

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016
6:00PM-8:00PM
UW-MILWAUKEE
BOLTON 150

FREE AND
OPEN TO
PUBLIC!



Film Synopsis: *We Rock Long Distance* weaves together the sounds and stories of three Twin Cities hip-hop artists as they journey home to create unique and unexpected collaborations across generation and geography. It follows M.anifest to his home in Accra, Ghana, where he connects with artists from across the country, performs in front of his family for the first time, and explores connections with his world-renowned grandfather, the composer, poet, and scholar J. H. Kwabena Nketia. The film joins 'Sota Rican' Maria Isa as she explores the links between hip-hop, reggaeton, and the folkloric arts of Puerto Rico she grew up performing, bomba and plena. In Thailand, *We Rock Long Distance* follows Tou SaiKo Lee's ongoing work using hip-hop and poetry to create new and stronger bonds between Hmong Americans and Hmong in Southeast Asia, as well as between youth and elders - some of whom have never heard of hip-hop.

Justin Schell is a filmmaker, writer, and Learning Design Specialist for the University of Michigan Library, where he heads the Shapiro Design Lab. He holds a PhD in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society at the University of Minnesota, where he also helped found the Minnesota Hip-Hop Archive as part of the University of Minnesota Libraries. His video work has been shown in the Walker Art Center, Twin Cities Public Television, online at the Huffington Post and the Progressive, and screened in the Twin Cities Film Fest, Twin Cities Underground Film Festival, and the *Qhia Dab Neeg* Hmong Film Festival. He regularly teaches courses on documentary production, interviewing, and editing.

Sponsored by Hmong Diaspora Studies Program. Co-Sponsors: Comparative Ethnic Studies, Cultures and Communities Program, and Hmong Student Association.

Questions? Contact Professor Chia Youyee Vang at vangcy@uwm.edu.