



## PRESS RELEASE

### Toronto youth aim to liberate minds and stop the violence, hate, and crime at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Vibe to the Videolight* musical and artistic showcase.

**September 2006, Toronto, ON** – Through dance our young people will **entertain**. With words, sounds, and emotions our young people will **educate**. With facts our young people will **enlighten**. Through action our young people will **elevate**.

Elevated Grounds (EG) youth empowerment group ([www.elevatedgrounds.com](http://www.elevatedgrounds.com)) takes performing arts and youth engagement to the next level with **Vibe to the Videolight**; an edgy musical and talent showcase/fundraiser that will use song, poetry, and culturally diverse dance genres to tackle issues such as **violence, stereotypes, and racism**. The event will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 16, 2006**, from **6pm-9pm**, at **Theatre Passé Muraille** (16 Ryerson Ave.). Admission is \$15.

In this by youth for youth production, some of Toronto's finest young talent will grace the stage as actors in EG's **first-ever** musical entitled **Youth Revolution**. The play stars a diverse cast, and is a creative and vibrant manifestation of natural talent, and what program participants learned from EG's **free** artistic and self-development workshops over the summer.

"The **Elevated Grounds** program and **Vibe to the Videolight** showcase are important because youth need a safe space to express themselves without feeling that they have to hide their true feelings," says Tanesha Everett, an EG youth participant. "I don't have anything or any where to go so the program and showcase give me something to look forward to."

The event will be capped off with performances by the city's hottest artists including **Subliminal** "**The Human Beat Boxer**", dance phenom **Tre-Lystikz** of the Do Dat dance group, and one of Toronto's most popular dance crews, **Mayhem's Finest**.

"I haven't felt the level of enthusiasm I've received from the youth at Elevated Grounds," says **David "Click" Cox**, **Universal Music A&R representative and EG guest panelist**. "The organizers have done a great job at putting together an educational and positive environment for youth."

**Gloria Pierre**, a communications expert and guest facilitator for an EG self-development workshop, states, "Elevated Grounds not only supply the building blocks – sources for photo shoots and auditions, how to prepare a press kit, and an opportunity to showcase their talents at **Vibe to the Videolight** – but also the cement-like workshops to help the members develop their competence and confidence."

According to **Debora Joy**, a vocal coach and guest facilitator for an EG artistic development workshop, EG volunteer staff members are "creative and focused advocates for these at-risk youth and should be well supported in their endeavors."

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