

Does Hip Hop Hate Women Tour Coming to a City Near You

Written by Robert ID3530

Tuesday, 03 April 2007 07:45 -

Sedgwick and Cedar, the New York based hip-hop clothing line backed by pioneers DJ Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, Chief Rocker Busy B, Sha-rock and others, announces an alliance with Rap Sessions 2007 national tour focused on popular culture's stereotypical representations of women and men in the hip-hop generation.

Rap Sessions presents a diverse panel of leading hip-hop intellectuals and artists to engage youth and community leaders in candid, compelling conversations about the ways the mainstreaming of hip-hop culture influences relationships between young women and men. Targeting the hip-hop generation and their younger millennial siblings, these dynamic and provocative discussions highlight the impact of women on the evolution of hip-hop culture and ask youth to consider the ways televised images of hip-hop affect hip-hop's war of the sexes.

"The goal of these gatherings is to jumpstart a national discussion that asks young people, the hip-hop industry and our policy makers to assume responsibility for their complicity in making hip-hop synonymous with misogyny and homophobia," says Bakari Kitwana, director of Rap Sessions.

"Throughout the last decade, from Congress to the campus center, hip-hop's troubling representation of women is the question that will not go away. By partnering with the hip-hop apparel company associated with hip-hop's pioneers, we hope to ensure that these discussions touch the very core of the hip-hop community."

Founder & CEO of Sedgwick & Cedar Ray Riccio states, "Our company was built on the principal of paying respect to the birthplace of hip-hop and those that paved the way. We celebrate the rich heritage of hip-hop culture and the positive contribution the culture has made to humanity world-wide. It is an honor for Sedgwick and Cedar to be part of such a historic tour that helps refocus hip-hop on its origins and responsibility to its audience."

This spring, beginning in the month of March, Rap Sessions" interactive community dialogues will convene in ten cities across the United States. Panelists include: Mark Anthony Neal (Duke University Black popular culture professor and author of four books including *New Blackman*); Hip-Hop journalist Joan Morgan (author of the groundbreaking *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost: My Life as a Hip-Hop Feminist*); filmmaker Byron Hurt (director of *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, a film about misogyny and hip-hop) and professor Tracy Sharpley-Whiting

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(director of African American and Diaspora Studies at Vanderbilt University and author of the forthcoming *Pimps Up, Hos Down: Hip Hop and the New Gender Politics*).

In acknowledging this important alliance, Rap Sessions will also feature special guest DJ Kool Herc, the father of hip-hop culture and a cornerstone of Sedgwick and Cedar, in selected cities.

"Sedgwick and Cedar and Rap Sessions are a perfect match," says Celebrity Sports Agent Glenn Toby of T.E.A.M. Sports, who brought the two forces together. "Take a pure brand and attach it to a powerful purpose and you get explosive results. Education and entertainment together have value and this alliance is value at its best."

About Rap Sessions

The first national tour of its kind, Rap Sessions, the first national tour of its kind, brings townhall-style meetings to cities across the country. With its "Does Hip-Hop Hate Women?" Tour, Rap Sessions continues its commitment to engaging the most difficult dialogues facing the hip-hop generation. The brainchild of accomplished hip-hop author and activist Bakari Kitwana, the moderator of these discussions, Rap Sessions tours the nation with leading hip-hop activists, artists and thinkers. Rap Sessions events are designed to help jumpstart crucial local debate and connect local hip-hop communities to national hip-hop arts/activists networks. Past participating institutions include Princeton University, Brown University, the University of California-Los Angeles, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Colorado Boulder, Minneapolis" Walker Art Center, among others.

About Sedgwick and Cedar

Sedgwick and Cedar was founded by CEO Ray Riccio and launched with the support of legendary Hip-Hop pioneers DJ Kool Herc, Grand Master Caz, Afrika Bambaataa, Melle Mel, Grand Wizzard Theodore, Chief Rocker Busy Bee and Sha-Rock who all lend their names and likenesses to the brand. Sedgwick & Cedar is where the cultural revolution of Hip-Hop began from humble beginnings in an impoverished Bronx section of New York. DJ Kool Herc threw the first house party of hip-hop on August 11, 1973 in a small community room at 1520 Sedgwick Ave. Soon his packed party moved outside and down the street to Cedar Park, drawing thousands throughout the night to see the birth of the art form.

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About Bakari Kitwana

Bakari Kitwana is co-founder of the first ever National Hip-Hop Political Convention and the former editor of The Source. His book The Hip-Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture has been adopted as a coursebook at over 100 colleges and universities across the country. A consultant for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Kitwana has been acknowledged as an expert on youth culture and hip-hop politics by CNN, Fox News, CNBC, BET and other leading news outlets. His writings have appeared in the Village Voice, The New York Times, The Nation, Savoy and the Boston Globe. Why White Kids Love Hip-Hop: Wankstas, Wiggers, Wannabes and the New Reality of Race in America is his most recent book.

For more information about Rap Sessions, log onto: www.rapsessions.org

For additional information about Sedgwick and Cedar log onto: www.sc73.com

April

3rd; Berkeley, CA

12th; Nashville, TN

18th; Cleveland, OH

28th; Chicago, IL

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May

2nd; Los Angeles, CA