



New
WORLD
Theater



NEW WORLD THEATER

16 Curry Hicks
University of Massachusetts
100 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9267

413.545.1972
Fax 413.545.4414

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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For more information, contact Irene Shaikly at 413.545.9591

Project 2050

DeConstructing Dualities: DeCLASSifying Minds, Understanding VERSatility
with special curtain-raiser by *We Got Issues!*

December 7 and 8

8 pm, Bowker Auditorium, University of Massachusetts Amherst

New WORLD Theater's *Project 2050* bursts onto the stage, this time, addressing issues of duality, difference, and divisions in our societies. As demographics and politics shift, youth find themselves caught between worlds: between childhood and adulthood, between racial or cultural identities, between genders or sexualities, between national borders. *DeConstructing Dualities: DeCLASSifying Minds, Understanding VERSatility* explores the in-between spaces, the double consciousness, the borderlands, and the subliminal zones. In a world where dualities are often exploited, how do these identities divide or unite us? What happens at the intersection of class, race and gender? How do issues such as immigration and the increased patrolling of borders affect our families and communities? Through poetry, Hip Hop and theater, *Project 2050* breaks down barriers and binaries to embrace multiplicity and celebrate versatility!

PROJECT 2050 is New WORLD Theater's youth initiative: a multi-year exploration of the year when it is projected that people of color will become the majority in the United States. Addressing the issues compelled by these changing demographics, the project engages professional artists, youth communities, scholars, and community activists in civic dialogue and artistic creation. The project promotes the creative imagining of a near-future when it will become imperative to address issues of race construction, ethnic balkanization, social equity, and power.

SPECIAL CURTAIN RAISER

A special curtain-raiser for this event is a performance excerpt from *We Got Issues! A Young Women's Guide to a Bold, Courageous, and Empowered Life* by Rha Goddess and JLove Calderón. *We Got Issues!* is a provocative, moving presentation of the 10 most pressing issues facing young women today—in the tradition of the *Vagina Monologues*.

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In 2004, Rha Goddess, JLove Calderon, and the “*We Got Issues*” team traveled the country gathering rants from more than 1,000 young women, from Rikers Island to the Republican National Convention. *We Got Issues* showcases a diverse range of these rants, poetry pieces, and essays—with each chapter focusing on one of ten issues, from money and racism to sexuality and relationships. The visions, songs, movements, and battle-cries of young women have the power to preserve, repair and protect families, communities and the globe, yet this power is often hidden behind unspoken personal and political issues. *We Got Issues!* is designed to encourage young women’s leadership by tapping into the transformative power of creative expression, and unleashing the voice of a new feminine generation.

Project 2050’s DeConstructing Dualities: DeClassifying Minds, Understanding VERSatility with the special curtain raiser by *We Got Issues*, will be presented on Thursday, December 7 and Friday December 8, 2006 at 8:00 pm in Bowker Auditorium in Stockbridge Hall at the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus. Tickets for the general audience are \$15; \$8 for seniors and low income patrons; and \$5 for students with valid I.D. For tickets and information, please call 1.800.999.UMASS. For more information about New WORLD Theater, please visit us on the web at www.newworldtheater.org or call us at 413.545.1972

ABOUT NEW WORLD THEATER

New WORLD Theater is a regional arts leader with a national and international reputation as a visionary cultural institution dedicated to producing and presenting theatrical works by artists of color. We present high-quality theater that serves to educate, enliven and empower our diverse, broad-based audience and to foster a creative network of professional and community participants.

A program of the Fine Arts Center of the University of Massachusetts, New WORLD Theater has redefined the role of the arts in higher learning. It has purposely blurred the lines between professional and community, the arts and politics, scholarship and activism. For over two decades NWT has created, through arts-based grassroots organizing, a practice of creative collaborations with communities throughout Western Massachusetts. We have cultivated what many call the "new American audience", reflecting both onstage and in the audience, the realities, visions and dreams of intersecting communities.

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