**UMS Night School 2/10/14**

**Key Themes, Players, and Definitions**

**This week’s session entitled “Technique, Virtuosity, and Monsters” was designed to prepare the UMS Night School community for upcoming performance: Compagnie Käfig.**

* Guest speaker Reighan Gillam (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies) provided a lecture about hip-hop in Brazil
* Community member Marcus White (MFA Candidate, Department of Dance) led the group in a movement exploration of funk, capoeira, and hip hop history and principles
* Members of the “Moving Pictures” cast Patricia Solorzano, Alexis Turner, and Kristen Donovan joined us to talk about their experience in the creative process.
* Below is a list of main themes, key players, and definitions about this week’s session:

1. **Compagnie Kafig**
   1. [Performance at Power Center](http://ums.org/performance/compagnie-kafig/) 2/14 and 2/15
   2. [*Agwa*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fTtPrrKEPo)
   3. Review of Compagnie Kafig ([Boston Globe](http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2014/02/09/compagnie-kafig-blazes-across-stage/3LkYaq5ebqtQn1kPnKqG5N/story.html)) 2/14
   4. Artistic Director
      1. [Trained in martial arts and circus skills in his native Lyon, France, artistic director and choreographer Mourad Merzouki discovered hip-hop at age fifteen and founded Compagnie Käfig in 1996](http://ums.org/performance/compagnie-kafig/#sthash.h39Txags.dpuf)
2. **What is HipHop? (**[**Reading: *Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop* Jeff Chang**](http://www.amazon.com/Cant-Stop-Wont-History-Generation/dp/0312425791)**)**
   1. Origins (late 1960s-1980s)
   2. Influenced by Funk musicians such as James Brown
      1. Breakin’
         1. “Boogie Down Bronx” (Bronx, NY)
         2. DJ Kool Herc would repeat the “break” of music and dancers would dance to this portion of music. This would later be known as “breakin’ ”. “Break dancing” is the commercialized term for “breakin’(g) and is not the term used by breakin’ boys (bboys) or breakin’ girls (bgirls)
         3. Top Rock one of four elements used in breakin’ to use in the performance of the dance
      2. Locking (Lockin’)
         1. Don Campbell and the Campbell Lockers
            1. West Coast
            2. Performed on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson, Radio City Music Hall, and Soul Train
            3. [Video Link](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PXl5cLdqNQ)
         2. A style of dancing in which energetic manuevers are performed, especially emphasizing the use of arm movements, usually to funk or hip-hop music
      3. Popping (Poppin’/Popin’;)
         1. Fresno, CA
            1. Poppin Pete/Mr. Wiggles
            2. [Video Link](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_m6FqY5QM9U)
         2. Based on the technique of quickly contracting and relaxing muscles to cause a jerk in the dancer's body, referred to as a *pop* or a *hit*
      4. Popping and Locking are not synonymous
      5. It is difficult to pin down a specific place of origin as popping and locking was seen and performed all over Southern California at this time including in Los Angeles and San Francisco
3. **Capoeira**
   1. “Capoeira is a Brazilian art form which combines fight, dance, rhythm and movement. Capoeira is a dialog between players - a conversation through movement which can take on many shades of meaning. The details of capoeira's origins and early history are still a matter of debate among historians, but it is clear that african slaves played a crucial role in the development of the artform” ([For More Information CLICK HERE](http://www.princeton.edu/~capoeira/ln_abt.html))
      1. [Ginga – Basic step of the capoeira](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV-Sf5-aCcc)
   2. VIDEO: [Capoeira in Bahia, Brazil](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H0D8VaIli0)
   3. VIDEO: Compagnie Kafig Capoeira (see *Agwa*)
   4. VIDEO: [Capoeira on Film (Only the Strong)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ-knBky6S0)
   5. VIDEO: [Capoeira and Women](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlwpmJW1I5I) (short documentary)
4. **The Circle**
   1. In many African diaspora form a circle is created to embody a sense of community
      1. In Hip-hop and/or house it can be known as the *cipher*
      2. In Capoeira it is known as *roda*
      3. Circle can be traced back dance traditions in West Africa