



empowering youth through multimedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Spy Hop Productions, The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah & Equality Utah
present
SLAM THE VOTE!**

*Poetry Slam, Concert and Non-Partisan Political Power Party
The Courtyard @ Spy Hop Productions*

September 9, 2008, SALT LAKE CITY, UT – The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah (ACLU of Utah), Equality Utah, and Spy Hop Productions have joined together to host a poetry slam, hip-hop concert, and non-partisan political power party at The Courtyard @ Spy Hop Productions (511 W 200 S, Suite 100, Salt Lake City, UT 84101) this **Friday, September 12, from 7-10 PM**. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Did you know the average age of a resident in Utah is 27, but the average age of a voter is 61? It's time for Utah's young people to SLAM THE VOTE!

"The ACLU of Utah, Equality Utah, and Spy Hop Productions have put in great work to create a positive and safe atmosphere where first time voters can learn about voting, how to vote, how to register, the importance of voting, what to expect at the polls, and have created a space to speak freely while participating in the slam," said Liz Coleman, Radio Instructor and Outreach Coordinator at Spy Hop Productions.

The evening begins at 7 PM and will continue until 10 PM with performances from DJ Devine, DJ Tri, local SLC poets, and culminate with a special performance from Salt Lake City's own hip-hop crew **Blue Collar Theory**. Poetry Slam host DJ Devine, Super Slam Poet and Co-Host of 33 1/3 Vintage Jazz @ KRCL 90.9 FM, will start the Slam at 7:30 PM.

The poetry slam is open to anyone willing to participate. The three non-profits are looking for any local poets to speak up about youth power, creating big change, getting active, using your voice, and exercising your rights. Entrants should feel comfortable shouting out about immigration, the cost of gas, old people always running the world, new ideas, LGBT rights, solar energy, religious freedom, racial profiling, our crowded prisons, or anything else on their minds.

Prizes will be awarded to anyone who participates in the slam, but the winner of the slam gets to perform at the opening of *Liberties Under Fire*, an art exhibit of nationally-recognized artists opening at Salt Lake Art Center in October. The winner of the slam will be determined in the standard poetry slam competition format as audience members will be selected to judge the performances in three rounds and each round will bring eliminations. DJ Tri, host of Jazz:Sol on KRCL, will spin between slam rounds.

"The most important thing to get across is that, more than anything, this is just meant to be a big party moving with the momentum of the election this year," Anna Brower, ACLU of Utah's Development Director, said. "There have been so many newly engaged young people, and even older people...We want to make sure they don't lose the chance to vote just because they weren't sure where to go or what to do."

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511 W 200 S, Suite 100 Salt Lake City, UT 84101
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Linked Artist Bios/Sites

- DJ Devine - <http://www.myspace.com/iriemomma>
- DJ Tri - <http://www.myspace.com/planitvibez>
- Blue Collar Theory - <http://www.myspace.com/bluecollartheory>

About Spy Hop Productions

Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media arts and education center whose purpose is to empower youth to express their voice and with it create positive change in their lives, their community, and the world.

Our mission is to encourage free expression, self-discovery, critical and inventive thinking, and skilled participation via the big screen, the airwaves, and the world-wide-web.

Spy Hop is committed to the following organizational objectives

- Providing safe after-school and summer time mentoring programs for diverse youth (K-12) in emerging digital technologies and the media arts
- Developing 21st century skills in youth: community and global awareness, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and media literacy
- Promoting positive youth development thru individuality, leadership, creativity and intellectual curiosity
- Increasing higher education and/or vocational opportunities

For more information, please visit www.spyhop.org, or call (801) 532-7500.

About The ACLU of Utah

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonpartisan, membership organization dedicated to working in the courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by both the Constitution and the laws of the United States. Founded in 1920, the ACLU now has over 550,000 members and supporters (more than 2,500 live in Utah) as well as affiliate or national chapter offices in all fifty states and Puerto Rico.

Chartered in 1958 and located in Salt Lake City, the ACLU of Utah is the Utah affiliate of the national ACLU. Through public education, legal advocacy, litigation, and lobbying at both the state and local levels, the ACLU of Utah seeks to protect the constitutional rights of all Utahns.

Like the national ACLU, the ACLU of Utah's work is based on those principles outlined in the Bill of Rights, and our priorities include freedom of speech, expression, and association; freedom of religion, including the separation of church and state; the right to privacy; safe prison and jail conditions; and equal protection and due process of our laws.

The ACLU of Utah is comprised of two separate corporate entities: the ACLU of Utah Union and the ACLU of Utah Foundation. The ACLU of Utah receives no government funding and is supported entirely by membership dues, private donations, foundation grants, and court-awarded legal fees.

For more information, please visit www.acluutah.org, or call (801) 521-9862.



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About Equality Utah

With a vision of “a fair and just Utah,” Unity Utah was founded in 2001 by a group of visionary members of the Utah lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community.

In an effort to expand our scope of influence, Unity Utah became Equality Utah in 2004 at the same time forming Equality Utah Foundation and Equality Utah Political Action Committee. While Equality Utah, our membership organization, focuses on our lobby effort, Equality Utah Foundation focuses on issues education and the PAC focuses on endorsing and supporting LGBT candidates as well as candidates who are strong on LGBT issues.

Founded as a grassroots organization, we continue to activate both members of the LGBT community and LGBT allies as we work for “a fair and just Utah.”

For more information, please visit www.equalityutah.org, or call (801) 355-3479.