

many voices, one movement

First Generation

Newsletter for ensemble, families and friends of *First Generation*

July 2009



Our Inaugural Performance!

*through the eye
of bakok*

An original *First Generation* creation of theater, storytelling, spoken word, and movement to honor the past and inspire the present

**Fri. Aug. 7th
at 7:00pm**

**Sat. Aug. 8th
7:00pm**

(doors open at 6:15pm)

**Sun. Aug. 9th
at 2:00pm**

(doors open at 1:15pm)

Rebecca Johnson
School theater

55 Catherine St.
Springfield

*Appropriate for ages 12 and
up.*

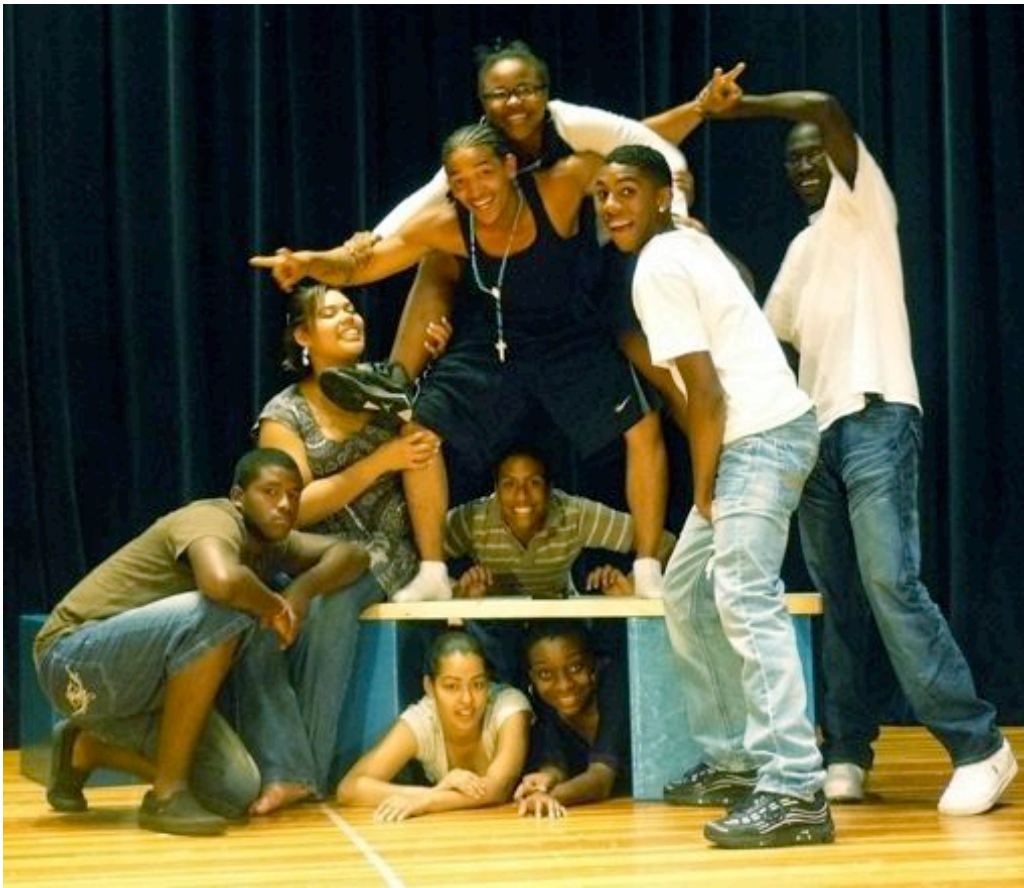
Ticket Price: \$10 or donation,
youth groups free! Free
refreshments following the
show.

"FIRST GEN!!! WHAT

First Generation ensemble members have been doing an incredible job as youth-mentors and teacher/artist apprentices in the Rebecca Johnson Summer Arts Program! The ensemble, joined by Abdi Kabir completed a week-long leadership and youth development training intensive and are mentoring the very excited 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in theater, visual art, music and dance workshops throughout the month of July. We would like to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to connecting with other young people and teaching-artists in the community.

First Generation is an intensive, arts-based and youth leadership-development program. It provides a platform for young people to have a public voice in their community, and beyond, through creative expression and thoughtful exploration of what it means to be First Generation.

The Performance Project creates theater about oppression and liberation. Through our multi-generational collaborations we examine the effects of racism, economic oppression, bigotry, and violence, and create compelling works of theater, movement, and spoken-word. Our performances engage audiences in dialogue about critical social and cultural issues.



First Generation ensemble from top to bottom and left to right: Nakeah Norwood, Emily Laufer, Abe Guzman, Denzel Coleman, Abraham Lual, Shareef Ibrahim, Ben Bland, Yissel Rosario, Ito Udofoia

...and we would like to welcome Kinnethia Tolson to the ensemble!

"I just want to say to all of the ensemble that your voices will be heard, and will touch the lives of so many others to a degree that you'll never know, best of luck." -Latoya Bosworth

"Shareef has shown himself to be a determined and genuine young man who is setting out to accomplish all that his mind can imagine. In the short time I have known him, he has revealed a love of learning and a passion for literature and history. Should he stay on the present course, and I have no doubt that he will, his future will be full of active community leadership, social responsibility, and tremendous success. He will continue to inspire others and make his family proud." - Chris Tinson

FIRST GEN WE GO HARD!

"Nakeah, First I want to congratulate and applaud you on your growth within the program and out. I really have enjoyed having you as a part of my life and would like to continue to support you as much as possible to make sure your future is as bright as you."

To Ensemble: I have so fallen in love with you guys!!! I have enjoyed my time with you and want to wish you all the best. P.S. And yes...YOU GUYS DO GO HARD!!!" -Michelle Lewis



massculturalcouncil.org
Newsletter authored by Carla Wojczuk

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WHAT!!! I can't wait to bear witness to the energy, creativity and overall greatness that is going to be on display on stage! You are all the fuel that keeps me going! My man Denzel, BRING IT, I can't wait to see your story come alive. Stay strong and know that we got your backs! Peace and much Respect!!"

-Tyson Rose

FIRST GEN WE GO HARD!

"Emma, a recent graduate of Northampton High School and a soon to be college student and MY Mentee! My time with Emma has been remarkable thus far..."

I see Emma as a well rounded woman with a great deal to offer. She strives to do well while balancing out her family, work, commitment to First Generation and social life."

I also see Emma as a serious yet amusing woman; she is a humble, energetic and dedicated with lots to offer. I believe her work ethic, compassion for others, creativity and commitment to community will only complement the beliefs, goals and mission of First Generation in addition to supporting her authentic self. She is extremely talented; an artist in many ways. Emma is well respected by her peers, and mentor alike. I feel blessed to be able to work with such a beautiful woman inside and out!"

-Felicia Lindquist