

Brandon “B. Shatter” Harrison

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

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, and 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 put 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.

Number of people averaged per class: 20-35

Primary age range: 12-18

TEACHING AS A CONTRACTED ARTIST

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.)

UNIVERSITIES: AS A KEYNOTE SPEAKER 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

Artist 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," 11/21/2022 5 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.

Artistic Content of Programming

While the workshops provided tend to be very inclusive of other art forms, what I provide is very literature and literature manipulation specific i.e. poetry, slam, performance, theatre.

Educational Content of Programming

To be succinct: what B. Shatter Poetry provides is a greater and deeper understanding of the English language and it's non-traditional application to evoke emotion and thought provocation amongst those

that engage in it. We measure success by way of published works of art or performed pieces of work that the participants are proud of. Success to us looks like participants actually enjoying the art of poetry

Process for hiring, training, and evaluating my performance/effectiveness.

To make sure I'm providing the best experience and that the lessons are received well, I actively test my workshops and ideas with other well known poets and teachers to iron out the kinks and gain new insight for what might or might not work for the audience(s) I plan to serve.

How are participants of all backgrounds and abilities included in programming?

Poetry is inclusive. Just like the imagination, poetry itself has no boundaries or sects. Any who are willing to engage in the beauty that is language can enjoy it. I'd like to pride myself in taking the basics and making them profound, and accessible in a way that even the hardest critic would/could bend and begin to enjoy the wonder that is the magic of poetry and all of its possibilities.

How do I engage teachers and community center staff before, during, and after programming?

Before any workshop or long term engagement, I like to meet and sit down with those in charge to map out a progress plan and goal map so that collectively we can ensure that the students or people engaged are getting the best of what I have to offer and not wasting our collective time. Meetings with those in charge are essential to success.

How do I engage participants in the creative and learning process?

There are a myriad of ways I engage the participating parties.

Due to the nature of poetry, specifically spoken word, much of what I bring to the table in terms of engagement is "in your face" action sequences.

Poetry as it's been taught is boring...to be honest. What I bring is a life and breath that the current participant pool has been missing. I bring what we in the community have coined "living" examples of the very art form we're teaching about. To answer your question, I like to engage the students in "in your face" activities that require them to be both active listeners and participants for the lesson. This can many times take the form of call and response, quizzes, games, or world building