



# HarlemLIVE Notes



<http://www.harlemlive.org>

March/April

The Award Winning Student Publication Produced in Harlem

2005

## Alumna Assumes HarlemLIVE Chair

HarlemLIVE voted alumna and former editor-in-chief Danya Steele as chair of its Board of Directors.



Danya Steele, HL's new Board Chair

Nominated by board secretary Paul Dunn, Ms Steele was unanimously chosen to be chairwoman as HL begins to expand its board following tremendous financial growth in the past year.

"HarlemLIVE produces actual, practical products," said Steele, "I would know; I'm one of them. Fortunate enough to have come of age at HarlemLIVE, I've seen this program literally at every level and angle that it has to offer. Not only do I understand what it means to be a young, prolific media maker and fundraiser, but through my tenure here, I've also learned how absolutely none of that is possible without an aggressive, proactive Board of Directors."

"HarlemLIVE has been an award-winning staple to the Harlem community for nearly a decade; as Chair, I look forward to both sustaining and expanding that role. This organization is capable of so much; I'm made restless by

## HarlemLIVE's First Annual Free Style Fashion Show

HarlemLIVE had its First Annual "Freestyle Fashion Show" at Columbia University's Teacher's College on Saturday, February 12th 2005. You weren't there? Well you should have been, it was history in the making.

The show was presented by Parlé and 4T's Productions and it featured the hottest in fashion, a freestyle battle and too many performances to count. DJ V12, the DJ for the night got the festivities started by spinning records for the crowd before the show began.

The show got off to an exciting start, and it was back to back entertainment for three hours. Kevin Benoit, HarlemLIVE and Parle's Editor-In-Chief was the host/emcee for the night.

"HarlemLIVE's First Annual Freestyle Fashion Show was a success because we had fun," said HL student, Shaunetta Gibson. "It was a long process and anywhere along the line we could have given up. The most important part is that under pressure we were strong and kept on going. That's what success is to a teenager."

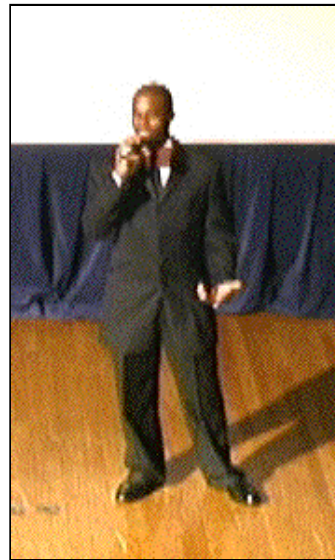
Organized Chaos, a group of steppers from Brooklyn Technical High School started off the talent show. Following them was a performance by 19 year-old phenomenon, Jase, one of the hottest upcoming acts representing Queens. After the performances, it was time for the fashion to get started as HarlemLIVE's models hit the runway

strutting the hottest street and casual wear from SouthPole, Lot 29 and ErvinGeoffrey for the spring season.

Rain, one of the night's performers, said, "I liked the shows creativity as far as the set-up as far as to have it more like a skit rather than an actual fashion show. There were a lot of talented show performers there and the turn out was very nice. You had a very energetic crowd. It was a good show."

It was a big event and a big night. For the first event of its kind it is definitely a sign of great things to come. Look out for the next Parlé/HarlemLIVE/4T's Productions Event coming this spring.

"I had fun, said EIC Kevin Benoit, "which in the beginning was one of the most important goals. Secondly we raised money and third we were able to see what it takes to put together a large event. In everything you do there must be a first time, this was our first. We saw the mistakes and we saw the



Kevin Benoit, MC

bright spots. There will definitely be more events in the future and I hope to see you there."



Lord Ness battles Lanz

## HIP Hip Hooray

HIP Health Plans of New York recently selected HarlemLIVE as one of its grantees, joining our growing list of supporters.

After visiting recently, Michelle R. Paige, Director of External Affairs and Corporate Contributions said, "I was very impressed with HarlemLive's dedication to youth development and the enthusiasm and pride for which the teens displayed in their work and accomplishments."

"It was great to see so many talented kids get involved in the field of journalism and web design who would not have normally been exposed if it were not for this program. It's wonderful that teens are becoming so sophisticated about photography and layout design to name a few of the many aspects of



producing a web magazine. We were thoroughly impressed!"

HIP USA of New York hopes to help HarlemLIVE even more in their next fiscal year.

HarlemLIVE wishes to thank everyone at HIP USA of New York for their support and words of encouragement.

Link: [www.hipusa.com](http://www.hipusa.com)

## HL Flies to Vermont to Train Exchange Students

For the third year in a row, Project Harmony invited HL youth to Vermont to serve as Technology Ambassadors for youth participants

from countries of the former Soviet Union, in the US State Department-funded Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program.

Alumnus Shem Rajoon, and editors Mera Beckford and

Bryan Conforme will fly up to Burlington, Vermont where they will be met by their hosts and drive to Middlebury where each will stay with a different host family. The three will conduct workshops and help provide training in how to create a web magazine that these teens can apply when they return to their own communities.

Managing Editor Mera Beckford says, "I hope to meet new people, brush up on my people skills and have a nice vacation."



Bryan Conforme, Shem Rajoon, Mera Beckford

Project Harmony program manager Abigail Marks said of the HL leaders, "They contributed greatly to our workshop and inspired many of our participants. They are incredibly professional."

One student who participated, Darya Zolotova from Russia said, "HarlemLive was something that opened my eyes to the world. The teens there achieve so much." "It's relaxing getting away from the city for a few days," says Rajoon who has been each of the last three years. "Plus you learn about different cultures from the foreign students."

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