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**BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE, 9TH WONDER & MORE FORM
HOPSCOTCH'S FREE EDWARD MCKAY ARTIST & AUTHOR SERIES**
Topics include N.C. musical tradition, hip-hop and Black Mountain College

Partnering with local staples Edward McKay Used Books and Raleigh City Museum, Hopscotch Music Festival proudly announces its Edward McKay Artist & Author Series, featuring discussions with Grammy winners, Grammy nominees, bandleaders and some of the best music critics in the country.

During three late afternoon sessions on Sept. 9, 10 and 11, musicians like Andrew Whiteman of Broken Social Scene and Apostle of Hustle and hip-hop producer 9th Wonder will talk about music's cultural and social impacts with critics and authors like *Spin* and *Village Voice* writer Christopher R. Weingarten and acclaimed author and Duke University professor Mark Anthony Neal. Other guests include Dolph Ramseur of Ramseur Records, Phil Cook of Megafaun and Charlie Smarts of Kooley High, with more panelists to be added as Hopscotch Music Festival approaches.

"Writing about music often feels like such a vacuum. It's someone tucked behind a keyboard with their thoughts and their headphones, ultimately sending some message out into the world," says *Independent Weekly* Music Editor and Hopscotch Curator Grayson Currin about the series. "My goal with this series is to break that vacuum by putting artists and their analysts in the same room and letting them talk about inspirations and ideas."

Each discussion is free and open to the public, though seating capacity inside Raleigh City Museum is extremely limited. Early arrival is recommended. Tickets for Hopscotch Music Festival—Thursday, Sept. 9—Saturday, Sept. 11 in 10 downtown Raleigh venues—are still available in very limited numbers at www.hopscotchmusicfest.com.

ABOUT THE PANELS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9 (Free/ 5–7 p.m.)

North Carolina's Musical Heritage: Past, Present and Future

From the old-time music and bluegrass that's moved from the state's mountains to the litany of jazz and soul icons that have called North Carolina home, this state has a tradition of fostering musical innovators. Several careful students of those lineages will gather to discuss the state's musical past, how it's being preserved, and why it has such an important influence on the music being made here now.

The speakers include Durham's **PHIL COOK** of Megafaun, a band that blends folk sounds of the past with adventurous experimentation; Concord's **DOLPH RAMSEUR** of Ramseur Records, who has helped turn both The Avett Brothers and Carolina Chocolate Drops into international emissaries for the sounds of North Carolina; Raleigh's **MARSHALL WYATT** of Old Hat Records, a Grammy-nominated, Bob Dylan-approved label that collects historic recordings and curates them into rich compilations; and Chapel Hill's **AARON SMITHERS**, who has traveled the state recording under-documented artists. Hopscotch Curator and *Independent Weekly* Music Editor **GRAYSON CURRIN** will moderate the discussion. Cook will also perform as his one-man band, **PHIL COOK & HIS FEAT**, to begin the discussion.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10 (Free/ 4–6 p.m.)

Black Mountain College: Legacy and Inspiration

Andrew Whiteman writes, sings and plays guitar in the Canadian bands Broken Social Scene and Apostle of Hustle. Not long after Broken Social Scene confirmed their co-headlining Hopscotch set, Whiteman approached festival organizers about an event that would honor Black Mountain College, the influential interdisciplinary school that opened in western North Carolina in 1933. Whiteman will read his own poetry, as well as that of several Black Mountain acolytes, and discuss the school's importance with a panel of local poets.

The speakers include Toronto's **ANDREW WHITEMAN**, a Broken Social Scene staple who will read from his forthcoming book, *Tourism*; Durham's **KEN RUMBLE**, an installation artist, musician and the author of *Key Bridge* (Carolina Wren Press, 2007); Durham's **MEG STEIN**, an installation artist and musician working and playing in the 715 Washington art collective, along with Rumble; Durham's **CHRIS VITIELLO**, a poet and artist and the author of *Irresponsibility* (Ahsahta Press, 2008); and Raleigh's **CHRIS TONELLI**, a professor at N.C. State University, the author of four chapbooks and the

founder of the So and So Series. *Pitchfork Media* Critic and *Paste* Senior Contributing Editor **BRIAN HOWE**, an accomplished poet himself, will moderate the discussion. Rumble, Stein and Vitiello will also present a performance inspired by the Black Mountain College happenings of John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg at the start of the event.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11 (Free/ 4–6 p.m.)

Hip-Hop Planet: Music and Its Work in the World

When people talk about the political importance and immediacy of hip-hop, perhaps no group gets mentioned more than Public Enemy, and perhaps no records more than their *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* and *Fear of a Black Planet*. With Public Enemy headlining Hopscotch Saturday night, we decided to talk about the social impact that hip-hop has historically had and if that role might be changing.

The speakers include Durham's **9TH WONDER**, the Little Brother cofounder and Grammy winner who has gone on to make music with Jay-Z, Destiny's Child, David Banner and Murs; New York's **CHRISTOPHER R.**

WEINGARTEN, "the last rock critic standing" and a scribe for *Village Voice*, *Spin*, *Rolling Stone* and the author of a new book on Public Enemy; Durham's **MARK ANTHONY NEAL**, a Professor of Black Popular Culture at Duke University and the author of several books on music and culture; and Raleigh's **CHARLIE SMARTS**, a member of the exuberant, emerging hip-hop crew Kooley High. Hopscotch Director **GREG LOWENHAGEN** and Curator **GRAYSON CURRIN** will moderate the discussion. Weingarten will spin his tribute set to *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* before the discussion begins.

ABOUT THE SERIES SPONSORS

EDWARD MCKAY USED BOOKS & MORE

Edward McKay Used Books & More was established in 1974 in Fayetteville, N.C., by an ex-Army officer who realized he couldn't afford to establish a library. He did the second-best thing. From modest beginnings that included Canada Dry Ginger Ale crates, buildings originally designed to function as chicken coops and a store built by the founder, Edward McKay Used Books & More has grown to four stores across North Carolina. The inventory has grown from only books to include iPods, video games, movies, music, vinyl and even e-readers. Though much has changed in the book industry over the last 36 years, Edward McKay Used Books & More still stands for cheap books, a funky attitude and the desire to feed your head.

RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

Founded in 1993, the Raleigh City Museum is the city's only organization dedicated solely to preserving its past and present for the future. Through exhibits, events, programs and historic walks for children, the museum highlights all that makes Raleigh a unique and vibrant city. The museum is home to such events such as Homebrewed Raleigh, an annual local beer festival, and the Oak City Market, a handmade and crafters market. The museum's A.E. Finley Gallery continually rotates local art exhibits, while its permanent exhibits offer both residents and visitors opportunities to learn the city's history.

THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

Steve Schewel and David Birkhead, both longtime Durham, N.C., residents, dreamt of founding an alternative newspaper in the South during the early '80s. In 1982, they hired the first editor and did just that, publishing the first issue in April 1983. In the 27 years since that debut, the *Independent*—or the *Indy*, as it's often called—has helped change the state's press coverage and political culture by influencing the mainstream media, pressuring political leaders and moving its readers to positive action.

The *Independent* has also served as a consistent and strident cultural critic in North Carolina for decades, regularly winning awards for its arts and music writing, not to mention its long legacy of award-winning news coverage.

Greg Lowenhagen has worked at *the Independent Weekly* since 2009; Grayson Currin has served as the paper's Music Editor since 2006.

ON THE WEB:

www.hopscotchmusicfest.com

www.twitter.com/hopscotchfest

www.facebook.com/pages/Hopscotch-Music-Festival/288992628225

www.myspace.com/hopscotchfest

www.romopr.com

www.edmckay.com

www.raleighcitymuseum.org