

# DNAWORKS Programs

Adam McKinney  
Daniel Banks, Ph.D.  
Co-Founders

## WORKSHOPS

### *We the Griot*

What if we still lived in a society where artists, at large, were seen and valued as conduits for belonging and community health? Participants are taken through the progression DNAWORKS uses to create performance work that examines the role and function of the artist as community builder and catalyst for dialogue.

### *Move2Heal*

Adam McKinney leads participants in community building exercises and healing movements and dances, focusing on systems of oppression and their effects on the body. Participants will experience a renewed sense of connection to their bodies and personal histories and feeling of interconnection with others.

### *Sipurainu - Our Stories*

A genealogy project in which participants explore familial histories and the diversity of Jewish voices in North America. Out of this group process, we work towards creating welcoming Jewish spaces and programming in our own communities.

### *Hip Hop Theatre: Theatre of Now*

In this interactive lecture-demo, Daniel Banks discusses the origins, politics, and aesthetics of the recent wave of Hip Hop Theatre in the U.S. and globally. He addresses the questions: Where did this form come from? What is its connection to other Afro-centric modes of cultural production? And where is it going with its current swell of popularity?

### *Storytelling and Performance in the Age of Hip Hop*

Daniel Banks will take participants through the progression used in the Hip Hop Theatre Initiative to create devised Hip Hop Theatre performance. This workshop integrates the elements of Hip Hop performance with participants' own personal material and explores how to stage their communities' voices. (May be combined with Theatre of Now lecture-demo.)



## PRODUCTIONS

### *HaMapah - The Map*

"I am the map, the quilt, and the tablecloth of those who have come before me. I am the sum total of my paternal ancestors from Benin, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Missouri, Wisconsin; and my maternal ancestors from Russia, Poland, Austria, Spain, Montana, and Illinois." In this multimedia dance-theatre piece, Adam McKinney traces the intersections of his multiple heritages.

Directed by Daniel Banks.



## FILMS

### *Belonging Everywhere*

Adam McKinney and Daniel Banks screen the filmed oral history they led with members of the Jewish community in Sefwi Wiawso, Western Region, Ghana. Through discussion and dialogue, the program highlights the ethnic and cultural diversity of K'lal Yisrael (the community of Israel) and reconnects the fragmented histories of the Jewish Diaspora. (30 min)

### *Pretending to be Something, Now Coming from Nothing*

While in South Africa, Adam McKinney was struck by the presence of a derelict building in Kliptown township. What ensued was an impromptu, community-wide dance on this structure that was a site for the signing of the Freedom Charter in 1955. This event is intercut with the piece McKinney choreographed for Agulhas Theatre Works, a mixed-ability dance company, at the MuseuM Afrika in Johannesburg. (10 min)



For more information, please e-mail  
[info@dnaworks.org](mailto:info@dnaworks.org)

or call +1 (212) 765-4914