

Outcasts: Using Her Voice

Performer & Host Bios

MAY 21, 2017, 2:30PM

Mahogany L. Browne, a Cave Canem and Poets House alumnae, is the author of several books including *Dear Twitter: Love Letters Hashed Out On-line*, recommended by Small Press Distribution and About.com as one of the Best Poetry Books of 2010. She has released five LPs including the live album *Sheroshima*. Her performance of *Black Girl Magic* was heard on the PBS Newshour. As co-founder of the Off Broadway poetry production, *Jam On It*, and co-producer of NYC's first Performance Poetry Festival, *SoundBites*, Browne bridges the gap between lyrical poets and literary emcee. She has toured Germany, Amsterdam, England, Canada and Australia. Her journalism work has been published in magazines *Uptown*, *KING*, *XXL*, *The Source*, Canada's *The Word* and the UK's *MOBO*. Browne's poetry has been published in literary journals *Pluck*, *Manhattanville Review*, *Muzzle*, *Union Station Mag*, *Literary Bohemian*, *Bestiary* and *The Feminist Wire*. She is an Urban Word NYC mentor, as seen on HBO's *Brave New Voices*, and she facilitates performance poetry and writing workshops throughout the country. Brown is also the publisher of Penmanship Books, the Nuyorican Poets Café Poetry Program Director and Friday Night Slam curator and currently is an MFA Candidate for Writing & Activism at Pratt Institute.

Natalie N. Caro is a Bronx-born activist, editor, writer and professor at Lehman College. In 2015, she was nominated for one of the most honored literary projects in America, The Pushcart Prize. In 2013, she was awarded the *Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Fellowship* by the Bronx Council on the Arts for excellence in Poetry. Currently, Caro is a doctoral candidate in CIAS- Center for Inter-American Studies, Bielefeld University (Germany), where she pursues a degree in Philology. She graduated from Lehman College, Magna Cum Laude, with double major in English Literature and Philosophy, and earned a fellowship, one of the first awarded in creative writing, and an MFA from City College. Caro credits Emily Dickinson as an early inspiration and among her most recent works which she feels captures the outcast voice is a piece called "Etiquette."

Caridad De La Luz is a Bronx-born performer and artist-activist who refers to herself as "La Bruja" (The Witch). Best known for her performances on Russell Simmons' HBO series, *Def Poetry Jam*, she is one of America's leading spoken word poets. Much of her writing explores social justice and Nuyorican identity, and her poems have been published in magazines such as *Shout*, *Vibe*, *Source*, *AWOL*, *Urban* and *Stress*. Her awards include: Comité Noviembre's Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award (2014); The Edgar Allan Poe Award for excellence in writing from the Bronx Historical Society (2013); recognition as a Bronx Living Legend by the Bronx Music Heritage Center and inclusion in a list of "Top 20 Puerto Rican Women Everyone Should Know." She just finished the successful Off-Broadway run of the musical *I LIKE IT LIKE THAT* as China Rodriguez, the revolutionary daughter turned Young Lord.

Jess X. Snow is a queer Asian-American artist, filmmaker and poet. After the Cultural Revolution, her parents emigrated from rural Nanchang, China to Canada. Her work exposes narratives of time travel, diaspora, intimacy and collective protest by connecting the queer and colored body with the body of the Earth. She is a member of the Justseeds Artists Co-operative and a teaching artist who has worked with previously incarcerated families, migrant and indigenous youth communities to produce art and poetry that speak their truth. She holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, and her artwork has appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Huffington Post*, The United Nations Human Rights Council and on indoor and outdoor walls throughout the United States. Her films have screened at the Asian Cinevision Diversity Screening at *The New York Times*, and her poems have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and appeared in the *Offing*, *Nepantla*, *Blueshift Journal* and on stages, TEDx conferences, backyards and rooftops nationwide. Through Jess X. Snow's film, mural-making, poetry and youth art education, she advocates for and works toward a future where migrant and indigenous youth of color see themselves whole and heroic, on the big screen and the city walls & then grow up to create their own.

Jane Gabriels, Ph.D., Host has worked in the South Bronx for over 15 years as the Artistic and General Director of *Pepatián* where she creates, curates/produces, and supports multi-disciplinary art performance by Latino and/or Bronx-based artists (pepatian.org). The Bronx is her primary artistic and curatorial base, and the subject of her doctoral dissertation which focused on its artists and non-profit organizations. A chapter based on this work will be published in the forthcoming book, *Curating Live Arts: Global Perspectives, Envisioning Theory and Practice in Performance* (provisional title). In 2017, Jane is a project partner for a series of gatherings that include a Montréal iteration of *Configurations in Motion: Performance Curation and Communities of Color*, first convened at Duke University, and has recently presented her artistic and scholarly work about the Bronx at panels at the New Museum and at Montréal's Concordia University. She's currently developing her dance theater solo into a collective work.



