

Poet Aja Monet to Perform at Ramapo College for Women's History Month

MAHWAH, NJ -- Poet, performer and educator Aja Monet will speak and perform at Ramapo College of New Jersey as part of Women's History month on Monday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Friends Hall. She is the youngest individual to win the legendary Nuyorican Poet's Café Grand Slam title.

Monet's talk is entitled *Conjured Women*. She has captivated audiences across the United States and internationally through the power of the spoken word. Monet's visit is sponsored by the Equity and Diversity Programs/Women's Herstory Month Committee at Ramapo. It is free and open to the public.

Monet received her bachelor's in liberal arts from Sarah Lawrence College. She received the Andrea Klein Willison Prize for Poetry. The award recognizes undergraduate students whose work examines relationships among women. Monet earned a master's in fine arts in creative writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her graduate thesis, *Scared to Make Love/Scared Not To*, was her first compilation of music and poetry.

Monet published her first book of poetry, *The Black Unicorn Sings* in 2010 and collaborated in 2012 with poet/musician Saul Williams on *Chorus: A Literary Mixtape*. She released a new music EP entitled *Courage* in 2014 and a video *Be Brave* earlier this year. For more information, visit www.ajamonet.com

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.