

POETRY SLAM FOR PEACE 2021

PROGRAM

OPENING – DR. AKPEZI OGBUIGWE

Dr. Akpezi Ogbuigwe was a former Head of Environmental Education and Training, UNEP (2002-2012) and later Coordinator of the Ecosystem Management Sub-Programme at the United Nations Environment Programme (2013-2014). She was appointed Guest Professor at the Tongji University, Shanghai, China (2010-2012) and is the Founder of Anpez Centre for Environment and Development, founded in 1992 to respond to the environmental degradation and pollution of the Niger Delta Region.

GIANT STEPS – DARIAN DAUCHAN

Darian Dauchan is an award winning actor, writer, and musician who has appeared on both Broadway (Twentieth Century starring Alec Baldwin and Anne Heche) and Off Broadway theatre (Jean Cocteau Rep., Classical Theatre of Harlem). TV and Film credits include Law and Order, Nickelodeon's Bet the House as Darian the "SoundFX" Guy, and the Lionsgate feature film Things Never Said. Darian is most known for The Brobot Johnson Project, an Afrofuturism, Sci Fi Hip Hop transmedia piece which won for Outstanding Comedy Series at the LA Web Festival. Most recently Darian was nominated for a Drama League award for his piece Brobot PSA in the AFO Solo Short series and is a New Music USA grantee. www.dariandauchan.com

FÁTIMA SAHEB – HUMAN FRAGILITY

Fátima Saheb is a young poet and spoken word artist from Morocco. Her work involves deconstructing traditional notions of national identity and challenging dominant narratives related to race and racism. Her words are fighting for equality, free identity expression and justice. For Fátima, justice is not only a legal parameter, but emotional as well. She has performed in various solidarity events and participated in poetry slam and spoken word events in different countries. You can find her performing in Spanish and English, creating a different character each time. fatimazbsaheb@gmail.com

MAKIS MOULOS – MYTH

Makis Moulos is a Greek born trilingual writer and a spoken word artist based in Barcelona. He uses his confident style to explore themes such as sexuality, stigmas and gender. He has published 4 personal poetry anthologies and collaborated in 2 books of short stories in Greek. Makis is the organizer of the monthly event "poENtry slam" in Barcelona and the monthly "Poetry Slam Gr" in Greece and the publisher of the quarterly magazine "poENtry slam" in Barcelona. Violin, experimental music and creative writing, is what gives Makis the air to breath. He is also the social media coordinator and member of the team of the new World Poetry Slam Organization, with the first championship in September 2022.

<https://www.performing-poetry.com/>; <https://www.poetryslamgr.com/>
<https://www.worldpoetryslam.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/makis.moulos/>; Instagram: @makismoulos

YVONNA SMOTHERS – BLOOD RAIN IN THE CITY

Yvonna Smothers, an unapologetically Black creative, is a freshman at Emory University. Her love for activism has followed her into becoming her high school's Black Student Union president and a three-year participant in Rooted and Radical, a slam poetry festival in Chicago. Her love for medicine and research has led her to be an 8-year apprentice and intern at Rush Medical Center and a gold medalist at the NAACP's DuPage County ACT-SO chapter.

WAYQUAY – WE'RE MIGHTY

The spirit of Wayquay's Native American Ojibwe culture is evident, both musically and lyrically, with the integration of pop, rock, and even funk. Her delivery, in a husky voice, is injected with a rap cadence, textured with traditional instruments and layered with chants. Wayquay's music video "Navigate" won the best music video award from the American Indian Film Festival and the Native American Music Awards.

ARTS BRIDGING THE GAP AND POPS THE CLUB – UNIFYING ETERNITIES

Poet: Katherine Secaida – Katherine is a graduate of Sacramento state university with a degree in criminal justice pursuing to become a lawyer. Kat has been a member of POPS the Club since 2014 which has helped her throughout her journey of poetry and success. Kat hopes to continue working with POPS and help children of incarcerated loved ones. Instagram: @o.g.kats.poetry

Poet: John Bemby is a poet and musician and was a student member of the first-ever POPS club during his senior year at Venice High. When he graduated in 2013, he was selected by the principal to be one of the ceremony's speakers because of his powerful work. John's poems have been published each year in the POPS the Club anthologies published by Out of the Woods Press, and he is an important voice for youth everywhere who are impacted by the Pain of the Prison System. @globalgyass

Mural Artist: Donrmix – David "Don Rimx" Sepulveda was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His family lived in the public housing development where drugs and gun violence were part of his everyday life. His parent's interested Don in drawing at a young age enrolled him in weekend art classes, and he later received his diploma from the Central High School of Visual Arts. Don has participated in national and international urban beautification projects including Beyond Walls in Lynn Massachusetts where he was given the key to the city for contributing to the local culture. Don Rimx's unparalleled artistry has set him apart from the rest: a classically trained fine artist, graffitist, grand scale muralist and new school tattoo artist. Instagram: @dornmix

DRS. PHILIP MEERSMAN – IN THE FUTURE II

drs. Philip Meersman is a Cultural Consultant based in Brussels. He is a multilingual poet/performer, pushing the boundaries of poetry in both written and spoken form, drawing on current affairs, sociopolitical and environmental issues. He teaches avant-garde, visual and performance poetry worldwide and is curator of Poetryfest.brussels and coordinates the World Poetry Slam Organization. With a Master in Art Sciences and Archeology degree from the Flemish Free University of Brussels, Philip currently he is doing a PhD at the AP University College of Antwerp on the transformation of visual poetry into an immersive XR-experience.

Co-ordinator: <https://www.worldchampionshipspoetryslam.com/> and

<https://www.worldpoetryslam.org/>.

MAY GARCÉS - A BIODIVERSE ONE

May Garcés was born and raised in Temuco, in the south of Chile. She has developed artistic educational projects with small communities in Chile, India, Ghana, Palestine and Jordan to explore values that foster empathy, global citizenship and self-care. She has studied music at Dillard University in NOLA, Environmental Studies and peace-building in the Neguev desert and has worked full time in Germany and Ghana. She has made TEDx presentations in China and Germany about "The voice and identity" and about how to reconcile our past and our actions as global citizens, and she's a mentor of social projects for an NGO and collaborates in research in Cognitive sciences at University of Chile. <https://www.instagram.com/maycenii/>

JEROME BAILY, JR. – FRAMES

Jerome Bailey Jr. is an emerging spoken word poet and author of a globally acclaimed poetry book, Liberation. His latest creative work, Expressions is a spoken word album now streaming on all platforms that infuse faith-filled lyric poetry and classical acoustics. After a brutal attack where he almost lost his voice, Bailey soon learned the deep-seated power in his vocal gift - which he now uses primarily to help people find spiritual revival. In his work outside of poetry, Bailey has found success as an award-winning video journalist and producer, documentary filmmaker, and international storytelling authority. Bailey and his devoted wife Johnetra, love their New Orleans community – the place they live and serve.

WE BE – EPIK DANCE EPIK DANCE COMPANY FEAT. LADY CARESS

EPIK exists to provide all people an opportunity to experience the benefits of dance, to foster an appreciation for art amongst society, and to impact audiences by tackling current and thought-provoking subject matter. The Dance Company fuses classical training and urban street styles to convey emotions, stories, or concepts using movement that best depicts the message without regard to boundaries and rules typically associated with dance styles. Performances range from full stage productions to special events and often incorporate theatre, spoken word and other artistic elements. <https://epikdanceco.org/>

CARIDAD DE LA LUZ (LA BRUJA) -- RETURN

Caridad De La Luz (LA BRUJA) is a multifaceted performer; she raps, acts, sings, hosts, recites, dances, does stand-up comedy, writes plays/poems/songs/scripts and teaches others how to do the same. Winner of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship 2020-2021 and a The David Prize finalist 2021, she has been one of America's leading spoken word poets for over 15 years and has received, among others, the Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award and The Edgar Allan Poe Award from The Bronx Historical Society and was named "Top 20 Puerto Rican Women Everyone Should Know". CaridadDeLaLuz.com; @LaBrujaNYC IG/Twitter/TikTok

RENI~SÀGE MOHN ATUNSE –

Reni~Sàge Mohn Atunse, alternatively known as spek & OG Menace, is a Chicago based multi-talented artist, from the city's own south side. He is a former member of the Kuumba Lynx Performance Ensemble. He is the former team member of Lindblom's poetry collective, Writer's Bloque. In 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, Reni co-founded, along with two other artists, and is an active member of "Da Crib", a black queer art collective, centered around being a "mobile safe space". He also founded the company, "Sage's Space", revolving around spirituality and

healing. He is attending Columbia College Chicago, pursuing a major in Acting while minoring in playwriting

TAHANI SALAH – THE POEM

Tahani Salah is an educator, poet, and activist based in Brooklyn, New York with a Bloodline to Palestine. She is a graduate of Columbia University. A former Professor of curriculum development at the Cuny Graduate Center. She also is a member of the Nuyorican Slam Team. Tahani has been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jams. She is passionate about peace and activism and carries that into the classroom as an educator, showing how life creates art and uses it all as a tool of expression.

My poem stands as a reflection of the power of youth standing for justice in today's world. How power of voice and action starts

ACT OF CREATION, TAWHIDA TANYA EVANSON

Tawhida Tanya Evanson is an afro-Antiguan-Québécoise poet, author and artist. Her two poetry collections are Bothism (Ekstasis 2017) and Nouveau Griot (Frontenac 2018), and her first novel Book of Wings (2021) is fresh from Véhicule Press. With a 25-year practice in spoken word, she has performed in over a dozen countries; produced festivals and events; and released four studio albums and six videopoems including the award-winning Almost Forgot my Bones. In 2013, she was Poet of Honour at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word and received the Golden Beret Award for her contribution to the genre. She is program director of The Banff Centre Spoken Word Residency and vice president of The Quebec Writers' Federation. Born and based in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal, she moonlights as a whirling dervish. www.movertonguemedia.com

WIYAALA – YAGA YAGA

Wiyaala, which means "the doer" in her Sissala language, is an independent musician entertainer from Funsu in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Fiercely self-reliant and proud, Wiyaala is known by her fans as the "Lioness of Africa". Encouraged by her mother, Wiyaala attracted attention as a child entertainer, dancer, artist and footballer despite growing up in a patriarchal society often hostile to artistic growth. Since being discovered by Rita Ray of BBC's Global Beats, Wiyaala has emerged as one of Ghana's leading personalities and award-winning artists representing Ghana and Africa at prestigious events, media and festivals all over the world.

Website: <https://wiyaala.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wiyaala>

PRODUCTION

GLOBAL FAMILY FOR LOVE AND PEACE was founded by Dharma Master Hsin Tao, who was tricked into joining a Burmese guerrilla army at nine years old. At the age of 15 Master Hsin Tao heard the story of Bodhisattva Guanyin, the Goddess of Compassion. From that moment, Master Hsin Tao made a vow to spend his life following the spiritual example of Bodhisattva Guanyin, working for peace through dialogue, education and service.

The long-term goal of GFLP is to sow the seeds of peace, bringing to life the United Nations Resolution on the Right of Peoples to Peace (A/RES/39/11): that "... peoples of our planet have a

sacred right to peace” and that “the maintenance of a peaceful life for peoples is the sacred duty of each State”. www.gflp.org

The **NUYORICAN POETS CAFE** is a cultural icon on New York’s Lower East Side since 1973. The Cafe presents groundbreaking works of literature, music, theater, performance art, poetry slam, hip-hop, visual art, and champions established as well as rising artists from every background and age group. <https://www.nuyorican.org/>

CO-SPONSORS

THE MUSEUM OF WORLD RELIGIONS was founded by Master Hsin Tao. utilizing the principles of nature to inspire love and peace through teachings of the world’s religious and spiritual traditions. The Museum’s interactive exhibits and the recreation of real-life experiences allows the visitor to better understand the bewilderment about life and enables them to reaffirm life’s worth. www.mwr.org.tw/mwr_en

CHAN SPACE NEW YORK sits in contrast to a fast-paced city life, offering respite and teachings through dynamic and contemporary programs to encourage curiosity, conversation, reflection and enjoyment. Under the guidance of Venerable Guang Guo Shih, there are weekly meditation classes, courses on Buddhism, walking and sound meditations, musical events, art shows, calligraphy and tea ceremony. www.chanspacenewyork.org

PURPOSE EARTH, launched in 2020, is a purposeful partnership between UNITY EARTH and GLOBAL PURPOSE MOVEMENT created to inspire real-world impact driven by a sense of purpose. At the heart of PURPOSE EARTH is the PURPOSE EARTH FUND, a global initiative supporting a grant and mentorship program focused on empowering social entrepreneurs, passionate community leaders and purposeful organizations creating positive change. www.purposeearth.org

UNITY EARTH brings people together through fostering reverence for the Sacred and respecting all forms of diversity, using music, events and media to proclaim the universal unity of all beings. <https://unity.earth>

NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-NY monitors implementation of the commitments to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Committee works closely with relevant UN commissions and agencies, and the United Nations NGO community. www.ngocsd-ny.org

PRODUCTION TEAM

CREATOR/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR LAURENCE SINGER is the United Nations Representative for Global Family for Love and Peace for 20 years, working in the areas of the Culture of Peace and the International Day of Peace. Laurence is the Founder of Rhythms of the Globe. www.rhythmsoftheglobe.com.

VIDEO EDITOR – DAVID BRYEN is an award-winning New York City based video editor. He has edited many television commercials and music videos as well as corporate and social videos. His interest in the film business started at a young age when he was interested in being a musician. Through the study of music and film soundtracks and sound design, he found an interest in technology. In addition to editing videos, David is a music composer and creates video art. <https://www.davidbryeditor.com>

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY AHJA HENRY, a San Francisco born and raised digital artist and painter. Her work embodies the empowerment of femininity, blackness, and individuality. www.ahjaart.com; @ahjaart.