

David Banner To Appear At Harvard University For The LA Riots: Twenty Years Later



(April 19, 2012—Los Angeles, CA) Grammy award winning rapper/producer David Banner will appear at The LA Riots: Twenty Years Later Conference taking place on April 27 & 28 at Harvard University. The conference brings together leading scholars, activists and artists to look back at “and forward from- the LA Riots. It will combine a critical retrospective examination of the uprising with reflections on democracy and inequity today, a time of economic crisis and revolution in much of the world.

Banner who has been very out spoken about the recent murder of Trayvon Martin and lives lost in the Tulsa, OK shooting, will be joined by Henry Louis Gates Jr. along with other panelists from Harvard University, NYU, Temple University and more, to address attendees in the TSAI Auditorium about the state of the black community seen through his eyes. Banner has appeared on BET 106 & Park and BlackEnterprise.com voicing his opinion on the safety of black youth and the community, imploring that there be some kind of legislation along with other solutions to help keep African Americans safe in the United States.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to speak at Harvard; it is vital that we talk about what we can do to better ourselves and our communities; now and for the next 20 years. The people of America, especially our youth, have the power to be heard; to change legislation and positively impact our culture for generations to come.”

Banner is currently gearing up to introduce the world to a

revolutionary new concept in urban culture called the 2M1 Movement. On May 22, he will release his new project, Sex, Drugs and Video Games (which was solely funded by Banner) for free via www.livemixtapes.com and www.davidbanner.com. In exchange, Banner is asking two million people to donate a minimum of \$1. With these proceeds Banner is going to consistently deliver music, videos, movies and charitable donations to positively influence urban culture.

For more information on David Banner's appearance The LA Riots: Twenty Years Later Conference log onto www.Tinyurl.com/lariotsharvardsymposium.

Vivica Fox to host as Michael Baisden, Al Dotson & Shawn Dove get Spirit of Democracy Awards



Washington, DC – Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (The National Coalition), today announced the recipients of the prestigious 2012 Spirit of Democracy Awards which will be presented during the 15th annual Spirit of Democracy Awards Gala hosted by actress and producer, Vivica A. Fox (Set It Off, Kill Bill, Soul Food), on Thursday May 17, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. For ticket information call (202) 659-4929 or email events@ncbcp.org.

Honorees are Michael Baisden, nationally syndicated radio personality, author, philanthropist, and social activist instrumental in exposing the Trayvon Martin case; Al Dotson, chairman of the board, 100 Black Men of America; Shawn Dove, campaign manager, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Open Society Foundations; Gerald Hudson, executive vice president, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and David Honig, founder and president, Minority Media and Telecommunications Council.

“This year we are proud to be ‘Celebrating Our Brothers.’ The leadership of these men in their respective fields helps to empower underserved communities across the country” said Campbell. “These strong, positive men also set an example of excellence in achievement for young brothers across the country.”

There will also be a special tribute to the late Ruby Campbell Pulliam who was a servant leader in civil rights and women’s rights.

The Spirit of Democracy Awards are presented to individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a consistent commitment to creating balance in the democratic process and support The Nation Coalition’s mission and vision of making civic participation a cultural responsibility and tradition. Sponsors include AT&T and Verizon, among others. The event is open to the public. Individual ticket prices are \$175. For tickets or more information call 202 659-4929 or visit www.ncbcp.org to purchase online.

SWV-I Missed Us Concert



SWV is releasing their album *I Missed Us* tomorrow and in celebration of the event fans will be able to stream their concert at S.O.B.'s from [Livestream](#).

Pre-order *I Missed Us* at [iTunes](#) or [Target](#)

SWV Concert Dates

4/14 Denver, CO Wells Fargo Theater w/BBD & Blackstreet
4/17 New York, NY 98.7 KISS Album Event
4/20 Atlanta, GA Album Release Party @Bar One
5/18 Atlanta, GA Funk Fest
5/25 Lafayette, LA Cajun Dome
5/26 Houston, TX Reliant Arena
5/27 Greensboro, NC Greensboro Coliseum
6/1 Philadelphia, PA Liacourous Center
6/2 Las Vegas, NV Orleans Arena
6/8 Bridgeport, CT Webster Bank Arena
6/9 Toronto, CA Canada Centre Arena
6/16 Charleston, SC N. Charleston Coliseum
6/17 Nashville, TN Nashville Municipal Auditorium
6/22 Greenville, SC Bi Lo Center
6/23 Fayetteville, NC Crown Coliseum
6/29 Augusta, GA James Brown Arena
6/30 Raleigh, NC PNC Arena
7/1 Charlotte, NC Time Warner Center
7/6 New Orleans, LA ESSENCE Music Festival
7/7 Tampa, FL UCF Sun Dome
7/13 Jacksonville, FL Veterans Memorial Arena
7/14 Mobile, AL Mobile Civic Center
7/21 Baltimore, MD 1st Marina Arena
7/27 Savannah, GA Savannah, GA
7/28 Macon, GA Macon Complex

8/3 Columbus, GA Columbus Civic Center
8/4 Macon, GA Macon Centreplex
8/10 Hampton, VA Hampton Coliseum
8/11 Baltimore, MD 1st Mariner Arena

Black Thought 2.0 Conference at Duke April 6-7



DURHAM, N.C. – More than a dozen prominent African-American scholars will participate in a conference on the role of social media in cultural studies, April 6-7 at Duke University.

The two-day conference, “Black Thought 2.0: New Media and the Future of Black Studies,” will be held at the John Hope Franklin Center (2204 Erwin Road) and is free and open to the public.

To register, go to the [conference website](#). Parking is available in the Pickins Center visitor lot across the street.

For those unable to attend, the conference will be streamed live on Duke’s Ustream channel, ustream.tv/dukeuniversity and viewers can tweet questions for the panelists using the hashtag #BT2Duke.

S. Craig Watkins, the author of “The Young & the Digital” will deliver the keynote address at 7 p.m. Friday, April 6. Watkins is a communications professor at the University of Texas at Austin and researches young people’s social and digital media behaviors.

The event begins Friday, April 6 with a 5:30 p.m. reception in the John Hope Franklin Center gallery. Watkins will speak in room 240.

The conference continues Saturday at 9 a.m. with panels “The Chocolate Supa Highway: Precursors to Black Social Media,” and “On the Grid: Teaching and Researching in the Digital Age.” Afternoon panels begin at 1:30 with “From Jena, La. to Tahrir Square: Activism in the Age of Social Media,” and at 3 p.m. with “The Twitterati and Twitter-gentsia: Social Media and Public Intellectuals.”

“In many ways Black Thought 2.0 is an attempt to encourage black scholars and academics to catch up to our audience,” said conference organizer Mark Anthony Neal, a professor of black popular culture at Duke. “Given our rich tradition of public intellectuals, dating back to figures like Fredrick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, it just seems as though new media represents another way for black intellectuals to be in the world. Imagine what W.E.B. Dubois might have done with a Twitter feed.”

Other panelists include Jasiri X, a rapper who recently released “Trayvon,” a tribute song for the slain teen; author Marc Lamont Hill, an education professor at Columbia University and the host of the nationally syndicated TV One program “Our World With Black Enterprise”; and Moya Bailey, a blogger for Crunk Feminist Collection best known for organizing a protest as an undergraduate student at Spelman College against the rapper Nelly. Several Duke faculty will participate in the conference as well.

The conference is sponsored by Duke’s Department of African and African American Studies, the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies, Left of Black and the Office of the Provost.

For more information, go to blackthought.aaas.duke.edu.