



## ***NEWS***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 20, 2006

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### **JULY 27 PROCLAIMED YOUTHAIDS DAY IN WASHINGTON D.C. AS R& B RECORDING ARTIST LYFE JENNINGS AND HIV/AIDS EXPERTS DR. MARK DYBUL AND MARSHA MARTIN JOIN ASHLEY AND WYNONNA JUDD TO HOST THE WASHINGTON MYSTICS YOUTHAIDS FORUM**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Washington Mystics Foundation and YouthAIDS announce today that R& B recording artist Lyfe Jennings and well known HIV/AIDS experts Dr. Mark Dybul and Marsha Martin will join Ashley and Wynonna Judd to host the YouthAIDS Forum at the Verizon Center on July 27.

In honor of YouthAIDS day at the Washington Mystics, and in an effort to continue to bring light to the problem of HIV/AIDS, the Mayor's office has declared July 27 YouthAIDS day in the District.

“The Washington Mystics Foundation is thrilled to be able to bring together such a diverse panel of experts and artists to encourage dialogue with D.C. teens about HIV/AIDS,” said Sheila Johnson, president and managing partner of the Washington Mystics.

The day-long event will begin with the YouthAIDS forum, taking place from 3:00pm – 4:30pm, which will bring together hundreds of area youth to talk about HIV/AIDS. The YouthAIDS panel will include YouthAIDS Global Ambassador Ashley Judd and YouthAIDS U.S. Ambassador Wynonna Judd, Lyfe Jennings, Dr. Mark Dybul, Marsha Martin and a panel of peer educators from DC based Metro Teen AIDS with the assistance of Hip Hop forum hosts Adimu and Kira Means.

YouthAIDS Day will continue with the Washington Mystics game, including a half time performance by Lyfe Jennings, and ending with a concert by country music icon Wynonna Judd.



Complimentary tickets to the YouthAIDS forum are available to teens, youth groups, and families. For more information call the Hip Hop Forum Ticket Hotline at 202.266.2393 by July 24.

Tickets to both the game and the post-game concert can be purchased for the same price by calling 1-877-DC Hoop1 or by visiting the Mystics web site at [www.washingtonmystics.com](http://www.washingtonmystics.com).

Part of the proceeds will go to support the work of Youth AIDS.

The YouthAIDS forum is one in a continuing series of Hip Hop Forums created by the Washington Mystics Foundation and sponsored by Freddie Mac and Southwest Airlines to promote meaningful dialogue among the city's youth. The Washington Mystics Foundation appreciates the commitment of its sponsors.

We encourage young people to attend the YouthAids Forum to learn more about prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. We applaud the Mystics Foundation for taking a leadership position on this issue for the youth in our community.

- Maxine B. Baker, Freddie Mac

Southwest Airlines is committed to the Hip Hop Forum's mission of inspiring and educating young people to dream and want better lives and seek positive opportunities. The youth of today are our future leaders for tomorrow, and that is why Southwest Airlines is committed to improving the lives of youth. We applaud the Mystics Foundation for informing our youth about issues that affect them such as HIV/AIDS.

--Peter A. Wynne, Multicultural National Promotions Coordinator, Southwest Airlines

For additional information about the Mystics, visit the web site, [www.washingtonmystics.com](http://www.washingtonmystics.com). For more information about Youth AIDS, log onto [www.youthaids.org](http://www.youthaids.org).

*The Washington Mystics Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering and improving the health and well-being of youth in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The efforts of the Foundation shall serve as a model for health and wellness programs not only in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area but across the nation with its innovative and creative approach.*

*YouthAIDS, an education and prevention initiative of PSI, uses media, pop culture, music, theatre and sport to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and reach 600 million young people in more than 60 countries with life-saving messages, products, services and care.*