

# KICK SNARE HAT PREMIERE

DW AND THE GRAMMY MUSEUM INTRODUCE AN INNOVATIVE NEW DVD.



**O**n February 19 and 20, DW and the Grammy Museum joined forces to premiere DW's DVD *Kick Snare Hat: The Superstar Drummers Of Hip-Hop And R&B*. The event was held at the brand-new Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. The impressive 30,000-square-foot space features four floors of permanent and traveling displays, state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, and some of the rarest musical artifacts in the world.

The two-night event was the brainchild of DW DVD producer/marketing director Scott Donnell and Grammy Museum corporate sponsorship manager Steve Riskin. Considering the museum's quest to connect with companies that focus on education, the location was the perfect choice for the premiere of the insightful film. The stars of the DVD—Cora Coleman-Dunham (Prince), Gerald Heyward (Mary J. Blige), Aaron Spears (Usher), and Nisan Stewart (Missy Elliott)—were present at the event. In addition to performing, the drummers shared their heartwarming stories with the audience.

The premiere began with artist interviews conducted by Terry Bozzio and Stephen Perkins, which streamed live on DrumChannel.com. Celebrity drummers in attendance included Curt Bisquera (who also plays the chauffeur in the film), Taku Hirano, Yael Benzaken, and *American Idol*'s Teddy Campbell. Prior to the screening, the museum's curator introduced the *Kick Snare Hat* stars. Afterward, the four drummers and filmmakers Mickey Cevallos and Brian French participated in a spirited and often hilarious conversation about life, a collective love of music, and dodging police while attempting to get *the shot*!

The artists discussed their common background in gospel drumming and mastering the discipline of church music, which was both revealing and enlightening. "It's a work-out," Heyward said. "You're the only dude on stage that's working out the *whole* time." The connections and mutual respect among the drummers was inspiring, and is also a key element in the film. "Build your confidence and surround yourself with others who are loving and supportive," Spears advised. "They become your circle of trust."

The drummers' incredible talent, along with the filmmakers' creative vision and often edgy edits, makes *Kick Snare Hat* a very fun and exciting look inside the world of the R&B drummer. "When I was a kid," Stewart said, "I never thought I'd make a living playing drums." Outnumbered but accustomed to it, Coleman-Dunham spoke from experience: "Usually when you think of girl drummers, you think, *Okay, that's cute*. But I say dig in. Whatever your passion is, just dig in."

The climax of the film features all four players in an incredible all-out jam, showing their brilliant musicality and, of course, their ridiculous chops. This amazing premiere was a fitting tribute to the fantastic new DVD.

Story by Rich Mangicaro • Photos by Alex Solca



Cora Coleman-Dunham



Gerald Heyward



Aaron Spears



Nisan Stewart