



The Bayard Centennial 1912-2012

**For Immediate Release:
Brothers OutLive present: The Bayard Centennial (1912 -
2012) Honoring Black AIDS Day**

On Thursday, February 9, 2012-- two days following National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day-- Brothers OUTLive, will celebrate the life and legacy of Gay Civil Rights Activist, Bayard Rustin at Center on Halsted. Honoring the diverse communities served by Center on Halsted during Black History Month, and bringing attention to the alarming rates of HIV especially among Young Black Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) the event will feature music, poetry, and performance art by nationally known artists such as Marshall Titus, Nhojj, Tim'm West, keithromell, and Ra Perre' Shelton. The event will be held 6:30p.m – 8:30p.m in Hoover-Leppen Theatre at Center on Halsted.

Since his death in 1987, Bayard Rustin, principal organizer for the 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been celebrated as a Gay Civil Rights icon. Ironically, while today he is considered the mentor and strategist for the historical March, in the 60's, he was ostracized and minimized by many Civil Rights leaders for being homosexual. Despite adversity, Bayard Rustin's legacy continued beyond the 1963 March as he insisted that Civil Rights for LGBT people marked a continuation of a broader fight for Human Rights for all.

Brothers OUTLive is a creative collaboration between celebrated Chicago-based artists Marshall Titus, Nhojj, and Tim'm West. The three began discussions in late 2011 about ways to use the arts to bring about greater social awareness about many issues within the Black LGBT community. Through a series of events including their works and that of other collaborating artists, Brothers OUTLive seeks to mobilize the LGBT community around such issues as homophobia and HIV/AIDS. The February 9th event will mark the monumental launch of a series of other similar events through 2012 and beyond.

At Brothers OUTLive expect to learn a great deal about the legacy of Bayard Rustin, see performances and a brief panel discussion with dynamic performers, and learn more about programming at Center on Halsted directed to the communities most affected by HIV/AIDS, among them Mpowerment and OVAH! which utilize peer influencers in HIV prevention.

The event will be hosted at Center on Halsted, the Midwest's most comprehensive community center dedicated to building and strengthening the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. The event is also made possible, in part, by Chicago Public Library.

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