

Brandon Harrison

BIO

Brandon B. Shatter Harrison is a spoken word artist, host, and educator currently located in Washington, DC. When not debating the possibilities of literature's most revered characters being persons of color or somewhere lost on an anime binge, B. Shatter can be found actively engaging in the booming arts scenes around the country and performing on numerous stages or behind a bar mixing up your favorite cocktail. More than your average poet, B. Shatter has found a way to take his early slam career training to new and amazing heights in making a name for himself. He is the creator and host of Kentucky's largest yearly poetry competition the "Winter Soul-Spit Slam," coached a team of youth poets, the Young Poets of Louisville for the last three years, regularly teaches in multiple literacy programs and hosts a variety of other slams and events. He has published one book with Texas publisher 310 Brown Street titled "I wrote on walls because I never got a happy meal" with more to come in the future. With the latest release of "I'm Not Crying..You Are" B. Shatter hopes to help spread even more awareness about mental health amongst the black male community and the importance of getting help and taking care of yourself. Welcome to the journey of a thousand stories, both heard and unheard. Pull up a chair, you'll be here awhile.

UNIVERSITIES: AS A KEYNOTE OR WORKSHOP LEADER

- > University of Kentucky
- > University of Louisville
- > Kentucky State University
- > Eastern Kentucky University
- > Franklin College
- > Western Kentucky University
- > Bellarmine University
- > University of Texas
- > University of Houston
- > Brazosport College
- > Texas A & M
- > Rice University
- > Huston – Tillotson University
- > Radford University
- > Howard University
- > University of Tennessee

TEACHING

- > BLOOM ELEMENTARY (LOUISVILLE)
- > KING ELEMENTARY (LOUISVILLE)
- > ROOSEVELT PERRY ELEMENTARY (LOUISVILLE)
- > FARIDALE HIGH SCHOOL (LOUISVILLE)

- > CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (LOUISVILLE)
- > STREET ACADEMY VIA LOUISVILLE URBAN LEAGUE (LOUISVILLE)
- > ELEMENTS (CINCINNATI)
- > EASTWOOD PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL (HOUSTON)
- > KILLEEN HIGH SCHOOL (KILLEEN)
- > KIPP DC (WASHINGTON D.C.)

WORKSHOPS

> SLAMOLOGY 101:

-AN INTRO TO PERFORMANCE POETRY. THIS WORKSHOP WAS DESIGNED WITH YOUTH IN MIND HOWEVER ANY ONE CAN ATTEND. SLAMOLOGY 101 TAKES THE WRITTEN PIECES OF THOSE INVOLVED AND TURNS THEM INTO LIVING BREATHING WORKS OF ART. PARTICIPANTS ARE GIVEN THE BASICS OF SLAM POETRY COMPETITIONS AND THROUGH MOCK SLAM SCENARIOS, READIED TO ENTER INTO REAL SLAMS ON THEIR OWN. THIS IS POETRY ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL. WELCOME TO SLAMOLOGY 101, CLASS IS IN SESSION.

> HONING YOUR SUPERPOWER

-THIS WORKSHOP IS BUILT UPON EXPANDING THE ABILITY OF WRITERS OF ALL AGES. THIS COURSE FOCUSES ON UTILIZING DIFFERENT AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN EACH PARTICIPANT EVERY TIME THEY TO PEN TO PAD. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPANTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN UNCONVENTIONAL WAYS THROUGH DIFFERENT LITERARY EXERCISES AND BREAKING DOWN THE TRADITIONAL WAYS ONE IS TAUGHT TO WRITE POETRY. HONING YOUR SUPERPOWER WILL DEFINITELY DRIVE YOU TO CRAFT YOUR BEST MASTERED PIECE.

PUBLISHED WORK

- > Losing My Mind
- > Striving for Greatness
- > Texas Slamology
- > I'm Not Crying You Are, There Was Just Something In My Eye
- > I Write On Walls Because I Never Got A Happy Meal
- > Notes to Self

NOTABLE FEATURES

- > Write About Now Poetry
- > Austin Poetry Slam
- > SPEAK Cincinnati
- > Mercury Ballroom
- > Hard Rock Cafe Memphis
- > Louisville Public Media
- > Forecastle 2015 & 2016
- > SXSW 2011 & 2015
- > TEDx Tyler Park 2018
- > Metaphorically Speaking

NOTABLE COMPETITIONS

- > 2008 – Austin They Speak Youth Slam Team: featured on HBO's Brave New Voices
- > 2010 – Killeen Poetry Slam Team
- > 2014 – Loohavull Lip Slam Team: Slam Champ
- > 2016 – Young Poets of Louisville Youth Team: Coach
- > 2016 - Last Poet Standing Cincinnati 3rd Place
- > 2016-17 - Young Poets of Louisville Slam Coach
- > 2017 - Killen Poetry Slam Team: Slam Champ
- > 2018 - Houston Poetry Slam: SLam Champ
- > 2019 – Houston VIP Slam: Slam Champ

HOSTING

- > Winter SoulSpit Slam (2014-2018)
- > Floetic Fridays Youth Slam (2015-2018)
- > Lipstick Wars Women's Poetry Slam (2015-2017)
- > 6'10' A Showcase of African-American Theatre (2014-2016)
- > The Keepers of the Dream (2016)
- > Blues, Brews & BBQ festival (2017)

THEATRE

- > 2014 – Smoketown Poetry Opera
- > 2015 – West End Poetry Opera
- > 2015 – Slant Festival
- > 2016 – Sacred Words of Wisdom (director)
- > 2017 - The Blood Always Returns
- > 2019 – Fringe Fest: Black Folk Art

PRESS

- > "As B. Shatter, the barriers he most wants to demolish are perceptions. For example, that only an extrovert can be a performer. Or that lengthy experience is required to be a teacher or mentor. Maybe most of all, that social identity equals destiny."
<http://www.leoweekly.com/2017/01/shatter-walls-barriers-b-shatter-28/>
- > "Brandon Harrison is a mainstay of the local slam poetry scene under the nom de plume "B Shatter." He makes regular appearances at slams, was a founding member of Roots & Wings, and often guest emcees slam events."
http://insiderlouisville.com/lifestyle_culture/third-annual-winter-soulspit-poetry-slam-offers-over-1000-in-prizes/
- > "Brandon "B Shatter" Harrison is not your average poet, his passion is fueled by the desire to express the hard truths through this verbal art." - Tez, *104.7 Praize FM* (Dec 19, 2015)
- > "Being an artistic person, it is then my job to still educate and then bring about those issues in a way that i know my generation will listen to it."
<http://wfpl.org/west-end-poetry-opera-takes-issues-art/>

PERFORMANCE LINKS

- > <https://youtu.be/XIltj9oX00Q> "speak performance"

- > <https://youtu.be/d5JVOcgoPT4> "dear officer"
- > <https://youtu.be/8TFRfhgoUeA> "CREAM"