

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Saturday August 27th, 2005

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Bathurst Street Theatre. 736 Bathurst Street



**Toronto's Second Annual STOP THE VIOLENCE Youth
Development/Dance**

**Showcase Fundraiser
Featuring**

**MAXAMUS RECORDING ARTIST:
MELANIE DURRANT**

Saturday August 27th, 2005 - Toronto, Canada - The Elevated Grounds youth empowerment group will host a **STOP THE VIOLENCE** fundraiser on Behalf of the Emily Stowe Women and children shelter, in aims to engage the youth community through upliftment and explosive artistic expression.

The second annual **VIBE II THA VIDEOLIGHT DANCE SHOWCASE** will make it known that some of the finest and most talented urban dancers on the globe represent the T Dot. The intensity of the vibrant and youthful energy will embrace the stage, to demonstrate a visually stunning showcase of the culture that represents the dance phenomenon among young performing artists. A diverse range of artistic expression will be exhibited through break dancing, Hip-hop, poppin-n-lockin, African Tribalism, Caribbean flavor, plus much more.

"I feel compelled to be apart of **VIBE II THA VIDEOLIGHT 2005**. It is important to provide these types of forums within our communities that empowers youth", says **Michelle Odle** from the **CBC Rough Cuts documentary Breakin' in: the Making of a Hip Hop Dancer**. "Young people are bombarded with imagery and opinions that are often destructive and contradictory to social growth. Dance is a powerful art form that can be used to entertain enlighten and elevate. I feel so blessed that I have been given the opportunity to be part of this event".

Vibe II Tha Videolight will end off the summer with some of Toronto's hottest acts. The headlining performance will be by international **MAXAMUS** recording artist **MELANIE DURRANT** along side, **TRU-PAZ, THE ROOTS CRU, and the URBAN MOVES AFRO/CARIBBEAN DANCE GROUP**.

Aisha Saintiche- Emily Stowe Youth Program Coordinator states, "performing arts has an influential impact on today's young people. Youth need to be apart of proactive outlets that divert them away from self destructive activity. There is a lack of accessible and affordable youth engagement programs for young people to participate in, hence the significance of this year's **Vibe to Tha Videolight fundraiser**".

ELEVATED GROUNDS



Young urban dancers need to know that they can take their "skills" far and beyond", explains ***Casting Associate Karen Williams- from the Stephanie Gorin & Associates Casting Agency.*** "With a positive outlook and a lot of dedication they too can be sensational actors, singers, and all around well developed performers. **VIBE II THA VIDEOLIGHT** is an outstanding opportunity for young people to develop themselves as distinguished dancers."

Proceeds will benefit the new department of the Emily Stowe women and children shelter, SESWORUBAN, which is the West African translation for LIFE TRANSFORMAION.

Media requiring interviews, photography or general information please contact:

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