



CLARK ATLANTA

# NEWS

*Clark Atlanta University is a private, coeducational four-year university located in the historic heart of Atlanta. It is the largest of the nation's 39-member UNCF institutions and one of only two private historically black colleges and universities designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Research University – High Research Activity. Our nearly 4,000 students are engaged in some 38 areas of study in our four schools and five Centers of Excellence. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education. Clark Atlanta University is accredited to award the Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist and Doctoral degrees by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga., 30033-4097; 404-679-4501).*

*For more information, call 404-880-8000 or go to [www.cau.edu](http://www.cau.edu).*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS “THE LIFE TOUR”

*Eight of Harlem's Hottest Spoken-Word Artists Weave Stories in Words Oct. 5*

**ATLANTA** (Sept. 29, 2011) — Clark Atlanta University will welcome eight of Harlem, New York City's hottest spoken-word artists for “The Life Tour” Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 3 p.m. in the university's Davage Auditorium, 223 James P. Brawley Dr., SW.

The performance, an Urbintel production presented in association with the Harlem Book Fair, is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Guests with free reserved tickets will be given priority admission. To reserve a free ticket, go to <http://lifetouratcau.eventbrite.com>.

“The Life Tour” addresses real-life issues in two one-act presentations. “HerStory” is a single account of love, pain, struggle and triumph, spoken over melody and song, a tear shed and laughter. Unlike traditional stories of faint-hearted and muted women, the four characters testify true accounts of their existence, from subordination to dominance, from discord to sisterhood, all against a pulsing background of spirituals and meringue, hip-hop and jazz. The stories are honest and intelligent. The cast includes poets Suzen Baraka, Helena D. Lewis, Tahani Salah and Jennifer Seary.

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In “The Male Ego,” barbershop owner Rainmaker guides us through the lives of male customers as they bare their souls about the obstacles men face, including: struggles with the legal system, fatherhood, the search for one’s identity, self-love and the search a soul mate. The men share their testimonies of self-love and self-hate, denial and insecurity, courage and resurrection, and the authentic incidents of boys becoming men. “The Male Ego” cast includes poets Rainmaker, Kilusan Bautista, Carlos Iro Burgos and Mokgethi Mega Thinane.

The production is directed by Leslie “Buttaflysoul” Taylor, a poet, spoken-word artist, vocalist, actor, producer and director. He made his directorial debut at the Nuyorican Poets Café with “baron, unplugged.” Buttafly has been a featured director of InnerAct Productions’ Summer Actor’s Workshop Series and has directed a season of the ROAR Theater Festival in New York City.

The spoken-word performance, which also has graced the stages of Yale, Princeton, the University of Georgia and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is part of Clark Atlanta University’s 2011 homecoming celebration. For more information and schedule of activities, go to [www.cau.edu](http://www.cau.edu).

#### About the “HerStory” Cast

Suzen Baraka is a multitalented poet, writer and actor. She works as an artist-in-residence for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), teaching poetry and performance to underprivileged children. Helena D. Lewis is an award-winning poet and playwright who has performed at numerous universities and colleges across the country, and has been featured on the Peabody Award-winning series, “Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry.” She is currently touring her one-woman show, “Call Me Crazy: Diary of A Mad Social Worker,” which won ‘Best Short’ at the Downtown Urban Theater Festival in New City and was selected as the ‘Festival Pick’ at the 2010 D.C. Black Theater Festival. A graduate of Columbia University, Tahani Salah is a dynamic performer, poet and educator, and was a member of the 2006 Urban Word NYC Slam Team and the 2007 Nuyorican National Slam Team. She has performed on numerous world stages, from the Apollo Theater in New York to universities in South Africa and Munich. Jennifer Seary is a performance poet and teaching artist who works with high school-aged students in theater, creative writing and spoken-word poetry/performance. She is a member of the NYC Latina Writers Group and Fantastic Experimental Latino Theater's Fantastic Latina Playwright's Lab.

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About “The Male Ego” Cast

Rainmaker is a professional poet who has opened for artists Carl Thomas and Mos Def. He is featured on many underground poetry and hip-hop albums. Carlos M. Burgos Jr. is a poetic language manipulator, a single father to a 2-year-old son and a creative writing student at CUNY Hunter College. His writing focuses on his son, social consciousness and women's advocacy. Actor, experimental performance artist, and playwright Kilusan Bautista is an emerging voice for diaspora Asian-Pacific Americans raised within the hip-hop generation. He combines the performance elements of theater, spoken-word poetry, martial arts and interpretive movement. Mokgethi "Mega" Thinane is a Brooklyn-born performance artist. In 2010, the debut of his one-man show, “Steady State,” off-Broadway at Dance Theater Workshop, was well received. In 2011, he was named assistant director of “Journal to Journey,” a theater/spoken-word collaboration between Urban and New York Live Arts.

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