

# BLACK HISTORY

## Black History listings

# Local artist turns mentor

### Collective of Black Artists (COBA) - Banta

This dynamic and versatile program pushes the boundaries of contemporary Canadian dance with a traditional African voice. Location: Fleck Dance Theatre. Time: Feb. 20 - 21, 8 p.m. Feb. 22, 3 p.m. Tickets: \$20-32; NextSteps Package Price: \$18-27. www.cobainc.com

### Black History Past and Present

Location: Lawrence Heights Community Centre Feb. 21; Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

### D-Day: Purchase a book for a youth in the community

Location: A Different Booklist 726 Bathurst St. Toronto. Knowledge Bookstore 177 Queen St. W. Brampton. Feb. 21. Children from the Breakfast Club will be drawing a picture to show what Black History Month means to them. Feb. 24.

### The Color Purple

Location: The Canon Theatre 2, 244 Victoria Street Toronto, Ontario Feb. 24; Time: 8 p.m.

Other Info: Special price \$85.00 limited quantity. First come first served. Call OBHS @ (416) 867-9420 for tickets.

When Jair Dynast was in school Black History Month meant someone would come in and speak for a few minutes and then walk out the door.

Now 31, the recording artist is using his music and experience to connect with young people and make them think.

Partnering with the TDSB, Dynast is visiting different schools across the city to perform songs that touch on the topics of peer pressure, violence and history.

"I'm younger and I can relate," says Dynast.

"I come from the same neighbourhood they come from, I'm dealing with the same sort of experiences or have dealt with the same experiences."

Dynast grew up in the city's west end before moving to Scarborough for his senior year in high school.

"It's almost like looking at a mirror image of someone who was them and now here I am doing this."

One of the songs he performs is *Art of Invention* which talks about various African American inventors that many don't know about.

Dynast leaves behind pamphlets so students can find more information and get kids involved on a different level.

"The response is great especially with *The Art of Invention ...* they really become engaged in the discussion; they ask me a lot of questions," he said.

**"It's almost like looking at a mirror image of someone who was them, and now here I am doing this."**

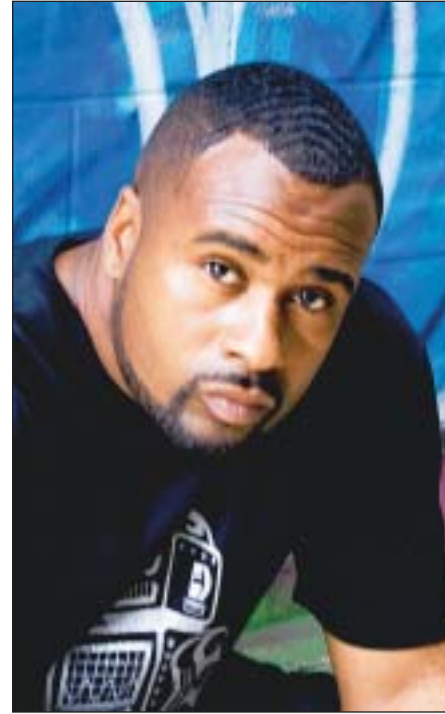
Jair Dynast

"To be honest they're very articulate and intelligent. Even though they're young,

they're very aware of what's going on and they have a lot to offer."

While taking his message to Toronto schools throughout the month, Dynast is working on his third album.

His new track, *My Style* is set to hit the airwaves Feb. 24.



24HOURS NEWS SERVICES

**SPREADING THE WORD:** Dynast is visiting different schools across the city to perform songs that touch on the topics of peer pressure, violence and history.



**Sorry I missed you ...**  
the best of today's missed connections

### Recovery love

Eric, we met and talked a little at the pharmacy at Bayview/Cummer. We're both on methadone. I got your phone number, but it doesn't work. I'm hoping you didn't intentionally give me the wrong number. I asked for you yesterday at the pharmacy and they said you moved. I would really like to get in touch with you. If you're out there reading this, please contact me.

— craigslist, missed connections

### Hockey pub night

You were sitting with a bunch of friends. Our eyes meet as you turned around to check out the Montreal Canadians game on the lopsided big screen by the bar. I was drinking with some of my burly biker buddies.

Location: Imperial Pub Library

— craigslist, missed connections

### Intelligence of cats

Phillipe, thanks for the cab ride home. It was about two weeks ago, you were just getting off work, around 3 a.m., and the Dufferin bus was taking forever. You had a left over bottle of wine in your hand. We took a cab together and talked about the intelligence of cats. You wouldn't take my money. You were sweet. See you around Parkdale?

— craigslist, missed connections

### Cute redhead

Meghan, you with the red hair and lovely smile in the animal print sweater or cardigan-type thing. You are a journalist; I hit things.

It was nice to chat with you, minus how brief it was.

— craigslist, missed connections

### TORONTO

# 24 hours

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