

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Heidi Darrow/Fanshen Cox
Phone: 310-712-1632
Email: mxrootsfest@gmail.com
Website: www.mxroots.org

LOVING PRIZE PRESENTATION HONORS:
SCHOLAR G. REGINALD DANIEL,
ACTOR/WRITERS KEVIN KNOTTS AND KIM WAYANS

(Los Angeles, CA) The *Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival* will present the 5th Annual Loving Prizes to community leaders on June 16, 2012 at 7pm at the *Japanese American National Museum* in downtown Los Angeles (369 East First Street).

The Festival, which takes place **June 16-17**, celebrates stories of the Mixed experience and stories of multiracial Americans, the fastest growing demographic in the U.S. **A free two-day public event**, the Festival brings together film and book lovers, innovative and emerging artists, and multiracial families and individuals for workshops, readings, and film screenings.

The Loving Prizes are awarded each year to artists who have shown a dedication to celebrating and illuminating the Mixed experience. Past recipients include best-selling writer James McBride, NFL star Hines Ward, Hapa artist Kip Fulbeck, scholar Dr. Maria P. P. Root, writer and educator Maya Soetoro-Ng, and writer and TV producer Angela Nissel.

The 2012 Loving Prize recipients are:

Dr. G. Reginald Daniel is a leading scholar on issues of multiracial identity and teaches at the *University of California, Santa Barbara*. Since 1989, he has taught "Betwixt and Between," which is one of the first and the longest-standing university courses to deal specifically with the question of multiracial identity comparing the U.S. with various parts of the world. Daniel's books--*More Than Black? Multiracial Identity and the New Racial Order* (2002), *Race and Multiraciality in Brazil and the United States: Converging Paths?* (2006), and *Machado de Assis: Multiracial Identity and the Brazilian Novelist* (2012)--focus on the relationship between social structure and

racial formation—especially multiracial identities. Daniel is also a member of the Advisory Board of *AMEA*, *MASC*, the Advisory Council of the *Mixed Heritage Center of MAVIN Foundation*, and a former Advisory Board member of *Project RACE (Reclassify All Children Equally)*. He is a co-founding editor of the recently launched *Journal of Critical Mixed Race Studies*.

Kim Wayans and **Kevin Knotts** are the authors of the popular children's book series, *Amy Hodgepodge*, about the adventures of a multiracial girl. The husband-and-wife writing team was inspired to write the *Amy Hodgepodge* books because of their own increasingly blended family. Both Wayans and Knotts have also enjoyed considerable success on screen as well. Wayans--best known to audiences for her work on the groundbreaking sketch comedy show *In Living Color* and films like *Dance Flick* and *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*--is garnering rave reviews for her dramatic debut in the feature film *Pariah*. Knotts has guest-starred on such popular shows as *Sabrina The Teenage Witch* as well as *My Wife and Kids*, for which he also wrote. Knotts has penned three screenplays, one with Wayans, and the duo has created a pilot for a family sitcom that they are currently shopping to networks.

The Festival, a fiscally sponsored project of the *New York Foundation for the Arts*, a non-profit organization, is produced by the co-hosts of the award-winning weekly podcast *Mixed Chicks Chat* (www.mixedchickschat.com): actor/writer/producer Fanshen Cox and *New York Times* best-selling author Heidi Durrow.

The event is free and open to the public, however pre-registration is strongly encouraged. The complete Festival schedule can be found online at www.mxroots.org.

#