



Your front row seat to the next big thing!

NBAF
NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL

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NEXT: The Salon Partners with the National Black Arts Festival to Showcase Atlanta's Hottest and Brightest Emerging Stars

The genre-blending interactive showcase take place Thursday, July 31st at Hammonds House Museum

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[Atlanta, 2014] On Thursday, July 31st, NEXT, in partnership with the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF), will play host to four of the city's most aspiring visual artists, writers, poets, and musicians — artists right on the cusp of stardom. The emerging artist showcase will take place at 7:00 pm at Hammonds House Museum, 503 Peoples St SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

You don't want to miss this year's event with four of Atlanta's fastest-rising artistic stars.

As you enter the Victorian home of the late Dr. Otis Thrash Hammonds, a prominent Atlanta physician and a passionate arts patron, you will be treated to the art of **Fahamu Pecou** a visual artist and scholar whose works combine observations on hip-hop, fine art and popular culture. Playwright **Michael Molina's** theatrical performance will challenge you to see the world through new eyes. The amazing poetic genius of **Jon Goode** will leave you snapping your fingers for more and the melodic jazz-infused sounds of **Brenda Nicole Moorer** under the Atlanta summer night sky is the perfect end to an evening you won't want to miss.

But NEXT is more than art for art's sake. Evoking the spirit of the Harlem Renaissance, this interactive salon encourages real-time collaboration between the artists and the audience in an evening of high-level connecting, candid conversation and soul-baring performances.

The evening also represents the inaugural event of the NBAF NEXT series -- a multi-year partnership between NBAF, NEXT and the national network Alternate ROOTS that aims to elevate mostly Atlanta-based artists whose work focuses on affecting social change.

An added bonus to this special cultural evening is a documentary that is being produced by Atlanta's own, the Horne Brothers, which will chronicle the struggles, triumphs and hopes of each of NEXT's 2014 artists. The documentary, which will capture the evening's performances, will air at a special screening this fall.

Wine, cocktails and a mixture of African, Caribbean and African-American tapas will be served.

Tickets for NEXT: The Salon on **Thursday, July 31 at 7:00 pm at Hammonds House Museum** in Atlanta's West End are only \$20 and can be purchased at [NEXT-Atlanta.com](#) or at [Brownpapertickets.com](#)

NEXT: The Salon is supported in part by Creative Intelligence, Mustard Seed Communications, Hammonds House Museum, WCLK-FM, Nucleus Creative, Binders Art Supplies and numerous individual contributions.

Brief Artists Bios and links:

Fahamu Pecou's paintings, performance art, and academic work addresses concerns around contemporary representations of Black masculinity and how these images impact both the reading and performance of Black masculinity. Pecou is currently a Ph.D. student in Emory University and his work has been featured in noted private and public collections including; Nasher Museum at Duke University, The High Museum of Art, Paul R. Jones Collection, Clark Atlanta University Art Collection, The West Collection, and Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia. Learn more at <http://fahamupecouart.com>

Jon Goode is an Emmy Nominee and HBO Def Poet. Over the past decade Jon has performed his unique brand of comedic and life-affirming poetry at colleges and universities all over the nation, and venues both domestic and abroad. His work has also been featured in radio and television commercials for McDonalds and TVLand/Nick @ Nite. Jon's work with Nick @ Nite earned him an Emmy nomination along with the Promax Gold award for best copyright. As a national award-winning performance poet, Jon has been privileged to share the stage with Jamie Foxx, Mos Def, Kanye West, Roy Ayers, Common, Amiri Baraka, The Last Poets and many others. Learn more at <http://jon.goode.webs.com>

Michael Molina is an attorney, author, cultural organizer, arts advocate, and performer. A graduate of Yale Law School and Xavier University of Louisiana, Mike is an alumnus of the New Voices fellowship program. He has authored two novels and stars in 7 Stages recent theatrical adaptation of his spoken word novel Mass Transit Muse in 2014. Michael is a member of Georgia Lawyer for the Arts, Director of Programs for Clarkston Community Center, board member of the Decatur Arts Alliance, and principal of 5D Stories, a media company producing books, films, music, live performance, and popular education workshops that increase human understanding and catalyze human potential. Learn more at <http://www.mikemolina.org>

Brenda Nicole Moorer encompasses folk writing with a soulful sound, using what she learns about life to tell a story and promote a message. With the February 2014 release of her follow up cd "For Lovers & Believers," Brenda presents simple melodies atop laid-back rhythms, heavy Rhodes, and underlying synths. She teamed up with Jesse Fischer of Soul Cycle Music to create a vintage feel for the current release. She has sung background for Dave Hollister, and dozens of other artists including jazz vocalists Julie Dexter and has performed on stage with Ludacris, Busta Rhymes, Mya, and Omarion and others. In 2011, Brenda released her debut album "Songbird," independently through Yellow Orchid Records, which was a UK hit. Learn more at <http://brendanicolemoorer.com>.

NEXT is the brainchild of a group of Atlanta artists and activists who seek to launch a movement that galvanizes members of the city's creative class into a potent force for change. In partnership with NBAF, NEXT is host to quarterly salons, a documentary series and a social action initiative that harnesses the talents of the city's leading artists. Learn more at www.next-atlanta.com or [like us](#) on Facebook.

The National Black Arts Festival (**NBAF**) is the longest-running multi-disciplinary arts festival of the African Diaspora. This year NBAF celebrates its 26th year as a cultural leader. Each year the festival presents works and exhibitions from renowned legends as well as emerging young artists. For the latest news and updates, "like" [National Black Arts Festival](#) on Facebook, and visit its web site at www.nbaf.org.

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