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HipHopKaraokeNYC.com

#### **About the Event**

Hip Hop Karaoke flips the age-old concept of karaoke with over 300 classic and current hip-hop songs. We supply the lyrics, stage, original beat, DJ, and hypeman and all that's left is getting on the mic. After the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hip Hop Karaoke Championship sold out the 800-capacity Highline Ballroom in 2008, New York's most popular hip-hop event stages its biggest event to date: the 2010 Hip Hop Karaoke Championship at New York's Irving Plaza (1,100-person capacity) on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

In November and December, the organizers held two Regional Championships in Brooklyn and Manhattan, with the highest-scoring competitors advancing to the Championship. At the Championship, 12 performers (ranging in age from 24 to 38) will pick from **Hip Hop Karaoke**'s eclectic song list of over 300 classic and current hip-hop songs and battle it out in front of a diverse, enthusiastic crowd. After three rounds, one person will emerge as **Hip Hop Karaoke** Champion and winner of a \$1,000 cash prize. Second and third place product prizes will also be awarded. This event is ages **16 and up** and **advance tickets are \$13**; **\$15 day of show**.

Last year, **Prince Paul**, **Dres from Black Sheep** and Video Music Box's **Ralph McDaniels** brought their vast hip-hop knowledge to the judges' table and this year, expect similar legends to bless the stage in January. This year, legendary emcee Buckshot has already signed on to **Hip Hop Karaoke** and organizers will be announcing this year's other judges soon.

Throw away any preconceived notions of the stereotypical karaoke night. This is not "Ice Ice Baby" over a fake beat in the back of a bar. There are no bouncing balls or cheesy screens. This is the opportunity to grab a mic, get up on stage, and perform a hip-hop classic to a diverse, enthusiastic crowd. **Hip Hop Karaoke** only uses the original instrumentals and our hosts ensure that every participant, from the seasoned hip-hop veteran to the casual fan, stays on track.

Zach Quillen, Josh Dick and Jason Newman, three life-long hip-hop junkies, started **Hip Hop Karaoke** in December 2004. From the beginning, the plan was always to shy away from traditional karaoke factors—bouncing balls, monitors etc.—and instead create a space where dedicated performers could pay homage to their hip-hop heroes by performing the genre's best tracks for like-minded, appreciative audiences.

The event was an instant success, with publications like Village Voice and New York Magazine immediately praising HHK and lines forming around the block after a few short months. **Hip Hop Karaoke** now hosts its monthly residency at Southpaw, a nationally known and critically acclaimed music venue in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to the residency, HHK has had the honor to host the official after-party for the Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival, participate in VH1's Hip Hop Honors Week and travel to Amsterdam to perform at Boss, the city's largest hip-hop event.

(con'd)

On January 25, 2008, **Hip Hop Karaoke** went to the next level, staging the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hip Hop Karaoke Championship at the **sold-out** Highline Ballroom. For the Championship, the diverse crowd witnessed a dozen performers battle it out in front of judges (and hip-hop legends) Prince Paul, Dres from Black Sheep and "Uncle" Ralph McDaniels, with the winner taking home a \$1,000 cash prize. The event was a massive success, garnering features from such outlets as New York Times, Spin, and New York Daily News.

While it's only fitting that a hip-hop event was born in New York, the genre's birthplace, the concept of **Hip Hop Karaoke** has spread to nearly a dozen cities around the world, including Miami, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Toronto, Vancouver, London, Brighton, Bristol and Wellington, New Zealand. Combining hip-hop and karaoke—two events with universal interest—the event has unlimited international appeal.

**Hip Hop Karaoke** has received numerous press accolades, including "Best of New York" (New York Magazine), Voice Choices (Village Voice), "America's Wildest Parties" (Spin) and #1 Karaoke Hotspot (AM New York). In addition, the event has been featured on such diverse outlets as New York Times, Time Out NY, The Guardian, XXL, BET, Vibe, Allhiphop.com, URB, Sirius Radio, NY Post, NYC-TV, MSG, Current TV, Newsday and NY Daily News.

Hip Hop Karaoke welcomes collaborations with companies who understand the diverse reach of the event's demographic. Hip Hop Karaoke counts numerous industry tastemakers, journalists and influential bloggers among its regular attendees and one look around the room shows all ages (though predominantly 21-35), races, genders, and ethnicities united under the banner of timeless music. Hip Hop Karaoke has previously partnered with companies such as FOX Entertainment, Atlantic Records, Sirius Radio, Random House, Triple 5 Soul, and Metromix.com, to name just a few of the partners that have successfully cross-marketed their respective products to the event's young, stylish audience, and looks forward to future collaborations.

Hip Hop Karaoke Official Website: http://www.hiphopkaraokenyc.com



#### **Press Coverage**

#### Hip Hop Karaoke has been covered by the following outlets:



H/ Post

Village Voice Bearew.

Metro - W/ Edition

Village Voice Preview

Hew/forkMehozom

Weekly Pick

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#### **Selected Press Quotes**

"Trendsetting"

Allhiphop.com

"#1 Karaoke Hotspot"

**AM New York** 

"The party has gotten pretty big, with everyone from meek secretaries to wannabe Snoops busting bling, dropping rhymes and flowing crunk. Even more than a sound to hear, it's really a sight to see."

AOL Cityquide - Offbeat Nightlife Official Selection

"Highly recommended"

Gawker

"Rap might have come late to the karaoke party, but it's making up for lost time."

Guardian

"Hip Hop Karaoke is an idea so good you're shocked it hasn't been thought of earlier."

"Best of New York"

New York Magazine

"[The Championship] was a swooning night of revived hip-hop classics."

"America's Wildest Parties"

Spin Magazine

"Hip-Hop Karaoke...changed the game, to the delight of our city's many hip-hop junkies."

Flavorpill.com

"Wildly popular"

**URB Magazine** 

"Exhilarating....Rewarding...Another stint on a stage is definitely coming."

Vibe.com First Person Review

"While hip-hop karaoke nights have been held across the U.S...the most successful and consistent event is New York City's Hip-Hop Karaoke. HHK's foundation is an eclectic song list that runs the gamut from classic favorites...to more obscure gems."

XXL Magazine

"So close to a real hip-hop show as to raise the question of what exactly the difference between karaoke hip-hop and non-karaoke hip-hop might be."

**New York Times** 

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#### **Selected Honors**

- New York's most popular monthly hip-hop event
- Official After-Party, Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival
- Official After-Party, Rhymesayers' Soundset Festival
- Performer Boss, Amsterdam's largest hip-hop event
- Performer The Bamboozle Festival
- Multiple appearances on Shade 45 (Sirius Radio Hip-Hop Station)

#### Past Guests

Hip Hop Karaoke has been joined onstage by a diverse group of legendary emcees and producers, including:

- O.C.
- Pete Rock
- DJ Spinna
- Masta Ace
- Rhymefest
- Brother Ali
- DJ Evil Dee
- Big Daddy Kane
- Jeru the Damaja
- Slug (Atmosphere)
- Tek (Smif-N-Wessun)
- Rock (Heltah Skeltah)



Rhymefest at Hip Hop Karaoke

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