for “Fade Away” gives a plug for Save the Earth, while “Jah People” is inspired by Marley’s assertion

that "God loves everyone."

"God is part of every one of us," he explains. "Whether it's Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha, Krishna, Jah or Allah. I'm a firm believer in experiencing all religions so you can understand where everybody is coming from, so you can communicate from a compassionate place. I may not know anything, but I understand everything."

The album's musical styles range from the hip-hop dancehall toasting of "Ones Up," featuring Houston rapper Big Boss, and the Two-Tone speeded-up ska of "Pain," which tells the story of visiting an ex-girlfriend in the middle of the night and getting picked up by the police, to the singer/songwriter balladry of "Fly," detailing his decision to leave Florida and go to California. "That's about letting to and putting myself in God's hands," he explains. "This album, produced by newcomer and friend. 23 year old Greg Whitman, is about unifying all races, religions and genres of music. All of those things are in me."

Cipes and the People has coalesced into a core 11-person lineup, which includes two horn players, three back-up singers, lead guitar, bass, keyboards and a DJ. The band was featured in the MTV show Twentyfourseven, which spurred more than 200k people to check out their music on MySpace, where they were the site's #1 unsigned reggae band earlier this year.

For Cipes, it's not about either fame or success, but bringing people together. "Music is a celebration, a time for people to rejoice in their connections," he says. "At our shows, we have hippies, hip-hop heads, rockers and Goths. We're uniting people that ordinarily wouldn't come together because our message is so universal."

"God is everywhere and everything. When you start seeing God that way, you can act and perform from a place of power, positivity, focus and peace. I want people to realize they

have a choice. We're at a place and time where many people think it's too late. That humanity is doomed. But that's not the case. There is a fork in the road and we will turn the right way. God will empower us to make the correct decision. All we're doing is channeling his divine energy and healing into these songs.

Although he admits ganja was once a holy sacrament for him, he realizes now, it was just a bridge. "I began receiving messages, both mental and physical, that I didn't need it any more," he explains. "I appreciate my connection to ganja. It influenced me in such a positive way, I want to show respect for this plant, this medicine, which is what it is. But I'm more on a health tip now. Part of my reason for not smoking anymore is I'm so spiritually connected to Marley, he told me, during his lifetime, he smoked enough for the both of us."

As for his current celibacy, Cipes claims, "Sex distracts you from your goal. You take your eye off the ball, and the ball is now in my court. And never again will I take my eye off the ball. Unless I'm married, I won't have sex. In my experience, when I've given up things, I get things in return. I realize my life in this body is temporary. To do everything I do, I've had to give up things. My music's my girlfriend. I make love to my music now."

Music is just a means to an end for Greg Cipes. Cipes and the People's Conscious Revolution is just beginning.

"Life seems to fly away today," sings Cipes on "Free Me." "I woke up in the morning/And things don't feel the same."

The Conscious Revolution aims to change your life.

"With you by my side/We will win the fight/In the battle of dark and light," he declares in "Fade Away."

“You are love, your soul is love, and that never fades away,” concludes Greg. “It’s God telling us he’s walking with us, that we’re not alone. The Conscious Revolution is about letting people know they have the power to create their own reality. When you start implementing that in your life, you will see the change. I just try to do the right thing because everything is connected. And nothing good comes easy.”

Certainly nothing as good as The Conscious Revolution.

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# **The First Annual VH1 Soul Presents: VIBE Awards Special premieres on VH1 Soul Wednesday, November 14 at 9PM\***



NEW YORK, NY September 7, 2007 “ VH1 Soul breathes new life into VIBE magazine’s celebration of urban music, lifestyle and culture with VH1 Soul Presents: VIBE Awards Special. Hosted by Eve and premiering on VH1 Soul Wednesday, November 14 at 9PM\* and on VH1 Monday, November 19 at 10PM\*, this one-hour special will highlight music artists and trend-setters whom have

inspired us through their contributions to urban culture.

Focusing on music and lifestyle achievements, this year's categories are Hip Hop Artist of the Year, R&B Artist of the Year, Best Collabo, Breakthrough Artist of the Year, Producer of the Year, Song of the Year, Video of the Year, VStyle, VIBE Props, Mixtape of the Year, Ringtone of the Year and VHollywood. (See Attached).

From September 5 through September 30, viewers can log on to [vibeawards.vh1.com](http://vibeawards.vh1.com) and vote for the VH1 Soul Presents: VIBE Awards Special winners.

Eve, the Grammy-award winning rapper, singer, and actress has sold millions of albums during her musical career. Eve's first three albums have already reached over 4.8 million copies sold in the U. S. alone. In 2003, Eve became the star of her own TV show, "Eve," which lasted for 3 seasons and has also achieved success in fashion with her Fetish clothing line. Eve's fourth album, Here I Am is in stores October 2007.

VH1 Soul Presents: VIBE Awards Special is executive produced by Jac Benson II for blacjac Entertainment Group. Keshia Williams and Lee Rolontz are executive producers for VH1.

Launched in 1997, VH1 Soul is the 24-hour network that brings music lovers the hottest, soul, neo-soul and R&B hits from the 90s and today featuring core artists such as Alicia Keys, Jill Scott, Outkast, Mary J. Blige and Usher. VH1 Soul, the premier source for all R&B and soul music, is now seen in the Top 20 U.S. markets for African-Americans and is available in nearly 20 million U.S. households.

VIBE Media Group, an affiliate of The Wicks Group of Companies, L.L.C., is a leading music/lifestyle media company that publishes the award-winning VIBE magazine, the preeminent brand in urban and music culture, which was founded by Quincy Jones in 1993. Additional VIBE Media Group properties include



Vibe.com; Comcast's VIBE video-on-demand channel; The VIBE Awards; the wireless content service mVibe; and VIBE Books, which published The New York Times bestseller, Tupac Shakur.

\*All Times ET/PT

VH1 Soul Presents: VIBE Awards Special Categories:

Hip Hop Artist of the Year

T.I.

Diddy

Lil Wayne

Jay-Z

R&B Artist of the Year

Ne-Yo

R. Kelly

T-Pain

Beyoncé

Best Collabo

R Kelly duet with Usher "Same Girl"

Fabolous featuring Ne-Yo "Make Me Better"

DJ Khaled/T.I./Akon/Rick Ross/Fat Joe/Lil Wayne/Baby "We Takin' Over"

Ludacris featuring Mary J. Blige "Runaway Love"

Breakthrough Artist of the Year

Robin Thicke

Rich Boy

Amy Winehouse

Chrisette Michele

Producer of the Year

Timbaland

Scott Storch

Swizz Beatz

Polow Da Don

## Song of the Year

“Lost Without U” Robin Thicke

“Irreplaceable” Beyoncé

“Buy U A Drank” T-Pain featuring Yung Joc

“We Fly High” Jim Jones

## Video of the Year

“Runaway Love” Ludacris featuring Mary. J. Blige

“Get Me Bodied” Beyoncé

“Umbrella” Rihanna featuring Jay-Z

“Same Girl” R. Kelly/ duet with Usher

## VStyle

Beyoncé

Diddy

T.I.

Kanye West

Kimora Lee Simmons

## VIBE Props

Stephon Marbury

Jay-Z

Barack Obama

Oprah Winfrey

## Mixtape of the Year

Kanye West “Can’t Tell Me Nothing”

Lil Wayne “Da Drought III”

DJ Drama “Gangsta Grillz 16”

DJ Soul “Assorted Donuts”

## Ringtone of the Year

“We Fly High” Jim Jones

“This Is Why I’m Hot” Mims

“Lip Gloss” Lil Mama

“Party Like a Rockstar” Shop Boyz

“Walk It Out” Unk

VHollywood  
Ice Cube  
T.I.  
Jennifer Hudson  
Will Smith

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# **Hip-Hop Summit Action Network Announces the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN) AND LAUNCH PARTY ON WED. SEPTEMBER 19**

The recent dialogue surrounding the portrayal of women of color in entertainment, specifically in Hip-Hop music, has propelled women in the entertainment industry to take a proactive stand. Powerbrokers like fashion mogul Kimora Lee Simmons; international music star Joss Stone; Sylvia Rhone, President of Motown Records and Executive Vice President of Universal Records; and Valeisha Butterfield, Executive Director of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, have joined forces to announce the launch of the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN). Kimora Lee Simmons has signed on as the national spokeswoman for WEEN.

“I am truly honored to join forces with the Women’s Entertainment Empowerment Network and this amazing collective of women,” said Kimora Lee Simmons. “I firmly believe in WEEN’s mission and hope that together we can begin making a

real difference with our work.”

WEEN is a coalition of women, of all races and ages, committed to supporting, promoting and defending the positive, balanced portrayal of women in entertainment and in society.

The formal launch, a special invitation-only “pink” carpet event, will take place on Wednesday, September 19 at trendy Bo Concept, an exclusive furniture store in Manhattan. Entertainment and recording industry executives from across the nation are confirmed to attend.

For the last several months, more than 80 influential women in the entertainment industry; including corporate executives, recording artists and educators have been meeting to develop WEEN’s mission statement, program and strategy. The launch event will kick-off the twelve month countdown to enroll one million women into WEEN. The initiative will create a coalition of empowered women committed to action.

WEEN has launched WEENONLINE.ORG as the portal through which the network is developed and members are enrolled. WEEN will target three core areas: 1) corporate social responsibility, 2) media/artist responsibility and 3) community programs/outreach.

“It is imperative that as women in leadership positions, we take back responsibility, raise awareness and implement programs that reach the young women and men in our communities that need it most,” said Valeisha Butterfield, WEEN founder and Executive Director of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. “Young girls are crying out for our support and mentorship. Dialogue is important, but not enough. Dialogue followed by strategy and subsequent action is necessary for the type of change we hope to see in our communities.”

For more information and to join WEEN, log onto [www.weenonline.org](http://www.weenonline.org).

## Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN)

The Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN) is a coalition of women committed to supporting, promoting and defending the positive portrayal of women of color in entertainment and in society. WEEN is led by women executives in music, television, film, radio and other forms of entertainment. WEEN is a program of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. [www.ween.org](http://www.ween.org).

## Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN)

Founded in 2001 by Russell Simmons and Dr. Benjamin Chavis, the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN) is dedicated to harnessing the cultural relevance of hip-hop music to serve as a catalyst for education advocacy and other societal concerns fundamental to the well being of at-risk youth throughout the United States. HSAN is the largest non-profit, worldwide coalition of hip-hop artists, entertainment industry leaders, education advocates, civil rights proponents, and youth leaders united in the belief that Hip-Hop is an enormously influential agent for positive social change which must be responsibly and proactively utilized to fight the war on poverty and injustice. [www.hsan.org](http://www.hsan.org).

WEEN supports the First Amendment rights of Hip-Hop artists united in the belief that artistic expression can be commercially marketable and socially responsible. For more information on the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network or Hip-Hop Summit Action Network visit [www.weenonline.org](http://www.weenonline.org) and [www.hsan.org](http://www.hsan.org)