

# AKILA WORKSONGS **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

presents



**SHORT BIO:** Havana-born Ariel “Acho” Fernández Díaz is a New York City-based cultural critic, Hip Hop historian, journalist, filmmaker, and event organizer. Ariel has distinguished himself as a leader and advocate of Cuban youth culture and social-cultural movements. A fiery orator, widely acclaimed lecturer and proponent of the Cuban Hip-Hop movement, *Vibe Magazine* says, "Fernández does everything but rhyme. He's a DJ, radio personality, promoter, manager and journalist. If you want to know everything about Cuban Hip Hop, ask him. His drive and dedication to the movement is relentless." For many, Ariel is simply an organic intellectual with the vision of a socio-cultural entrepreneur.

Since 2005, Ariel has lived in New York City where continues to demonstrate his vision, drive, and love for Hip Hop and the arts as vehicles for social change. He has traveled around the country as an ambassador of Cuban Hip Hop, presenting lectures at prestigious universities, colleges, and cultural institutions.

Some of Ariel's most notable accomplishments in the US include, curating and producing **First Fridays!** (a community oriented and multicultural monthly program at **The Bronx Museum of the Arts**) and being featured as an Op-Ed columnist for *El Diario/La Prensa*, the oldest Spanish language daily newspaper in the U.S.

Ariel is presently at work on his first documentary film and a memoir documenting his life in Cuba and beyond. Through all of this, he continues to bridge the gap between Cuban and international youth communities.

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## **SELECT LECTURE TOPICS**

- *Black on Both Sides*(Race, Religion, and Marginality in Cuba)
- *Latinos Unidos!: The Face of Hip Hop in Latin America (The Social Change Movement)*
- *Hip Hop in Cuba: A Revolution Within the Revolution (The Genesis of Rap Cubano)*
- *Cuban Hip Hop: The Aftermath (The Film Documentary)*

**For complete descriptions, the full bio, or to book Ariel Fernandez, contact Drake R. Holliday at AKILA WORKSONGS Speakers Bureau: [speakers@akilaworksongs.com](mailto:speakers@akilaworksongs.com) or 718.756.8501.**

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