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**Afro-Brazilian Arts and Cultural Heritage Festival Brings Music, Art, Dance, Film, and Food to Nation's Capital**

Washington, DC – From June 6-12, 2011, The Afro-Brazilian Arts and Cultural Heritage Festival will share the diverse cultures of Brazil with the nation's capital through music, art, dance, film, and food.

Highlights will include:

- Performance by Brazilian musician Jau Peri (a hugely popular Brazilian artist that is steadily crossing over into the North American market. He represents everything Afro- Brazilian and is an innovator of the world famous Bahian style street carnival.) (to be confirmed);
- Performance by Brazilian performer Mestre Tonho Matéria (former member of the legendary Samba Reggae group Olodum) (to be confirmed);
- Demonstrations of the Afro-Brazilian martial art capoeira with world-renowned master Mestre Curisco (one of the youngest capoeira masters in the world);
- Screening of award winning documentary *Ebony Goddess: Queen of Ilê Aiyê* and panel discussion;
- Afro-Brazilian dance and drumming performances and workshops by Mestre Amen (one of the most famous and well-respected capoeira masters in the world, a master percussionist and the star of the Hollywood movies *Only the Strong* and *Kickboxer IV*) (to be confirmed); and
- Brazilian cooking presentation and tasting with Sonia Pessoa, registered nutritionist and

native of Bahia, Brazil.

Events will take place at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Bossa Bistro and Lounge, Busboys & Poets (5<sup>th</sup> and K), Banneker Community Center, the Capoeira Spot, and Columbia Heights Civic Plaza. Most will be free to the public.

“The Afro-Brazilian Arts and Cultural Heritage Festival will feature an invigorating array of Afro-Brazilian music, dance, martial arts, documentary films, discussions, and culinary tastings. It will be a multi-sensory experience that will uplift and bring together DC’s diverse community.” – Nicole Hewitt, Community Outreach Coordinator of CapoeiraDC

“The Afro-Brazilian Art and Heritage festival will honor, celebrate, and explore the massive influence and resilience of millions of people of African descent that uniquely created a sense of racial expression and cultural diversity in Brazil. Afro-Brazilians have transformed their oppression into art, their cry into lyrics, their hunger into culinary art, and the power of their hands into the sounds of instruments.” – Sonia Pessoa, Executive Director of Sambart Entertainment

The Afro-Brazilian Arts and Cultural Heritage Festival is presented by CapoeiraDC and Sambart Entertainment with support from the Brazilian Embassy and Consulate.

For more information and an updated schedule of events, please visit <http://www.afrobrazilfest.com> and <http://www.facebook.com/afrobrazilfest>.

## ***Tentative Festival Schedule***

### **Monday June 6, 2011**

Documentary Film Screening!

Time/Location/Cost tbd

*Ebony Goddess: Queen of Ilê Aiyê* follows three women competing to be the carnival queen of Ilê Aiyê, a prominent and controversial Afro-Brazilian group with an all-black membership. The selection is based on Afro-centric notions of beauty, in counterpoint to prevailing standards of beauty in Brazil, a country famous for slim supermodels and plastic surgery. Contestants for the title of Ebony Goddess dress in flowing African-style garments, gracefully performing traditional Afro-Brazilian dances to songs praising the beauty of black women.

The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion.

For more information on the *Ebony Goddess* and related films, please see:

[www.documentario.com](http://www.documentario.com)

### **Tuesday June 7, 2011**

#### **Opening Celebration**

5:30pm - 8:30pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, The Great Hall

FREE and open to the public

The opening celebration kicks off the festival with a capoeira performance from CapoeiraDC, a samba performance by Sambart Entertainment, West African music and dance by Baba M, Go-go music and dance by The What Band, and Maracatu percussion by Maracatu de Baque do Mangue.

### **Wednesday June 8, 2011**

#### **Leblon® Cachaça Tasting and Demonstration**

6:00pm-8:00pm

Cost tbd

You're invited to sample complimentary cachaça tasting and demonstration by LEBLON®.

Cachaça, pronounced (ka-SHAH-sa), is a Brazilian spirit made from fermented and distilled cane juice. Learn to make caipirinhas, Brazil's national cocktail, made from a blend of cachaça, lime, and sugar.

In addition to free cachaça tastings, there will be special discounts on Brazilian cocktails and tapas throughout the night.

### **Rhythms, Rhymes, and Resistance - Part I**

8:00pm-1:00am

Bossa Bistro & Lounge

Cost tbd

Come out for a jam session with accomplished musicians performing music styles of the African diaspora including Samba Reggae, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Jamaican Reggae. All forms of music presented combine a fusion of rhythms and lyrics driven by desires for social change.

Performers will be announced soon.

### **Thursday June 9, 2011**

Rhythms, Rhymes, and Resistance - Part II

6:00pm-7:30pm

Busboys & Poets, 5th & K

Cost tbd

Join us for a panel moderated by Dr. Gisele-Audrey Mills, a public scholar and cultural activist with over a decade of experience working with Afro-Brazilian organizations and issues, as we explore how music of the African diaspora has been utilized as both cultural expression and a mechanism for social change. The history and evolution of Samba Reggae, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Jamaican Reggae will be discussed.

Capoeira and bboy/bgirl Demonstration

7:30pm-8:30pm

Capoeira Males DC and Urban Artistry will demonstrate the roots of capoeira and American urban dance and the links between the two art forms.

### **Friday June 10, 2011**

**Taste of Brazil**

6:30pm-8:30pm

Location tbd

Cost tbd

Experience the tastes of Brazil through the culinary expertise of Sonia Pessoa, a registered nutritionist and native of Bahia. Ms. Pessoa will take you to her homeland with African influenced flavors with dishes cooked with dende palm oil, malagueta peppers, coconut milk, and other rich spices.

The event will feature a four-course pre-fixe menu to be announced shortly.

### **Saturday, June 11, 2011**

#### **Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Heritage Workshops**

10:00am-3:00pm (The workshop schedule will be posted shortly.)

Banneker Community Center

FREE and open to the public

- Intro Youth capoeira workshop
- Carnival mask making for kids
- Intro Afro-Brazilian/Maculele dance workshop
- Intro Brazilian Flag workshop – precursor to fire dancing
- Intro Adult capoeira workshop
- Intro Afro-Brazilian percussion workshop
- Intro Afro-Brazilian/Samba dance workshop

10:00am – 6:30pm (The workshop schedule will be posted shortly.)

The Capoeira Spot

Cost tbd

- Intermediate/Advanced Youth capoeira workshop
- Intermediate/Advanced Maculele dance workshop
- Intermediate/Advanced Capoeira music workshop
- Intermediate/Advanced Afro-Brazilian percussion workshop
- Intermediate/Advanced Afro-Brazilian/Samba dance workshop

#### **Festa! Brazilian dance party with live music or Jau Peri Concert**

10:00pm-2:00am

Location tbd

Cost tbd

Details will be posted shortly.

### **Sunday June 12, 2011**

## **Closing Celebration**

Afternoon/Evening tbd

Columbia Heights Civic Plaza

FREE and open to the public

The closing celebration will close out the festival with a capoeira performance from CapoeiraDC, a samba performance by Sambart Entertainment, and Brazilian fire dance performance by Rebeca Bittencourt.

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