

# THE STENTORIAN

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stentorian@ncssm.edu

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## NCSSM students celebrate Holi



*Holi is a Hindu religious festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil. The demonist Holika carried a young devotee of Hindu god Vishnu into fire. Holika was burnt but the devotee escaped without any injuries because of his unshakable devotion. In celebration, Hindus burn fires, throw colored powder at each other, and celebrate wildly. It has also come to celebrate spring and the upcoming harvest. NCSSM MAFIA organized its own festival of colors on March 11.*

## Kony 2012: a media war on the home front

BY WESLEY DARLING

Kony 2012 is a video campaign shrouded in a great deal of controversy. Not only did the factuality of the initial video with the same name cause some to question the motives of the company that created it, Invisible Children, Inc., but also the insane antics of the leader of said company, Jason Russell.

The original video, posted on Vimeo and Youtube in late February and early March, respectively, told the harrowing tale of Ugandan children stolen from their homes and forced to fight in warlord Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan guerilla group.

The main purpose of this 30-minute documentary was to educate viewers about Kony and rally support from people around the world. Invisible Children, Inc. also began selling 'action kits' comprised of t-shirts, posters, and wristbands, for people to spread the word about the LRA and Kony, as well as raise funds for the company.

Jason Russell stated in the video that the reasoning behind the campaign was to "make Joseph Kony famous, not to celebrate him, but to

raise support for his arrest and set a precedent for international justice."

Within days of being posted, the original video received millions of views, and spread through social networking sites like wildfire.

Celebrities tweeted about the video, people shared the video and told others to watch it on their Facebooks, and many supporters purchased the action kit, so quickly in fact that when I myself attempted to purchase the action kit, the earliest available in-stock date was the middle of April. [As of now, the action kit is no longer available for purchase.]

Also posted shortly after the original video, however, were countless articles, demographics, and videos shining a new, harsher light on the Kony 2012 campaign.

Charts showing the Invisible Children, Inc. company's budget and finances, showing where that their profits

were not, in fact, being given in support to Africa, and were instead given to production companies, and workers at the company itself, for funding the video, travel, and merchandising.

Also, several videos appeared of Ugandans stating that Kony had in fact been arrested several years prior to the making of the video, and that order had been restored in that part of Africa.

Others disproved the campaign, on the basis that child soldiers had been used in numerous other military units around the world, and there was never a great fuss about it; why should we stand up and donate funds to a company to take care of it now?

After these skeptics posted their responses to the original video, Invisible Children released a subsequent video stating the truth about the Kony situation, or at least part of it: that the LRA had moved from Uganda to the jungles of

surrounding countries several years ago, that the number of children kidnapped had been greatly exaggerated, that Kony is still alive, however he has moved, and that the income from videos and advertising does go towards production and upkeep costs.

This new video by the company, that says that they did indeed embellish a bit on the Kony situation, caused some doubt among donors, as they don't know who to believe. Many questioned and put a great deal of pressure on Invisible Children, Inc.

One interesting result of this increased stress was the arrest of director Jason Russell for going on a naked rampage in the streets of San Diego. At first thought to be publicly masturbating, Russell flailed around and yelled at onlookers in the nude, before being detained by the police. He claimed it was from the stress of the criticism, as well as being dehydrated, and exhausted.

Whatever the cause of Russell's rampage may be, it adds a fascinating twist to the uproar surrounding this controversial video campaign.

## Share the Spotlight dance concert in fourth year

BY KRISTEN LARSON

On March 10, the NCSSM Dance Ensemble sponsored "Share the Spotlight," a community dance concert in its fourth year.

"Share the Spotlight" evoked the idea of community that defines the Fine Arts programs at NCSSM, by incorporating dances choreographed by local artists, dance groups, and NCSSM students.

When asked about the motivation behind organizing the event, NCSSM dance instructor Kathryn Berberian said, "Four years ago when I started, I thought it would be a great way for us to not only share our students with the community, but open up the opportunity to let other artists share their talents with our students."

Each year, Berberian sends out an email to the North Carolina Dance Alliance with an invitation to any artists that are interested in performing in the concert.

This year, complications with Mini-Term, flight delays, and last minute cancellations were major stressors for those involved, but the show came together to present a wonderful repertoire of pieces from a variety of dance genres.

Guest artists included the local North Carolina Arts in Action LEAP team, dancers from the North Carolina Dance Institute, Maura Garcia from Maura Garcia Dance, and former Dance Ensemble president and NCSSM alumnus Elizabeth Sanford.

Juniors Alexa Gregory, Phoebe Castelblanco, Nina Ondona, and Anita Simha, Seniors Lauren Knox, Selena Hamilton, Debanjali Kundu, Tess Stohrer, and Emily Strother also choreographed other dances for the concert.

The NCSSM Dance Ensemble, Bhangra, and the "From Studio to Stage" Mini-Term also presented group pieces.

Dance is alive and well at NCSSM. From Bhangra, to ICIDIC, Dance Ensemble to the Step Team, student organizations at NCSSM provide a way for those passionate about dance to continue their pursuits away from home.