



Student Entertainment Events
Adele H. Stamp Student Union-Center for Campus Life
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742

Contact: Kate Oliva
Email: SEEpublisherrelations@umd.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Student Entertainment Events Presents: Lupe Fiasco

Student Entertainment Events, Pepsi, and the Black Student Union are pleased to announce Lupe Fiasco featuring Skillz and Hey Champ. The concert will take place at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 in Ritchie Coliseum at the University of Maryland, with doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Hoff Ticket Office at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union-Center for Campus Life on Nov. 11 and online starting on Nov. 21 if they are not yet sold out. Tickets will cost \$15 for those with a valid University of Maryland ID and \$30 for the general public.

Lupe Fiasco, known as a “best-kept secret” at his booking agency of William Morris, is a hip-hop sensation that has been taking the industry by storm ever since the release of his Atlantic Records debut, the Grammy Award-winning *Lupe Fiasco’s Food & Liquor*. Hip-hop mogul Jay-Z describes him as “a breath of fresh air” in a genre that has come to be characterized by mainstream lyrics and glamour. Even critics are on his side, citing him as the “hip-hop generations next vanguard.”

A native of Chicago, Lupe Fiasco began to pursue a career in hip-hop at the age of 14 after hearing Nas’ 1996 album, *It Was Written*. After this early start, Fiasco’s rise to stardom gained momentum quickly. He joined the group Da Park when he was 17 and released one album with them before they broke up. He went on to sign a solo deal with Arista records, but was unfortunately dropped from the label when CEO L.A. Reid was fired. He proceeded to sign with Atlantic Records and has since worked with musical greats Kanye West, Jay-Z, Mike Shinoda of Fort Minor, and The Neptunes.

Following the success of his first album, which featured singles such as “Kick, Push,” “I Gotcha,” and “Daydreamin’,” he immediately went back into the studio. His second album, *Lupe Fiasco’s The Cool*, was released on December 17, 2007, to positive reviews. The first single and video, “Superstar,” was used by baseball all-star Ryan Braun as an at-bat song and was also featured in HBO’s television show “Hard Knocks.” Earlier this year he joined Kanye West’s Glow in the Dark Tour, which also features Rihanna and N.E.R.D.

(more)

Skillz is a Virginia based rapper who has been making music for almost two decades. He first made a name for himself in 1992 when he finished second place in national free style competition, resulting in a recording contract with Atlanta Records. Skillz has been featured on Timbaland's albums *Tim's Bio* (1998) and *Indecent Proposal* (2001), as well as on Aaliyah's hit single "Are You That Somebody" in 1998. In addition, he has written hits for the likes of P. Diddy.

Hey Champ is a recent addition to Lupe Fiasco's record label. Their music is a departure from the hip-hop artists they are touring with; they cite their influences as being "Art History, Science, the 80s, Cartoons, Where in the World is Carmen San Diego, and of course Personal Misfortune." This sense of humor reflected here is shared by the entire band, which consists of Saam Hagshenas, Jon Marks, and Pete Dougherty. Their most popular song, "Cold Dust Girl," can be heard on their Myspace, which has links to their personal blogs as well.

To arrange an interview or receive more press information for this event, including press passes and interview requests, please contact Kate Oliva, the Student Entertainment Events' Public Relations Director, at (301)-314-8498 or via e-mail. When submitting a request, include your name, press affiliation, and contact information.

*For more information about this and other SEE events visit www.see.umd.edu or call the event hotline at (301)-314-9845.

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