

SiNGA Inc.

Teens Count

DC Youth Fashion Academy

Presents

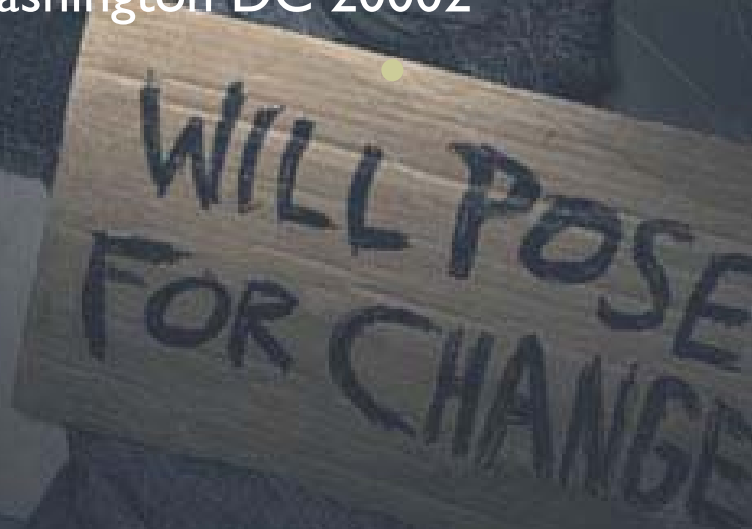
# RAGS TO RICHES

August 21, 2009

2:00pm- 4:00pm

The Atlas Performing Arts Center

1333 H St. NE, Washington DC 20002



# Words from the Directors

This summer we offered, through a collaborative effort, 100 DC youth the opportunity to learn how to:

- Learn and understand fashion theory and fashion history
- Develop basic competency in beginning fashion illustration
- Develop basic competency in fashion/garment construction
- Learn formal and informal modeling
- Learn the “ins and outs” of the fashion industry
- Learn how to produce an industry-level fashion show
- Develop showmanship and stage presence
- Be exposed to the many fashion, theatre/stage and business related careers
- Enhance their personal presentation skills by participating in presentations and mock interviews
- Develop a resume
- Enhance their entrepreneurial, math and financial education skills by engaging in real life business scenarios

The challenge for them whether they selected us or were placed randomly was to be responsible, perform and learn new skills that would enable them to move to a new level. Yes, we treated them as any adult would be treated in a paid position. That meant they were expected to be on time, act and speak appropriately and do the mundane tasks any employee or entrepreneur may be challenged to do everyday to get paid. If not, they did not earn. It was not our lot to keep earnings away from them, but we understand few people are “given” anything in this world. Practice and hard work is how most people are successful. With that said, we gave what we could working with our own challenges i.e. lack of funds and equipment. Nevertheless, here we are 9 weeks later and here are the youth that made the grade. We hope you enjoy the finale “Rags to Riches” - ***a theatrical fashion experience.***

Jackie Hart

SiNGA, Inc.

Tracy Cooper

Teens Count, Inc.

# SiNGA, Inc.

**Vision:** A training program that produces entrepreneurs and employees for the apparel and textile industry in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

**Objective:** SiNGA's objective is to function as a state of the art niche manufacturing and entrepreneurship training center, with a (cooperative) micro-enterprise business incubator.

**Goal:** The goal is to produce trained, self-sufficient participants able to participate in the apparel/textile industry through design, manufacturing, and retail activities.

SiNGA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. SiNGA currently has three programs: Evening Sewing Classes for adults; Workforce Development and Summer Youth Camp for youth 16 –24. To participate in any one of the programs contact the Registrar for more information at:

609 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

(202) 526-6940

[www.singainc.org](http://www.singainc.org)

[jrhsinga@yahoo.com](mailto:jrhsinga@yahoo.com)



# Teens Count, Inc.

Teens Count is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for youth interested in the performing arts. Our mission is to provide rewarding experiences for teens (ages 12-19) that build character and self esteem.

*Teens Count sincerely appreciates the generous support of this program by the following companies and individuals:*

Aubico Entertainment	Sarah Johnson-Jones
Cryst Banks	Dwayne Jones
Akilah Beckles	Mark Leach
Scott Brown	Arthur Medley
Can We Talk Radio	Wendell Moore
DC Department of Transportation	Everest Thomas
Alexander Duncan	Diane Wafee
Glynn Jackson the Agency	Brandon White
Lerome Jackson	Travon Williams
Johnnie Johnson	Young America Works Public Charter School

**REGISTER NOW** to participate in the  
Teens Count School Fashion Battle 2010.

For more information, call 202-413-2950;

email [info@teenscount.org](mailto:info@teenscount.org);

or visit online at

[www.teenscount.org](http://www.teenscount.org).



# Program Overview

Thank you for joining the DC Youth Fashion Academy (DCYFA), a joint effort between two non-profits, SiNGA, Inc. and Teens Count, as they present their production of **“RAGS TO RICHES,”** a tale of one girls struggle from a hard knock life to sitting on top of the world... the Fashion world.

This production is a culmination of the students efforts who participated in DCYFA’s nine-week summer work training program that was designed to expose youth to the technical skills, work environment, and professional opportunities of the fashion industry and performing arts. DCYFA has enhanced participants’ skills in communication, leadership, teamwork, open-mindedness, and self-esteem.

DCYFA was designed to provide professional development through work training scenarios geared towards learning and exploration of fashion through fun, adventurous, educational and culturally significant activities. Having fun, building positive self-image, learning to communicate effectively with others, self-acceptance, positive thinking, and increased self-confidence are cornerstones to the entire DC Youth Fashion Academy program experience.

Through your support of summer programs and activities like these – we work together to contribute to the betterment of life for at-risk youth, particularly youth susceptible to drug addiction, alcoholism, unwanted pregnancy, crime and violence.

**ENJOY THE SHOW!!!!**

# Program

Opening Performance – Maliek Blade

Welcome/Opening Announcements

## **RAGS TO RICHES**

Introduction of Instructors

Awards Presentations

Closing Remarks

Reception

# Meet the Cast

## STAFF

Tracy M. Cooper

*Executive Director/CEO, TEENS COUNT*

Stacey Meadows

*Fashion Assistant*

Erika Rose

*Theatre Instructor*

Larry W. Shelton

*Camp Director*

Ezinne Oputa

*Counselor*

Darryl Womack

*Fashion Instructor*

Selena Ayers

*Theatre Assistant*

Tevin Price

*Counselor*

**Sakinah Abdul-Rahim:** I learned that I can work well with people in a positive work environment.

Age: 16      School: Archbishop Carroll

**Amanda Barnes:** I learned how to project my voice.

Age: 16      School: Thurgood Marshall PCHS

**Dennis Brewer:** I learned to have pride in myself and how to project my voice better.

Age: 19      School: Prince George's Community College

**Erica Brown:** I learned how to be committed to my acting roles.

Age: 18      School: University of the District of Columbia

**Donald Carey**

**Stephon Ceaser:** I learned self-confidence.

Age: 19      School: Graduated H.D. Woodson

**Omari Colson:** I learned that it takes a group effort to accomplish something.

Age: 17      School: Northwestern

**Tameka Crockett:** I became more confident when performing.

Age: 19      School: Montgomery College

**Haimanot Eyayu:** I learned that everything matters.

Age: 16      School: Bell MCH

# Meet the Cast

**Krista Fairchild:** I learned to respect myself more.

Age: 21      School: UMUC

**Toisha Flowers:** I learned to improve my attitude.

Age: 16      School: Largo

**Cherish Gaines:** I learned a lot from this program.

Age: 16      School: Ballou

**Keilah Gassaway:** I learned to be confident, be professional, and express myself.

Age: 16      School: Bell

**Traona Jackson**

Age: 16      School: Cesar Chavez

**David Kelly:** I learned to be a leader and have more confidence.

Age: 23      School: Montgomery College

**Imani Kelly:** I learned audio-visual technique. I learned that it's important to pay attention.

Age: 17              School: Roosevelt

**Derontae Mason:** I learned acting abilities I didn't know before.

Age: 17      School: Don Bosco Cristo Rey

**Jeryl McDowell**

Age: 17      School: Friendship Collegiate Academy

**Fernandez McPherson:** I learned to become something that nobody thought I could be.

Age: 17      School: Calvin Coolidge

**Tarik Mills:** I learned how to model.

Age: 16      School: Woodrow Wilson

**Pari Parker:** I learned to adjust my attitude.

Age: 18      School: Cardozo

# Meet the Cast

**Chrishawna Porter:** I learned to be myself.

Age: 19      School: Katherine Thomas

**Xzennia Robertson:** I learned self-confidence; how to fill out a complete application; and the do's and don'ts on an interview.

Age: 21      School: University of the District of Columbia

**Taylor Simms:** I learned how to market an event.

Age: 18      School: Hampton University

**Shanee Taylor:** I learned a lot from this program. I learned how to walk, dance, and try something new.

Age: 16      School: Hospitality HS

**Arleyah Turner:** I learned how to slow down when I speak.

Age: 21      School: Graduated Spingarn

**Egypt Wells:** I learned how to communicate with people.

Age: 18      School: Graduated Booker T. Washington PCS

**Ashley Wiggins:** This program taught me to have self-confidence in myself.

Age: 17      School: McKinley Tech

**Alexis Williams:** Modeling and Acting.

Age: 19      School: Everest Institute of Technology

**Antonio Williams:** I learned modeling and acting.

Age: 18      School: Art Institute of Washington

**Brittany Woodard:** I learned how to become more independent about my business.

Age: 19      School: Virginia State University

# Designers

**Iman Acty**                      **17 yrs old**              **The Field School**                      **(12th grade)**

I would like to have a career in fashion marketing, or become a world renowned fashion designer / model. By attending SiNGA's fashion program, I have learned the importance of being in the fashion industry. I have learned how to sew, and I have learned entrepreneurship and business skills.

**Sherry Adams**                      **16 yrs old**              **Booker T Washington PCS**                      **(11th grade)**

My career goals are to become a fashion designer and to open up my own clothing store. SiNGA taught me how to sew and how the fashion business works.

**William Belk III**                      **17 yrs old**              **Wise H.S.**                      **(12th grade)**

I want to play professional football. This experience at SiNGA taught me how to sew and set and achieve business goals.

**Tony Bush**                      **19 yrs old**              **Kentucky State University.**                      **(12th grade)**

I'm going to be an event planner. SiNGA taught me time management and entrepreneurial skills.

**Tiffany Cleckley**                      **21 yrs old**              **Delaware State University**                      **(3rd year)**

I am going to be an accountant. At SiNGA I learned how to sew and tie dye clothes.

**Christopher Covington**                      **21 yrs old**              **Elizabeth State Univ.**                      **(4th yr.)**

I'm going to be an entrepreneur. I learned many things at SiNGA including basic sewing, fashion illustration, time management and successful financial and emotional tips. The program improved my self-esteem and reinforced in my mind that I had the qualities to be my own boss. The most valuable thing I gained is confidence.

**Christy Davis**                      **24yrs old**              **Trinity University**                      **(2nd year)**

My career aspirations are to become a leading woman mogul in entertainment, business, community service and fashion. SiNGA has taught me how to take my natural ability off sketching and designing into fashion illustration and sewing.

**DaMarcus Harris**                      **17 yrs old**              **IDEA PCS**                      **(12th grade)**

I want to be a musician. I learned how to sew properly, more about fashion and how it impacts every aspect of every culture. I learned about human development from Ms. Tiffany and how to deal with other people on both a personal and professional level.

**Eric Hodges**                      **20 yrs old**              **Devry University**                      **(2nd yr.)**

I want to be a game designer. At SiNGA I learned useful skills like how to sew and how to write a business plan.

**Vernell Holiday**                      **18 yrs old**              **Spingarn H.S.**                      **(Graduated)**

I want to own an auto mechanic business. The experience at SiNGA has taught m how to sew and about the process of silk screening T-shirts.

# Designers

**Tanay Kelley**                      **17 yrs old**                      **Spingarn SHS.**                      **(12th grade)**

I want to be a teacher. SiNGA taught me how to sew by hand and sewing machine.

**Nyasha Klusmann**                      **17 yrs old**                      **Young America Works PCS**                      **(12th grade)**

When I grow up I want to be an onset stylist. I've learned several new things at SiNGA this year. The most important skill I learned was putting in a zipper.

**Rachelle Montague**                      **16 yrs old**                      **Banneker H.S.**                      **(11th grade)**

At SiNGA I have learned how to start my own business and how to sew, which has become a hobby of mine. I aspire to be a fashion designer and actress.

**Rukiya O'garro**                      **17 yrs old**                      **Bladensburg HS**                      **(Graduated)**

I want to become a high end clothing designer. SiNGA taught me how to sew, write a business plan and how to illustrate my designs better.

**Arteesha Richardson**                      **16 yrs old**                      **Friendship H.S.**                      **(11th grade)**

The thing about SiNGA that I like is that we learned more than just making clothes. We also learned about fitness, fashion illustration and more...

**Shawn Rochester**                      **19 yrs old**                      **Spingarn H.S.**                      **(Graduated)**

I want to be a game designer and to pursue a career a career as a vocalist for a post-hardcore, punk band. **NEEDS SKILLS LEARNED @ SiNGA!**

**Breanne Williams**                      **17 yrs old**                      **McKinley Technology HS**                      **(12th grade)**

I am an aspiring psychologist. At SiNGA I learned to make clothes and sew almost neatly. I learned the ropes of entrepreneurship and how to start your own business successfully. I learned that starting a business is hard work, but with time and dedication, you will succeed.

**McKinley Williams**                      **18 yrs old**                      **Westlake H.S.**                      **(12th grade)**

I want to be an architect and play professional football. At SiNGA I learned how to illustrate croquis (the basic fashion figure) and become an entrepreneur .

**The people whose shoulders we stand on and who helped to make it happen**

## **INSTRUCTORS**

**Barbara Hunter**, *Sewing*  
**Hazel Moss**, *Financial Literacy*  
**Shayla Humphrey**, *Entrepreneurship*  
**Tiffany Dyson**, *Human Development*

## **MANAGEMENT**

**Terry Walker**, *Acting Program Director*  
**Imani Damalie-Cathie**, *Program Manager*  
**Jackie Hart**, *Executive Director, President/Founder*

# Kudos

SiNGA would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time, wisdom and energy to our program. It is the support of volunteers like you that allow SiNGA to work towards building a better future for our youth and community.

## Guest Speakers

Jhmira Alexander

Laura Brand-Ballard

Audrey Bryant

Amy Cole

Andy Cooley

Tonya Gonzalez

Aaron Johnson

Darrell Johnson

Dimitri Louis

Tianya McMillan

Wendell Moore

Mazi Mustafa

Shonika Proctor

Tony Rich

Ashley West-Nesbitt

## Business Plan Judges

Christopher Bradley of *DC Ink*

Priscilla G. Francis of *Shaw Main Street*

Cheryl Lofton of *Lofton Tailoring*

## DC Government



Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr.

Marjorie Barnes - Admin Assistant

for Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr.

Jennifer Eubank - Interim Assistant Manager, Eastern Market

*DC Department of Parks & Recreation*

Marcus Ellis - Associate Director of Programs

Antoin Green - Permits Manager & Recware Specialist

Dr. Ximena Hartsock - Acting Director

## Donors

Eric Cooksey

Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Vania Deverger

Jane Huntington

Kelsey Jackson

Safeway, Inc.

Giant Foods

Costco

Ledos Pizza

CnF Catering

Regal Theater

Verizon Sports Center

## Board of Directors

Khalid Gross

Hazel Moss

Terry Walker

Aaron Wills

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.*

*~Sherry Anderson (Thanks, Kathy)*