

Shakespeare Hip Hop



Bakesta King at the 2013 Oregon Shakespeare Festival Hip Hop Open Mic. King stars in the company's current production of 'The Comedy of Errors,' which is set during the Harlem Renaissance. Photo by Jenny Graham, Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival hosts three free Hip-Hop Poetry Open Mic events this spring on March 10, April 7 and May 5, each from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Black Swan, 15 S. Pioneer St., Ashland. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; space is limited. In addition to inviting the community onstage to share their talents in poetry, music, dance, and theater,

each night will highlight a different featured artist: the Q Brothers on March 10, Samiya Bashir on April 7 and Los Portenos on May 5. The first featured artists of the three-event series are the Q Brothers. Musicians, actors, writers, educators, and DJ's, GQ and JQ created and starred in the award-winning, internationally-acclaimed productions, "Othello: The Remix" and "Funk It Up About Nothin'" — both musical, hip hop "add-RAP-tations" of Shakespeare's classics. OSF has commissioned the Q Brothers to create a contemporary language, hip-hop version of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," a commission made possible by a grant from the Hitz Foundation. These events are open to the community, providing an opportunity to work on original material in front of live and deeply supportive audiences. OSF has been producing poetry slams and open mics since 2007. For more information go to www.osfashland.org and look on Facebook for Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Oregon Shakespeare Festival Green Show.

Zola Mumford, curator at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, participates in Pecha Kucha Night at the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle, Feb. 27 on the topic of Afrofuturism. The event featured some of Seattle's leading artists and visionaries presenting their ideas using the format of Pecha Kucha, a presentation style that incorporates 20 slides for 20 seconds each (six minutes and 40 seconds in total), keeping the presentations brief and fast-paced. Other guest speakers were Saheed Adejumo, Donald Byrd, Sandra Jackson-Dumont, Charles Mudede, Zola Mumford, Ahamefule J. Oluo, Cristina Orbé, and Okanomodé Soulchilde and Barbara Earl Thomas.



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