



PRESS RELEASE

**EDDY KING, WEBSTER, AND RANEE LEE THE SPOKESPEOPLE FOR
THE 25TH EDITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Montreal, January 19th, 2016 – The Round Table on Black History Month is proud to announce that comedian Eddy King, rapper and historian Webster, as well as jazz singer Ranee Lee, will share with their fans their fondness for Black History Month, as the Francophone spokesmen and Anglophone spokeswoman, throughout all of February.

Eddy King has taken part in a number of *Juste pour rire* galas. After opening at Rachid Badouri's *Arrête ton Cinéma* tour, he put together his first one-man show. He also appeared in Quebec-Belgium co-production *Moroccan Gigolos*. Eddy hosts *Juste pour rire* evenings all over Québec and is a regular guest at the Bordel Comédie Club.

“As a community, we should commemorate and celebrate our history all year long,” noted Eddy King. “Nonetheless, the month of February is the occasion to share this history with the rest of the world, because we can only build something better if we share our values and heritage with others.”

Aly Ndiaye, also known as Webster, was born and raised in the Quebec City neighbourhood of Limoilou. The child of a Senegalese father and a Quebecois mother, he introduces himself as a biracial *pure laine* “SénéQueb”. His passion for history led him to study in that field at university. As a founding member of Limoilou Starz, he is a veteran of the Quebec hip-hop movement.

A hip-hop and anti-racism activist, Webster regularly does speaking on a variety of subjects, including multiculturalism and the societal impact of hip hop on young people. His favourite topic is the history of Blacks in Quebec and Canada, whose presence goes back to the early 17th century. He has also travelled the world to lead writing workshops where he teaches others how to use French creatively through rap.

“It’s important to highlight the little-known contributions that people of African descent have made to our nations,” mentioned Webster. “Whether they were slaves or free men and women, Black people have had a presence in Quebec since the beginnings of New France in the 17th century. As long as that fact is not commonly known by everyone who calls this province home, we have the duty to continuously make people aware.”

Ranee Lee was born in New York in 1942. She began her performing career as a dancer, and later toured as a drummer and tenor saxophonist. Her portrayal of Billie Holiday in *Lady Day* would be the jumping-off point for her recording career as a singer. Ranee Lee celebrated 40 years of living in Montreal, where she's had a varied career full of achievements as one of Canada's most popular jazz singers, as a multi-award-winning actress, and as a songwriter, teacher, and children's book author.

"It's a great pleasure to be a part of this special month," noted Ranee Lee. "Through our history, we can educate, amaze, raise awareness – and above all, unite. This is the occasion to celebrate and discover the journeys of admirable people who were too often relegated to the shadows, and who made incalculable contributions to our society."

Black History Month will take place all across Quebec from February 1st to 29th, 2016. To find out all about the complete schedule for Black History Month, visit our website www.moishistoiredesnoirs.com today.

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Source: The Round Table on Black History Month

Source: Groupe Style Communications

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