



# Black History Season Oct - Nov 09

*Learning Links International is currently taking bookings for Caribbean Cultural Artistes to do Workshops, Performance-Poetry and other Cultural Activities*

**“Funtertainment” with Motivational Reasoning !**

**YASUS AFARI** leads a team of artistes of Caribbean Heritage who are supporting the development of Learning Links. Yasus is one of Jamaica’s most celebrated performance poets. He brings his unique brand of “edutainment” and expertise to focus cultural, social and environmental issues that are linked to Black History as the shared history of humanity.

**Interactive Edutainment** is the harmonious marriage of entertainment and education used successfully to promote the use of Cultural Arts as a means of inspiring community cohesion and social transformation. Yasus Afari and colleagues expertly create an innovative, Caribbean cultural experience by blending performance poetry, humour, storytelling, music and drama into unforgettable events that are both motivational and uplifting.

**Yasus Afari and colleagues offer performance events, seminars and workshops:**

## **Dub Poetry**

- Exciting opportunities for children or adults to learn about dub poetry and to have a chance at creating poems individually or in groups

## **Black History: My history, Your history - Our shared history**

- Exploring the history of Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and the World from a Black History perspective to give participants a framework within which they can better understand World History. This session employs the use of the Cultural Arts.

## **African and Caribbean History, Languages and Cultures**

- Community interactive workshops or evening events for grandparents, parents and children working together to research and share an increased understanding of African and Caribbean History using storytelling, drama, music and poetry.

## **“Overstanding” Rastafari**

- A chance for groups to full-joy, full-ticipate and overstand the intriguing roots and development of the Rastafari Faith and the interesting and positive principles of Rastafarian Livity, including Rastas’ picturesque “I&I” language, as well as Rastas’ environmentally friendly food preparation, lifestyle and outlook.

## **Jamaican Language and Culture**

- A bi-lingual session focussing on the remarkable cultural development of the Caribbean, the pivotal and colourful history of Jamaica and today’s Caribbean Languages which are grounded in African linguistic roots.

## **Reggae Music**

- Opportunities to explore the inspirational world of reggae music, its development and worldwide popularity, as well as the contemporary appeal of the musicians and artistes

**We can also organize BLACK HISTORY and POETRY “Residences”.**

## **Yasus Afari is Learning Links International's leading Caribbean Consultant:**

Yasus Afari has supported the setting up of Learning Links International and is working to develop a range of links between the UK, Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, The Gambia, Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

Yasus is the author of **"OVERSTANDING RASTAFARI: Jamaica's Gift to the World"** and continues to tour the world promoting his book as an **"Ambassador for Rastafari"**. He is a music producer and promoter of Reggae artists in Jamaica, favoring "Roots Reggae", the lyrically 'conscious' political form of reggae, which has more recently been realigning itself to traditional Rastafarian values. His latest CD is "Revolution Chapter 1" featuring his mantra "JAH is the essence of my life" and his international hit "Put it Een". The new edition of his best selling poetry book "Eye Pen" has been very well received.

Yasus also supports the Jamaican Language Unit of the University of the West Indies and is an "Ambassador for the Jamaican Language" in the Jamaican Diaspora. Yasus is fully confident in his bi-lingual skills and performs in English and Jamaican (affectionately known as Patwa).

Yasus Afari first visited the UK in 2007 and since then has supported schools, libraries, colleges and universities helping students gain a better understanding of Black History, while exploring the ways we need to live and work together in our plural societies. Yasus accepted the role of "Dub Poet and Historian in Residence", during Black History Month at City College Birmingham and in 2008 he was awarded the honour of being the **"City of Wolverhampton Dub Poet in Residence"**, launching "Poetry for All". His activities have included working to set up Mayoral links between the City of Wolverhampton and the Hanover area of Jamaica.

Yasus is supporting the establishment of the Rastafari Studies Centre at the University of Birmingham.

Yasus has a background in engineering and science. He is a successful Jamaican entrepreneur and is a great role model for young people. Yasus has honed his skills working with some very challenging groups of young people in school and out of school across Jamaica. He is recognised for his consistent and inspirational work. He was instrumental in the development of the Jamaican Ministry of Education's Culture Agency Programme and has helped to develop the Government's policy document on "Culture in Education". Consistent with this focus, Yasus started the successful community focused annual showcase called **"Poetry in Motion"**, which again demonstrated his vision and social-engineering skills.

With Learning Links International's team of trained teachers, Yasus and other artistes from the Caribbean community are developing a range of support options for schools, libraries, colleges, prisons and universities, but we are always interested in creating and developing new, customised events.

Learning Links International has also developed a range of seminars, training modules and programmes for teachers, librarians and other interested groups on Caribbean Languages and Culture.

### **To discuss possibilities and opportunities please contact:**

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**Check out: [www.learninglinksinternational.com](http://www.learninglinksinternational.com)**

## **Feedback from Learning Links International's first season of events October / November 2008**

### **From Schools, Universities, Prisons and Arts Venues**

- 'Fantastic. Brilliant. Wonderful. Great speaker. We definitely need more of this!'
- 'Excellent! Teenagers also need exposure to this approach – so refreshing ..... Maybe you could contact other schools around the country – secondary school children would greatly benefit.'
- 'Thoroughly enjoyed the session and both the children and I learned a lot, it was very educational. There should be more opportunities like this one.'
- 'It is good to hear about Africa and its culture. It was good how other cultures can learn about other cultures.'
- 'The talk and poetry were inspirational. We need more!'
- 'Thank you. The presentation was excellent. We need to work together again soon.'
- 'Great session. More, more, more.'
- 'Very inspiring poetry, rhythmic like a drum. A great session. I enjoyed it very much.'
- 'Informative and very educational. One hour was not long enough.'

### **From Community Sessions and Black History Month Conferences:**

- 'This was great. This can change lives! Please take more action to promote people like this.'
- 'A great evening. Please do it again. I will tell all my people/friends about it. Really good. Thanks.'
- 'Nice to have a new perspective. People need to be encouraged to exercise their brains.'
- 'Wonderful! Very informative and entertaining.'
- 'Thank you for an inspired evening that has brought back the reality of knowing that we have all come from the one God who is bless forever and also the memory of the start of my life in England as an eight year old boy..'
- 'Excellent, Inspirational. I was in awe of his intellect and depth of thought. Respect.'
- 'After coming to the gallery not knowing what to expect from a 'Dub Poet' I was impressed by how empowered and informative the session was. I would recommend similar future sessions to my friends.'
- 'Pity that more schools did not respond to the conference, I will go back to mine and tell them to book up now for next year.'

**So, contact Learning Links to see what we can sort out with you, for you and your communities, to set up great Black History events in the Autumn and throughout the year!**

**See our new website [www.learninglinksinternational.com](http://www.learninglinksinternational.com) where we will be adding details of more African and Caribbean Cultural Artistes.**