

The Reminders + MaMa² + DJ Man-O-Wax Workshop Description

The 2015-16 Caravanserai: American Voices season presents acclaimed Muslim-American performers sharing their creative expressions in contemporary music and performance genres. Caravanserai: American Voices final residency tour features Colorado-based hip-hop/soul duo The Reminders joined by a female hip-hop dance duo MaMa² and Caravanserai's Artistic Director, Asad Ali Jafri, performing under his stage moniker, DJ Man-O-Wax.

These artists express themselves through hip-hop, soul, and funk—homegrown American music forms viewed through a multi-cultural global lens. The socially conscious, interactive music and lyrics of The Reminders and the mesmerizing, high-energy movement of MaMa² are framed by the global-fusion sound of DJ Man-O-Wax, creating an immersive hip-hop residency experience for Caravanserai audiences.

Below is a short description of educational activities that these artists will conduct in K-12 classrooms, colleges, and universities and public workshops during their Caravanserai residency tour. This document offers general descriptions, and activities will be modified to respond to audience size, age level, and time allotted.

Study Guides

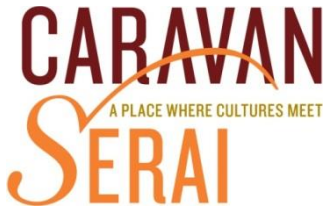
Please visit the "Resources" section of the Caravanserai website at www.caravanserai-arts.org/resources to find study guides, reading lists, and web resources that support and enhance classroom activities.

Artist Introduction

The Reminders are a hip-hop duo that comprises Brussels, Belgium-born emcee Big Samir and Queens, NY native emcee/vocalist Aja Black. Blending soulful sounds and roots music with thoughtful lyrics that message peaceful social change, The Reminders' positive rhymes and powerful vocals mesh with reggae-tinged beats to carve a unique space in the American and global hip-hop scenes. The Reminders debut album *Recollect* and their latest release *Born Champions* are both critically and popularly acclaimed, and they have been recognized and applauded for their work internationally through concerts, tours, music awards, TV, and radio appearances. The Reminders have shared the stage with artists such as Les Nubians, Snoop Dogg, Fishbone, Barrington Levy, Nas, Mos Def, Big Boi, KRS-One, Rakim, and K'Naa.

MaMa² is a hip-hop and breakin' dance duo comprised of Amirah Sackett ("Suga Mama") and Mary Mar ("BGirl Ma-Ma"). Originally from Minneapolis, MN, Chicago-based dancer/choreographer Amirah Sackett graduated with a B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Minnesota and has studied at Tisch School of the Arts in NYC. At Minneapolis' Intermedia Arts, Amirah has been an active participant and dance curator for "B-Girl Be," an international festival for women in hip-hop as well as creating "The Joint Project," a show encouraging collaborative works between artists in hip-hop. Amirah Sackett's choreography was featured in Brother Ali's music video "Mourning in America" and won the Sage Cowles award for "Best Ensemble Performance." In November 2014, she taught dance and choreographed pieces with artists in Dhaka, Bangladesh as part of Next Level, an initiative of the U.S. State Department and University of North Carolina. Amirah's love of hip-hop dance and devotion to her faith fused to inspire a contemporary dance collective called We're Muslim, Don't Panic, which is dedicated to elevating the status of women and educating the public on women's issues.

Mary Mar ("BGirl Ma-Ma") joins Amirah Sackett to form MaMa² for the Caravanserai: American Voices tour. Mary has been breakin' since 2001 and has actively studied, taught, and performed hip-hop dance all over the United States. She has been honored to learn from breakin' dance pioneers such as B-Boy Crazy Legs from the legendary Rock Steady Crew,



BBoy Dyzee, BGirl Shie Chan, BBoy Born, BBoy Ivan, BBoy Casper, BGirl ABGirl, Incredible Josh and many other breakin’ masters. Mary Mar has been a member of Hardcore Detroit dance crew since 2002 and was recently inducted into the Venus Fly dance crew as well as the We’re Muslim, Don’t Panic collective. She has competed nationally and won several competitions including the 2011 Breakin’ the Law in Madison, Wisconsin; 2011 Grand Rapids’ Slam N Jam; and the 2014 Detroit’s Quality All Styles Dance Competition. Mary teaches hip-hop and breakin’ workshops, classes, and children’s camps throughout the Metro Detroit area.

Asad Ali Jafri is the Artistic Director for Caravanserai’s 2015–2016 season. Asad runs an independent cultural consultancy called Sukoon Creative, building on extensive experience presenting Muslim artists as Director of Arts and Cultural Programs for the Inner-city Muslim Action Network in Chicago and a festival organizer for the World Islamic Economic Forum in Malaysia. He also performs internationally as DJ Man-O-Wax, spinning soulful, spiritual, and funky music from around the world. As a founding member and director of FEW Collective, Asad directs and tours with a rotating group of performing artists and musicians using art to engage, educate, and inspire. One of Asad’s signature productions as an artist is “Turntable Dhikr,” a spiritual meditation on the Divine through turntablism. Asad has performed as an artist across five continents and ten countries and is a proud member of the Universal Zulu Nation.

Musicians and Instrumentation

Big Samir	MC/vocals
Aja Black	MC/vocals
Amirah Sackett	dancer
Mary Mar	dancer
Asad Ali Jafri/DJ Man-O-Wax	MC/DJ/mix-master

Workshop – “The Hip-Hop Experience”

Running Time

Total workshop time will be 45- 60 minutes (flexible depending on time allotted).

Workshop Description

DJ Man-O-Wax, The Reminders, and the MaMa² will introduce audiences to the origins, evolution, and contemporary expression of hip-hop music and culture. They will introduce the five core elements of hip-hop: DJing, breaking, MCing, graffiti art, and knowledge. The three performative elements of DJing, breaking, and MCing will then be demonstrated, and audience members will be invited to participate in creating their own hip-hop experience. This educational experience will be flexibly designed for different audience sizes and age levels (youth to adult). Including:

- Large school assembly with audience participation – volunteers will join the artists on stage
- Small classroom breakout sessions focusing on any or all of the core 3 hip-hop performance elements
- Master classes in DJing, hip-hop dance, MCing, and songwriting (youth to adult – can be tailored to audience)

Event programming choices must be determined in advance in consultation with local Caravanserai organizer and Caravanserai production staff.

Question and Answer

In the time remaining, the artists will be available to answer questions from the audience.