

Roger Bonair-Agard

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Education

MFA Candidate (Creative Writing) – University of Southern Maine – Stonecoast Program (Present)
Hunter College of the City University of New York (1992-1998)

Teaching

Free Write Jail Arts & Literacy Program/Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
Chicago, IL - 2009 – present
Urban Gateways: Teaching artist, Chicago – 2011 – present
S.E.A.D (Summer Enrichment at Dartmouth): workshop facilitator – 2002 – present
Urban Word NYC: workshop facilitator – 1999 – 2013
Chicago State University, MFA Program - substitute facilitator - Fall 2009 - 2013
University of Wisconsin-Madison - First Wave Program, artist-in-residence - 2011-2012
Volume Summer writers' retreat: workshop facilitator – 2003 – 2012
Fordham University, NYC - Poetry & Performance - Spring 2010 – Fall 2011
Class Visits: (abridged) Hunter College (NYC), Baruch College (NYC), Rutgers University (New Jersey), Hobart and Williams College (Geneva, NY), Sarah Lawrence College (Bronxville, NY), Fordham University (Bronx, NY), Art Institute of Chicago.

Experience:

The louderARTS Project
Co-founder and Artistic Director, nonprofit literary organization
Co-curator, louderARTS: the reading series
Workshop facilitator, 1999-2013

Vision Into Art
Poet in Residence 2001 – Present
Commissions for: *VioLens* 2008, *Sounds* 2003 – 2007, *A Tough Line* 2004 - 2007

Young Chicago Authors
Poet in Residence 2010 - 2013

Honors and Awards

Society of Midland Authors Award for Poetry – 2014 for *Bury My Clothes*
National Book Award Long List 2013 for *Bury My Clothes*

Cave Canem Fellow – 2003, 2005, 2007
National Poetry Slam Individual Champion – 1999
Nuyorican Poets' Cafe – Fresh Poet of the Year – 1998
National Poetry Slam Champion – Team Coach - 1998

Publications

Books:

Where Brooklyn At (Willow Books, 2016)
Bury My Clothes (Haymarket Books, 2013)
If you wake up in the Morning and you're not in Brooklyn: Chicago poems (New School Poetics, 2012, chapbook)
Three Hole Punch (co-authored, Red Beard Press, 2010)
GULLY (Cypher Books, Peepal Tree Press, 2010)
tarnish and masquerade (Cypher Books, 2006),
Burning Down the House (co-authored, Soft Skull Press, 2000),

Journals and Magazines: (abridged)

Rattapallax: *Bird Watching*
Caribbean Living Magazine: *Dorothy Coming Down*
Louisville University Review: *earth and God, Luck*,
Seneca Review: *burial instructions for the lovely death*
Bestiary: *God of Small Things*
Muzzle: *Lady Young Road, 1979*
Union Station Magazine: *Defense – 1988, 1987*
Harvard Review Online: *Dragon-Slayer*
Gulf Coast: *To Come From*
Radius: *A Time of Polio*
Academy of American Poets – Poem a Day: *because I can't remember my first kiss*
Drunken Boat: *claim – for the ocean*
Poetry Magazine Online: *All American, Fulton Street – Bedford Stuyvesant 1989, Ghost, Our bodies are Made of Stars, The Gospel According to Trinity Street – Morning Prayers Callaloo – Horse Sense (Creative non-fiction)*
Apex Magazine: *How the World was Made (speculative fiction – forthcoming)*

Anthologies: (abridged)

The BreakBeat Poets: *New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop* (Haymarket Books, 2015)
The Bowling Was Superfine: *West Indian Writing and West Indian Cricket* (Peepal Tree Press, 2012)
So Much Things to Say: *100 poets from the first 10 years of Calabash Literary Festival* (Tower Books, 2010)
The Spoken Word Revolution Redux (A Poetry Speaks Experience). Sourcebooks, 2007
Cave Canem Anthology X (2005)
The Spoken Word Revolution (Sourcebooks, 2005)
Cave Canem Anthology VIII (2003)

Poetry Slam: the Competitive Art of Performance Poetry (Manic D Press, 2000)
Second Word Thursdays (Bright Hill Press, 1999)
Will Work for Peace (Zeropanik Press, 1998)

Major Featured Readings: (abridged)

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013), Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival (New Jersey), Bumbershoot Music Festival (Seattle, WA), Celebrate Brooklyn Summer Festival (Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY), Brooklyn Book Festival (Brooklyn, NY), Mt. Aetna Jazz Festival (Catania, Sicily), Lyrik Zwei (Munich, Germany), Calabash Literary Festival (Jamaica, W.I.) Palm Beach Poetry Festival Palm Beach, FL), Urban Voices Festival (South Africa), Arts Alive Festival (South Africa), Whitney Museum (New York), Connecticut Poetry Festival, White Pine Festival (Stillwater, MN), Colorscape Festival (Norwich, NY), National Museum of Trinidad and Tobago (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad), U.S./German Poetry Festival (Heidelberg, Germany), Cornell University, University of Alaska, University of Connecticut, University of the West Indies, Dartmouth College, Florida State University, New York University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hobart and William College, Columbia College, Brown University, Chatham University and others.

Conferences and Speeches:

The Media and the black male in Hip Hop (Simon's Rock College),
From Be-bop to Hip-Hop: the journey from Jazz to Rap (New York University),
To Whom will You be Responsible? (Hanover High School – Commencement keynote 2003, Hanover, NH),
The Black Male Lyric in Caribbean Poetry (AWP, 2010 - Panel),
The Cultural Politics of Slam Poetry (AWP, 2010 – Panel),
If I Can't Dance you can Keep your Revolution (AWP, 2011 - Panel),
The Politics of Class (AWP, 2012 Panel)
Immigration and the Popular Imagination (Team Englewood High School, 2010, Chicago, IL.)
Global Mountain Regions Conf. (University of Kentucky, 2012, Lexington, KY.)
Visible Shores: Writers of Color Listening Across Waters (AWP, 2013 Panel)
The Exclusivity of Space and the artist's responsibility – (CalArts University, 2013)

Other Media:

Theatre:

MASQUERADE: calypso and home – writer, solo performer (Terranova Collective) 2004 - present
EXTRA COVER: to be young, fast and black – writer, solo performer (Terranova Collective) 2007 – present
VioLens – writer, performer (Vision Into Art) 2007-2008
Travelling Songs – writer, vocalist, musician (Vision Into Art) 2006-2007
A Tough Line – writer, performer (Vision Into Art) 2004-2007
Sounds – writer, performer (Vision Into Art) 2003-2007

Television:

Russell Simmon's presents HBO's Def Poetry Jam – Seasons 2,3,5
The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour – 1999
BET(J) presents Word, Sound, Power – 2008

Radio:

Air America
NPS
Pacifica
WLIB New York

Print features: (abridged)

Poets and Writers Magazine – 12 New Writers to Watch 2007
Sunday Trinidad Guardian: Entertainment section 2007
Trinidad Express: Entertainment section 2007

Sunday New York Times: Entertainment section 1999
How to Read an Oral Poem by John Miles Foley – (University of Illinois Press)
Words in Your Face, a guided tour through 20 years of the New York City Poetry Slam by Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz – (Soft Skull Press)

References:

Reginald Dwayne Betts, Ph.D. Poet, Author, NAACP Image Award Recipient, Soros Justice Fellow. Dwayne.betts@gmail.com | 240.765.5470

Mathilda de Dios, M.Ed. Associate Director, Free Write Jail Arts & Literacy Program. mathildadedios@gmail.com | 773.715.0705

Angela Davis Fegan, M.F.A Candidate, Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts, Columbia College. artist@angeladavisfegan.com | 773.259.0087

Dr. Randall Horton, Ph.D. Associate Professor, College of Arts & Sciences, University of New Haven. rhorton@newhaven.edu | 203.931.2991

Ryan Keesling, M.Ed. Director, Free Write Jail Arts & Literacy Program. ryan@freewritejailarts.org | 773.412.5789

Jordan LaSalle, MBA, MA. Arts Education Manager, Department of Arts Education, Chicago Public Schools. jordanlasalle@gmail.com | 989.277.8689