



Flow

written, composed and performed by Will Power
developed and directed by Danny Hock

MOST
ENJOYED BY
13+

Will Power's message is clear. We must tell the invisible stories of the modern urban landscape. We have to pass on the lessons. It's as crystal clear as a teardrop or a shard of broken glass. "Flow combines the complexity of serious drama with the visual and sonic arsenal of MTV." - *The New York Times* "Flow is about how stories are passed down from one generation to another and about how storytelling changes. It's about the evolution of a culture, the new stories encompassing the old and adding to them, the new storytellers having not only new stories to tell but new ways to tell them." - *The Artists Network*

• A SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY •

The story in Flow is of a young man, an incarnation of Will Power himself, called off the street by a man he knows only as "Ole Cheesy," and into a shack where he finds a circle of storytellers. There are seven places in the circle. Six are filled, and when Ole Cheesy leaves and doesn't come back, Will realizes that the seventh place in the circle is his. Each teller takes a turn and spins his or her tale. When it is Will's turn, his first story is of the deaths of the first six, which sets him back on the street, the only one left to carry all the stories on. And to search for the next generation of tales and tellers.

The extraordinary thing is that Will Power IS all these characters. He tells ALL the stories. He moves with muscle and quirky beauty and uses his voice as a percussive and melodic instrument. He does this alone onstage except for a live DJ who creates the soundscape of the world he conjures. He is a modern day griot (an African storyteller who passes on the wisdom of the people) who spins energy and joy into the whole room. Yet he talks directly to each individual. He is irresistibly infectious.

Flow is hip hop theater, a new art form. Beats. Graffiti. Break-dancing. Word. The four elements of hip hop. Power tells his story through vivid images conjured over hip hop beats, gospel vocals, a hybrid funk fusion of rhymes and African rhythms that stir the soul.

But it's not all about aesthetics. Hip hop theatre is also about message. Power has said his main goal is to bring young audiences to the theater, "to have their stories and voices and vibrations reflected onstage in a theater setting. We see our voices in music and clothes and movies to a certain extent, but we don't see it in theater."

If this seems like an odd juxtaposition, one Village Voice reviewer put it this way, "Hip-hop and drama share more than you might suppose. Both proceed - or purport to - from a need to speak out, to make stories public." Or in the language of Flow, "Sing the songs and right the wrongs and carry on, on and on... Zuu."

The storytellers and their stories

These are the storytellers caught in the metaphorical storm which Power articulates, “**be-dee-ka,**” which is the sound of rain and drums and gunfire.

OLE CHEESY: “A walking contradiction – Disheeky down wit’ a pimp-hat/Afro on the sides - gherricurl in the back...”
The original griot.

BREEZE: A street man, living in the bottle, telling stories “where animals spoke.” A man whose gift is imagination.

JACOBA: A female teacher and after school tutor whose efforts to reach the young people can not go unnoticed.

PREACHA MAN: Working in a health food store and getting truth from everywhere, he is a church unto himself.

NEW GROUN: An indigenous man who knows the oldest stories. “My family was here a long time ago...we were never immigrants.”

BESOMBEE: A dancer who teaches survival through his movements. “Teach you to move through the zuu, the beedee-ka-ka-beedee ka...”

SWEA P: A young freestyle queen, “Supernatural x 3!” whose joy is in the cipher - a circle or huddle of individuals free-styling, i.e., improvising.

WILL: The one left when all the rest are gone...

And then there’s **YOU**. “What about the stories and storyteller that’s inside YOU. ...When ya feelin’ trapped nowhere to go, You got to flow. Use the stories that you know and just flow...”

This performance contains some explicit language.



Check it Out!

• RELATED RESOURCES •



Will Power is a cultural and community activist, actor, rapper, playwright and educator who explores race, violence and other issues of survival with finesse and power. His performances, workshops, and lectures have been seen in 25 states and more than 55 cities abroad.

Check out his website:

www.willpower.tv

