

Patrick Douthit with filmmaker Kenneth Price.

Douthit
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its 2003 debut release "The Listening." This led to him working with some of the biggest names in the business, including Jay-Z, Destiny's Child and Mary J. Blige, whose "The Breakthrough" disc won him a Grammy.

Though Douthit never received his college degree, he has become an academic authority on the subject of hip-hop. At Wake, before the screening of "Hip-Hop Fellow," Douthit gave a lecture about hip-hop culture that he had given in front of Gates and others at Harvard.

He took the audience on a journey through the musical roots of hip-hop, including its evolution from urban music to an international phenomenon.

He recalled what his parents listened to (gospel and Motown) and his own discovery of funk music. The 39-year-old explained to an audience many years his junior about cassette tapes and watching the revolutionary "Yo! MTV Raps." Those who missed the show, he said, would be out of the loop the next day at school.

"If you missed it, you missed it," he said.



An image from "The Hip-Hop Fellow."

From the Sugar Hill Gang to Run DMC, Douthit used pictures and audio samples to illustrate the history of hip-hop. Sometimes, he said, hip-hop taught him history. Public Enemy, for example, exposed him to Minister Louis Farrakhan, historian Carter G. Woodson and activist Fannie Lou Hamer. "Chuck D was the best black history teacher I ever had," he said. "Public Enemy was using the coded messages of hip-hop to teach a generation."

He said that hip-hop is as deep and complex as any type of music and that being a hip-hop artist isn't about the way one walks or dresses or about guns, money and girls. It's about knowledge, he said, and knowing the music. The true greats of the genre like

the late Tupac Shakur knew that, he said.

Wesley Harris is the interim director of Wake's Office of Multicultural Affairs, which was one of the program's sponsors. He said Douthit's visit highlighted the rich depth of hip-hop and why the genre is worthy of academic study.

"A lot of the time, folks don't give music and arts credit for being founded and grounded in academia, but you can't rap, you can't make music, without the foundation," he said.

For more information on the "The Hip-Hop Fellow," which is currently being screened at film festivals across the nation and in South Africa, go to www.pricefilms.com.

Services will be dispersed during library renovation

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Central Library, 660 W. 5th St., will close on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 9 p.m. in preparation for an extensive renovation project. Library staff will be assigned to branch libraries while Central is closed.

Nine branch libraries located throughout Winston-Salem and Forsyth County will continue to serve the public. All branch libraries will operate 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Library officials will also offer additional hours and services at other branches during the renovation. The following are some of the changes:

- Computer Training Bridge classes and an open computer help lab will be located on the first floor at the Forsyth County Government Center - hours of operation 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Monday - Friday.

- The North Carolina Room/Local History Room will offer limited services and resources and will be located on the second floor adjacent to the Register of Deeds offices at the Forsyth County Government Center from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

- Library Administration will be located on the fifth floor at the Forsyth County Government Center - hours of operation 8am to 5pm Monday-Friday.

- Malloy-Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, Southside, and Reynolda Manor branch libraries will begin Sunday hours (1 - 5 p.m.).

- Bestsellers, DVDs, and other popular library



materials will be distributed to branch library locations. Library cardholders will continue to enjoy access to over 4 millions books through the Library's participation in the NC Cardinal consortium shared collections.

- The number of public computers will be increased at each branch library location.

- Public meeting rooms will continue to be available at every branch library location.

- Programming for all ages will be enhanced at the branch libraries with Central Library staff offering additional programs for children and teens. On the Same Page, the Bookmarks Contest and other annual events will continue in new venues. The Library will collaborate with community partners to continue to offer Music & Movement and storytimes downtown.

- The virtual library, found at www.forsythlibrary.org, will continue.

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Election Day is November 4th.

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