

**"Streets2Studios" PROGRAM CONTACT**

Johnny Trotman  
415-433-3939  
[Johnny@Jlachic.com](mailto:Johnny@Jlachic.com)

**PRESS CONTACT**

Toni Beckham  
209-832-8020 / 408-499-3664 c  
[Toni@PRetCetera.com](mailto:Toni@PRetCetera.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 4, 2010

**BAY AREA R&B/SOUL TRIO BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN  
UNDERSERVED TEENS AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY**

**“Top Shelf”s Non-profit “Streets2Studios” Establishes Formal  
Performing Arts, Media & Entertainment Industry Internship Program**

***“Bridge Over Troubled Waters”***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – Performing arts, media and entertainment industries are dynamic business sectors in the state of California that offer jobs that require a vast range of creative and technical knowledge and skills. Over 550,000 businesses employ almost three million people in the country’s creative industries. Bay Area non-profit organization “Streets2Studios,” in collaboration with professional vocal ensemble “Top Shelf,” recently established BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS, a program to provide technical training and internship opportunities in performing arts, media and entertainment for Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco-area high school juniors and seniors who are involved in school and community performing arts programs.

On February 18<sup>th</sup> at Theatre39 on PIER 39, Streets2Studios administrators will share program details and requirements with qualified students and their parents during a free activities-packed event introducing BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS.

“With imagination, will, tolerance, and true access one can achieve most anything,” said Streets2Studios founder and Top Shelf member, Johnny Trotman. “Our goal is to bring youth together from varied parts of the Bay Area, provide them with learning opportunities, and offer them positive alternatives to negative behaviors.”

Streets2Studios’ BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS program will create productions that intentionally preserve rich history of the arts with real life relevance and provide training and internships for high school teens in the following areas: set design, sound technology, vocal music, stage and film production, instrumental music, film editing, make-up, costume design, production Management & Administration, and more. “Through the performing and creative arts students can learn how to communicate without words,” says Vicki Tukeva, a teacher from Richmond High School’s Creative and Performing Arts Academy. “They can examine their cultural roots, social issues, history and themselves in ways they never knew possible.”

Participation in the training program and internships will earn students community service credits, while allowing them to earn paid stipends and gain real life experience by working on actual entertainment productions.

**DETAILS for February 18th PROGRAM INTRODUCTION EVENT (following page)**

- WHAT:** BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS Program Introduction
- WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010 | 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Theatre39 on PIER 39, San Francisco
- ACTIVITIES:**
- Welcome/opening
  - Screening of Farah Dews' acclaimed film *No More Violence, No More Pain*
  - Panel discussion featuring Bay Area community and civic leaders
    - Panelists:**
      - Farah Dews, Case Manager, Bay View Foundation
      - Rudy Corpuz, United Playaz
      - Shawn Richardson, Director, Brothers Against Guns
      - Tinisha Hollins, Assistant to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom
      - George Jurand, San Francisco Sheriff's Office
      - Representative, Office of SF District Attorney Kamala D. Harris
      - Jack Jacqua/Cory Monroe, Omega Boys Club
  - Q&A, interactive discussion - panelists/audience
  - Viewing of Dr. M.L. King Jr. March on Washington "I Have a Dream" speech
  - Introduction to BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS Performing Arts, Media & Entertainment Program (goals/purpose/requirements)
  - Richmond High School's Black History Performance (segment)
  - Top Shelf's "Motown Madness" (segment performance)
  - Q&A regarding Streets2Studios
- INVITEES:** Richmond, Oakland, San Francisco-area high school juniors/seniors who are involved in school and community performing arts programs, parents, teachers, civic/community leaders, industry professionals, and corporate sponsor candidates.

**RSVP Required:** Call J'LaChic Theatre39 | 415-433-3939

Top Shelf members possess over 100 combined years experience in the entertainment industry and have long reaching connections to resources. Born and raised in San Francisco's Hunters' Point, Fillmore, and Mission Districts, Johnny Trotman, Olaf Pollard, and Alan Revelo respectively have many stories of trials, failures, and successes throughout their entertainment careers. As mentors, they and other industry professionals will bring real life experiences, and share personal insights with the students.

**Program Goals:**

- Provide technical skills training, career grooming and paid internships for at risk youth
- Make students aware of career and collegiate options available to them
- Use problem and project-based teaching and work-based learning experiences to provide authentic opportunities in the industry
- Provide practical experience in the industry
- Nurture relationships between students and professionals in the field of arts, media, and entertainment
- Provide students with opportunities to complete service learning requirements

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**Program Structure** (April thru December, commencing April 2010)

- Eight 6-week courses (Tues., Wed., Thurs. 4:30-7:30pm; Sat. 1-4 & 4-7pm)
- Four fundraiser student-created productions each year for public and sponsor viewing
- Actual work on real live professional entertainment productions throughout the year

*BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS is an entertainment industry training and internship program established by R&B/Soul vocal trio Top Shelf under its community service program Streets2Studios; sponsored by J'LaChic Productions, currently housed at Theatre39 on PIER 39.*

**ABOUT "STREETS2STUDIOS:"**

"Streets2Studios" is a program established in 1998 that focuses on early intervention, mentoring, career support and training for youth from all walks of life. Streets2Studios grooms individuals for careers in multimedia entertainment by providing behind the scenes, hands-on skills training in all activities related to the industry. Bringing youth together from various backgrounds and experiences, activities are done in an administrative environment where teamwork, higher learning, mutual respect, communication, cultural tolerance and creativity become habitual. The program's non-profit fiscal agent is Hands from Heaven, Inc. For further information about "Streets2Studios," visit [streets2studios.org](http://streets2studios.org) or [TopShelfClassics.com](http://TopShelfClassics.com).

*For sponsorship opportunities, please contact LaDonna Trotman | 415-433-3939.*

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