



For Immediate Release

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**The Region's First Black Comic Book Convention Celebrates 10 Years
of Promoting Art, Literacy & Creativity!**

**Annual convention celebrates the Black experience in comic books
and posthumously awards the creators of the first independent Black
comic book!**

***** Famed Cartoonist Ray Billingsley, Creator of the Curtis comic strip,
Black Jack Creator Alex Simmons, and Kidz of the King Creator
Reggie Byers to appear*****

**PHILADELPHIA, May 20 & 21, 2011—The East Coast Black Age of Comics
Convention (ECBACC, Inc.),** a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and
Philadelphia's premiere Black comic book convention, dedicates this 10th
annual convention to highlighting breakthroughs in the comic book and sci-fi
industry. ECBACC, Inc. kicks off the two-day convention on Friday evening, **May
20, 2011**, from 6:30p.m. - 9p.m. with its annual FREE reception and awards
ceremony at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) located at
701 Arch St.

On Friday evening, May 20, 2011 from 6:30p.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. The Award is named for the blog Glyphs: The
Language of the Black Comics Community started in 2005 by comic book
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.

While it is not exclusive to Black creators, the GCA 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 GCA 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 Convention culminates on **Saturday, May 21, 2011**, from 10a.m. – 7p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Center City located at 1800 Market St. with a day of networking, panel discussions, a comic book marketplace and adult and youth workshops. Admission for Saturday is \$15 for teens and adults; FREE for youth 12 and under.

“ECBACC is the region’s first bona fide ‘Black Comic Book Convention’ and offers workshops and activities dedicated to promoting literacy, achievement and professionalism. The great thing about this is that the ECBACC was founded in Philadelphia, the city of many of the nation’s firsts --- the first White House, zoo, library, museum --- and the very first independent Black comic book: **All-Negro Comics** created by brothers Orrin C. Evans and George Evans, Jr. 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 educational tools since 1982. The Evans brothers will be the posthumous recipients of the **ECBACC Pioneer Lifetime Achievement Award!** This marks the 10th year for this unique, informative and enlightening conference that connects comic book creators to their fans from across the country, providing a venue for them to network and dissect, examine, discuss and explore the images in comic books and sci-fi.

The ECBACC **Kids’ Corner** returns this year, featuring myriad youth activities. The KC will be open to all young people who attend the convention. The KC will run from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering children a chance to learn how to take their own ideas and create superheroes and comic books. The KC "kick back zone" will provide free comic books to read throughout the day.

And, there's more!

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

Some of the headlining artists and educators scheduled to appear at ECBACC 2011 include:

- **Ray Billingsley:** Creator of the comic strip *Curtis*, which is distributed by King Features Syndicated and printed in more than 250 newspapers nationwide.
- **Jerry Craft:** A founding member of the ECBACC convention and the creator of *Mama's Boyz* and *Mama's Boyz: Home Schoolin'*, a 112-page collection of his award-winning comic strip.
- **Alex Simmons:** Creator of the award-winning *Black Jack* and Founder of the Kids Comic Con (KCC) in the Bronx, NY.

- **Mshindo Kuumba I:** An artistic and aesthetic savant, well known for his enduring attention to detail and the Afrocentric look to his work. In his own words: "Africa being so instrumental in civilizing the world, I found it peculiar that a strong positive image of Africans is largely absent from contemporary media. Since my youth I wanted to build a career addressing this discrepancy."
- **Shannon Newby:** Filmmaker and creator of the acclaimed film series *Heavy Sedation*, which uses comedy, science-fiction, and mystery to tell stories.
- **Reggie Byers:** Multi-talented creator and publisher of a variety of comic books, which includes: *Shuriken*, a tale about a female ninja, *Jam Quacky the Hip-Hop Duck* and currently *Kidz of the King*, which he produces with his wife of over 20 years, Dionne.
- **Rob Stull:** A multi-talented artist who has worked for every major publisher in the comic book industry. His projects include *Spiderman Adventures*, *Slingers*, *Iron Man*, *X-Force*, *New Mutants*, *Wolverine* and *Spiderman / Doctor Octopus: Out of Reach*.
- **William H. Foster III:** Philadelphia-born comic book historian, founding member of the ECBACC convention and a long-time comic book collector and researcher. Prof. Foster has been an expert commentator for both CNN News and National Public Radio.
- **Mr. Omar Bilal:** A founding member of the ECBACC convention, Mr. Bilal is also the Founder of the first cyberspace museum: The Museum of Black Superheroes (MoBS).
- **Rich Watson:** Comic book journalist and founder of the Glyph Comic Awards, inaugurated at the 5th Annual ECBACC in May 2006. The GCA was established to encourage more diverse and high quality work across the board and to inspire new creators to add their voices to the field.
- **And You!**

Join us as we celebrate ten (10) consecutive years of excellence and success!

For the full list of guests, panelists and participating artists, visit:

www.ecbacc.com/wordpress