



Promoting creative power in people with disabilities

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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***artsJAM Detroit! WAY* Participates in Michigan's Recent Filming Boom**

**DETROIT, MI: July 22, 2009**— From Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 31, Southeastern Michigan youth will participate in a unique opportunity to learn about Michigan's burgeoning film industry. This three week experience is made possible by *VSA arts of Michigan's* (VSAMI) summer program, *artsJAM Detroit! WAY* (Work Alternatives for Youth). Students are currently working to create the short film, *Dreams: The Musical*, complete with original script, musical composition, and individual interviews with the youth involved in the project.

**The 2009 artsJAM Detroit! WAY film premiere of *Dreams: The Musical* will occur from 6-8pm on Friday, July 31 at the Metropolitan Detroit Boll Family YMCA, located at 1401 Broadway, Detroit, MI 48226. Admission is free and open to the public. However, space is limited and reservations are recommended. To reserve a seat please call 313-832-3303 before July 29.**

Under the direction of VSAMI staff and volunteers, twenty area teens and adults, ranging in age from 15-20 have been selected to participate in the 2009 artsJAM Detroit! WAY program. This program aids young adults in the development of social and professional skills through participation and completion of creative projects. Currently, participants are learning rudimentary skills necessary for film production including story conception, scriptwriting, music composition, acting, directing, choreography, filming, and studio editing.

Project Director for this program is Vic Spicer, Director of Spicer Productions. Local filmmakers John Prusak, of *Digital Arts, Film and Television* (DAFT), and Julie Youngblood partner with locals David Blair (poet, singer/songwriter, musician), Sean Solak (Film/Music intern), and VSAMI teaching artist Walter Lindsay (playwright, actor, director) as members of the creative production team.

**MORE**

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Vision of an inclusive community • Strength in shared resources • Artistic expression that unites us all

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The following Highland Park High School students and alum have been selected to participate in the 2009 program: Martez Brown, Taneisha Theresa Brown, Sierra Burkes, De Angelo Chappell Jr. (09 alum), Shaquille Coleman, Dominique Davis, Ramon Dorr, Ebony Edmonds (09 alum), Davon Lewis, Alphonso Mayberry, Dominique Reid, John Reid, Keith Reid, Marvis Sanders (06 alum), Tyrin Whittaker, and Jessica Young. Also selected from the program are Shameka Finch (09 alum), Pierre Johnson, Nyasha McGurder, and Shaundria Vaughn all from Osborn High School.

artsJAM Detroit! WAY is supported in part by Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and City of Detroit Neighborhood Opportunity Fund.

VSAMI is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA arts was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, and has been designated by the U.S. congress as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities. VSA has 52 affiliates in the U.S. and over 55 international affiliates, and annually serves millions of people worldwide.

VSA arts of Michigan supports its programs and services across the state through grants from national VSA arts under an award from the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education; the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; and through contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals.

For further information, please contact Jessica Guzmán at 313-832-3303, or email [jessica@vsami.org](mailto:jessica@vsami.org).

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