

For Immediate Release

BRCA Presents ‘Million Man Mosh: A Benefit for Donovan Drayton,’ featuring Living Colour, 24-7 Spyz, DJ Afrika Bambaataa and Legendary Guitarist Ronny Drayton

NEW YORK - On Wednesday, January 4, 2012, The Black Rock Coalition proudly presents 'The Million Man Mosh: A Benefit For Donovan Drayton' at The Highline Ballroom in New York City. The show will feature two of the city's most renown bands gracing the same stage for the first time: The Grammy-Award winning group Living Colour and funk-metal-soul pioneers 24-7 Spyz. Hip-hop founding father Afrika Bambaataa will do a DJ set and there will be a late jam with special guests including legendary guitarist Ronny Drayton. Proceeds for the event will go to the legal defense of Donovan Drayton, son of Ronny, who has been incarcerated at Riker's Island for four years without a conviction.

"This is more than reuniting a father with his son," said Earl Douglas, BRC executive director. "This is about addressing a system that has put young men and women of color in its cross hairs and breaks them down emotionally and financially. Ronny has been there for us and we will be there for him."

'The Million Man Mosh' will mark the first time these two quintessential BRC member bands have ever performed together. Two-time Grammy winner Living Colour was born in the mid-80s by BRC co-founder Vernon Reid and for over 20 years, both as a group and as individual players, has been exploding limitations of the rock genre. South Bronx natives 24-7 Spyz have been favorites among hardcore, punk and alternative communities for over 20 years with their deft blend of heavy metal, punk, funk and soul. Living legend Afrika Bamaataa, The Amen Ra of Universal Hip Hop Culture and The Father of the Electro Funk Sound, will do a rare New York solo DJ set. Guitarist Ronny Drayton, who has been a sideman for a virtual who's-who list of New York's brightest music stars (Roy Ayers, Melba Moore, James "Blood" Ulmer, Nona Hendryx, Defunkt, Edwin Birdsong, Kashif, The Family Stand, etc.), will close out the night jamming with both bands and special invited guests.

"24-7 Spyz is honored to join forces with family to do something for family," said Jimi Hazel of 24-7 Spyz, "Ronny Drayton, Donovan Drayton and Living Colour are our brothers. To be able to all come together and participate in helping bring one of our own home is a beautiful thing. There is truly 'Strength In Numbers.'"

The 'Million Man Mosh' is the latest in several ongoing efforts for Donovan Drayton, son of Ronny Drayton. Donovan has been held at Riker's Island for the past four years on a crime for which he has consistently maintained his innocence and despite ample supporting evidence. Donovan was found 'not guilty' on the most serious charges and the jury was hung—overwhelmingly in favor of acquittal—on the others. Yet, his case continues to be tied up in court and he remains in jail without bail, no convictions and facing a second costly trial.

"Let me not speak only of I," said Ronny Drayton, Donovan's father. "Because the I that I am is the story of all too many across this America. Let me stand on a high place and shout to my brothers. You are not alone. I stand with you."

The event will be a launch point for addressing the disproportionate number of young men of color in the criminal justice system, ‘stop-and-frisk’ policies and escalating costs to families for legal defense. For more information on the case and Donovan’s Defense, visit www.4donovan.com. There is a PayPal link on the site for donations.

“The case of Donovan Drayton has personal impact on all the artists participating,” said Living Colour’s Vernon Reid. “We’ve all known Donovan since he was a little boy. What we’re saying with our involvement is that Donovan is not alone. He represents a nation of innocent Black men caught up in a system of injustice.”

The Black Rock Coalition was formed in 1985 by Reid, writer Greg Tate, artist rep Konda Mason and others as a means to promote the full scope and spectrum of Black music. The BRC galvanizes support for cutting-edge artists of color that are otherwise dismissed by the media and the music industry. Go to www.blackrockcoalition.org or check out the Facebook page for more information.

‘The Million Man Mosh: A Benefit For Donovan Drayton’ will be at New York’s Highline Ballroom, on Wednesday, January 4, 2012, featuring Living Colour, 24-7 Spyz, Afrika Bambaataa, Ronny Drayton and special guests. The Highline is at 431 West 16th Street in New York City. Doors are at 7PM and show time is at 9PM; tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 day of show. Info: (212) 414-5994; www.highlineballroom.com. Proceeds for this event will go to benefit Donovan’s Defense.

For more information, please contact the following:

Black Rock Executive Director Earl Douglas: earldouglas006@yahoo.com
Reverend Kim Lesley: bhaktiservices@aol.com
Ronny Drayton: ronny.wirepuller@gmail.com
Black Rock Director Of Operations Darrell McNeill: brcmembersinfo@gmail.com