



Pepatíán Hip-Hop Academy

WOMEN IN HIP-HOP REP THE BRONX

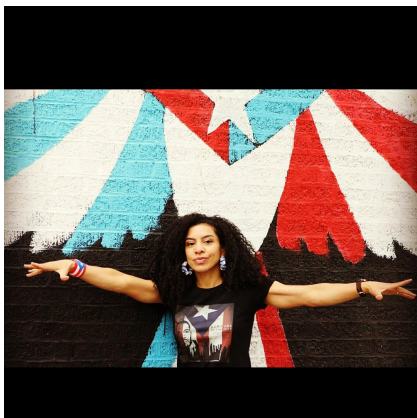
1st annual showcase

co-curated by **Caridad De La Luz aka La Bruja and Rokafella**

CO-CURATORS



Caridad De La Luz (she/her), aka La Bruja, is a multi-faceted performer named in the “Top 20 Puerto Rican Women Everyone Should Know” (La Respuesta). Known as a “Bronx Living Legend,” Caridad received a Citation of Merit from the Bronx Borough President and The Edgar Allan Poe Award from The Bronx Historical Society. She has performed at The Apollo, Lincoln Center, Gracie Mansion, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, City Hall in New York City and international venues. Since her 1996 debut performance at the famed Nuyorican Poets Café, she hosts Monday Night Open Mics, and was a lead in the successful Off Broadway musical “I LIKE IT LIKE THAT.” Caridad was awarded a 2019-21 Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, and is cultivating her own art space in the Soundview area of The Bronx called “El Garaje,” and creating a new full-evening length work, “From Poor to Rico.” caridaddelaluz.com



Ana “Rokafella” Garcia (she/her) - NYC-born and raised, B-Girl Rokafella is known internationally for her Break dance mastery. With fellow breaker and husband Kwikstep, Rokafella founded and performs with the non-profit hip-hop dance company Full Circle Souljahs to empower young dancers through the positive power of hip-hop. As a multi-faceted creative force, she has acted in the film “On the Outs” and the choreo-play “SHE,” directed and produced the documentary film “All The Ladies Say” with multiple showings and public conversations with the artists, created Hip hop choreography for Hamlet at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's 70th Anniversary, modeled for Athleta, and in the Netflix series The Get Down, Rokafella was in the third episode. In 2016, she performed with the House of Ninja for DANCE PARADE, and was featured in the PBS documentary series, Makers. As a singer, La

Roka, is well-rooted in Hip-hop and Afro Latin rhythms, and recently composed a Gospel version of Jimmy Castor's "Just Begun," offering another empowering message of possibilities. fullcirclesouljahs.com alltheladiessay.com

EMCEES



Nejma Nefertiti is a Hip Hop artist, sound designer, creator of natural perfumes, and streetwear architect. She is a daughter of many lands, from Iran, to North Africa, to Indigenous American roots. Nejma Nefertiti is an Art Equals Politics, social justice educator, utilizing Hip Hop and technology as cultural weapons to empower, uplift, inspire, and unite, both youth and elders, the oppressed, and for the freedom of all political prisoners. Her music is featured on Shade 45's "Rap Is Outta Control" with DJ Eclipse, Chuck D's "AndYouDon'tStop" radio show, the Ronsha Mix Boom Bap Show, The LotMix Show, the ThermalSoundwaves Show, and Tongue Akrobatics on Radio Darmstadt. She was a featured performer in Nona Hendryx's annual Rock Solid Women's Festival: Celebrating Women in Art & Music, and Toshi Reagon's Word*Rock*Sword: A Festival Exploration of Women's Lives. Nejma Nefertiti has worked with hip-hop pioneer Louis "Breakbeat Lou" Flores, is a core member of the ASCAP award-winning, multi-lingual jazz band, The Afro Yaqui Music Collective, and collaborates with artists from La Bruja, to Napoleon Da Legend, to several international artists. Her theater work includes Marina Celander's solo show "Mermaid's Howl," Caridad "La Bruja" De La Luz's adult

comedy cabaret, "The Bru HA HA," "The Migrant Liberation Movement Suite" with The Afro Yaqui Music Collective, and "Shooter" by Y?. She has performed in places such as The Kennedy Center, SOB's, The Nuyorican Poets Cafe, The Blue Note Jazz Club, The Apache Cafe, City of Asylum, and has traveled to Venezuela, Iraq, and Mexico. <http://nejmanefertiti.com>



NeNe Ali has a passion for the healing power of words and the ability to deliver mind-blowing performances. NeNe has become a headline artist and has performed at many venues throughout the northeast and midwestern United States. Ms. Ali captures her audience with a certain magical force all her own. After each performance Ali gets nothing less than a standing ovation and walks away with the inspiration to continue to make this world a better place. neneali1.com/biography

DANCE



Jennifer "Beasty" Acosta was born and raised in the Soundview section of the Bronx, New York with her Puerto Rican family where she began dancing at the early age of three. Jennifer was exposed to Hip-Hop, House, Beatbox and Salsa watching her dad, uncles, aunts and cousins at annual gatherings. Her passion for dance grew in at the age of 13, performed in various middle school and high school talent shows, competitions, and battles. She trained and performed with NYC dance non-profit organizations including Full Circle Souljahs, Rhythm City and KR3T's. Her signature style consists of blending old school and new style dance trends. She is proficient in many styles including Break dancing, Street Jazz, Contemporary, Salsa, and African dance. Jennifer has taught dance classes/workshops to students of all ages in different levels from beginners, intermediate, and advanced for 8 years in after school programs including Lehman H.S, Bronx Academy H.S, St Mary's Recreation center, Apollo Arts education program, NJPAC Arts Ed, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance also the New Settlement Dance Program for Girls. She has performed for major recording artists such as Jim Jones, Gail Scott, Ludacris, Shannon and for independent artists such as Sander Van Doorne, Mala Reignz, Lalo the Don, Meecho da don, La Roka, and Cat Manturuk.

As a runway model, she worked New York Men's Fashion week in 2018 and the 2019 New York Fashion Week with Design Artist Jahnkoy for Puma. She went on tour and performed with choreographer Cat Manturak and the Dance-Catalyst company at the 2018 Detroit City Dance Festival where she danced and was featured as a Beatboxer. Newspapers such as The Detroit Metro Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post and Vogue online magazine have featured her mastery and stage presence during her various appearances. She balances her career with motherhood seamlessly while inspiring other young dancers to focus on the performance process while nurturing their artistic voice. Currently she is developing creative content for future projects and planning to give back to her community with her many talents. [instagram.com/jen_beasty88/](https://www.instagram.com/jen_beasty88/)



Janice Tomlinson was born and raised in the Bronx. She graduated from CUNY Hunter College with a baccalaureate degree in Biology and Dance. Janice has a dance background in hip-hop, West African, reggae, dancehall, jazz, ballet, contemporary, and modern. She also trained and performed abroad in Spain and Switzerland. In addition, she has presented her own choreographic works at BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Triskelion Arts, Alvin Ailey Studios, Peridance's Salvatore Capezio Theater, STEPS on Broadway Studio Theater, and Dance New Amsterdam. https://www.instagram.com/janice_tomlinson/

Photos: Caridad De La Luz, courtesy of the artist; Rokafella, Don Lalo; Nejma Nefertiti, courtesy of the artist; Nene Ali, systesmedia; Jennifer Acosta, courtesy of the artist; Janice Tomlinson, AK47 Division.

Women in Hip-Hop Rep The Bronx

A documentary video project about four up-and-coming Emcees and Dance Artists - Jennifer "Beasty" Acosta, Nene Ali, Nejma Nefertiti, Janice Tomlinson- who all make work in The Bronx.

Project Mentors and Co-Curators Caridad De La Luz/La Bruja and Rokafella invited these artists to engage with teaching and showcase opportunities.

This project was produced by Pepatián at community centers throughout the Bronx: Bronx Music Heritage Center, New Settlement Program for Girls & Young Women, The Point, and WHEDCo's South Bronx Early College Academy.

Video documentation and editing: Loreto Jamlig, Photo: Marisol Diaz-Gordon.

Pepatián's Hip-Hop Academy began in The Bronx in 2004-05 from a desire to support the development of Hip-Hop in its birthplace by connecting local professional teaching artists/entrepreneurs with local youth for greater arts enrichment.

Artists teach the history and artistry of Hip-Hop at an accessible, grassroots level appropriate for teens, high school and college students. <https://www.pepatian.org/projects/hip-hop-academy>

This documentary video is supported, in part, by The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, public funds from the Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the Bronx Council on the Arts, and the generosity to individual donors to Pepatián.

PEPATIÁN is a South Bronx-based organization dedicated to creating, producing and supporting contemporary multi-disciplinary art by Latinx and Bronx-based artists. pepatian.org

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