

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Fanshen Cox

Phone: 310-712-1632

Email: mixedchicks@yahoo.com

Website: www.mixedrootsfilmandliteraryfestival.org

MIXED ROOTS FILM & LITERARY FESTIVAL

HOSTED BY MIXED CHICKS CHAT

JUNE 12-14, 2008, AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

(Los Angeles, CA) The Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival will be held at the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles (369 East First Street), June 12-June 14, 2008, **celebrating storytelling of the Mixed racial and cultural experience** including that of transracial/cultural adoption and interracial/cultural relationships.

The Festival, hosted by Mixed Chicks Chat, is an inclusive event targeting the growing population of multiracial and multicultural individuals. The Festival brings together film and book lovers, innovative artists, and families interested in the Mixed racial and cultural experience.

Today, 7 percent of all marriages are interracial, according to the Census. More than 6.8 million individuals identify as Mixed.

The Festival highlights include:

Acclaimed author **Rebecca Walker** will present the Opening Address for the kick-off Loving Day party, celebrating the Supreme Court decision which affirmed the right of people of different races to marry, on June 12, 2008 at 7pm. DJ Life and DJ Vika spin decades of dance floor classics. The party is held in conjunction with the 1000-person New York City Loving Day celebration hosted by Loving Day (www.lovingday.org) and World Up.

Hapa artist and filmmaker **Kip Fulbeck** will receive the Festival's inaugural Loving Prize for his dedication to inspirational storytelling of the Mixed experience during the Friday night Award Presentation.

TV actress **Kim Wayans** (*In Living Color*) and **Sundee Frazier**, recipient of the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award, will read from their children's books *Amy Hodgepodge*

and *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It* during a Multiracial Family Playgroup hosted by iPride.

The Festival includes author readings by: novelist Susan Straight (*A Million Nightingales* Pantheon); memoirist Lori Tharps (*Kinky Gazpacho: Life, Love & Spain* Simon & Schuster); poet Neil Aitken (Winner of the Philip Levine Prize, *The Lost Country of Sight*, Anhinga Press forthcoming); and non-fiction writer Kim-Marie Walker (*Zebras from Heaven: Celebrating Interethnic Relationships*) among others.

The Festival will also screen a series of acclaimed films including: Octavio Warnock-Graham's award-winning documentary *Silences*, Yohei Suzuki's documentary *Our Pride: The Spirits of Black Japanese in Georgia*, and Danish journalist Alex Frank Larsen's documentary *Slaves in the Family*.

Mixed Unplugged: Live Performance of the Mixed Experience highlights the work of several talented comedians, and performers including: Joe Hernandez-Kolski, Esther Friedman, Maya Lilly, Warren Hutcherson, Joshua RKB Silverstein, and Kaypri, on Friday night immediately following the *Loving Prize Presentation* at 7:30pm.

A special one-hour panel, *Growing up Betwixt and Between*, on Saturday, June 14 at 12:45pm will feature writer, producer and cultural activist Jordan Elgrably of the *Levantine Cultural Center*, journalist and author Elliott Lewis (*Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America*), and best-selling writer Angela Nissel (*Mixed: My Life in Black and White*). Michelle Maltais of the *Los Angeles Times* will moderate.

The *Association of MultiEthnic Americans* (AMEA) hosts a reception Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 5pm, where the scholarship winner of the first AMEA/Biracial Family Network (BFN) will be announced. Media Aid Center students will interview guests for a documentary in celebration of AMEA's 20th Anniversary, and bid in silent auction.

Multiracial Americans of Southern California (MASC) hosts a moderated panel discussion featuring an array of multiracial community figures covering the issues of youth, parenting, activism, and scholarship, Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 6pm.

Crossing the Line: Multiracial Comedians (producers Teja Arboleda and Darby Li Po Price), a celebrated feature documentary, will close the Festival on June 14, 2008, at 7pm.

All the events are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. On-line registration is now open at www.mixedrootsfilmamliteraryfestival.org.

Festival sponsors include: Japanese American National Museum; Levantine Cultural Center; From the Heart Productions; Sweets for the Soul; Subway; The Cheesecake Factory ; and Trader Joe's.

Festival partners include: Association for MultiEthnic Americans; Multiracial Americans of Southern California; iPride; Loving Day, Mixed Chicks (hair products), The Topaz Club.



Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival 2008 Schedule

June 12-14, 2008

All events Free

Japanese American National Museum
363 East First Street L.A., CA
www.mixedrootsfilmandliteraryfestival.org

Thursday, June 12

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Check-in & Registration Boeing Company Lobby
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Loving Day Celebration Opening Address: Rebecca Walker DJs Life and Vika Democracy Forum

Friday, June 13

9:15 am - 10:00 am	Check-in & Registration Boeing Company Lobby	
10:15 am - 11:15 am	<i>Democracy Lab</i> <i>New Media 101: Creating an Online Show</i> Zadi Diaz	<i>National Center Conference Room</i> <i>Screenwriting & Personal Storytelling</i> Dawn Wilkinson
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	<i>National Center Conference Room</i> <i>Putting Transracial Adoptions First: Moving Beyond the Mixed Race Community</i> Lisa Marie Rollins	<i>Democracy Forum</i> <i>Race-centric Baggage R U Ready to Lighten Ur Load?</i> Kim-Marie Walker
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	BREAK Informational and Vendor Tables Boeing Company Lobby	
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<i>Democracy Lab</i> Literary Readings Cassandra Love, poetry Neil Aitken, poetry Jennifer Lisa Vest, poetry Terry Culpepper, fiction Jason Sublette, fiction Kim-Marie Walker, memoir Lori Tharps, memoir	<i>Democracy Forum</i> Short Film Screenings <i>My People Are . . . Youth Pride in Mixed Heritage</i> dir. Aarin Burch <i>Silences</i> dir. Octavio Warnock-Graham <i>Our Pride: The Spirits of Black Japanese in Georgia</i> dir. Yohei Suzuki <i>Secret Asian Woman</i> dir. Dmae Roberts <i>A Single Rose</i> dir. Hanelle Culpepper <i>Nigel's Fingerprint</i> dir. Amy McConnell <i>The Pendulum</i> dir. Justin Bradshaw <i>The Touch</i> dir. Jane Clark <i>On My Skin</i> dir. Amy André
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	BREAK	
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<i>Democracy Forum</i> Loving Prize Presentation: Kip Fulbeck Mixed Unplugged: Live Performance of the Mixed Experience	

Saturday, June 14

9:15 am - 10:00 am	Check-in & Registration Boeing Company Lobby	
10:00 am - 11:15 am	<i>Democracy Lab</i> <i>iPride Family Event: Sundee Frazier & Kim Waynans Reading & Multiracial Playgroup</i>	<i>National Center Conference Room</i> <i>The Process of Writing a Solo Show</i> Esther Friedman (10:15am-11:15am)
11:15 am - 12:30 pm	<i>Democracy Forum</i> <i>iPride Family Event: Film Screening & Discussion</i> <i>My People Are . . . Youth Pride in Mixed Heritage</i>	<i>National Center Conference Room</i> <i>Crafting the Multicultural Memoir: Mining the Mixed Experience for Universal Appeal</i> Lori Tharps (11:30am-12:30pm)
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Informational and Vendor Tables <i>Boeing Company Lobby</i>	
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	Brown Bag Lunch Discussion: Growing Up Betwixt & Between: Writers Jordan Elgrably, Elliott Lewis, Angela Nissel Moderator: Michelle Maltais <i>Democracy Lab</i>	
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<i>Democracy Lab</i> Literary Readings Cassandra Love, poetry Allison Hart, poetry Neil Aitken, poetry Jennifer Lisa Vest, poetry Terry Culpepper, fiction Lori Tharps, memoir Kim-Marie Walker, memoir Jason Sublette, fiction Sundee Frazier, fiction Susan Straight, fiction	<i>Democracy Forum</i> Film Screenings <i>Silences</i> dir. Octavio Warnock-Graham <i>Slaves in the Family (Slavernes Slaegt): Part 1</i> dir. Alex Frank Larsen <i>NoHo, PA</i> dir. Dawn Green <i>Slaves in the Family (Slavernes Slaegt): Part 2</i> dir. Alex Frank Larsen
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	<i>Boeing Company Lobby/Democracy Lab/Democracy Forum</i> Reception presented by Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA) Multigenerational Mixed Roots Community Dialogue presented by Multiracial Americans of Southern California (MASC)	
7:00 pm - 8:40 pm	<i>Democracy Forum</i> Feature Film Screening: <i>Crossing the Line: Multiracial Comedians</i>	
8:40 pm - 9:00 pm	<i>Democracy Forum</i> Closing Remarks	