

Shaun Boothe — Live Your Legacy (Hip Hop Biographies of Our Heroes)



About the Artist



Hip-hop artist. Motivational TEDx speaker. Creator of the critically acclaimed Unauthorized Biography Series.

Shaun's passion to succeed has been evident since day one. From intern to international, he started his career with a temp job at Much Music.

He was offered the job after winning the nationwide MuchMusic Temp competition – beating out thousands of hopefuls and earning him a cool \$25,000 and a condo for the summer.

More valuable than that, however, he learned a priceless life lesson: Nothing is impossible. Nearly ten years later, he returned to 'The Nation's Music Station' and walked the red carpet, not as a contest winner, but as an MMVA nominated recording artist. It seems the lesson was never forgotten.

Since then, Shaun has continued using his talents to innovate and inspire audiences. He is renowned for his conceptual and highly interactive performances – many of which have graced the opening stages of concerts for multi-platinum artists, including Nas Lauryn Hill, Kardinal Offishall and Snoop Dogg. As he continued to grow, however, he realized that his true passion was bringing his performances to schools to inspire and educate youth.

About the Performance

- **About The Show:** Shaun Boothe pours his talent into a presentation designed to motivate young audiences using rap songs that chronicle the extraordinary lives of cultural icons. His engaging take on the trails blazed by cultural giants like Malala Yousafzai, Terry Fox and Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. imbues students with the courage to find their own paths. By "learning from the greats," students can examine their own strengths and goals, and take away actionable lessons with which to energize their lives. Shaun's unique presentation, interspersed with musical performances from his acclaimed Unauthorized Biography Series, infuses the greatest stories of our time with the contagious energy of hip hop delivery. Rather than sugar coating the lives of people like Muhammad Ali, Oprah Winfrey and Bob Marley and Shaun encourages identification with their stories by highlighting the struggles that gave their achievements meaning. The multimedia program includes video projection, and is pan-curricular
- **Duration:** 45-60 mins
- **Technical Requirements:** Projector, mic, speakers (note: I may travel with all listed tech requirements but not guaranteed. Please confirm with me!)

About the Art Form

- **History of Art Form:** Rap is a form of music that originated from hip-hop culture. Originating in the Bronx, Hip-hop is a lifestyle with its own lingo, dress code, etc. In the words of KRS-One, "hip-hop is something you live, rap is something you do." A product of cross-cultural integration, rap is deeply rooted within ancient African culture and oral tradition. Hip-hop is a musical melting pot. It's an amalgamation of sounds that includes elements of soul, jazz, gospel, rock and live instrumentation. The likes of De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and, most recently, Kanye West are recognized for championing the "soulful rap" movement. Others like Azealia Banks and Goldlink tend to blend hip-hop with elements of dance music.
- **Themes in the Live Your Legacy presentation:** Leadership, diversity, decision making/positive life choices, overcoming challenges, leaving a positive legacy, history thru hip hop, character education
- **Core Message:** I hope that every student leaves the Live Your Legacy presentation with a greater belief in their own greatest. My goal is not just to celebrate the achievements of others but to remind students that, just like these icons, they too have the power to achieve and become anything they put their minds to.

Links to Curriculum

- **Social Studies:** Artistic context in history; Arts as a means of expressing and preserving cultural identity
- **Language Arts:** Story-making, storytelling and forms of communication
- **Health & Career:** Learning in the arts as a means of expressing identity and maximizing potential. Importance of compassion, perseverance and kindness shown and taught.





Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

- Do you ever listen to rap music? How is rap music different from other kind of music?
- What would you write about if you were going to write a song? Would it be about your life? Someone else's? Something happening in the world?

Post-Performance Activities

- Create your own short Bio Rap or poem celebrating a hero (positive leader) of your choice.
- If you could say anything to any one of the heroes from the presentation what would it be? Write it as a rap/poem!

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- What does it take to be a real hero? Who are some of your personal heroes any why do they inspire you?
- What are ways YOU can be a hero (or positive leader) in your community/school?

Learn more about this artist online at artstarts.com/aotd