

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPOKEN SOUL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 12TH YEAR WITH #WORDISBOND THEME

*Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is
SSF Presenting Sponsor; Celebrates Women Artists in Honor of
SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now)*

MIAMI, FL (February 28, 2019) — This year's **Spoken Soul Festival** (SSF) is celebrating an equally simple and complicated concept: the word. SSF 12's theme, #WordIsBond, explores how in the digital age words have no boundaries and comments on how because of this, words are more powerful than ever before in our history.

SWAN Spoken Soul Festival 2019
Friday March 22 | Saturday March 23 | Sunday March 24

The three day festival began as a way to celebrate SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day by promoting community outreach and supporting women artists. It kicks off on Friday, March 22nd at 10am with the **SWAN Community Program**, a day in which **SSF** alumni and organizers give back to their community via a day of volunteerism. The Ladies of SSF will conduct creative writing workshops for 3, local high school students prior to the day of the SWAN Community Program; on which day the SWAN team will host a cash prize Youth Poetry Slam competition with VIP judges, in conjunction with and held at Miami-Dade Public Library Main Branch in bustling Downtown Miami. In addition to the Slam, with the purpose to increase library membership and connect young creative writers with local published authors and classic poetry books, there will be a mystery poetry scavenger hunt a la "Willy Wonka Golden Ticket." Those who find the "Golden Poem" win prizes sponsored by PAMM, MOCA and The Arsht Center. This open to the public free event will also feature SSF alum 13 year old DJ Slaya spinning classic hip-hop.

Saturday, March 23rd brings back **SSF's** big, bad, award-winning, much lauded and highly anticipated signature event, the Spoken Soul Showcase, taking place at the iconic Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. The open admission festival will experience the rich cultural diaspora that they have come to expect from the SSF's signature event: women dancers, poets, visual artists, vocalists, and a female DJ, all representing different cultures and unique voices. This year's theme, #WordIsBond, will take center stage, weaving in, out and in between dancers' limbs, peeking out from visual works, and swirling through the air in sync with live musical notes.

The Festival concludes on Sunday, March 24th with the Vanessa Baez Memorial Women's Brunch (VBMWB), celebrating "everyday women with extraordinary courage." Attendees will enjoy swag bags, prizes and a sumptuous brunch at BRAVA by Brad Kilgore, housed in the Arsht Center's Ziff Ballet Opera House and helmed by James Beard semifinalist, **Brad Kilgore**. VBMWB will also feature celebrity chef, Michelle Bernstein, as guest speaker. Tickets are available through the Spoken Soul Festival website spokensoulfestival.com.

SSF has been run on a strictly volunteer basis for its entire tenure. With the blood, sweat, and tears of founder and organizer Deborah Magdalena and the passion and dedication of Amy Baez and Veronica Barrios-Garcia, **SSF** has been able to support and promote women artists in South Florida and provide an annual enriching cultural experience to the South Florida community free of charge.

Press Pictures Avail Here <https://tinyurl.com/y2nquc4x>

Learn more about the Spoken Soul Festival at spokensoulfestival.com and SWAN Day by visiting womenarts.org/swan. For media inquiries or to schedule interviews with featured artists or organizer, contact Ily Goyanes at 305.763.6689 or ily@kitandcubcreative.com.

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

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About The Adrienne Arsht Center For The Performing Arts Of Miami-Dade County

Set in the heart of downtown Miami and designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has emerged as a leader in presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity as well as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 400 events each year across its flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs several Signature Series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 60,000 children each year. As Miami's new Town Square, the Arsht Center also houses BRAVA by Brad Kilgore, a fine dining restaurant; the Café at Books & Books in the historic Carnival Tower and a weekly Farmers Market. Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

About Spoken Soul Festival

The mission of the Spoken Soul Festival, a three-day event, is to produce an annual festival that will help advance the careers of a variety of women artists including poets, fine artists, photographers, filmmakers, and designers. The festival gives talented female performing artists and craftswomen from South Florida a free venue to showcase their talents. We provide free publicity by featuring them in our festival publicity campaign. We hold workshops for at-risk youth and for women where they have opportunities to learn about careers in the arts and create their own work and we provide networking opportunities at our brunch and throughout the festival. Visit www.spokensoulfestival.com

Spoken Soul Festival Alumni Highlights

In its 12 years, SSF has supported the growth of more than 125 women artists in South Florida, leading to the following accomplishments:

- Gracing the infamous stage of Jazz in the Gardens
- Touring the world with the likes of Grammy award winner Joss Stone
- Earning several Grammy nominations
- Co-writing songs featured in Spike Lee's Netflix series "She's Gotta Have It"
- Owning and operating their own art galleries
- Creating multiple world renowned murals in Miami's Wynwood Arts District
- Winning exhibit and installation awards during Arts Basel
- Winning international and national SLAM titles
- Adjudicating on national visual arts panel for National YoungArts Foundation
- Had work commissioned by Gibson Guitar, displayed at Bayfront Park and made part of the display at The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas
- Designed fashion featured in numerous international magazines as well as NYC fashion week
- SSF alumni DJs and comedians have gone on to tour the world and rock many stages and music festivals such as the Miami Improv and Ultra events
- Had their video-art and short films be Official Selections at Atlanta Film Festival, Miami International Film Festival, Newark International Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival; Los Angeles Movie Awards and Lucerne International Film Festival in Switzerland
- Published books, featured on TV, written and starred in plays, recorded albums



About SWAN Day

SWAN Day/Support Women Artists Now Day is an international holiday designed to showcase the power and diversity of women's creativity. Be a part of *SWAN Day* by creating or participating in a local event or online activity that celebrates women artists! There have been over 1,500 *SWAN Day* events in 36 countries in the first nine years of this new holiday. Visit www.swanday.org for more information.