



PRESS RELEASE

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Black Comic Book Convention Nabs Noir Guest

When comic book fans think of “Black Superheroes” one name stands out as an iconic representation of Black heroes in the industry: Powerman (aka Luke Cage), who has been exciting fans since his first appearance in *Hero for Hire #1* published in June 1972. These days the powerful hero has been re-imagined from his ‘70’s origin. Trading in his highly- recognizable silk shirt and silver headband for a three piece suit and fedora, renowned artist and illustrator Shawn Martinbrough takes an alternative approach to the proud, wise and “bullet-proof” African-American character in *Luke Cage: Noir*. Martinbrough equips the series with just enough dramatic lighting and deep shadows to recreate the classic style found in crime and detective driven storytelling of the Film Noir era. Set against a backdrop of alcohol prohibition and civil rights unrest, Martinbrough illustrates drama, heroism and cinema onto the comic page. Martinbrough will be on hand at the 9th Annual East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention (ECBACC) on Saturday, May 15th, 2010 to discuss this work and his latest publication *How to Draw Noir Comics*.

Philadelphia, PA - May 14 & 15, 2010 - The East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention, Inc. (ECBACC, Inc.), America’s premiere Black comic book convention, features publishers, authors and artists who celebrate the importance of youth literacy, creativity and positive storytelling. ECBACC, Inc. kicks off the two-day convention on Friday evening, May 14, 2010, from 6:30p.m. - 9p.m. with a **FREE reception and awards ceremony** at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) located at 701 Arch St. **The Convention** culminates on Saturday, May 15, 2010, from 10a.m. - 7p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Center City located at 1800 Market St. with a day of networking, panel discussions, film screenings, a comic book marketplace, and adult and youth workshops. Admission for Saturday is \$15 for adults; FREE for youth 12 and under.

ECBACC, Inc. hosts a comic book convention that uses superhero mythology to promote literacy. The convention offers workshops and activities dedicated to promoting literacy, creativity and positive Black super-powered images. “The great thing about this is that the ECBACC was founded in Philadelphia, the city of many of the nation’s firsts --- the first capital, university, library, museum, public park, hospital, bank, zoo, prison --- and the very first independent Black comic book: *All-Negro Comics* created by **Orrin C. Evans** in 1947,” said **Yumy Odom**, Founder and President of ECBACC, Inc., and a self-described archivist of the Africentric comic book tradition who has been using comic books as a classroom resource and reference since 1982.

In its 9th year, ECBACC, Inc. keeps excitement in reading alive through an all-day comic book marketplace, filled with artists and writers, comic books and science fiction novels, posters, memorabilia, games and action figures. ECBACC, Inc. also keeps reading, writing and drawing exciting for youth in their Kids' Corner, which will feature a myriad of comic book-themed activities. The Kids' Corner will be open to all children who attend the convention and will run from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., offering them a chance to learn how to use their own ideas to create superheroes and comic books. Comic book creators **Reggie Byers** (PA), **Jerry Craft** (CT), **Eric Battle** (PA) and **Alex Simmons** (NY) will be on hand in the Kids' Corner to teach basic skills of comic book, comic strip and cartoon creation. Children will have a great time drawing, coloring and creating stories!

Adults will be entertained and educated at the convention as well! The ECBACC offers professional animation and technology workshops, film screenings, and a marketplace with one of the largest exhibits of rare and collectible comics on the East Coast.

ECBACC, Inc. highlights the Black experience through comic books and science fiction storytelling by bringing together comic book creators, artists, writers of African descent, their colleagues and their fans from across the country to network, dissect, examine and explore the images and depictions of Blacks in comic books and cartoons. Some of the headlining artists, storytellers and creators scheduled to appear at ECBACC 2010 include:

- **Jerry Craft:** Award winning national cartoonist and creator of *Mama's Boyz*.
www.mamasboyz.com/
- **Reggie Byers:** Creator of *Kidz of the King*, a Christian comic book distributed nationwide by Urban Ministries, Inc. Byers has worked on a number of projects, including the Official Philadelphia Soul Football Team Comic Book. www.kidzofking.com
- **LA Banks:** Celebrated author of *The Vampire Huntress Series*. Banks has worked with Dynamic Forces. www.vampirehuntress.com and www.lesliesdailebanks.com
- **Roland Laird:** Writer and CEO of Posro Media, an entertainment production company that explores African American history and culture in a variety of formats. www.daponline.com
- **Shawn Martinbrough:** Named one of "Washington, D.C's Best," Martinbrough has illustrated for DC, Marvel and Vertigo Comics. His latest work includes *Luke Cage: Noir*.
- **Ahmad Muhammad:** Creator of 18th Avenue Production, Muhammad has animated and penned his own work for the benefit of entertainment and education.
www.18thaveonline.com.
- **Shannon Newby:** Owner of *Out of the House* Motion Pictures and Executive Producer of *Heavy Sedation* PBS television series. Newby uses comedy, science fiction, and mystery to tell dramatic short stories. www.outthehouse.com/heavysedation
- **Greg Pak:** Author of the twelve-issue *War Machine* series is the winner of the Maximum Force Award from ComicCritique.com. www.pakbuzz.com
- **Rob Stull:** Illustrator who has worked with Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Milestone Comics, Image and Dark Horse Comics.
- **William H. Foster:** Comic Book Historian and Author of *Looking for a Face Like Mine* is currently creating the first *Encyclopedia of Black Comic Books*.

For the full list of panelists and participating artists, visit www.ecbacc.com

On Friday evening, May 14, 2010, from 7p.m. - 9p.m., the Glyph Comics Awards will recognize the best in comics made by, for, and about Black people from the preceding calendar year. While it is not exclusive to Black creators, it does strive to honor those who have made the greatest contributions to the comic book medium in terms of both critical and commercial impact. The goal of the Glyph Comics Awards is to encourage more diverse

and high quality work across the board and to inspire new creators to add their voices to the field. The Award is named for the blog *Glyphs: The Language of the Black Comics Community* (<http://glyphs.popcultureshock.com>) started in 2005 by comics journalist Rich Watson as a means to provide news and commentary on comics with Black themes, as well as tangential topics in the fields of Black science-fiction, fantasy and animation.

In 2004 ECBACC, Inc. inaugurated the **Pioneer Lifetime Achievement Award** to honor those men and women, many unsung, who have made innovative, dynamic and lasting contributions to the industry and who have paved the way for others. The list of these trailblazers follows: political cartoonist **Mr. Samuel Joyner** of Philadelphia Tribune fame who received the very first ECBACC Pioneer Award in 2004, and who has been present each year; **Mr. Bertram Fitzgerald**, Creator of *Golden Legacy Comics*, who received the honor in 2005; **Mr. Tony Tallarico**, of *Lobo* fame, who received the honor in 2006, as did **Mr. Turtel Onli**, the “Father of the Black Age” concept; **Mr. Larry Fuller**, “One of the Kings of Underground Comix,” who received the honor in 2007; and **Lady Nichelle Nichols** of “Star Trek / Lt. Nyota Uhura” fame who honored ECBACC with her presence in 2008. These respected Elders and professionals have over 175 combined years in the industry. Philadelphia has long been recognized as a place that has provided fertile ground for a number of artistic efforts, including music, dance, mural-making, storytelling and comic book creation. ECBACC, Inc., a replicable model for community-based comic book conventions, has successfully cultivated multifaceted images of Black superhero characters and has effectively served as a nexus, conduit and catalyst for Black comic book creators, their colleagues and fans since 2002! For the past 8 years, ECBACC, Inc. has paid tribute to this important legacy, promoted the work of veteran as well as up-and-coming artists, and served as a wellspring of collaborative efforts among comic book creators as well. ECBACC, Inc. dares to go where other conventions do not, and fills a gaping chasm in the industry. “The place to meet and network with Black comic book publishers, artists and writers is ECBACC,” says the ECBACC, Inc. Vice President and Event Coordinator Akinseye Brown. “If you are interested in Black heroes in the comic book industry, then ECBACC 2010 is the place to be.”

For more information, visit: www.ecbacc.com

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