



Media Contact:

Casey Blake

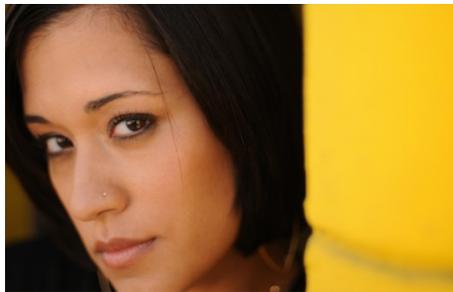
480-644-6620

casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

**Spoken World Series Kicks Off With Mayda Del Valle
Phoenix-based acts Mother's Favorite Child and DeeJay Panic join her on stage
Friday, Oct. 17**

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Mesa, AZ – Internationally-recognized spoken word artist Mayda Del Valle headlines the first event in Mesa Arts Center's Spoken World series, a fusion of dynamic spoken word artists with mixed media and live instrumentation. Joining Mayda on Oct. 17 at 7:30 pm. will be emcee and poet Tomas J. Stanton, renowned spoken word artist Marc Bamuthi Joseph, award winning Jazz/Soul band Mother's Favorite Child featuring Tanya Tiet, Billboard Charting

Artist Vaughn Willis and Valley-based DeeJay Panic. Tickets are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Del Valle's womanhood and Puerto Rican ancestry are themes that play a key role in her work. The *Chicago Sun Times* describes her as having "a way with words...sometimes they seem to flutter and roll off her lips. Other times they burst forth like a comet streaking across a night time sky."

Del Valle won the National Poetry Slam at the young age of 22, being the youngest and only Latino winner in the slam's history. Her achievements have include performing on Russell Simmons *Def Poetry Jam* for six years, being a judge on Brave New Voices (the teen affiliate of *Def Poetry Jam*), performing at the White House for the President and the First Lady, and being recognized as one of the twenty most powerful women today in *O The Oprah Magazine's* 'O Power List'.

The Spoken World Series fuses the nation's most acclaimed Spoken Word artists with mixed media and live instrumentation. The series is curated and hosted by one of America's most vital voices in performance, arts education, and artistic curation, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, in partnership with locally based Spoken Word artist Tomas J. Stanton of Phonetic Spit. The series will engage Valley audiences through community outreach and unforgettable performances, building on the Mesa Arts Center's continuing commitment to empowering communities through its spoken word education programs and professional performances.

Also performing in the 2014-15 Spoken World series under the artistic direction of Marc Bamuthi Joseph are spoken word superstars Roger Bonair-Agard, Denise Jolly, Sonya Renee Taylor and The Soul Justice Project Marc Bamuthi Joseph. Next on the series in November is *One Drop of Love*, a multimedia one woman show and exploration of race in the United States produced by Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni.

For more information about the Spoken World series, visit mesaartscenter.com. Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.