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Jeff Chang

Radical Historian, Hip-Hop Journalist and Expert on
Multiculturalism
*Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of The Hip-Hop
Generation*

THE LATEST: Read Chang's *Nation* cover story on Obama and the Arts: ["The Creativity Stimulus."](#)

In his book *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, Jeff Chang uses hip-hop to radically remix the last 25 years of America's political and social history. *The Chicago Sun Times* calls it "the best-argued, most-thoroughly researched case for hip-hop as a complete and truly American culture." But the book is only ostensibly about hip-hop; it's really a people's history. Chang is the Howard Zinn of hip-hop! A radical historian with both street cred and academic chops, he tackles race relations, student activism, political engagement, multiculturalism and the politics of abandonment so keenly felt by America's inner city youth.

Chang recently covered the 2008 Presidential election for *vibe.com* and *Vibe* magazine, where he wrote both of their cover stories on Barack Obama, one of them a highly regarded and intimate interview. He is currently writing his highly-anticipated third book, *Who We Be: The Colorization of America*, on the cultural transformation of the U.S. over the last three decades. As editor of *Total Chaos*, his second book, he highlighted the influence of hip-hop on other artistic mediums. His first book, *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*, was a bestseller, won The American Book Award and is now taught in universities around the country.

Jeff Chang grew up in Honolulu, received a Master's in Asian American Studies from UCLA, and was an organizer for the National Hip-Hop Political Convention. Recently, Chang was named a 2008 USA Ford Fellow in Literature by United States Artists, an advocacy program that illuminates the value of artists to society; he is one of only 51 recipients of this very prestigious Fellows program.

Jeff Chang Speech Topics

Who We Be: The Colorization of America

A preview of his new book on the social history, the cultural influence -- and the massive selling -- of multiculturalism in America over the last thirty years.

Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation

Jeff Chang traverses continents and decades to show us how hip-hop came to crystallize a multiracial generation's worldview. How does it define the lives of millions around the world? How has it transformed politics and art? And how did it redefine the portrayal of race in popular culture? He draws on economics, social theory and demographics to trace the tumultuous period in which hip-hop came to life -- a time when the post-civil rights generation moved from out of the margins and into the mainstream. He speaks with



passion, tempered with a critical understanding of pop culture, to tell students that this important history is actually *their* history.

NOTE: Chang also speaks often on issues concerning the Asian-American community, Islanders, and people of color.