

the
Cornell
West
theory

hip-hop.jazz.go-go.rock.**TYPE1**
electronics.spoken word.

Dear Talent Booker:

Don't miss the chance to impress your audience with one of the most unique talents on the independent music scene today – **the Cornel West theory**. An ensemble that most closely resembles a Hip Hop band, the Cornel West theory skillfully combines sounds reminiscent of the *"Negro spiritual with a powerful message like **Rage Against the Machine** fused with oral tradition, some left over Transmat 808 polyrhythms, and a new breath into the consciousness of activist music,"* according to Mikal Amin Lee for Nomadic Wax. The result is so much more than a Hip Hop band that the Cornel West theory has coined its own category, **tYPE 1**.

In the words of DCist.com's Valerie Paschall, their current release, **Second Rome**, *"bridges the gap between jazz and hip-hop throwing in elements of every other funky and innovative sound,"* an offering that has appealed to a surprisingly broad audience. **Second Rome** is *"a fresh look and new sound from an old idea. **Second Rome** as a piece of music, reshapes and revitalizes the beautiful traditions of the African Diaspora finding new range, meaning and sonics in which to pass down familiar tales, and powerful perspectives about race and class in the society where these forces play out and against each other."* In addition to **Rage Against The Machine**, **the Cornel West theory** has been compared to artists like **Saul Williams**, **Digable Planets**, and were recently tapped to share the stage with the iconic **Last Poets**, and **Public Enemy**. **the Cornel West theory** has also performed and recorded with **Dr. Cornel West**, who appears throughout their debut album **Second Rome**.

This eBooking Kit provides all the information you'll need to catch this rising star.

Please contact me for availability and rate information.

Jared Ivory

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Brightest Young Things

THINGS TO KNOW

The Show

Our standard show, which includes one or two sets, ranges from 60-90 minutes.

The Set List

We perform an original set of music that has been dubbed **tYPE 1** which consists of hip hop, jazz, go-go, rock, electronics & spoken word. Our **Ensemble** set, features the complete ensemble with a heavy hitting, powerful sound and message, which is ideal for clubs, halls, & concert venues. Our **Nucleus** set which features the vocalists, and selected instrumentalists still delivers a powerful message, but with a more acoustic and quieter sound, ideal for private events & functions.

Audio & Video Samples

Click the [links](#) below to listen to Audio and view Video samples of **the Cornel West theory**.

Audio

[In Her Hands: Embryo Capital Vol. 1](#)
[Second Rome](#)

Video

[Magnificent Distances](#)
[Iron Emptiness b/w Greed](#)
[Patriotic Me](#)
[Dr. Cornel West testimony](#)

Style Guidelines

Please represent the performing artist's name as **the Cornel West theory** with a lower case "t" in "the" and "theory".

Promotion

The performing artist should be referred to as **the Cornel West theory** not "Cornel West's Band" If a description is necessary include **tYPE 1: hip-hop.jazz.go-go.rock.electronics.spoken word** and/or Ensemble. Please do not add descriptors such as "Quartet" or "Band."

Publicity Shot

High-resolution publicity photos for your promotional and media use can be obtained by contacting booking@veritasmusic.org

the Cornel West theory's management

Edward Robinson
Seven Fields Productions, LLC
email: thecornelwesttheorymanagement@gmail.com
phone: 919.812.0959

BIOGRAPHY



the Cornel West theory is a Washington, D.C. - based ensemble, proudly born from the hip-hop aesthetic, but not bound by limitations of any genre. It's an eclectic amalgam of spoken word, lyricism, instruments, electronics and vocals, which draw from genres ranging from home-grown go-go to jazz to rock to hip-hop. This "musical theory" is best understood as an artistic wavelength that hits you aesthetically, emotionally and intellectually.

With the blessing of **Dr. Cornel West**, the Princeton University professor and renowned author, **the Cornel West theory** takes its name from his prolific writings and philosophies, which have shaped contemporary thought throughout the world.

Inspired by D.C.'s rich musical history and the struggles of poor people worldwide, the ensemble formed in 2004 in response to social oppression everywhere. Winners of the 2008 Washington Area Music Association's Wammie for Best Hip-Hop Duo or Group, the Cornel West theory released its debut album **Second Rome** in 2009.

They are here to deliver music that holds a mirror to the world, with a core focus on political, cultural and spiritual commentary. They combine the essence of hip-hop with the original purpose of its movement: to speak truth to the masses.

the Cornel West theory presents a unique live music experience that entertains and informs listeners. The ensemble's style, sound, and show challenge audiences to confront some of the most important issues of our time. At its core, their sound is driven by the hard, edgy funk from the bass kick and stinging snare shots of drummer **Sam Lavine**. It's purpose is defined in the poignant message and peculiar delivery of its lyricists **Tim Hicks** and **Rashad Dobbins**. These elements congeal through the addition of a live electronic sound manipulation musician **John Wesley Moon** who employs samples, pads, clips, beat breaks and vocals like a high-tech, futuristic DJ. The bass and keys add rich, soulful layers of harmonic and rhythmic texture, which is beautifully complemented by the thought-provoking voice of spoken word artists **Katrina Lorraine Starr** and **Yvonne Gilmore**. Djembe and conga drums lend a dynamic and traditional accompaniment to the group.

The ultimate griot, **Dr. Cornel West**, has recorded and appeared live with the band, sharing his unifying philosophy and highlighting the talents of this extraordinary ensemble.

MUSIC BIOGRAPHY



When a listener gets the chance to hear **the Cornel West theory**, they are immediately lifted to a different state of consciousness by the band's **tTYPE 1** identity. Not many musical acts can take an audience that only desires to be entertained and truly enlighten them while rocking them. Their current release, **Second Rome**, is a cause/effect analytical journey through the different issues that America has been facing from its inception to present day – from imperialism, economic instability, war, fascism, etc. With musical production that demands respect from the most critical of audiences, the presentation can stand on its own, leaving listeners craving more of the discussion and eager to be a part of the solution. Listeners are sympathetically invited to explore a range of emotions from anger and fear to hope and faith.

The album's introduction **Second Rome** sets the stage for the album's socially conscious content with the sounds and ambience of a futuristic dystopia. Midway through the journey is **Second Rome Revisited**, to remind the listener once again of the past, present and future.

Oil as Slick, **Durito's Revenge**, and **Gentrified Chicken** take a look into the global position that America now holds. With variations on tempo and rhythm they once again seamlessly challenge conventional wisdom. They stake their claim as true proprietors of hip-hop with several bonafide anthems including **Paper Tigers**, **Patriotic Me**, and **G.R.E.E.D**. The titles let you know what these songs are about, and their lyrical prowess is asserted firmly as they explore the facts.

With all of the cuts on the album, they challenge any specific classification. Incorporating the different evolutions of the blues (into jazz, R&B, rock, and hip-hop) along with spoken word and the diverse instrumentation they implement, **the Cornel West theory** embodies the **tTYPE 1** philosophy that refuses to be limited to one genre. While some might label them a "niche" group, they create music beyond a momentary fad or phase based on what is or isn't popular. On **Jungle Hymn** the music meets the message of total insubordination to an ideology that does not work the way it should.

Bearing the name of **the Cornel West theory**, they demonstrate why pragmatism is essential to practicality – something is only true if it can be proven. **Dr. West** has four solo pieces on the album where he tackles several issues. **A New Day in Hip Hop**, **An Analysis on Language**, **Omega Cross**, and **Proverbs 31** question how hip-hop, language, religion and women are used as tools to perpetuate the ignorance that prevails over the quest for truth and knowledge. With **Dr. West** collaborating in the studio, his lyrics add another element of consciousness to the cypher.

They also show musical diversity through two additional female voices on the album. Songstress Deborah Bonds shares her vocal skills on **Angel for You**, a soothing ballad that immediately catches the ear and encourages listeners to sing along. Tim Hicks' daughter on **Hannah's Song** closes the album on a hopeful note. Her bright tone screams that there can be a better future. In all, **the Cornel West theory** delivers a chance to re-learn history and take action.

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" I think we have with 'Second Rome' an instant classic of its generation. And if the subsequent generations understand the depths of it they will see what is at stake here in this album is the making of a new wave of new voices in a new generation that we haven't seen in decades"

Princeton Professor Dr. Cornel West

PRESS & PUBLICITY



Three Stars: the Cornel West theory

*"But it's the music—which teeters between chill and vigorous—that make the story so compelling. The seven-piece speeds up and slows down depending on which of the four emcees is taking the lead. They bridge the gap between jazz and hip-hop (throwing in elements of every other funky and innovative sound). On an initial viewing at the Sockets Records Fifth Year Anniversary, they reminded us of Digable Planets—but although they draw from similar elements, **the Cornel West theory** provides a more incendiary delivery."*

Valerie Paschall, DCist.com, July 30, 2010

the Cornel West theory – Second Rome Album Review

*"**the Cornel West theory**, a 6-member band, uses the name and theories of the lauded Princeton professor to great effect. Their new project, **Second Rome**, is a haunting yet necessary reminder that art needn't be compromised for the greater good. **Second Rome** is an ambitious, if overlong, attempt at readjusting what one should expect from a Hip Hop LP. It is futuristic, tense, melodic and lyrically stout all at once."* – DL Chandler, Okayplayer.com, January 7, 2010

the Cornel West theory – Second Rome Album Review

*"This is part Negro spiritual, part Rage Against the Machine fused with oral tradition, some left over Transmat 808 polyrhythms, and a new breath into the consciousness of activist music. - A fresh look and new sound from an old idea, **Second Rome** as a piece of art defines and explores modern society from the view of the bible, the street poet, the politician, concerned citizen and their apathetic counterparts. As a piece of music, it re-shapes and revitalizes the beautiful traditions of the African Diaspora finding new range meaning, and sonics in which to pass down familiar tales, and powerful perspectives about race and class in the society that these forces play out and against each other in. Heady stuff, but the music to be sure is head nod, as the live drums and instrumentation bring a jazz soul vibe that pounds a path from the past through your soul and nestles in your heart."* – Mikal Amin Lee, Nomadic Wax , October 12, 2009

Live DC: the Cornel West theory @ LIV

"What they have to say isn't easily articulated, but so easily understood with a motley mix of vocals, spoken word, electronic sounds, drums and guitar. It's an extroverted sound that, ironically, is not for the typical listener but their music is for everyone; it's simply complex." – Andrea McPherson, brightestyoungthings.com, September 28, 2009

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

On Stage Equipment

Vocalists

5 Microphones, preferably Shure SM 58
2 Boom Stands
4 Straight Stands
1 DI Box for Effects Pedal

Drum Kit

1 Drum Set including 1 Bass Drum, 1 Snare Drum, 1 Floor Tom,
2 Mounted Toms, 2 Hit-Hat Cymbals, and 2 Crash Cymbals
5 Microphones, 1 Kick Mic Stand, 4 Boom Stands

Percussion (Djembe, Congas, Bongos)

4 Microphones, 4 Boom Stands
Electric Bass
1 300 Watt+ Bass Amplifier
1 Cabinet (4x10 or 2x15)

Computer Audio

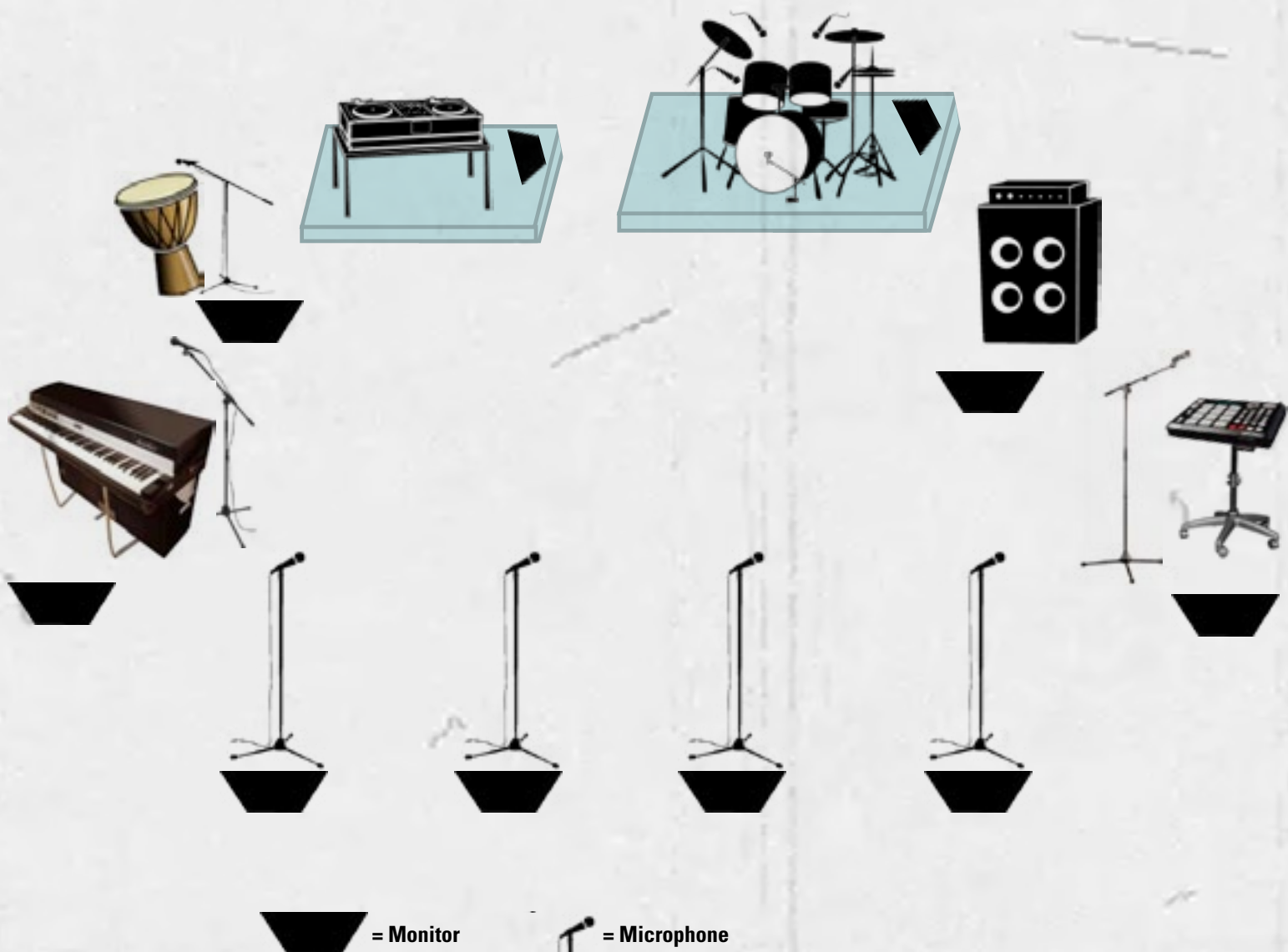
1 Stereo DI Box
1 Keyboard Stand or 40" - 48" high adjustable table

Fender Rhodes Piano/Keys

2 Stereo DI Boxes

TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

the Cornel West theory Stage Plot w/ DJ & Djembe



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Public Enemy's Chuck D



SECOND ROME

debut album

**"SO I MUST BRING CULTURE...
OR ELSE HIP HOP IS OVER"**

Tim Hicks of the *Cornel West theory*

Praise For the *Cornel West theory*

Princeton Professor Dr. Cornel West:

*"I think we have with **Second Rome** an instant classic of its generation. And if the subsequent generations understand the depths of it they will see what is at stake here in this album is the making of a new wave of new voices in a new generation that we haven't seen in decades."*

Public Enemy's Chuck D:

"They bum-rushed back stage and gave me the hottest CD of the last five years. ...COINTELPRONomics and Gentrified Chicken knocked my skull back."

The Washington Post

*"The group's most impassioned numbers are built on stuttering, swaggering loops. The incendiary **Durito's Revenge (Dirty Bombs)**, for example, uses militant beats and a strangled vocal clip to drive a fantasy of violent insurrection. But much of the CD is less agitated, drawing on cool jazz, trip-hop and acid rock. At nearly 75 minutes, the CD ... rarely runs out of provocative things to say."*

Brightest Young Things

*"To put it simply, they are an amalgam of **Rage Against the Machine**, **Saul Williams** and the Black history that wasn't taught in the public school systems."*

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