Written by Davey D ID4580 Thursday, 25 December 2008 00:58 -

As we step into the holiday season we wanted to remind you just how much Hip Hop speaks truth to power. It never takes a break even during the holidays... That's why we kicked off this week's episode with some inspiring words from Civil Rights leader Joseph Lowry. He sets the tone with his remarks which are followed by Elandra Williams a youth activist from the Highlander Center in Tennessee. Over a slamming Heiro beat she tells us how the movement has been co-opted by the Foundation Industrial complex. She's says too many leaders have become professional activists.

Elandra's searing words are followed by those of embattled preacher Jeremiah Wright who hits us over the dome about Muslim and Christian contradictions and how there are some in each respective religion who erroneously use God to justify their own political and military agenda. Big shout out to Tajai of the Mighty Hiero crew who I ran into this earlier this week.

This week we push the envelop and remind people of the on going struggles endured by this country's original inhabitants. We got laced up with an album called "Peace& Dignity Journeys; Sacred Songs for Sacred Earth". It's a compilation that gathered Indigenous Hip Hop artists from across all borders who came together and donated songs for an album that brings attention and raises funds for the seven month spiritual run known as the Peace and Dignity Journey. It's a run that occurs every 4 years and has participants honoring the prophecy of the unification of the eagle and the condor.

The album itself is slamming and is a reminder that Hip Hop has touched all cultures and sadly the commercial side of it has rendered so many invisible. The two joints we rock on this episode are "The Youth Conference" by Quese Imc out of Los Angeles and "Take Me Back" by Olmeca, Victor E of El Vuh & Tolketa should put folks on notice -Do Not Sleep. Hip Hop is flourishing everywhere.

We found a few fun jams that will get people's heads nodding including "Bay Bronx Bridge" by Motion man and Kool Keith. Producer Kutmasta Kurt rocked the James Brown inspired beats as these two bi-coastal emcees pay tribute to the classic joint "The Bridge" by Marley Marl and MC Shan with their own version that brings two coasts together in Hip Hop unity.

Also stepping to the plate is T-Kash who pays tribute to Nas and Lauryn Hill's classic "If I Ruled the World". Many people forget the Nas" version is a remake of the original by Hip Hop pioneer

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Kurtis Blow. In the T-Kash version he talks about the struggles endured by folks who live in the Bay including police brutality, gentrification and other isms and what he would like to see changed. The song is dope..

LA's first lady Medusa drops a new cut on us called "Get Up" which reminds us just how a real emcee should sound why she is Queen of the west coast. Big shout out to DJ Ice of the Wilshire District records who spins for Medusa and laced me with this joint from her upcoming album

Big shout to Beni B of ABB records who hit me up this morning with new music from 9th Wonder and fellow North Carolinian Ceasar Camanche who has a new album about to drop in February. This cut we rock called "Hands High" lets us know this album looks to be banana's

Down in the Big Eazy, New Orleans, we have Truth Universal who is steady plugging away. His song "Black Culture" features Doodlebug from Digable Planets and Wise Intelligent from Poor Righteous Teachers. Together this trio hits us hard with a dose of much needed sobering consciousness. In the backdrop of Truth Universal's music is the now widely reported stories about white vigilantes who were and continue to run around NO shooting down Black folks. When artists like Truth and Sess 4-5 first told us about this people scoffed. When activists like former Black Panther Malik Rahiem of Common Ground did a documentary showing white racist with guns bragging about going on pheasant hunts everyone including Mayor Ray Nagin ignored it and tried to sweep it under the rug.

When Green Party presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney talked about Black water and 5000 black deaths in NO, people said she was crazy. Now that the Nation magazine wrote a full length article verifying much of what was reported we now have everyone paying attention. It is under these dire circumstances that artists like Truth Universal operate. He pulls no punches as he embodies the spirit of resistance and resilliance that is sometimes forgotten within Hip Hop.

A few other stand out joints to watch out for in this episode of 25 Joints include DJ B Girl Chillz out of Seattle. Her new group the Knox Family which includes Jermz and Julie C is poised to make a lot of noise in "09.

J Boogie teams up with Lyrics Born to drop a dope cut called "Revolution".

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its off one of my favorite albums of the year 'soul Vibration".

Jasiri X comes super hard with a joint that talks about the an absentee father with a song called Souljah. Dude is definitely one of the tightest emcees a round. Please recognize.

Finally we went digging in the crates and pulled out one of my favorite songs of all times called "Thinking of a Masterplan".. I love the one by YZ. That will always be classic. But this one is by MC Hammer and it will let you know there was more to Hammer time than met the eye...

We wrap things up with new music from Michael Franti who did a song that pays tribute to Barack Obama. The video is dope and dude will be in DC performing at a few Inaugural Balls.

We"re out for now.. Enjoy

Listen to this week's 25 Joints 6 by clicking the link below

http://odeo.com/episodes/23800201-25-Joints-to-Get-U-Through-the-Day-6-We-re-Fired-Up

- 01-Joseph Lowery w/ Hieroglyphics "Joe Meets Elanda-Fired Up" (Atlanta-Oakland)
- 02-**Rebel Diaz** "A Trillion" (Chicago/NY)
- 03-Motion man w/ Kool Keith "Bay Bronx Bridge" (oakland/ NY)
- 04-**Azeem** "Make Your Brain Swing" (Sista Souljah rmx)
- 05-**Goapele** "Find Away" (Common rmx)
- 06-**Jessica Celious** "Take Me Away" (LA)
- 07-Mystic "Ghetto Lullaby" (Oakland)
- 08-**T-Kash** "When" (oakland)
- 09-**Jasiri X** "Souljah" (Pittsburgh)
- 10-Minister Farrakhan "Stewart of the People" (Chicago)

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- 11-Jasiri X "Trouble" (Pittsburgh)
- 12-Rza w/ Rugged Monk "Drama" (NY/LA)
- 13-Sunpsot Jones "Spell on Me" (oakland)
- 14-MC Hammer "Speaking of a Masterplan" rmx (oakland)
- 15-**Pep Love** "What"s Relief "(oakland)
- 16-Quese Imc w/ Marisa "The Youth Conference" (LA)
- 17-Olmeca Victor E & Tolteka "Take me Back" (Mexico)
- 18-The Deliquents w/ Askari X "Thinking Bout Home" (oakland)
- 19-Brother J w/ Christian Scott "Prison" (Bk/LA)
- 20-Jahi "This Side" (cleveland/ Oakland)
- 21-J-Boogie w/ Lyrics Born (San Fran/ Oakland)
- 22-Medusa "Get Up" (LA)
- 23-<u>Truth Universal w/Doodlebug & Wise Intelligent</u> "Black Culture" (New Orleans/NY/Trenton)
- 24-Ceasar Comancho w/ 9th Wonder "Heads High" (North Carolina)
- 25-Knox Family w/ DJ B Girl Chillz "Make Love" (Seattle)
- 26-Michael Franti "Obama Song" (San Fran)