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International Hip-Hop Sensation and Activist Emmanuel Jal Screens film *WAR CHILD* at the Faison Firehouse Theater in Harlem

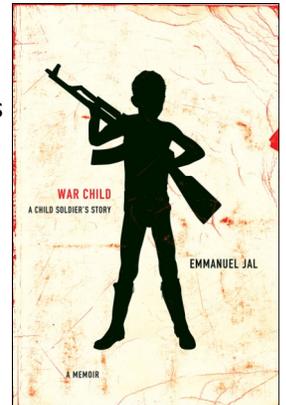
CONTACT:

Keisha Carrington
203-898-2230
carringtonakeisha@gmail.com



Harlem, NY – February 9, 2009 - **MEGA Dream Entertainment and Gua-Africa** in association with **Faison Firehouse Theater and Reel U Films**, today announced their Black History Month celebration program featuring Sudan's child soldier, Emmanuel Jal. The Award Winning film **War Child** will run in Harlem at the Faison Firehouse Theater (6 Hancock Place, 124th Street between St. Nicholas & Morningside Aves.) now until February 22, 2009. Tickets are \$10.00. Group Sales are available (10 or more). Showtimes: Tuesday – Sunday 6:30pm & 9:00pm or go to: www.WarChildMovie.com

Emmanuel Jal is the author of **War Child**. Jal. The book published by St. Martin's Press and distributed by Hue-Man Bookstore (Harlem) and Barnes & Noble was launched on February 3rd. Jal whose own childhood was robbed from him, aims to protect the childhood of others through music. "*Music is powerful. It is the only thing that can speak into your mind, your heart and your soul without your permission.*" According to Jal, in times of war, starvation, hunger and injustice, the only way to survive the daily tragedy in Sudan is to allow the inner-soul to be uplifted through music, which is like soul food to heal pain. Through his heartfelt lyrics, he opens the world up to the corruption and greed of the Sudanese government; central to the themes of his songs is the campaign for peace of opposing sides in Sudan and the clear message that children have no place in wars. The youth of the world might feel like **War Children**; however, awareness of the problem starts dialogue towards a solution.



For more information about the event, please contact Richard Pelzer, Brand Manager at 646-320-2300 | PelzerMEGA1@aol.com or Nefertiti Strong, Project Manager at 310-497-3903 | movingchi@gmail.com.

Emmanuel Jal lives in London. His music has been featured in the movie *Blood Diamond*, the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*, and in three episodes of *ER*. He is a spokesman for Amnesty International and Oxfam and has done work for Save the Children, UNICEF, World Food Programme, Christian Aid and other charities and has established his own charitable foundation, Gua Africa, to help former Sudanese child soldiers. He has been featured in Time Magazine, USA Today, the Washington Post, Newsweek.com, Time.com and on NPR, CNN, FOX, MTV and the BBC. The documentary about Jal's life *War Child* (www.WarChildMovie.com), premiered to acclaim at the February 2008 Berlin Film Festival, April 2008 Tribeca Film Festival and November 2008 The Dominican Republic Global Film Festival. His first US album *Warchild* on Sonic360 is currently on the World Music Charts. Jal's memoir, also called *War Child* (www.usmacmillan.com/warchild), is shocking, inspiring and finally hopeful, written by a unique young man, who is determined to tell his story in so doing bring peace to his homeland and the world.



The Faison Firehouse Theater is home to the American Performing Arts Collaborative (APAC), a not-for-profit (501c3) organization co-founded by Tony Award Winner, George Faison in 1997. For more than thirty five years, George Faison has been a driving force in the theater as well as film, video, television, concert dance, concert staging, television commercials and trade shows. George is internationally recognized as having achieved a preeminent place among the world's most important directors, choreographers and writers is known for his uncompromising pursuit of artistic excellence and the production and nourishment of socially relevant art and artist. He has a keen eye for recognizing emerging talent such as **S. Epatha Merkerson, Debbie Allen, Stephanie Mills, Phylicia Rashad, Eartha Robinson, Gary DeLoatch, Shedrack Anderson, Jackee** and **Hinton Battle** among others. www.faisonfirehouse.org

