



ROUGH RIDING SYMPOSIUM

TANYA STEPHENS & THE POWER OF MUSIC TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES | JUNE 14, 2017

CONTACT

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Tanya Stephens is one of the most critical thinking cultural workers and organic intellectuals produced by the Reggae and Dancehall genres. Arguably one of the best lyricists in the history of genres dominated by male counterparts, Stephens has maintained her relevance in the music industry for over two decades and has used it as a platform for social commentary and political education. She is quoted as saying that “[m]usic has the power to shape society [therefore] it is not the sole responsibility of musicians to raise our children or to shape our society, but music does have the power to do this and as a result it is important that we w[ield] it responsibly.” It is for the preceding reason that Stephens tackles issues such as women’s oppression and liberation, homophobia and the human rights of the LGBTQI community, social inequality, the toxicity of hegemonic masculinity, international politics, critical reggae/dancehall erotica and women’s liberated sexuality.

A few researchers have engaged the cultural output of this underrated cultural worker and organic intellectual. However, the academic community inside and outside of the Caribbean has yet to subject her work to collective examination by way of a conference, workshop, or colloquium. Yet her lyrical contribution, social justice commentary, political analysis and delivery are on par with her musical counterparts such as Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Mutabaruka and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

This ground-breaking Symposium will honour, celebrate and affirm her body of work, while critically subjecting it to a scholarly and political interrogation under the theme **“Rough Riding: Tanya Stephens and the Power of Music to Transform Society”**.

Topics of interest in Tanya Stephens’s work include (but are not limited to):

- Power and the construction of the erotic
- Sexual liberation and women’s empowerment
- Tanya Stephens as feminist icon?
- Tanya as an organic intellectual
- Interrogation of religion in society
- Social responsibility of the artist
- Critique of hegemonic masculinity
- Feminist literary criticism
- The social construction of ‘matey’ and ‘wifey’
- Solidarity and rivalry amongst women
- Gender, race and class in the creative industries

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the **“Rough Riding: Tanya Stephens and the Power of Music to Transform Society”** Symposium to be held on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017**. The event is organized by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Campus Unit, and the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS). This gathering will take place in the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, Room N3, at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica.

Artistes and other cultural producers are invited to participate in this Symposium and your contribution may include poems, songs, dub poetry or paintings, etc. They should be related to the work of Tanya Stephens.

-- NO REGISTRATION FEE --

GUIDE FOR PRESENTERS:

You are invited to submit an abstract of no more than 250-300 words with the title of the paper, a 50-word bio with the author’s name and organizational or institutional affiliation. Please submit your abstract to tanyastephenssymposium@gmail.com.

You will have fifteen minutes to present your paper to the Symposium and there will be a Question & Answer period after the presentation of papers by the session’s panelists.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for submission of abstract: **APRIL 8, 2017**

Notification of Acceptance: **APRIL 22, 2017**

Deadline for final paper submission: **JUNE 7, 2017**

The submitted abstracts will be used as a part of a book proposal on the work of Tanya Stephens and a reputable publisher will be targeted for the publication of this prospective volume in late 2018.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Adwoa Onuora, Ph.D.,
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For general inquiries or to contact a member of the organizing committee, please email at tanyastephenssymposium@gmail.com