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Contact: Joseph Hall
Programs Manager
P: 718-636-4181 x2234
press@651ARTS.org

Multidisciplinary Performance *Together/Far Apart: Love Hustle* Highlights Artist in Love and in Process

Brooklyn, NY, March 9, 2015 – On Friday, March 20 at 7:30PM, 651 ARTS presents the multidisciplinary project *Together/Far Apart: LoveHustle* at Irondale Center, 85 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 students and seniors.

Director, **Monica L. Williams** stages the second installment of *Together/Far Apart: Love Hustle*, first presented as part of the Women Center Stage 2013 Festival. The production features three couples that share their life journeys as artists through performance through 20-minute vignettes reflecting on art, family, and how the two converge. In their own genre, each artist couple explores the challenges of balancing work and maintaining family relationships and love. They investigate how artists are viewed as family members as well as creators and innovators. Featured artists include **DJ Reborn & DJ Amir**, **Dominique Morisseau & J. Keys**, and **Rokafella & Kwikstep**.

“*Together/Far Apart* highlights the unique energy created when artists in love balance work and relationships and discover possibilities in between. It is a rare view into the lives of artists of color expressing love for one another and keeping families together,” says director Monica L. Williams.

Brooklyn-based **DJ Reborn** and **DJ Amir** have spun for such artists as Maxwell and Lauryn Hill and have been called upon for their music history knowledge by Capital Records and Pete Rock. Their hustle often has them in different corners of the world. In 2012, to celebrate their one year anniversary, the pair launched the monthly dance party *He Said, She Said*, a sonic conversation between the two DJs.

In their artist lives, **Dominique Morisseau** is an award-winning playwright known for her 3-play cycle about her hometown Detroit. The first play in the cycle, *Detroit '67*, premiered at The Public Theater in 2013 and received the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama. As an emcee, **J. Keys** approaches every rhyme and song much like an author approaches a story, by outlining his message and conceptualizing music around his thoughts. He has worked with artists like Luke James and regularly performs in New York and tours the country.

Internationally renown b-girl and b-boy, **Rokafella** and **Kwikstep**, have represented Hip-Hop to the world for over 20 years. Through their non-profit organization, Full Circle Productions, they empower young dancers through the positive power of Hip-Hop. They are among the first to create Hip-Hop theater work, and in 2002 premiered the critically acclaimed *Soular Power'd* on Broadway.

Multimedia production provided by Set Designer [Simon Harding](#) and filmmaker [Logan Coles](#).

651 ARTS
1000 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Telephone:
718 636-4181

Email:
jhall@651ARTS.org

THEATER

DANCE

MUSIC

COMMUNITY

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About Monica L. Williams:

Monica L Williams is a curator, performance artist and founder of Creative Legacy Projects. A graduate from New York University and Wright State University, Ms. Williams has provided artistic direction for several long running shows including *BAM Poetry!* at Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater for 8 years. Her directing credits include the World Premiere of *Game On* written by Felice Belle commissioned by HiArts, John F. Kennedy Center and National Black Arts Festival. Her Off-Broadway theater credits include the National tour of *History of the Word* written by Ben Snyder, *Urban Word Journal to Journey* at New York Live Arts and *Together/Far Apart* Women Center Stage, Culture Project. Her producing credits include Foundry Theatre's *FUREE in Pins and Needles*, Somi's New Africa Live and Brown Girls Burlesque at the Zipper Factory. Her work has been presented at the World Famous Apollo Theater, the Hip Hop Theater Festival, BRICLAB and various regional theater companies. She is an award-winning Arts and Social Justice leader with Nationally recognized '*social sculptures*' in New York City, Kentucky, Ohio, and California. Ms. Williams is an arts educator and has worked in residence at non-profit organizations and colleges throughout the US. She currently lectures in the African American Studies Department at New York City College of Technology. She is a proud associate member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and a 2013 Arts and Culture Fellow at the Rockwood Leadership Institute.

About 651 ARTS:

651 ARTS is committed to developing, producing and presenting performance and cultural programming from the African Diaspora, with a primary focus on contemporary performing arts. 651 ARTS serves the cultural life of New York City, with a particular focus on Brooklyn, one of America's most culturally diverse communities.



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