Basheer Jones to Inspire Cleveland High School Students  
Motivational Speaker, Writer and Community Activist to Encourage Creative ArtWorks Teens

WHO: Basheer Jones, one of the region’s most powerful and engaging voices in media and entertainment, and 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade Cleveland students

WHAT: Basheer Jones will speak to 40 ArtWorks apprentices, encouraging them to take an active leadership role in their communities

WHEN: February 12, 2014 from 4:30-7 PM

WHERE: Halle Building (1228 Euclid Ave)

Basheer Jones on ArtWorks: "I am excited about what ArtWorks is doing, providing opportunities for youth to reach their potential takes a holistic approach. If we want to see change, we must provide our youth with the resources to thrive especially creatively and artistically." - Basheer Jones

About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning’s ArtWorks

Founded in 2005, ArtWorks is the only multi-disciplinary, arts-based job-training and college-readiness program for Northeast Ohio high school students that provides training in the arts while developing skills for the workplace, such as teamwork, discipline, creative problem solving, critical thinking and personal responsibility. ArtWorks "apprentices" create exciting original work in theater, dance, music, visual arts, video game design, architecture and other art forms. Master Teaching Artists mentor apprentices and teach them not only the specifics of an arts discipline, but also essential 21st-century skills that transfer to any workplace. ArtWorks apprentices earn a wage, host public performances and exhibitions of their work, and are provided opportunities to work as professionals on real-world and community-oriented projects, often collaboratively across art forms. For more information visit www.artsinspiredlearning.org/artworks.
About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning
The Center for Arts-Inspired Learning (formerly Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio) enriches the lives of children and promotes creative learning by uniting arts and education. Organized in 1953, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning is the only multi-arts resource for schools and communities in the region whose primary purpose is to make learning through the arts an essential part of young people’s education. Programs take place in public, private, and parochial schools as well as libraries, hospitals and other civic spaces, reaching nearly 220,000 young people each year. For more information visit www.arts-inspiredlearning.org

About Basheer Jones
Basheer Jones is an impassioned leader, motivational speaker, and spoken word artist with a positive message of empowerment and change. Born in Brooklyn, NY on October 25, 1984 and later transplanted to Cleveland, OH as a child. Basheer attended Martin Luther King, Jr. High School in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland. He graduated Cum Laude from the distinguished Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA in 2006 with a degree in African-American Studies. He later pursued graduate studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Basheer understands that true success is giving back, which is why he decided to return home to Cleveland, OH, where he became the youngest news talk radio show host at Radio One. Basheer has been interviewed by Time, JET, and Essence Magazines, and has been a guest correspondent on CNN, MSNBC, and CSPAN. Basheer played an important role in the city of Cleveland during the 2008 Presidential Election by hosting several Barack Obama rallies and held one of the largest youth voter registration drives alongside Cornel West, LeBron James, Hill Harper, and Russell Simmons. He later became the Regional Field Director for Organizing for America during the 2012 presidential campaign.

Basheer's dedication and commitment has enabled him to publish his first book, entitled, “I'll Speak for Change”. He is the President and Founder of The Basheer Jones Foundation, as well a proud member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. He has received various awards and recognition for his accomplishments including the Emerging Leader Award from Congresswoman Marcia Fudge and Youth Pepsi Essence Award.

With his compelling, soul-stirring delivery, Basheer continues to bridge the gap between the youth and the elders by sharing his life experiences with words that inspire and motivate all who hear him. Mr. Jones is a devoted community servant that strives to live by the affirmation that we must “be the change that we want to see in the world.”

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