

MK Asante Visits Hartford Public Library

By
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Hartford Public Library is celebrating a Year of Hip - Hop and extended an invitation to MK Asante, an American author, filmmaker, rapper, and professor at Morgan State University, being one of the youngest professors at the college. He is best known for his best-selling memoir *Buck*. The man behind this impressive list of credentials is one of the most humble and brilliant minds that I have heard lecture.

Asante wrote his memoir in the voice of a rap loving teenager who went through three life altering events that destroyed his family. His older brother goes to jail, his father leaves the house and his mother begins suffering from a life-long mental illness. His only outlet was to embrace the streets in the tough neighborhood where he grew up in Philadelphia.

Despite the mental instability of his mother, it was her sheer determination that prompted MK to return to school. This was the beginning of his creative quest to read and write and he has not stopped since.

Many students were present during this lecture and felt as if MK Asante's story really resonated with them. He encouraged the students to hang in there and not give up no matter what.

MK's motto has been: "Be patient and tough. This pain will be useful to you." Ovid

The messages of resiliency and education were both accurate and timely for the multi-generational audience in Hartford CT.

Buck made the *Washington Post* best-seller list in 2014 and 2015 and is a NAACP Image Award finalist. Asante is a prize-winning filmmaker and a Sundance™ Screenwriting Fellow for the movie adaptation of *Buck*.

