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RESIDENCY WEBSITE & VIDEOS: www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcos
www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcosvideos

PHOTOS & DETAILED BIOS: UW-Madison Box folder:
https://uwmadison.box.com/s/piqmfzt054zqylpzcj8c2hg7l6nwg4w7

Google Drive folder:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6fScjurxGCLfmpmZzkzN0JHTXZaSTRNTXBZRzVicm5XQmx6aEd4bmZkV2Z6NW42LWRETHM

BREAKING BARRIERS MENTORING CONTACT: Minister Caliph Amiri Muab’El | Executive Director | caliphm@breakingbarrierswi.org | (608) 566-6773

December 8, 2015 - Final event and celebration of UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Artist in Residence, Juan de Marcos.

Includes Juan de Marcos, his students and School of Music ensembles along with guest artists Kurtis Blow and Madison’s Schools Got Talent Finalists

MADISON, Wis— The last event of the fall 2015 Juan de Marcos González residency will take place on December 8 at the Frederic March Play Circle in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union. This culminating event will be a celebration of Juan de Marcos residency’s impact while in Wisconsin. Over the past semester, there have been 15 residency and partner events ranging from performances to lectures that have celebrated culture and music from Cuba. Many videos from the residency are currently on-line at www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcosvideos.

During the evening, performances by UW-Madison students will highlight Juan de Marcos’ teaching throughout the semester. Three students from Juan de Marcos’ “Music Production: Afro-Cuban and Hip Hop Music” course will present original material and the School of Music’s Jazz Orchestra, Latin Jazz Ensemble and World Percussion Ensemble will perform musical compositions written by Juan de Marcos.
In addition, the UW-Madison Arts Institute, the School of Music and the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) within the Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement are partnering with Breaking Barriers Mentoring, Inc. and many other community organizations and supporters, including Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, to bring legendary hip hop artist, Kurtis Blow, for a guest appearance and the top three finalists of the Madison’s Schools Got Talent competition to perform on campus.

Due to extremely limited seating (visitors should plan on arriving early), the event will be live streamed and additional seating will be available in the Memorial Union’s Der Rathskeller.

The live stream will be available at www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcosvideos.

December 8, 2015 | 7:30pm | Free event

- Frederic March Play Circle, Memorial Union | 800 Langdon Street, Madison
- Limited Seating | General admission - first come, first serve (encouraged arrival time: 7:15pm)
- Live streamed at website: www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcosvideos
- Overflow seating in Memorial Union’s Der Rathskeller

Performances by:
- Students from the production course (including some from OMAI’s First Wave program)
- School of Music's Jazz Orchestra, Latin Jazz Ensemble and World Percussion Ensemble
- Top three high school finalists of Madison’s Schools Got Talent competition

Appearances by:
- Juan de Marcos, legendary Cuban musician
- Kurtis Blow, legendary hip hop artist and first rapper to be signed to a major label

BIOGRAPHIES (JUAN DE MARCOS & KURTIS BLOW):

Juan de Marcos González: www.afrocubanallstarsonline.com/eng/bio/

During the Arts Institute’s residency, notable Cuban artists and groups including Afro-Cuban All Stars, Telmary Díaz, Pellejo Seco and musical members of his family (who also are part of Afro-Cuban All Stars) performed in Madison. Juan de Marcos González presented numerous lectures on the history of Cuban music and taught a lecture course called “Afro-Cuban Music: Roots, Jazz, Hip Hop” and a production course “Music Production: Afro-Cuban and Hip Hop Music.”

Juan de Marcos (given and stage name) González (family name) was born in Havana, Cuba and grew up surrounded by music. As a musician, composer and producer, it is his mission to showcase the wealth, diversity and vitality of Afro-Cuban music to the world. Through his work with the Afro-Cuban All Stars, the Buena Vista Social Club, Rubén González, Ibrahim Ferrer, Sierra Maestra and others, he has made an extraordinary
contribution to raising the profile of Cuban music throughout the world. He has been nominated for a Latin Billboard Award and multiple times for Grammy Awards. A Grammy and WOMEX Award winner, Juan de Marcos has arranged, conducted, produced/co-produced and/or performed on more than twenty-five albums.

**Kurtis Blow**

Kurtis Blow is one of the founders and creators of recorded rap. He is credited with many firsts, including being the first rapper to: be signed to a major label – Mercury Records (at the age of 20), have a gold album “The Breaks,” tour U.S. and Europe, record a national commercial, appear in a soap opera and more. One of his first hits was “Christmas Rappin,” which sold over 400,000 copies and became an annual classic.

Kurtis released 10 albums in over 10 years with many of his albums and/or tracks becoming top hits. He coordinated the song “King Holiday” with Dexter Scott King to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday, which included collaborations with Whitney Houston, New Edition, Stephanie Mills, El Debarge, James “JT” Taylor of Kool & the Gang, The Fat Boys, Run DMC and more. Throughout his prolific musical career he has worked with top Hip Hop and R&B artists and has toured worldwide including to Armed Forces Bases in the Middle East.

Besides his musical career, he has also acted in/produced several movies including “Krush Groove” and “Rhyme and Reason.” Kurtis is also an activist and speaks out against racism and drug use. In 2009, he became an ordained minister after studying theology at NYACK College. He is a co-founder of the Hip Hop Church and is involved with many of them across the nation.

**FALL 2015 RESIDENCY & EVENT SPONSORS**

**Residency:**  [www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcos](http://www.go.wisc.edu/juandemarcos)

The Juan de Marcos González’s residency is presented by the UW-Madison Arts Institute and is hosted by the School of Music and the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) within the Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement. OMAI proposed the Juan de Marcos residency to coincide with the program’s 10th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Johannes Wallmann, Director of Jazz Studies for UW-Madison School of Music, is the lead faculty member for the residency.

His residency is cosponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Afro-American Studies Department; Department of Art History; Dance Department; Art Department; Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program; and A.E. Havens Center for the Study of Social Justice. Additional campus support is provided by the Anonymous Fund, Division of Continuing Studies and Wisconsin Union Theater. Community partners include the Greater Madison Jazz Consortium, Cardinal, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission (Dane Arts), the Madison Arts Commission, 100state and the Overture Center. Media support is provided by The Cap Times. The Art Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program is made possible by funding from the UW-Madison Office of the Provost.
Event Sponsors:

**UW-Madison School of Music ensembles:** [www.music.wisc.edu/student-ensembles](http://www.music.wisc.edu/student-ensembles)

**UW Jazz Orchestra.** Director - Johannes Wallmann

The UW Jazz Orchestra performs music ranging from classical big band repertoire to contemporary and cutting-edge concert jazz music by today's leading jazz composers.

**UW Latin Jazz Ensemble.** Director - Eric Siereveld

The Latin Jazz Ensemble performs music of the Latin-American diaspora with an emphasis on the rhythmic traditions of Cuba.

**The World Percussion Ensemble.** Directors – Tom Ross & Anthony Di Sanza

The World Percussion Ensemble is dedicated to the performance and research of significant percussive styles and traditions from around the globe including Cuba, Brazil, India and the Middle East.

**Breaking Barriers Mentoring, Inc.** | [www.breakingbarriersmentoring.org](http://www.breakingbarriersmentoring.org)

The mission of Breaking Barriers is to empower youth facing societal barriers by nurturing diverse mentoring relationships and community support. Breaking Barriers cultivates the core talents and interests of youth to maximize their personal potential and create community leadership. The overall goal is to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline in the Dane County Area through Solid Ground Support Program, which is designed to avert troubled youth from street life, gang affiliation and prison.

Breaking Barriers Mentoring, Inc., organized Kurtis Blow’s visit. While in the Madison area, Kurtis Blow will meet with a select group of students in the Madison Metropolitan School District and the top three finalists of *Madison’s Schools Got Talent* competition. He has provided a lot of in-kind support for the competition.

**Madison’s Schools Got Talent**

This is the first year of *Madison’s Schools Got Talent* competition. Minister Caliph Amiri Mu’Ab’El of Breaking Barriers (and CEO of Forever We Shine Records) along with tutors (Pearl Frye Joplin and Raquel MacSwain) at Verona Area Tech High School created the competition as a way to provide minority youth with unique opportunities and incentives through the context and culture of hip hop, especially its historical role of bringing culture and community together through music. The three finalists of the competition, chosen by a panel of eight judges, will perform at the December 8 event. The first place winner will receive a recording deal with BaldHead Kingpin Ent., over 20 hours of free studio time, free music, mixing, mastering, and support from Forever We Shine records in songwriting. All three finalists will receive a cash prize and an award.

Additional support for the competition includes the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and Michael Johnson (President and CEO), First Unitarian Society, BaldHead
Kingpin Ent., LessWork, Kojo Productions, Prison Ministry Project, Forever We Shine Records, Gadi Ben Dan, Tim Cordon and Kurtis Blow along with UW-Madison Arts Institute and OMAI.

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**UW-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute has hosted the artists in residence since 1995 and formally launched the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program (IARP) in 1999. The IARP enables the Arts Institute to support extended residencies for the benefit of all arts departments and programs of the UW-Madison through its interdepartmental and interdisciplinary approach. While in residence, artists teach an interdisciplinary course for university credit, present at least one free public event and participate in community outreach activities. The program gives students exposure to working artists, provides course credit and strengthens programmatic ties among individual departments, programs and other campus and community arts entities. The program also provides opportunities for the community to meet and exchange ideas with world-renowned artists.

To learn more, please visit: [www.go.wisc.edu/artsresidency](http://www.go.wisc.edu/artsresidency)

**UW-Madison Arts Institute Overview – “The Voice of the Arts”**

As a division of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Arts Institute speaks for and on behalf of the collective voice and vision of the arts. We advance the arts as an invaluable resource to a vital university, and we promote all forms of artistic expression, experience, and interpretation as fundamental paths to engaging and understanding our world. The Institute’s programs and initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program, the Madison Early Music Festival, the Wisconsin Film Festival and the Arts on Campus website.

Arts Institute: [www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu](http://www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu)
Arts on Campus (arts calendar): [www.arts.wisc.edu](http://www.arts.wisc.edu)
Social Media: [@uwmadisonarts](https://twitter.com/uwmadisonarts) (facebook, [instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com) and [twitter](https://twitter.com))

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