

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Cross-Genre Vocalist Abiyah Mixes It Up with a Cross-Genre Slew of September Events

**CINCINNATI, Ohio - August 31, 2007** - Multi-faceted vocalist and artist Abiyah puts her creativity where her mouth is this September: literally. Accompanied by two backing vocalists, a human beatboxer and a DJ who speaks with her hands, Abiyah is exploring the concept of voice, literal and figurative, as both instrumentation and expression in two events which reflect the diversity of her artistic range, her collaborators, the artforms in which she engages and of the audiences she serves. Abiyah is also participating in a staged reading of a play written by Cincinnati novelist Stacy Sims and directed by CCM's Michael Burnham, and will appear on canvas in a portrait painted by prolific Cincinnati artist [Brian Joiner](#).

Known for bringing the floetry music genre to Cincinnati from visits to spoken word/hip hop impresario N8tiveSun's crib in New York, Abiyah will be flowing as the opening act for similarly-situated Philadelphia-based poet/vocalist [Ursula Rucker](#), introduced to the world via her appearances on live hip-hop group The Roots' albums, at the fifth annual [Tha Blast](#) on Fountain Square on September 20. This annual high-energy festival consists of several events that are inspired by or created from urban culture. The *Face Cincinnati Exhibition* portion of Tha Blast, opening on Main Street on September 21, will include a portrait of Abiyah by Brian Joiner that will be displayed at the Mainly Art gallery.

Abiyah will also bring her team of collaborators to this year's [MidPoint Music Festival](#) on Friday, September 28, at the soon-to-be-opened Jardin (formerly Neon's), performing outside in the garden. Expect music in the vein of electronica, dub and avant-hip hop, with beats created by Chicago-based Coltrane Motion's Michael Bond, beatboxer Marty Spitfly and even Abiyah herself, with live instrumental contributions to some tracks by her son Zeque (keys), Mike Gregory (bass; of My Wife the Tiger), and Tom Willis (electric guitar; formerly of Paperback). Also included in your Abiyah gift bag are a fun fashion theme, some semblance of performance art, and stellar vocals, beatboxing and turntablism from this year's "A-Team" members (also performing at Tha Blast):

**DJ Apryl Reign - Turntables:** <http://www.myspace.com/reigndjapryl>  
(also of *Da Mutts*)

**Dana Hamblen - Backing Vox:** <http://www.myspace.com/fairmountgirls>  
(also of *Fairmount Girls and Culture Queer*)

**Kristen Kreft - Backing Vox:** <http://www.myspace.com/kgitark153>  
(also of the *J. Dorsey Blues Band, Pearlene, and backing vox at the CEAs for Cincinnati soul legend Kenny Smith*)

**Marty Spitfly - Beatbox:** <http://www.myspace.com/martyspitfly>  
(*Two-time runner-up in the Scribble Jam Beatbox Battle*)

**Listing of September Events:**

**"As White As O" - Staged Reading**

**Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8, 8:00 p.m.**

Know Theatre

1120 Jackson Street

Written by Stacy Sims

Directed by Michael Burnham

Invited audience, with a few seats available to the public.

Call (513) 300.KNOW.

**Tha Blast Urban Arts Festival**

**Thursdays, September 20, 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.**

**Fountain Square**

**YP "Blast Off" - Partner: The Mayor's Young Professional Kitchen Cabinet - the kick-off event for the festival with a mesh of live music.**

**Opening for poet/vocalist Ursula Rucker.**

8:00 p.m. - Poets/DJs

9:00 p.m. - Abiyah and her band perform.

10:00 p.m. - Ursula and her band perform.

**Fridays, September 21, 6:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.**

**Mainly Art Gallery**

1417 Main Street

Portrait of Abiyah painted by Cincinnati artist Brian Joiner on display as part of Tha Blast's "Face Cincinnati" art exhibit. The portrait is entitled "Free Wild Muse," the name of Abiyah's breakout song, produced by N8tiveSun, that also appeared on the 2003 MidPoint Music Festival CD.

**MidPoint Music Festival**

**Friday, September 28, 1:15 a.m. (Saturday morning)**

Jardin (formerly Neon's)

208 East 12th Street

*Playing outside in the fancy garden area.*

Abiyah ringtones are now available for free at [www.myxertones.com](http://www.myxertones.com). Please visit the following links to download:

**"Free Wild Muse"** free ringtone download: <http://www.myxertones.com/ringtone:165339/>

**"Rise"** free ringtone download: <http://www.myxertones.com/ringtone:188486/>

**Visit Abiyah on the Web:**

<http://www.abiyah.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/abiyah>

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