



atlantic city free public library

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Author to discuss positive messages found in hip-hop songs on Nov. 21

Felicia Pride will lead a writing workshop following her book talk

Who would have thought that you could get deep life lessons from hip-hop? Learn to deal with regrets by jamming to Jay-Z? Get career advice from an Ice-T rhyme? Reflect on spirituality through a Kanye West tune?

The Atlantic City Free Public Library will present a free book talk and writing workshop for teens featuring author Felicia Pride at 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21. The program will be held in the Main Library second-floor meeting room.

Pride will discuss her book *The Message: 100 Life Lessons from Hip-Hop's Greatest Songs*, which extracts the empowering lessons embedded within the genre's most popular music. Her book has been hailed as a "Chicken Soup for the Hip-Hop Soul."

Following the discussion, Pride will conduct a writing workshop based on her "Soundtracks" enrichment program. Teens will focus on the theme from a song, engage in a discussion about it and analyze the lyrics – and then they will have the opportunity to show what they have learned from the workshop through a creative writing prompt.

In *The Message*, Pride uses short essays, aptly titled after a hip-hop song, and written in the language of the culture, to explore the themes of spirituality, success, business and love. Pride goes on to share the wisdom she has learned from hip-hop and focuses on the positive influence the music has on its audience.

Pride's other books include the young adult anthology *Hallway Diaries* and two chapter books for children — *Everybody Hates First Girlfriends* and *Everybody Hates School Politics*, based on the award-winning television show *Everybody Hates Chris*.

In 2004, she founded BackList, an organization dedicated to harnessing the power of words to uplift individuals and their communities. BackList conducts writing, publishing

and other creative workshops and seminars for all age groups, curates community events, develops creative initiatives, resources and content, and consults with writers, artists, publishers and organizations.

Pride was the book blogger for AOL Black Voices, a website that garners more than three million monthly visitors, managing editor of *Mosaic* literary magazine and a contributor to *Publishers Weekly*. Her writing has appeared in various publications, including *VIBE*, *Baltimore Sun*, Popmatters.com and *The Baltimore City Paper*.

Please call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3052, for more information.