

TAJ WEEKES

LECTURE/WORKSHOP EPK

As part of his mission to educate and raise awareness about the issues that face today's youth, Taj Weekes shares his philosophy on what individual responsibility means with regards to caring for each other as well as how that translates into our everyday actions. His life's work and artistic expression are examples of how we can all make a difference in our communities and in the world.

Weekes presents workshops and lectures on a variety of topics, including the importance of reggae music in addressing social issues such as music, the Caribbean, the environment, acceptance, tolerance and social responsibility. Weekes has presented workshops and lectures at various high school, universities, festivals and special events worldwide.

LECTURE TOPICS

- **Reggae is a Verb:** Simply put, this lecture presents reggae as a doing word. Weekes introduces reggae as a movement, one that espouses that rastas care about each other and everybody helping each other out. - I am my brother's keeper.
- **Love Herb & Reggae:** In his latest release, "Love Herb & Reggae", Weekes gives an updated perspective on the 60's mantra "Sex Drugs & Rock 'n Roll." The 'love' element expands the Rasta 'one love' philosophy to embrace all love. "Love is a human rights issue" particularly in the context of accepting and defining people by their sexuality. Herb, not marijuana, commonly linked to reggae, is now healthy living – thyme, basil, sage. Then there's reggae – the drum and bass, the grooves, the vehicle for the message.
- **Youth and the Environment:** Taj merges his work with youth and environmental education. His lecture discusses elements of the TOCO Permaculture School Garden – a living classroom designed to educate students about ecological and sustainable agriculture. Children learn nutrition, how to grow fruits and vegetables and the importance of how the sale of produce supports local communities and supermarkets.

- **Tolerance, Acceptance and Social Responsibility:** As a self-proclaimed “voice of the voiceless”, Taj Weekes lectures through his lyrics and poetry, about tolerance, respect, acceptance and brotherhood. Topics touch on issues ranging from anti-bullying, diversity, homophobia and universal love.
- **All about St. Lucia** – Hailing from the tiny quiet 238 square mile island in the Eastern Caribbean, Taj Weekes offers insight into the music, art, poetry and culture that defines St. Lucia.
- **Reggae music education/songwriting workshops:** As a musician and songwriter, he delves into the subjects that compel him to pick up his pen and continue in the tradition of storyteller/town crier that is at the root of reggae music. He also conducts music-oriented workshops - sharing his insights, methodology and process.

PAST LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Boys Training Center (St. Lucia) ♦ Dame Pearlette Louisy Primary School (St. Lucia) ♦ Minnesota State University at Mankato (Minnesota) ♦ Valparaiso University (Indiana) ♦ Adopt-A-School program (West Virginia) ♦ Blissfest Songwriter's workshop (Michigan) ♦ Roots & Blues Festival Songwriting workshop (British Columbia, Canada) ♦ Van Roc College (Holland) ♦ Claxton Elementary School (North Carolina)

Contact information

They Often Cry Outreach (TOCO)
27 Edgewood Place
Great Neck, New York 11024
[917-488-5982](tel:917-488-5982)

TOCO Links

www.theyoftencryoutreach.org

www.tajweekes.com





