

"Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz," an Upbeat Version of the Classic Story, will hit the El Portal Stage on April 11, 2015

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA: 'Slide-it-on-out' down the Yellow Brick Road to the Historic El Portal Theatre for the sensational showing of "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz," on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 3pm and 7pm. You won't want to miss this production! Loosely based on the classic 1939 MGM movie, "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz" will sweep audiences off their feet or send them grooving up out of their seats. Come along for an adventure told like you've never heard or seen it done before.

The magic of this dancial is sure to cast its spell on the entire family with its fantastic songs, outstanding high-energetic dancing, powerful uplifting motivational messages, and a wonderfully talented multicultural cast. The entire family will be captivated by the exciting unexpected twists and turns of this amazing story. If you've shared the story of *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz*, and/or *Wicked* with the family, it's now time to experience what happens when Dorothy is taken on a journey filled with fun, enjoyment, struggle, achievement; and, most importantly, Hip-Hop!

Show Information: April 11, 2015; 3PM & 7PM @ The El Portal Theatre (5269 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA, 91601)

Admission: \$25 Per Person/At Door: \$35; Kids Ages 2 & under are Free-----Purchase Tickets At: www.lqspac.org/ For More Info: 661-343-0442

Running Time: 1 hour, 45 minutes with an intermission/ Rated G.

Play Synopsis: In this fascinating story, Dorothy is your average teenager, living in Bakersfield, who dreams of becoming a STAR but is faced with adversity in every direction. After a tornado sweeps Dorothy from her school's campus onto a mysterious Hip-Hop infused Land of Oz, she's taken on a memorable life's journey; a journey that will eventually help her gain the confidence needed to push forth with her dreams and aspirations. In the aftermath of the tornado, Dorothy is presumed to be responsible for the death of the Wicked Witch of the Eastside, since her radio boombox landed on the dreadful woman; leaving only her magical Ruby Converse behind. Glenda, the Good Witch, gives Dorothy ownership over the powerful shoes, which protects her as she 'slides-it-on-out' down the Yellow Brick Road. Along Dorothy's journey, she meets up with a pop-lockin' Toto, an R&B brainless Scarecrow, a suave heartless Tinman, and a rappin' cowardly Lion; along with other colorful characters that help light up the stage. Dorothy and her newfound friends travel through the Land of Oz in hopes of gaining the things they lack from the Great WIZZard of Oz: Dorothy wishes to return back home; Scarecrow longs for a brain; Tinman yearns for a heart; and, Lion lacks some courage. But the Great WIZZard of Oz will not grant any of their wishes unless Dorothy kills the Wicked Witch of the Westside, Ms. Evilbean, and retrieve the Book of Dance. In figuring out what Dorothy is going to do, the audience is taken through a story of power, conflict, resentment, wisdom, celebration, determination, and success-all told through dancing, acting, movement, and music.

Curriculum Connections: Family, Friendship, Loyalty, Creativity, Adaption, Quest, Self-confidence, Endurance, Courage, Wisdom, Compassion, Expression, Inspiration, and Discovery.

"Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz" Background- "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz" is an original play written by Ms. LaQuette Milner. The actual production of "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz" is an extension of LQ's Performing Arts Center; in which, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization group that is dedicated to enriching and empowering the community with the understanding/appreciation for the Performing Arts. "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz" has been successful at the following past shows/theatres: February 2008 at Harvey Auditorium (Bakersfield, CA); May 2008 at Ed Center (Bakersfield, CA); November 2010 at El Portal (North Hollywood, CA); March 2011 at Steelworkers Auditorium (Fontana, CA); April 2011 at Sturges Center (San Bernardino, CA); May 2011 at K.L. Peters Auditorium (Beverly Hills, CA); May 2012 at West Angeles Performing Arts Theatre (Los Angeles, CA); July 2012 (North Hollywood, CA); December 2012 at CSUB's Dore Theatre (Bakersfield, CA); April 2013 at Martin Luther King High School's Theatre (Riverside, CA); May 2013 at Ramona High's Theatre (Riverside, CA); September 2013 at Rialto High School's Theatre (Rialto, CA); October 2013 at Corona's Historical Civic Auditorium (Corona, CA); and, December 2013 at Cal State Poly Pomona Theatre (Pomona, CA).

About Milner...Not only can the audience be moved by the story displayed upon the stage, but also by the journey traveled behind the dialogue. Milner's 5th grade teacher told her that she didn't know how to write correct English because she would create stories with animals talking, singing, and dancing in them. Instead of embracing her imagination, Milner's teacher would say that Milner couldn't write about things that were unrealistic. For 15 years, Milner had a fear of writing. Then she survived a devastating car accident and decided to make her dream of a Hip-Hop version of The Wizard of Oz become a reality. Milner has graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and has appeared in a national tour, on Broadway, and various shows/plays. Milner later graduated from California State University of Bakersfield with a B.A. of Theatre Arts and then opened up LQ's Performing Arts Center. Now Ms. LaQuette Milner is ready to hit the entertainment industry by storm and inspire others with her hit show "Da' Hip-Hop Wizzard of Oz."

Special Note: A portion of the proceeds collected will be donated to Team Concept; which is a local non-profit girls' sports' program dedicated to developing players who are seriously interested in playing basketball in their future. Team Concept believes in the development of the fundamentals, individual skill level, teamwork, sportsmanship, and the opportunity to succeed, both- on and off the court. Funds collected will be used to help provide support for this wonderful program.