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**OFF-BROADWAY HIP-HOP MUSICAL, *GHETTO CHRONICLES*, WILL STAR
IN QUEENS COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

***-- Armstrong Museum Tours; Documentary Film Screening; "Talking Quilt" Display;
Lecture and Panel Discussion on Haiti Are Among Other Free Public Events --***

FLUSHING, NY, January 29, 2010 – Following a successful four-year run at over 75 venues – including off-Broadway theaters, middle and high schools -- the soulful hip-hop musical *Ghetto Chronicles* will top the lineup of public events at Queens College in commemoration of Black History Month. The show is a “raw, rare and real” musical journey through the pain and triumphs of inner-city living as told through the stories of eight young, multi-ethnic actors, rappers and singers, including QC alum Britton Saffer, *Class of '07*. Written, produced and directed by world-renowned choreographer Duane Whitley (DWhit), *Ghetto Chronicles* addresses such issues as random violence, invisible fathers, unwed pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, racial intolerance and incarceration, yet ends with an inspiring message of hope. At this performance on February 25, from 6 – 8 pm in LeFrak Concert Hall, a special dance tribute to the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti will also be included.

“*Ghetto Chronicles* is representative of the exciting program of public events we have planned to celebrate the voices of the past, present, and future in African-American history, art and culture,” said Ron Huggins, QC’s Acting Assistant Director of Student Life. “They are sure to entertain, educate and enlighten many people.”

The following events, including *Ghetto Chronicles*, are free and open to the public. All will take place from 12:15 – 1:30 pm. More information is available at <http://qc.cuny.edu/bhm>.

Wednesday, February 3

Documentary film: *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings (1954-1956)*

Highlights of the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King’s contributions.

The film screening will be followed by a discussion with QC alum Yudraj Tiwari, *Class of '09* who’s very knowledgeable about Dr. King’s work and achievements.

Campbell Dome.

Monday, February 8, and Wednesday, February 10:

Creation and Display of “A Talking Quilt,” presented by Queens College Africana Studies

Professor Marjorie Blenman-Roane: Designed to foster tolerance and respect among the diverse

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ethnicities represented at the college, a quilt will be created from pieces of fabric donated by students, staff and faculty that tell stories of family and cultural traditions and beliefs. Included in the finished quilt on display will be traditional Adinkra symbols which were used to express proverbs and philosophical ideas and were stencilled on many African textiles as far back as the 16th century.

Q-Side Lounge -- Dining Hall.

Wednesday, February 17: “The History of Stepping”

Lecture and Performance: Adam Barnes, director of the Stepping School, LLC, will discuss the meaning and origins behind the widely popular and expressive dance phenomenon called “stepping.” Because African-American fraternities in the 1970s have been credited with introducing this dance form, a brief stepping demonstration will be performed by members of fraternities, sororities and clubs.

Patio Room – Dining Hall.

Monday, February 22: “Haiti: The Unknown”

Lecture: Africana Studies Professor Evelyn Julmisse will present a discourse on the unknown story of Haiti and its global influences.

Campbell Dome

Wednesday, February 24

Panel Discussion: Political Science Professor Francois Pierre-Louis will moderate a discussion with members of the QC community who have been directly or indirectly impacted by the devastation of the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Q-Side Lounge – Dining Hall

OTHER EVENTS:

Saturday, February 6, 13, 20, 27; 2 pm

Lectures and Free Guided Tours at the Louis Armstrong House Museum

The Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) will celebrate the contributions of jazz great Louis Armstrong to the Civil Rights Movement with house tours and presentations.

Louis Armstrong was one of the world’s greatest entertainers. He was loved and revered internationally as the father of jazz. He was a genius trumpeter and singer, a goodwill ambassador, charismatic movie star, prolific writer, and talented collage artist. But he was rarely viewed as a civil rights pioneer.

A series of fun, family-friendly events will shed light on the life and legacy of Louis Armstrong, including a look at the many barriers Armstrong broke during his remarkable 50-year career. A guided tour of the house that he shared with his wife, Lucille, for almost 30 years will follow each presentation.

The Louis Armstrong House Museum, administered by Queens College, is located at 34-56 107th Street, Corona, Queens. **Space is limited; advance registration required for all free lectures and tours.** More info: 718-478-8274; www.louisarmstronghouse.org

For directions to and a map of Queens College, please visit <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/welcome/directions/2d/Pages/default.aspx>. The college is located at 65-30 Kissena Blvd. in Flushing, Exit 24 (Kissena Blvd.) on the LIE. It can also be reached by public transportation.