

Blending Western Hip-Hop and Arabic Beats: Popular West Coast Arab-American Rappers to Perform in New York City

Young Politically-Conscious Emcees Reach Audiences Through Hip-Hop Music

What: Free the P Concert – An evening of Poetry and Hip Hop
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2006
Time: 9 PM doors open; 9:30 PM show begins
Where: Coda Lounge (34 34th Street between Madison and 5th Ave in Manhattan)

NEW YORK CITY – On Thursday, March 16, 2006, popular West Coast-based artists The NOMADS and The Philistines will headline a NYC show that they are co-sponsoring with the Network of Arab-American Professionals of NY (NAAP- NY). These Arab-American emcees have something to say about oppression and social justice – and they say it through hip-hop music.

Our headliners Omar Offendum of The NOMADS and Ragtop of The Philistines are co-producers of the Free the P project, a CD compilation of spoken word and hip-hop, dedicated to the youth of Palestine and inspired by the global struggle for peace and justice. Free the P has achieved recognition throughout the United States and across the globe.

By combining samples of classical Arabic from their parents' generation with raw hip-hop drum tracks, Omar Offendum and Ragtop have developed a unique sound that is carving its own niche in the industry. Their music has been described by Left Turn Magazine as "one of the greatest thematic and lyrical hip-hop compilations to come out in a while".

A few talented Arab-American performers will precede the headline acts. The evening will begin with an incredible poetry session by Remi Kanazi followed by inspiring spoken word from Nadeen Al-Jijakli and Yasmine El-Shamayleh. Then we have a hilarious performance by comedian, Maysoon Zayid, who has been featured on MTV, 20/20, and in The NY Times. In addition, from the Free the P CD, we have a remarkable performance by Akil Dasan (who was a finalist on Missy Elliott's hit TV show, "Road to Stardom") and Anthony Morales with an enlightening poetry jam.

Proceeds of the show will benefit NAAP-NY initiatives and SlingShot Hip-Hop, a documentary film that focuses on the daily life of Palestinian rappers living in Gaza, the West Bank and inside Israel. It aims to spotlight alternative voices of resistance within the Palestinian struggle and to explore the role their music plays within their social, political and personal lives.

For more information on Free the P, please visit www.freethep.com.

NAAP-NY, a co-sponsor of the show, is the fastest growing Arab-American organization in New York City. It is a volunteer-based non-profit that supports the Arab-American student movement, empowers the community through advocacy, and promotes and preserves Arab culture and identity. For more information on NAAP-NY, please visit www.naaponline.org/ny.