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Hip Hop Star Busta Rhymes to Hit Bloomington-Normal

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University will be jamming to the sounds of hip-hop star Busta Rhymes on Nov. 7.

The show, which begins at 8 p.m. at the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson St., is sponsored by IWU's Student Senate and will feature music from Busta Rhymes' latest recording, "Anarchy." Rhymes' band, "The Flip Mode Squad" also will appear.

Tickets are \$5 for IWU students and \$22 for the general public. IWU students may purchase tickets by calling (309) 556-2663. The general public may purchase tickets through Ticket Master at (309) 454-5500.

Busta Rhymes, a product of Brooklyn, N.Y., has worked since 1991 to develop his unique hip-hop sound. His platinum-plus debut album, "The Coming" in 1996, confirmed Rhymes was more than just a voice. He is known for his compilation of intense rhyming that sets him apart from mainstream rap artists. However, he doesn't have an ordinary hip-hop style either. Rhymes describes his music as, "I'm bringing you the universe by unlocking each world. I'm a firm believer in thriving off the positive energy that's around you, and maintaining that level in order to get results."

Busta' has worked with R & B singers Boyz II Men, Mary J. Blige, TLC, A Tribe Called Quest and Janet Jackson, and has appeared in the movies "Who's The Man?" and co-starring with Samuel L. Jackson in "Shaft."

Amanda Wade, entertainment commissioner for IWU's Student Senate, says the reason the senate voted to bring Busta Rhymes to campus was due to student support. Wade says, "In the last few years, we've been surveying the students for what artists they want to see, and Rhymes has consistently made the top four every year." She adds, "His exciting and intense sound will bring a welcome change to the campus compared to past guest artists."

Rhymes does not come to IWU as part of a national tour, but rather as a one-time stop, which according to Wade, should make the concert less common-like and more tailored to the specific audience.

Rhymes describes his newest CD, "Anarchy" by saying, "I've grown tremendously in the past two years. I want my people to look at the future now. If 'The Coming' was the beginning, well, 'Anarchy' is the aftermath."

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 2000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have

been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and a \$6 million student center.