

The Skillman Foundation Presents

Good Stuff for kids & families

Youth Under Construction Sing, Dance and Rap to a Different Beat

Mello-D's Youth Under Construction is a collection of students, teachers and musicians who have a positive vision of pop-culture. ♦ This is their story.

Just moments away from her first show as a member of Youth Under Construction, 11-year-old Raven Rodriguez found herself shaking a bit. ♦ "At first I thought I couldn't do it, because I was nervous," Rodriguez recalls. ♦ But, after the facilitators coached her "to just go for it," great results followed. ♦ "Once I got on stage, I was more calm..."

That was December 2006. ♦ Since that event, Raven has appeared in over 12 shows, most recently, at the Michigan State Fair on September 1.



"What I like best about performing with Youth Under Construction is the fans and audience ... It makes me so happy that I have fans listening to the music that I am presenting." ♦ The music Raven refers to is on a CD that has won four national, top-level awards. ♦ Youth Under Construction remains aware of the need for music with positive lyrics, which is one reason why in 2003 the group released a 14-track CD. ♦ The CD introduced the public to a fresh new style of popular music for young people - cool beats, clean rhymes. ♦ A completely different flavor, for sure.

After each of the group's performances, adults and kids alike ask how they can get involved. ♦ Because of the interest, two after-school programs were created: "Lyric Power" and "Show Zone." ♦ These programs have been combined to create a performing arts training course that also helps young people

tackle some of their challenges. ♦ The kids are getting good ideas that will assist them in everyday life while enjoying a different and positive music style.

The group is constantly busy on one project or another. ♦ A made-for-TV program is in the works: "The Youth Under Construction Show," which will serve as another great resource for teens and preteens who are interested in entertainment and the performing arts. ♦ To learn more about this talented bunch, or to get involved, visit the Web site: www.youngpop.com or call 248-545-4411.



Since 1992, this group - founded and led by David Sawicki, aka, Mello-D - has harnessed the power of pop culture - music and entertainment - and transformed it into a mechanism for spreading a positive, character-building message.



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