

BLACK IMAGES IN THE MEDIA SYMPOSIUM AND ARTS FESTIVAL

WHAT IS IT: The Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival, sponsored by the University of Houston African American Studies Program was conceived after the recent controversy involving racially insensitive statements by Keith Richards and Don Imus. Afterwards many in the media offered an analysis that blamed Black pop culture for creating a climate that facilitated such statements. While many of us in the African American community feel that this is yet another case of blaming the victim, we do recognize that it is primarily our role to promote positive black images. The Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival aims to do just that. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in discussion, dialogue about African American images as well as celebrate the beauty of our images.

The symposium will be inclusive of some Black America's top scholars who will discuss the historic, current and futuristic issues involving African Americans on stage, in film and in our music. There will also be informative workshops for "industry" professionals on such topics as "Independent Film Production 101", "Strategies to Preserve Stage Theatre" and "How To Get a Record Deal". There will also be a two day film festival featuring the best in film shorts, features, documentaries and music videos. And lastly there are plans for stage plays featuring the best there is to offer.

Please send abstracts to: uofhsymposium@hotmail.com

Please send film submissions to:

Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival
C/o Franklin J Anderson
Africana Studies Program
University of Houston
4800 Calhoun, 632 Agnes Arnold Hall
Houston, Texas 77004

Other highlights will include a networking mixer, spoken word night and an awards banquet featuring a special celebrity guest

WHERE IS IT: The Black Images in the Media Symposium and Arts Festival will be held at the University Hilton Hotel on the campus of the University of Houston in Houston, Texas. The University Hilton is easily accessible from both major airports, Houston Hobby and Intercontinental Airport.

WHEN IS IT: This historic event will be held April 8-11, 2009 A complete schedule of daily events is included.

HOW MUCH IS IT: The workshops and the symposium is free of charge. Ticketed events are as follows: Opening reception/networking social \$15, Thursday night play

\$18, Friday night play \$25, one day film festival pass \$10, both day film festival pass \$15; awards banquet \$50; VIP Pass (good for all events) \$100

WHO SHOULD COME: This is the idea event for filmmakers, stage artist, musical artist, scholars of the arts and all lovers of the performing arts