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**UK'S SOWETO KINCH TOURS US/DEBUTS PHILLY WITH LATEST  
BEBOP- HIP-HOP HYBRID; SHOW SERVES AS BRIDE'S SEASON FINALE**

Philadelphia, PA – Painted Bride Art Center presents award-winning British-based saxophonist and MC **Soweto Kinch** and his latest bebop/ hip-hop hybrid release ***The New Emancipation***. Soweto leads his **quartet** to the Bride's stage to perform on **Saturday, June 11 at 8pm** serving as the venue's 2011 season finale. **WRTI's J. Michael Harrison**, host to the cutting-edge jazz program ***The Bridge***, joins the Bride's for this special presentation.

"Soweto Kinch raps like a champion and plays like a dream." – *London Evening Standard*

Birmingham-raised, Oxford-educated saxophonist and rapper **Soweto Kinch** is considered the most exciting and versatile young musicians in both the British jazz and hip hop scenes. This is because of his bar none ability to weave together such diverse influences as **Charlie Parker, Madlib, Ornette Coleman, Stevie Wonder and Duke Ellington** with high energy and polished style. His impressive list of accolades and awards includes a **Mercury Music Prize** nomination, two **UMA Awards**, and two **MOBO Awards for best Jazz Act**. At the O2 Arena, London he was announced as the winner in the Best Jazz Act category- fending off stiff competition from the likes of Wynton Marsalis. His skills as a hip hop MC and producer are highly respected by the likes of **KRS ONE, Dwele and TY**, and he is being **championed by the likes of Mos Def, Rodney P and BBC 1-Xtra's Twin B**.

Four years following his critically-acclaimed sophomore release, ***A Life in the Day of B19: Tales Of The Towerblock***, which Charles Waring sites as, "the most convincing and accomplished unions of hip-hop and jazz to date," **Soweto re-emerges** on the international music scene **with *The New Emancipation*** (*Soweto Kinch Records, 2010*). Whereas *A Life in the Day* stands as Kinch's ambitious concept album which successfully brought jazz to hip-hop audiences, this project draws inspiration from 19<sup>th</sup> century work songs and early blues to explore emancipation stories that resonant from our modern day global society.

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**PAINTED BRIDE / SOWETO KINCH/ *THE NEW EMANICIPATION* / ADD-2**

While the album calls upon a prestigious international lineup, including Byron Wallen, Justin Brown (US), Eska Mtungwazi, Femi Temowo, Shabaka Hutchings and Harry Brown among others, **performing live on tour with Soweto Kinch will be Femi Temowo (guitar), Karl Rasheed-Abel (bass) and Graham Godfrey (drums)**. Soweto's play date with the Bride takes place the day after his Rochester Jazz Festival performance.

**Tickets to the Soweto's Bride performance are \$25. To make a purchase, for more concert or venue info, visit [paintedbride.org](http://paintedbride.org), call the Box Office at 215-925-9914 or visit the Painted Bride Art Center, located at 230 Vine Street in Philadelphia. The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12pm until 6pm. Students and seniors always receive a 25% discount on tickets.**

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**Press note:**

**Scroll below for additional background info.**

**To schedule an artist interview, for a copy of the CD or artwork call:  
Phil Sumpter, at (215) 925-9914 ext. 15.**

## ARTIST BIO

Award winning alto-saxophonist and MC Soweto Kinch is one of the most exciting and versatile young musicians in both the British jazz and hip hop scenes. Undoubtedly, one of the few artists in either genre with a degree in Modern History from Oxford University he has amassed an impressive list of accolades and awards on both sides of the Atlantic - including a **Mercury Music Prize** nomination, two **UMA Awards** and a **MOBO for best Jazz Act in 2003**. In October 2007, he won his second MOBO Award, at the O2 Arena, London where he was announced as the winner in the Best Jazz Act category- fending off stiff competition from the likes of Wynton Marsalis.

His skills as a hip hop MC and producer have also garnered him recognition in the urban music world: having supported the likes of KRS ONE, Dwele and TY, and being championed by the likes of Mos Def, Rodney P and BBC 1-Xtra's Twin B.

Kinch's projects also extend beyond recorded albums. Writing the score for Jonzi D's Hip Hop Theatre production *Markus the Sadist* (2010), and Sampad's *In The Further Soil* (2010), a dance-theatre. Kinch also wrote and acted in the latter piece, which toured throughout India for a month.

Most recently, he has collaborated with the BBC and Drum and Bass producer Goldie. ***By Royal Appointment*** is 3-part prime time reality music show, following Goldie, Soweto, Guy Chamber and Ms Dynamite as they discover and coach a group of 12 vulnerable young mentees towards their first live performance before HM Prince Harry at Buckingham Palace. Kinch, describe how the programme (due for transmission on the 23rd February, 2011) really allowed him to extended his work as an curator and mentor, "it was a radically fresh approach to discovering and nurturing new talent, and an antedote to the usual pop formulae and manufactured music."

***The Flyover Show*** is Soweto's flagship project. Currently in its 4th year, this groundbreaking daylong, music and arts festival takes place in its unusual setting beneath a motorway flyover in Birmingham. This years event (18th June 2011) continues a theme from 2010, celebrating black male icons who've been influential in successful in redefining Britishness. Featuring artists as divergent as **Goldie, Akala** and **Omar** the festival continues to build on its reputation, bringing world class rostra to an often neglected corner of inner city Birmingham – its previous guests having included Bashy, Ms Dynamite, Janet Kay, Ty, Speech Debelle and Jonzi D to name a few.

Following on from links made during his time in India and South Africa, Soweto is preparing to extend the *The Flyover Show* concept, globally: taking breakout performances abroad and working with artists from the **Dharavi** slum of Mumbai and in Johannesburg. The vision and impact of this idea continues to grow, transforming derelict and abandoned spaces into exciting creative spaces, and presenting a new model of urban renewal.

Kinch also continues to curate seasons of ***The Live Box***, a Birmingham based jam session and showcase that has been run from venues across Birmingham for over 9 years. Moreover, he has been invited as a special guest curator at the Harrogate Festival 2011.

His latest release ***The New Emancipation*** draws its inspiration from 19th century work songs and early blues, exploring the modern resonances of the emancipation story. From debt/wage slavery, to creative oppression in the music industry and ideas of race in a post-Obama age it combines this rich musical inheritance and revisits it with stellar jazz ensemble and modern hip hop production. Number one on the **Rise Best Albums of 2010**, the album features a

prestigious international lineup, including Byron Wallen, Justin Brown (US), Eska Mtungwazi, Femi Temowo, Shabaka Hutchings and Harry Brown among others.

Currently touring this material with his core quartet, Kinch has earned a number of 5 star reviews for his recent live performances. His performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (2010 London Jazz Festival) confirmed Kinch as a major figure in the UK scene, as *The Evening Standard's* Jack Massarik described, "it was hard to imagine stronger contemporary jazz being played anywhere else in the world."

2011 sees Soweto and his quartet taking his music to increasingly diverse audiences across the world, including territories from the USA and Germany to Dubai, Morocco and Botswana, entrenching audiences in his signature sound, mixing jazz and hip hop.

BBC REVIEWS –

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/reviews/hhd3>

### **About J. Michael Harrison**

J. Michael Harrison began his radio career at WPEB radio in 1993, launching his career of presenting adventurous music. In 1994 he joined WRTI on the production side and by 1996 he was given his own show "The Bridge" which has been providing progressive music, poetry and overall artistic expression to artists and listeners. J. Michael Harrison has received the award for "Best Radio Program of 2002" by Philadelphia Magazine and in 2007 The Philadelphia City Paper awarded him "Best On-Air Reminder That Jazz Didn't Die in 1965" award. J. Michael had developed and taught Radio History and Jazz History at Rowan University, University of the Arts, Penn State and University of Pennsylvania. When he's not on the radio, J. Michael can be seen on stages around the Philadelphia area acting as emcee, or serving promoter and curator for various venues.

### **About the Painted Bride Art Center**

Founded in 1969 on South Street, the Bride is the region's alternative artport for world travel. Now located between Old City and Northern Liberties, the Bride continues to champion the living arts by presenting jam packed seasons featuring ground-breaking creative talents working in music, dance, theater, and the visual arts. The Bride offers adventurous art-goers an intimate space to discover contemporary artists with distinctive voices that reflect the rich cultural mosaic of our region. Our mission is to nurture and support both emerging and established artists to create, produce and present innovative work that affirms the intrinsic value of all cultures and celebrates the transformative power of the arts. Through performances and exhibitions, education and outreach, we create a forum for community engagement. We welcome you to become a part of the Bride Community, circa 1969.