

FA 2015 | Programs & Events

LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE

STRENGTH ♦ LOVE ♦ SURVIVAL ♦ HOPE

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

The idea for LMC's "Event & Speaker Series" was born out of a new College initiative, INNOVATION AWARDS: Bringing Creative Concepts to Life, which was a follow-up to the District-wide "Convocation on Innovation" held in January 2015. A creative and dedicated group of seven LMC educators – faculty and staff from four departments across the institution – came together to collaborate, with a shared goal of providing our community with quality programming that would celebrate and foster equity.

Guided by the uniting themes of Love, Strength, Hope, and Survival found in the play *Ruined*, the planning committee met weekly to brainstorm, plan, and breathe life into a set of events designed to enlighten and inspire the College community at large. It is with great care and a deep commitment that this core team – on behalf of Los Medanos College – presents these events, speakers, and engaging opportunities to nurture your love for friends and community, the strength to carry on in the pursuit of your dreams, the vision to hope for a better future, and the resolve to survive and overcome any struggle you may encounter.

INNOVATION AWARDS: Bringing Creative Concepts to Life

LMC's Innovation Awards provides support for innovative projects never before implemented at the College. Member of the campus community were invited to submit proposals that demonstrated the potential for expanding LMC's institutional capacity by: improving student success; addressing the achievement gap; or increasing enrollment, retention, equitable practices, efficiencies, and/or cost-savings. An "innovation account" has been established to serve as the funding source for LMC Innovation Proposals, which may request resources for a period of 1-3 years.

Los Medanos College (LMC) is one of three colleges in the Contra Costa Community College District. LMC prepares students to excel and succeed economically, socially and intellectually in an innovative, engaging, and supportive learning environment. At its Pittsburg Campus and Brentwood Center locations, Los Medanos College provides quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities to serve the needs of a rapidly growing and changing East Contra Costa County – while enhancing the quality of life of the diverse communities it serves.

Calendar 2015

October

- 28 **An Afternoon with Benson Ocen**
Director/Founder of I Live Again Uganda

November

- 11 **Celebrating the African Diaspora: Diversity within our Community**
Panel Dr. A'kilah Moore, James Noel, Adeirawo Orangunwa, and Kwadwo Poku
- 12 **Lenard The KYD Jackson & Friends Comedy show**
featuring Mario Hodge, Jamel Patterson, Ricky Del Rosario,
Lenard the KYD Jackson
- 18 **A Place to Stand**
special film screening
- 19 **Fiveology**
featuring Javon Johnson, Ph.D., Andrew Tyree and Shawn William
- 30 **VICE magazine**
hosted by Yemi Bamiro

December

- 1 **Getting Ready for Ruined: The Real Stories Behind the Play**
hosted by Josh Bearden and Jennifer Saito
- 2–5 **Ruined**
directed by Nick Garcia
- 8 **An Evening with Director John Singleton**
Producer / Director / Filmmaker

Hope



An Afternoon with **Benson Ocen**

October 28
12:30 - 2:00 PM
LMC Little Theater
free admission

Founder of I Live Again Uganda



Benson Ocen, founder and director of I Live Again Uganda (ILA), is a man on a mission. For over 20 years his country was plagued by conflict with a rebel army called the "Lords Resistance Army" which abducted more than 30,000 children and forced them into military service or sexual slavery. In 2008 Benson founded ILA (which means "help me" in the Acholi language) to bring trauma counseling to the war's victims. In addition to emotional healing, ILA focuses on holistic restoration by providing micro

loans and agricultural training to displaced families.

Benson's inspirational tale of hope and renewal will give you a frontline perspective on the issues you'll encounter in Ruined and bring the play to life for you.

The mission of "I Live Again Uganda" is to give hope to the people of Northern Uganda through trauma counseling and economic empowerment and to help individuals live a life of purpose.

We are non-profit organization run by Ugandans serving Ugandans in a post war culture.

BACKGROUND

Northern Uganda was plagued with more than 20 years of war as a rebel army called the "Lords Resistance Army" abducted over 30,000 children. 1.8 million individuals were forcibly displaced into displacement camps during the 20 years of war. As young boys were forced to become child soldiers and young girls became sex slaves to the commanders of the rebel army - education stopped, disease was rampant and dependency upon the World Food Program became the norm for the northern region of Uganda. For 20 years this continued. Currently, there is peace in the northern region - but there is a lot of work to be done. Now is the time of restoration.

Celebrating the African Diaspora: Diversity within our Community

November 11
12:30 -2:30 PM
LMC Little Theater
free admission

**Panel: Dr. A'kilah Moore, James Noel,
Adeirawo Origunwa, and Kwadwo Poku**

Panel Discussion: Members from the LMC academic community will share their academic journey, discussing the impact their community and environment had on shaping their ideas, beliefs and values.

Questions and Answers to follow as well as light refreshments.

Musical Performance: Samba Funk

After the panel discussion come and celebrate the African music tradition with one of the Bay Area's finest dance troupes: SAMBA FUNK. The lecture/dance/drum presentation will include a short review of African musical styles, historic information of the Transatlantic slave trade and its role in the transferring of Africans and their customs, morays, traditions, religions, languages, dances, and rhythms to the Americas.



Love

Lenard The KYD Jackson & Friends Comedy Show

November 12
8:00 PM
LMC Little Theater
\$15 general admission

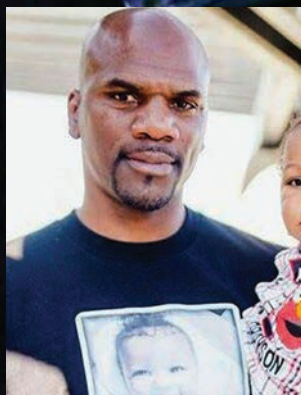
**featuring Mario Hodge, Jamel Patterson, Ricky Del Rosario,
Lenard the KYD Jackson**



Lenard The KYD Jackson & Friends
Comedy show promoting love, laughter
and unity in the community.

This show is packed with talent, featuring very funny Mario Hodge from the upcoming TV show "Crackin Up". Along with special guest "The Infamous Lil Taz" Jamel Patterson from the play My Block. Headlining 20 year comedy veteran Ricky Del Rosario, who has appeared on Showtime with Jamie Foxx' Laffapalooza, BET's ComicView along with many other television appearances. Ricky is a former member of KMEL's Breakfast Club as the "Fly Guy" and former host of the TV show High School Sports Focus. The show is hosted by LMC's own Lenard the KYD Jackson. Outside the many plays the KYD has been a part of at LMC, like Descending into Darkness, My Block and Ole For Hollywood, his credits also include a commercial with Pizza Guys, a radio spot on Giants Radio with Madison Madbum Bumgarner. Lenard has the lead role in the movie Moses and is the host of his own upcoming television show "Crackin Up". Please visit the website www.thekyd.com

Strength



hope



In the Beginning

November 19
1:00 PM & 7:00PM
LMC Recital Hall
\$5 general admission

featuring Javon Johnson, Ph.D., Andrew Tyree and Shawn William from Fiveology

Fiveology Poetry Workshop

1:00pm

Have you ever wanted to learn how to write poetry? Have you ever watched Def Poetry Jam and wondered how the poets manage to perform their work in such an entertaining way? Come and learn how to write and perform poetry from renown poetry group fiveology. The FIVEOLOGY POETRY WORKSHOP is designed to offer students a chance to learn and interact with some of the finest poets on America's poetry circuit. Light refreshments to follow.

Fiveology Poetry Slam - LMC Recital Hall

7:00PM

Award-winning Fiveology members, Andrew Tyree, Javon Johnson, and Shawn Johnson will star in Los Medanos College's first "IN THE BEGINNING..." POETRY SLAM. The poets will provide a night filled with captivating performance poetry that will leave you wanting more. Join us for a special evening!

Formed in the fall of 2012, Fiveology toured nationally opening up for 3 time Grammy award winning Jill Scott, the group performed at McDonald's 365Black Award Show at the Essence Festival honoring Dr. Steve Perry (Save Our Sons) sharing the stage with Jordin Sparks, Yolanda Adams & Angie Stone that will appear on BET this fall and will also feature on the upcoming 3rd season of Lexus Verses and Flow.

Javon Johnson, Ph.D. (2 time National Slam Champion, HBO Def Poetry and Lexus Verses and Flow seasons 1,2 & 3), Andrew Tyree (Slam Champion, Lexus Verses and Flow seasons 1 & 2 and Accomplished Actor) & Shawn William (National Slam Finalist, Lexus Verses and Flow Season 3 & Showtime at the Apollo).

Praise for the memoir *A Place to Stand*

"Elegant and Gripping"

-Los Angeles Times

"Brave and Heartbreaking"

-The Nation

"Astonishing"

-Arizona Daily Star

"A wild ride"

-The San Diego Union-Tribune

"A triumph"

-Tucson Weekly

"Gripping"

-Alibi



A Place to Stand

based on the critically acclaimed memoir by Jimmy Santiago Baca

CATAMOUNT FILMS PRESENTS "A PLACE TO STAND"

A FILM BY DANIEL GLICK / MUSIC BY ROGER SUEN / EDITED BY DANIEL GLICK / CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL GORDON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAVID GRUBIN / PRODUCED BY GABRIEL BACA AND DANIEL GLICK / DIRECTED BY DANIEL GLICK

www.aplacetostandmovie.com

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A Place to Stand

November 18
7:00 PM
LMC Little Theater
\$3 general admission

Pre-release viewing - A story following the transformation of Jimmy Santiago Baca

Told through extensive interviews with Jimmy, his family, friends and peers, A Place to Stand follows Jimmy's path from Estancia, New Mexico – where he lived with his indigenous grandparents – through childhood abandonment, adolescent drug dealing and a subsequent 5-year narcotics sentence at Arizona State Prison in Florence, one of the most violent prisons in the country.

Brutalized by the inhumanity of his incarceration, Jimmy survived by exploring deep within, discovering poetry at his soul's core. Through the life changing capacity of poetry, writing and arts, he stepped away from the violence and negativity around him, healing the wounds of his childhood and opening him to a new future.

Jimmy's extraordinary life is both inspiring and haunting, simultaneously an indictment of our current criminal justice system and a model of the potential for human transformation.

A Place to Stand is inspired by Jimmy's memoir of the same name, which has been called "elegant and gripping" (The Los Angeles Times) and "an astonishing narrative that affirms the triumph of the human spirit" (The Arizona Daily Star). It explores the life and mind of a man whose early life was dominated by sadness, rejection, anger and pain, a man who embraced language as a balm for his battered spirit, a man who – through the power of poetry – finally found his place to stand.

Me, Africa, and working for TV

November 30
1:00 PM & 7:00PM
LMC Little Theater
free admission

featuring Yemi Bamiro from VICE media

Workshop

1:00PM

Yemi Bamiro will be presenting an interactive and exciting workshop that will educate students about the world's second largest continent: Africa. Primarily centered around his experience as a film director, Bamiro will chiefly share how his experiences filming documentaries in African countries were life-changing because they exposed him to a side of Africa that often gets neglected.

Lecture - LMC Little Theater

7:00PM

Yemi Bamiro is a writer and director who has worked in TV for over 10 years. Starting his career at MTV Networks Europe, Bamiro produced and directed a number of short music films and documentaries, most of them on the then, emerging UK grime scene. Following his time at the music broadcaster, Bamiro spent two years making programming for a host of independent production companies including the likes of Remedy Productions and Lemonade Money.

In 2011, Bamiro directed an hour long documentary (Life of Rhyme – Acme Productions / Lemonade Money co production) for Channel 4, as part of their 'Street Summer' season. The film was nominated for a Cultural Diversity Award.

In 2012, Bamiro went to work at Sky Sports F1, Sky's dedicated channel to Formula 1. During his time at SkyF1, Bamiro produced and directed a four-part documentary series titled Echoes of the Past as well as an hour long film on Lewis Hamilton's 2014 Championship winning F1 season.

2015 saw Bamiro return to VICE Media as a producer / director to make a series of human interest films shooting all over the world.



Strength

survival



Getting Ready for Ruined: The Real Stories Behind the Play

December 1
12:30 - 2:00 PM
LMC Little Theater
free admission

hosted by Josh Bearden and Jennifer Saito

Winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama, *Ruined* is a rich work of art based on playwright Lynn Nottage's interviews with victims of the wars ravaging the Democratic Republic of Congo. Come to this stimulating and interactive workshop with Professors Josh Bearden (History) and Jennifer Saito (Humanities) designed to help you fully appreciate the performance. You'll learn about the legacy of colonization in Africa, Congo's devastating civil war and hear the real stories on which the play was based. Professors Bearden and Saito will introduce you to the play's central characters and share "behind-the-scenes" stories from the LMC production's artistic staff. This is a must for anyone planning on attending the play.

RUINED



survival

Ruined

written by Lynn Nottage
directed by Nick Garcia

December 2
7:00 PM
California Theatre
\$15 general admission

December 2–5
California Theatre, downtown Pittsburg

7:00 PM

Tickets \$10 (with Middle and High School ID)
\$12 (with student ID or government service ID)
\$15 (general admission)

♦ For ages 13+

A Pulitzer Prize - winning play by Lynne Nottage. Ruined is a reflection of the fight for survival in a small mining town located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mama Nadi runs the local brothel to survive in this tropical town located in the Ituri rain forest. This mining town is the epicenter of a civil war which only ignites hostility and conflict. Rival factions of militia and rebels bring war and poverty to this struggling town. Mama Nadi is left to provide a home and means to survive for those who have no voice. Join us for a powerful performance, that honors the struggles many face in the world, desperately seeking a better life.

TICKET SALES

Box Office:

351 Railroad Avenue

Pittsburg, CA 94565

925.427.1611

www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com

Open Tuesday-Friday Noon-5pm and 1 hour before show time.

An evening with director **John Singleton**

featuring John Singleton

December 8
7:00 PM
California Theatre
\$15 general admission

Producer, director and screenwriter John Singleton has helped to create some of the more prominent and esteemed black films in the past decade. He exploded onto the screen with his first film, *Boyz n the Hood*, a tough, intelligent, plan-speaking look at friends in gang-ridden South Central L.A. He earned Oscar nominations for best original screenplay and best director, becoming the youngest director and the first African American filmmaker to do so.

He went on to produce and direct *2 Fast 2 Furious*, starring the late Paul Walker, and *Rosewood*, starring John Voight and Ving Rhames. He wrote and directed *Baby Boy* starring Oscar nominee Taraji P. Henson and *Shaft* starring Samuel L. Jackson. Among his other works are *Higher Learning* starring Omar Epps and Laurence Fishburne, and *Poetic Justice*. In 2006, he produced his second independent film, *Illegal Tender*, the story of a mother and son who flee from the thugs who killed his father. He has directed commercials for AT&T and Jeep.

Singleton has claimed numerous awards, including the LAFCA New Generation Award, the MTV Movie Award for Best New Filmmaker, the New York film Critics Award for Best new Director, the Special Award for Directorial Debut of the Year and the ShoWest Award for Screenwriter of the Year. His complete body of work was saluted by the Directors Guild of America in 2013.

Currently, Singleton is set to direct *Blame Rio!*, a Universal Studios film. He is also developing an HBO series entitled *Club Life*. Recently, he has written articles for the Hollywood Reporter as a guest columnist.

Keynote from 7:00-8:15PM.

Reception and photo opportunity until 9:00pm



Programming Support & Thanks

Planning Committee

Tselane Caldwell – English Faculty

Nick Garcia – Drama Faculty

James Noel – English Faculty

Jennifer Saito – Mathematics, Humanities, and Philosophy Faculty, Honors
Program Director

Eric Sanchez – Instructional Assistant/Art/Drama

Michael Yeong – English Faculty

Event Panelists / Hosts

Joshua Bearden – History Faculty

A'kilah Moore – Dean of Math Sciences

Adèìràwò Orígunwà – Administrative Assistant, MESA / STEM

Kwadwo Poku – Mathematics Faculty

The planning committee for these events are comprised of members of faculty, staff and management. Below are the LMC's Strategic Directions that were taken into consideration in the creation of this Fall 2015 program of events:

1. Increase equitable student engagement, learning, and success.
2. Strengthen community engagement and partnerships.
3. Promote innovation, expand organizational capacity, and enhance institutional effectiveness.

Funding provided by
LMC's INNOVATION AWARDS:
Bringing Creative Concepts to Life

love
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strength
survival

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