

many voices, one movement



FIRST GENERATION

performing arts and youth leadership

A newsletter for ensemble, families and friends of First Generation

JULY 2011

RIPPLE EFFECT

At KO FESTIVAL OF PERFORMANCE! July 29th-31st

KO Festival, in Amherst, MA, is an annual summer festival that brings together performances selected from across the nation!

First Generation ensemble is in a one-week artistic residency on Amherst College campus at the festival and will be performing RIPPLE EFFECT three times.

Holden Theatre, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

Email Ticket Reservations: info@kofest.com

Online ticket sales: <http://www.kofest.com>

Box Office (Cash & Checks only): (413) 542-3750

RIPPLE EFFECT transports audiences from Springfield, MA to a U.S. army base, a refugee camp in Tanzania, and a Nepali family and their struggle for recognition.

RIPPLE EFFECT spans four languages and three continents. The ensemble shares their jounries, stories of family and communities, fantasy worlds, and dreams for the future.



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First Gen is Doing it Again!

UBUNTU Mentoring the Next Generation

First Generation members are employed as Apprentice Teachers in our Ubuntu Summer Arts Program at Rebecca M. Johnson School where they are teaching and mentoring 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Ubuntu was collaboratively developed by Dr. Edison Santana, James Arana and Julie Lichtenberg. This year's teachers are: Janet Aalfs, Jonathan Delgado, Celia Hilson, Julissa Rodriguez and Kevin Sharpe. "A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others and does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed."

-Desmond Tutu

GRADUATIONS! GRADUATIONS! GRADUATIONS!

Congratulations Deepika Adhikari and Jamari Mamirakiza!



THANK YOU! *Thank you to all our friends, families, and community supporters for all your efforts. We are immensely grateful for your encouragement, talents, time and participation. Thanks to our FANTASTIC SUMMER INTERNS Toriana Jones, Gloria Jimenez and Alejandra Cuellar, and to Tim Garrity for his vision and generosity in beginning Bossy Sprout and to Joanna Walker for brilliance in the office. As always, we thank Reza and Tiger Press for their continued support and partnership.*



HIGHLIGHTS APRIL-JULY!



First Generation has been very busy! In the past months First Generation youth have:

- Re-worked *Ripple Effect* script
- Held a successful Benefit at Northampton Center for the Arts
- Taught a workshop at Brattleboro Union HS, Vermont
- Performed at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts HS
- Participated in an Undoing Racism® workshop
- Saw Pilobolus and *Body Politics* at UMASS

BOSSY SPROUT!

Bossy Sprout is an exciting initiative conceived by inspired volunteer Tim Garrity. The Performance Project is currently accepting donations of used computers, monitors, printers and accessories (4 yrs old max). Tim is refurbishing them for First Generation youth who don't have a computer at home. Any extra donated computers will also be refurbished and sold, with 100% of the proceeds going to support the First Generation Youth Program.

To donate and support First Generation youth please contact Tim at (617) 980-9620 or northwoodsco@gmail.com.

Recovering from the Tornado

When two First Generation families had their home destroyed by the recent tornado in Springfield, we joined forces with Boston poet Charles Coe to put out a call for support. All money collected from June 2nd through July 15th was donated to their household. After almost a month of living in a FEMA shelter, the two families finally moved into their new homes.



Thanks to all those who donated money, these families can begin building their lives again. We thank you all for your generosity,

**I give a piece of my heart
and soul to you
Don't take that for granted
My writing
My sanctuary
Where I dwell in silence
And my sense of self
I have faith that some day
My voice will be
heard and recognized
My writing and my stories
are going to reach out
And change lives
Possibly change the world**

-Taja Wiggins

Generaciones: Cuerpo, Mente, Alma y Cultura

by: Nsabimana Hawa

Generaciones: Cuerpo, Mente, Alma y Cultura, a program of The Performance Project is a group of teenage young ladies who live in the North End of Springfield, Massachusetts seeking to recognize Latina women activists who also are from the North End, and have come together to create a mural dedicated to them. Directed by Señora Julissa Rodriguez, who herself is a Latina activist, the group is working on

the mural which is on three wooden panels at Chestnut Accelerated Middle School. For several months, the members of Generaciones have been interviewing North End women activists to collect information about what those activists have done in and for their community. The members of Generaciones currently in the group are the following: Nsabimana Hawa, Linda, Letti, and Germarys, Julie Lichtenberg (the director's assistant) and, of course, Julissa Rodriguez, the director.



This program is supported by the Springfield Cultural Council and the Northampton Arts Council.

First Generation is an intensive, arts and youth leadership program in Springfield, Massachusetts that provides a platform for young people to have a public voice in their community, and beyond.

The Performance Project creates theater about oppression and liberation. Through our multi-generational collaborations we examine the effects of racism, economic oppression, bigotry, and violence, and create compelling works of theater, movement, and spoken-word. Our performances engage audiences in dialogue about critical social and cultural issues.