



Young Audiences Western New York

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SOUL PORTRAITS: POETRY OF THE HEART, MIND, AND BODY ***Young Audiences hosts free performance by slam poet champion***

BUFFALO, NY (12/23/11) –Young Audiences of Western New York, in partnership with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, will host a midday performance by award-winning slam poet Gayle Danley on January 17 at 11 a.m. at the Downtown Central Library. Presented in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., admission for this event is free and open to the public.

Danley is the 1994 National Individual Slam Poet of the Year and 1996 International Slam Poet Champion. As an accomplished performer and educator, she maintains a constant tour of elementary and secondary schools across the East Coast, helping students with traumatic experiences and teaching workshops on slam poetry. In 2006, she was named the Young Audiences National Artist of the Year for her outstanding work in the classroom. Additionally, Danley has published three books: "Naked," "Soulful—A Slam Poetry Study Guide," and "Passionate—Poems You Can Feel."

The January performance, titled *Soul Portraits: Poetry of the Heart, Mind, and Body* defines Danley's explosive style – combining movement and emotion as she addresses and explores contemporary issues. "We've hosted Gayle before at our annual *Arts Abilities Conference* for educators, and she has worked with young people at risk and in transition at Compass House and Renaissance Campus for us here in Western New York," said Young Audiences WNY Executive Director Cynnie Gaasch. "She's truly inspiring, she brings an audience through every emotion – you will laugh and you will cry."

While in Western New York this January, Danley is the headliner for Jamestown Community College's Martin Luther King Day celebration on the 16th, and will perform at Buffalo's McKinley High School for students on the 17th.

The performance at the Downtown Central Library is open to the public, and will take place from 11 a.m. to noon in the Ring of Knowledge. The Downtown Central Library is located at 1 Lafayette Square in Buffalo. Additional information about this event is available on-line at www.yawny.org or by calling the Young Audiences WNY office at 716.881.0917.

ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES: Young Audiences of Western New York is a not-for-profit arts-in-education organization whose mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people's lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. This mission is fulfilled every day within the eight counties of Western New York with performances, workshops, and residencies in educational, cultural, and community centers. In operation for 49 years, Young Audiences' teaching artists support children learning core curriculum subjects through the arts, with over 100,000 artist contacts for children and families each year. Visit www.yawny.org for more information about Young Audiences of Western New York.