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"MLK in a Hip Hop World" presented at *Giving Voice: The Power of Words in African American Culture* at the 43rd Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Who/What: The Asante Touring Company, a subsidiary of the Asante Children's Theatre (ACT), is invited to perform in the 43rd Annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, an internationally-known annual outdoor event. The annual festival takes place outdoors on The National Mall amongst other nationally recognized historic icons such as the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian Institute. More than 1 million visitors from all around the world attend this free event which highlights some of the best of African American oral traditions and verbal arts.

Rooted and grounded in the civil rights era, "MLK in a Hip Hop World" allows audiences to observe dramatic scenes through the lens of the hip-hop generation. We are reminded that hip-hop is not just a form of music but an undeniable social movement.

"MLK in a Hip Hop World" examines the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., contemplates his work and lifts his legacy to the rhythm and pulse of the streets and is a fitting addition to the 43rd Smithsonian Folklife Festival. "MLK" reminds viewers of Dr. King's history and philosophy through a cultural perspective that has influenced our progress as a diverse nation.

"MLK in a Hip Hop World" is an original theatre piece written and performed by ACT alumni and Asante Touring Company members Jocque "Coosto" Carey, Cleo "The Dark Knight" House, Vincent "LL" Jordan and "King" David Orr, under the direction of Deborah Asante, Founder and Artistic Director. "MLK in a Hip Hop World" will be presented at *Giving Voice: The Power of Words in African American Culture*, and is produced by The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

When: Asante Touring Company Performance Dates: July 1-5, 2009
2009 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Dates: June 24-28 and July 1-5, 2009

Where: FMI: The National Mall, Washington D.C., USA.
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc70.htm>
FMI: The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, <http://www.festival.si.edu>.

Tickets: Free admission