

## **Our Presenter**

### **La’Ron Williams**

Over the past few years, La’Ron Williams has been steadily earning a reputation as one of the finest storytellers in the state of Michigan. His salient gift is his remarkable rapport with audiences of all kinds. Children and adults respond with equal enthusiasm to his warmth and vigor as he uses dialect, facial expressions and movement to breathe life into tales which transcend the boundaries of class and age.

Williams is motivated in part by the belief that the power and beauty of African culture should be shared, and that the lessons of struggle, perseverance, and survival of Africans in the Western Hemisphere are part of a legacy we all should recognize and own.

Ultimately, he believes that a narrow love of one’s own culture is not enough; that we all have to take the time to tell each other our stories—with all the joy and frowns and pain and smiles that they bring. He believes that “...we have to come to know and accept the ways in which we are different and become aware of and appreciate the ways in which we’re alike and that we have to use that knowledge not to ascribe hierarchy or to produce winners and losers, but to promote understanding and resolution.”

## **The Workshop**

### ***Everybody Gets To Help Me Tell!***

“I’m not the kind of storyteller who just sits in one spot and does all the talking while you just sit there and don’t do anything . . . I don’t tell stories like that. Everybody here gets to help me tell!” These are the words with which I start all of my storytelling sessions. No matter what age I work with, every story I do is designed to be participatory; to get the audience actively involved. If you believe you’re ready to take the plunge into this exciting style of presentation, but have been worried about exactly how to do it (while keeping your audiences “under control”) then this fun, interactive workshop can certainly help you acquire the skills to take the next step.”

## **Stay the Day**

La’Ron will be sharing the stage with world renowned kora-player and Mandingo griot Foday Musa Suso for the concert *An Afternoon of African Stories, Spoken and Sung* at 2 PM the day of the workshop. You can order a box lunch and your admission to the concert all in one registration check and spend the whole day at the Museum.

## **Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Cost (circle your choice):

Workshop only: \$30

Workshop and Box Lunch: \$40

Workshop and Concert: \$38

Workshop, Lunch, & Concert: \$48

Box lunches with turkey sandwiches (supplied by Strawberry Fields) will be ordered unless a vegetarian lunch is requested. You are welcome to bring a lunch from home. Check here to order a vegetarian lunch \_\_\_\_\_.

Send your form and check by Nov. 14th (made out to the Univ. of IL) to:  
Kim Sheahan, Spurlock Museum  
600 S. Gregory  
Urbana, IL 61801

Registration is limited.

Questions? Contact Kim Sheahan at  
217/244-3355 or ksheahan@uiuc.edu.

## Directions to the Spurlock Museum

The Spurlock Museum is located at 600 S. Gregory Street, Urbana, between Oregon and Illinois Streets just off of Lincoln Avenue. This is on the east edge of the University of Illinois campus and just across the street from the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Maps and specific directions can be found at <http://www.spurlock.uiuc.edu/info/directions.html> or requested from Kim Sheahan at 217/244-3355 or [ksheahan@uiuc.edu](mailto:ksheahan@uiuc.edu).

## Event Partners

This event is held in conjunction with the exhibit *Where Animals Dance*, a celebration of West African masks and masquerading. *Where Animals Dance* is co-sponsored by the Spurlock Museum and the Illinois State Museum and supported in part by the UIUC Center for African Studies and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



Spurlock Museum  
600 S. Gregory  
Urbana, IL 61801

# Everybody Gets To Help Me Tell!

A workshop for tellers, teachers,  
librarians, & other educators by  
nationally-known storyteller  
La'Ron Williams



Saturday, November 18, 2006  
10:00 AM to Noon  
Sign-in 9:30-10:00 AM

Spurlock Museum  
600 S. Gregory St.  
Urbana, IL 61801