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For Immediate Release:

Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival Performers to Take the Stage June 7th
Red Hot Red Hook is Going Green – And Growing Its Art Scene

Brooklyn, NY – (April 18, 2008) Look past these April showers to the sunny days of summer, when the **15th annual Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival** will once again celebrate community through the arts. Come on down to the secret jewel of Red Hook – Louis J. Valentino Jr. Park & Pier (Coffey and Ferris Streets in Red Hook) -- on **Saturday, June 7th** from **11AM-7PM**. This **FREE** festival will be jam-packed with activities for children, teens and the whole family! New York's hottest, most socially conscious **musicians, dancers and spoken word artists** converge onstage with new works and share their expertise through free workshops with the audience and youth performers.

Kick off the day with beat box and spoken word artist **Akil Dasan**, a charismatic young musician who effortlessly combines intelligent lyricism and soulful singing with virtuosic musicianship. He wanders the planet with his guitar, a beat and an arsenal of stories. Akil's freestyle and beat boxing abilities enhance his wide repertoire of musical genres.

Jollyship the Whiz-Bang is Brooklyn's nautical rock wunderkind. One part each puppet troupe, rock band and theater company, these pirates have performed in festivals the world over, showing off their music, puppetry and comedy in elaborate spectacles.

Amayo's FU-ARKIST-RA afro-beat ensemble is next to capture the stage. Their combination of traditional Chinese Lion rhythms and Nigerian Afro-beat creates a vivid and magical landscape for stories, lessons, and dances. The result is a potent blend of African spiritual beats and folklore and traditional Chinese rhythms, highlife, funk, and jazz, infused with progressive insights.

Paradizo Dance is the result of a dynamic collaboration between the petite powerhouse Zoe Klein and her rock solid partner Dave Paris. Their breathtaking acrobatic feats are an intriguing blend of aerial lifts, salsa, afro-cuban dance and circus skills.

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company celebrates the regional dance traditions of Mexico's diverse cultures, interpreted through its unique artistic vision. Their gorgeous repertoire honors Mexico's past, keeping cherished traditions vibrantly alive for Mexican immigrant communities in the United States. Calpulli performances are like Mexico itself: rich, colorful, passionate and inviting.

End the day and get your groove on to the mellow and powerful spinner of truth, **DJ Oja** (o-jah). His legendary mixes of Hip-Hop, Funk, Soul and rhythms of the world have kept folks rocking for years, and now we bring him to the waterfront. DJ Oja mixes for powerful social change.

This year we are **Growing Arts, Going Green** with environmentally conscious community organizations that will offer a range of activities and information on everything from affordable housing to greening your community and home.

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For more information and photographs, contact Julia Rosenfeld (718) 643-6790 x 113, julia@dtetc.org

The Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival is produced by Dance Theatre Etcetera: Executive Director Martha Bowers and Production Coordinator Robert Martin. Visit www.dtetc.org for more information.

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