

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Media contact: Kerri Gawryn (415) 830-2638 or  
kgawryn@gmail.com

### **Sneak Preview and Oakland Premiere of A LOVELY DAY (71 minutes)**

A documentary film by local filmmaker Kerri Gawryn  
**October 11 at the Grand Lake Theatre**

In 2009 Oakland based independent filmmaker Kerri Gawryn teamed up with Beats, Rhymes and Life ( a local organization for youth) and the Oakland High School Fifth Element Hip Hop Club to produce a feature-length film documenting the trials, tribulations, and achievements of a group of Oakland youth. The young rappers embark on a six-month journey to find their voice, their talent, and their path to healing within Hip Hop culture. The result is A LOVELY DAY, a documentary film which will screen at the Grand Lake Theater on October 11, 2012. The film project chronicles the lives of the nine youth as they set out to make music that not only expresses their thoughts, but also helps build a stronger community through widespread change and hope. The resiliency embodied by the teens' voices shows that they cannot be dismissed, that they are in fact some of our most important educators in a critical time of change.

The first and only youth-centered program of its kind in the Bay Area, Beats Rhymes and Life fuses Hip Hop with social work, exemplifying an innovative spirit unique to Oakland. Unlike many Hip-Hop documentaries that showcase competition among artists, A LOVELY DAY highlights collaborative efforts among the youth as they work towards the common goals of creating a full-length album and performing a live concert at the Oakland Metro Operahouse. The filmed workshop, recording sessions, final performance, and supplemental interviews reveal the challenges specific Oakland youth face, while they are engaged in a shared artistic experience. The film demonstrates the potential of youth to examine and give voice to their experience while contributing powerful works of art to the story of urban adolescence. Their voluntary participation and commitment to the program and each other, exemplifies their willingness to construct their futures and create social change as they transition into adulthood.

**Along with the cinema crew, the youth from the film, and Beats Rhymes and Life/Oakland High School Fifth Element Hip Hop Club staff will be present at the October 11 screening for a post-screening facilitated question and answer session.**

## **About the Director**

Kerri Gawryn is an Oakland-based documentary film director and producer. Her last film, EXPOSING HOMELESSNESS, chronicled the experiences of three formerly homeless women as they learned to express themselves and educate others about homelessness through the art of photography. The film, an SF Weekly “Pick of the Week,” was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle and won the “Best Local Voice” award from the San Francisco Women’s Film Festival, and the Society for Visual Anthropology’s Jean Rouch award. EXPOSING HOMELESSNESS is presently playing at a number of film festivals and is globally distributed by Documentary Educational Resources, a company devoted to the distribution of social justice films.

For DVD previews, high resolution photos or to schedule an interview with the director or any of the film’s participants, please contact Kerri Gawryn at [kgawryn@gmail.com](mailto:kgawryn@gmail.com).