



Rhode to Africa (R2A)

An Interview Series & Concert Series

Presented by



R2A Info Page

- **The R2A Interview Series:** will be made of four 30-minute audio recordings that will document conversations with concert series participants and community leaders. Beginning in October, they will air on WRIU 90.3 FM and be available as podcasts on RezaRitesRi.com and iTunes. A bonus conversation featuring R2A's producers and major supporters is currently available for download and broadcast. Visit RezaRitesRi.com for more info.
- **The R2A Concert Series:** will begin in October (2008), featuring live and recorded music by artists, bands, poets, and DJ's who are Africans living locally or regionally in RI or elsewhere in New England. It is part of Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' Freedom Festival, a collaborative series of events scheduled for October.
- **About RezaRitesRi.com:** RezaRitesRi.com is a website/blog maintained by Reza Corinne Clifton, an award winning online publisher, freelance journalist and grassroots community leader who created the site in 2005.
- **About Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc. (MHNA):** Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc. is a non-profit, community development agency located in the historic Mt. Hope section of the East Side of Providence, RI. MHNA was incorporated in 1981 to address issues affecting the Mt. Hope neighborhood.
- **About WRIU:** WRIU is Rhode Island's leading non-commercial radio station, available at 90.3 FM or online at www.wriu.org. The station is a broadcast service of the University of Rhode Island made possible through funds from the college, underwriting partners and listener support. It is operated by students and community members.
- **Other R2A Supporters:** Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Beatbox Studio, Bashment Sounds, The Liberian Community Association of RI, www.RIFuture.org, The Rhode Island Young Professionals (RIYP), The Providence Black Repertory Company, Oasis International, RI State Representative Joseph Almeida & more.

→ Major Podcast topics:

- ◇ Culture & Identity
- ◇ Community
- ◇ Politics
- ◇ Music

→ Confirmed performers to date

- ◇ *Rooted Sound ft. Lady Dubb*
(Liberia/Reggae Band)
- ◇ *Africa Rainbow*
(Cape Verde/Reggae Band)
- ◇ *Iyeoka*
(Nigeria / Poet and Funk Band)
- ◇ *Abstract Soul*
(USA / World Soul, Afro-funk)
- ◇ *Michelle Cruz*
(Cape Verde / Acoustic / Jazz)
- ◇ *Vivi, aka Mr. Loverman*
(Senegal / Afrobeat DJ)
- ◇ *Reza Rites*
(USA / Pan-African Women's DJ)
- ◇ *DJ Blade Mon*
(USA /Reggae & Caribbean DJ)

→ Project Inspirations

- ◇ Cape Verdean artists who rap akin to American hip hop artists, but in CV Creole and English, who can be heard on radio stations celebrating Cape Verdean culture and heritage.
- ◇ Poems about Nigerian sounds, sights and heritage help earn a Black female spoken word poet/performer national acclaim in the U.S.
- ◇ Building a fan-base in part through covers of popular Bob Marley songs, an up and coming reggae band is led by a confident and resolute Liberian-American woman.
- ◇ An investigative report in BBC's Focus on Africa Magazine details tensions at American colleges among Black American students and African and Caribbean students with visas or first-generation Blacks and immigrants.
- ◇ Contributions by African communities, Black/African slaves, and Black American freepersons to the economic, political, social, and artistic landscapes within Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Cape Verde & Liberia.
- ◇ Recent occurrences in RI of fatal violence that victimized Liberian-American youth, families, and communities.
- ◇ Nationally, the son of a Kenyan man and White American woman emerges as a strong contender for the 2008 presidential elections and encourages a comprehensive discussion in the mainstream media about race.

Supported by organizations and partners like



RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL for the HUMANITIES

Beatbox Studio, Bashment Sounds, The Liberian Community Association of RI, www.RIFuture.org, Oasis International, The Providence Black Repertory Company, The Rhode Island Young Professionals (an auxiliary of The Urban League of Rhode Island), & RI State Representative Joseph Almeida.