

SAMIYA BASHIR

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SAMIYABASHIR@GMAIL.COM

EDUCATION

M.F.A. — Creative Writing, Poetry
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2011

B.A. — Literature of American Ethnic Cultures, *magna cum laude*
University of California, Berkeley, 1994

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Gospel: poems*, RedBone Press, 2009
- *Where the Apple Falls: poems*, RedBone Press, 2005
- *Best Black Women's Erotica 2*, editor, Cleis Press, 2003
- *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social & Political Black Literature & Art*, co-editor with Tony Medina & Quraysh Ali Lansana, Third World Press, 2002

Editorial

- *Black Issues Book Review*, Senior Editor, Contributing Editor, Features, Book Reviews, 1999-2005
- *Ms. Magazine*, Books Editor, Contributing Editor, Book Reviewer, 2000-2002
- *Curve Magazine*, Contributing Editor, Feature Writer, Columnist, 2001-2005
- *Niaonline.com*, Books Channel Producer, 2000-2002
- *Souljourn City Guides*, Managing Editor, 1999-2000
- *The Nile: Historical, Legal & Developmental Perspectives*, Editor, 2003
- *The Health of Harlem Chartbook*, Editor, Columbia University, 2003
- *The Alphabet Versus the Ghetto*, Editor, Moore Black Press, 2002

Selected Journals & Periodicals

- "Thin Filament Pyrometry," *Cura* (Forthcoming)
- "Jumper," poem, *Encyclopedia Vol 2 F-K*, 2010
- "First beer drunk & shot clock ticking," "Juggling crystal balls," poems, *CaKe #3: A Journal of Poetry & Art*, 2009
- "On summer evenings," "Just in case," poems, *Reverie*, 2008
- "Making Black Eyed Peas," poem, *Callaloo: 30th Anniversary Edition*, 2008
- "Power," poem, *Essence Magazine*, 2005
- "Defeating the Shame Game in the Fight for the Freedom to Marry," article, *Nyansapo*, 2005
- "The Road to Advocacy—Searching for the Rainbow," article co-authored with Bylye Avery, *The American Journal of Public Health, Vol 92, No. 8*, 2003
- "The Best Interest of the Child," article, *ColorLines Magazine*, 2002
- "Who do you love?" Review, *Some of Us Did Not Die: New and Selected Essays of June Jordan*, *Lambda Book Report*, 2002
- "Principled Professionalism: The American Face of Public Health, Dr. Mohammad Akhter," article, *The American Journal of Public Health, Vol 92, No. 12*, 2002
- "Home Is Where the Harm Is: Inadequate Housing as a Public Health Crisis," article, *The American Journal of Public Health, Vol 92, No. 5*, 2002

- “The Riot Next Door,” poem, *Arise Magazine*, 2000-03
- “Of Saints and Suppers,” “Hafla,” poems, *Obsidian III, Vol. 2 No. 1*, 2000

Selected Anthologies

- “Manistee Lights,” *What to Read in the Mitten* (Forthcoming)
- “Stabilimentum,” and “Transparent to Visible Light,” *Rumpus Original Poetry Anthology* (Forthcoming)
- “Human Body Emission,” and “Gospel,” *Cornbread, Fish and Collard Greens: Prayers, Poems & Affirmations for People Living with HIV/AIDS* (Forthcoming)
- “Live: By Request,” *Sometimes She Lets Me (Best of...)*, 2010
- “Letter to Dad,” *Does Your Mama Know*, 2009
- “Getting Strong,” *War Diaries*, 2009
- “Clitigation,” *To Be Left with the Body*, 2008
- “The Phone Rings,” “So, this is where we are,” “Jesus Gon' Hear My Song, Sho' Nuff,” *Other Countries: Voices Rising*, 2007
- “dance at the height of the sun,” *Cave Canem Tenth Anniversary Anthology*, 2006
- “Teasing Crow,” *Northwest Crow Poetry Anthology*, 2005
- “June Jordan: A Critical Biography,” *Contemporary American Women Poets*, 2003
- “Seeing Stars,” *Best Black Womens' Erotica 2*, 2003
- “American Visa,” “blood and wine,” “Berneatha’s Story,” “Narcissus Sits by the River, to take the S.A.T.,” *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social & Political Black Literature & Art*, 2002
- “Gwendolyn’s Attic,” “Power,” *Cave Canem VII: 2002 Anthology*, 2002
- “Her Scream Has Been Stolen,” *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, 2001
- “From the Introduction to *Poetry in a Season of Love*,” “Untitled,” *Poetry for the People: A Revolutionary Blueprint*, 1995

Selected Electronic Publishing

- “Transparent to Visible Light,” *The Rumpus*, 2011
- “Waiting on the Reading,” and “When the saints went,” “Catch,” *The Poetry Foundation*, 2010
- “Carry her for me,” “When the Saints Went,” *Torch: Creative Writing by African American Women*, 2010
- “Catch” and “What I Can Not Do,” *The November 3rd Club*, 2009
- “Stabilimentum,” *The Rumpus*, 2009
- “Discussing the Weather,” “Remainder,” “Now rise up and get you over the brook,” “Body Surfing,” *Torch: Creative Writing by African American Women*, 2008
- Multi-media group art project and online installation, *Pënz (it's pronounced pants)*, 2008
- “Mustang Sally,” *LouderArts*, 2003
- Numerous Features, *Africana.com*, 1999-2003
- Numerous Features, *Bet.com*, 2001-02
- “Giovanni’s Room,” Interview with Nikki Giovanni, *BlackVoices.com*, 2002
- Features, Reviews & Interviews, *InsightOutBooks.com*, 2001-03
- Features, Reviews & Interviews, *QPC.com*, 2001-03
- Features, Reviews & Interviews, *Bookofthemonthclub.com*, 2001-03

SELECTED HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2011 Aquarius Press Legacy Award, Aquarius Press / Willow Books
- 2011 Hopwood Poetry Award, The Hopwood Program at the University of Michigan
- 2011 Helen S. and John Wagner Prize for Poetry, The Hopwood Program at the University of Michigan
- 2010 Poetry Finalist (for *Gospel*), Hurston/Wright Legacy Award
- 2010 NEA Writer in Residence, Virginia Center for Creative Arts
- 2009 Writer in Residence, Virginia Center for Creative Arts

- 2010 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan
- 2009-10 Thesis Research/Grant, University of Michigan
- 2009-10 Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2009 Finalist (for *Gospel*), Lambda Literary Award
- 2009 Cave Canem Scholar, Community of Writers at Squaw Valley
- 2008-09 Artist in Residence, The Austin Project
- 2008 Artist in Residence, Alma de Mujer Center for Social Change, Indigenous Women's Network
- 2008 Writer in Residence, Soul Mountain Writers Colony
- 2008 James Cody Scholar, James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts, Poetry at Round Top Festival
- 2006 Finalist (for *Where the Apple Falls*), Lambda Literary Award
- 2002-06 Fellow, Cave Canem African American Poetry Workshop
- 2002 Lesbian Poetry Award, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- English 125 (3 sections): College Writing, Lecturer I, University of Michigan, Fall 2011
- English 125 (1 section): College Writing, Lecturer I, University of Michigan, Spring 2011
- English 223: Creative Writing, Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan, Winter 2011
- English 125: College Writing, Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan, Fall 2010
- English 315: Women in Literature, Teaching Assistant/Grader, University of Michigan, Spring 2010
- Poet in Residence / Workshop Instructor, Poets & Writers, New York, NY, 2001-05. Taught writing workshops to New York City adolescents, adults and seniors & published limited anthologies of their work.
- Teaching Instructor, Ventures in Education Systems Corp., New York, NY, 2001-02. Taught train-the-trainer program for NYC public schoolteachers.
- Poet in Residence, Community Word Project, New York, NY, 2001-02. Taught poetry to 2nd and 4th graders in Manhattan and the Bronx, New York City.
- Writing Teacher, NY Law Explorers, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, 2001-02. Taught Saturday writing program to gifted, underserved students, 14-18 years old.
- Poet in Residence, New York Parks & Recreation Department, New York, NY, 1999-2000. Taught poetry to adults and children around New York City.
- English Teacher, Hot Springs High School, Hot Springs, AR, 1996-97. Taught English grammar and composition to grades 10-12.
- Poet in Residence, Visitation Valley Children's Program, Oakland, CA, 1996. Taught poetry workshops for underserved children.
- Poet in Residence, Berkeley/Oakland Social Services, Oakland, CA, 1996. Taught poetry workshops for homeless and formerly homeless children, published anthology.
- Writing Teacher, Federal Correctional Institution, Dublin, CA, 1995-6. Taught creative writing workshops to small groups of incarcerated women.
- Poetry Teacher, Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA, 1994-95. Planned curricula and taught poetry workshops to students through Poetry for the People.
- Student Teacher Poet, Poetry for the People, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 1993-94. Trained for and taught poetry workshops with June Jordan's Poetry for the People.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter and Panelist: "Queer for You: Building an Enduring Readership for LGBT Authors," The AWP Writers Conference, February 2012 (Forthcoming)
- Presenter and Panelist: "Queer Poets of Color on Craft: The Art of Decolonization," The AWP Writers Conference, February 2012 (Forthcoming)
- Presenter and Panelist: "Poetry for the People and the Teaching Vision of June Jordan," Split This Rock Poetry Festival: Poems of Provocation & Witness 2012 (Forthcoming)

- Presenter and Panelist: “Courting Risk: A Multicultural/Multi-Genre Reading,” The AWP Writers Conference, February 2011
- Presenter and Panelist: “The Poem as Ghost: Haunted America,” The AWP Writers Conference, February 2011
- Co-Organizer, Presenter, Panelist: Fire & Ink Festival for LGBT Writers of African Descent, Univ. of Texas, 2009
- Presenter & Panelist: Center for American Progress / Campus Progress National Conference, 2007
- Keynote Speaker: AALU Eastern Conference, 2007
- Presenter and Panelist: Creating Change Conference, 2005-6
- Poet, Presenter, and Panelist: National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association Conference, 2006
- Poet, Presenter, and Panelist: National Association of Black Journalists, 2005-6
- Poet, Presenter, and Panelist: Women, Action & Media, 2006
- Poster Presentation: XV International AIDS Conference, 2004
- Presenter and Panelist: Black Writers Conference, Brooklyn, NY, 2002-4
- Workshop Presenter: US Conference on AIDS, 2003
- Presenter and Panelist: American Association of Public Health Association Conference, 2003
- Workshop Presenter: Midwest Writers Conference, 2001-03
- Workshop Presenter: National Black Writers Retreat, 2001-03
- Presenter and Panelist: Gwendolyn Brooks Black Writers Conference, 2000-02

SELECTED FEATURED PRESENTATIONS & PERFORMANCES

- “Twenty Seventh Night: A Chamber Opera in 8 minutes.” Samiya Bashir (Libretto), Michael-Thomas Foumai (Music), University of Michigan Museum of Art, 2011
- Mark Our Words: A Reading for Encyclopedia Project & War Diaries, Washington, DC, 2011
- Starshine & Clay: A Cave Canem Poetry Reading, Ann Arbor, MI, 2010
- Visiting Poet, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, 2010
- Visiting Poet, Poetry for the People, University of California, 2009
- Visiting Poet, University of Texas, Austin, TX, 2009
- Cave Canem Inaugural Poetry Reading, Reading / Sumner School, Washington, DC, 2009
- Presenter and Panelist: “Threat Level Lavender,” San Francisco LGBT Pride, SF Public Library, 2008
- Cody Scholarship Reading, Reading: Poetry at Round Top, Round Top, TX, 2008
- Austin Project Residence Reading, Women & Their Work, Austin, TX, 2008
- Black Out Arts Series, Reading, New York, NY, 2007
- RedBone Revue, Reading/Book Signing, Austin, TX, 2007
- Princeton University, Reading/Book Signing, Princeton, NJ, 2007
- Fire & Ink: Road to Revival, Co-Organizer, Reading/Book Signing, University of Texas, 2005
- Rutgers University, Numerous Features & Events, Camden, NJ, 2004-06
- Bowery Poetry Club, Numerous Featured Readings, New York, NY, 2004-06
- Sarah Lawrence College, Visiting Poet, Bronxville, NY, 2003
- New York University, Reading/Book signing, New York, NY, 2002
- The Public Theater / Joe’s Pub, *Role Call* Book Release Celebration, New York, NY, 2002
- Aaron Davis Hall, Reading/Book signing, New York, NY, 2003
- 92nd Street Y / Makor Reading Series, New York, NY, 2003, 2005
- Columbia University, Numerous Readings and Events, New York, NY, 2002-05
- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture / NY Public Library, Numerous, NY, NY, 2001-06
- Louder Arts Collective, Featured Readings, New York, NY, 2002, 2004
- Gwendolyn Brooks Writer’s Conference, Panelist/Reading, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL, 2000-02
- CBGB Gallery, Featured Poet, New York, NY, 2004
- Studio Museum in Harlem, Featured Poet, New York, NY, 2004
- Mepfestival, Visiting Poet, Den Haag, Netherlands, 2001

SELECTED RADIO APPEARANCES

- Outcast Radio, KOOP 91.7FM, Reading & Interview, Austin, TX, 2009
- Sippin on Ink /Blogtalk Radio, Reading & Interview, Miami, FL, 2009
- Mandrake Society Radio, Reading & Interview, Dallas, TX, 2009
- People United, KOOP 91.7FM, Reading & Interview, Austin, TX, 2008
- Off the Page, WBAI Pacifica Radio, Reading & Interview, New York, NY, 2007
- Rainbow Radio, Interview/Discussion, Columbia, SC, 2006
- WUWG Georgia Public Radio, Poetry Reading, Atlanta, GA, 2005
- WKCR 89.9 FM, Reading & Discussion, New York, NY, 2003
- WBAI 99.5 FM, Readings & Interviews, New York, NY, 2001-04

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Advisory Board, Cake, a journal of poetry & art, Florida A&M University, 2011-Present
- Co-organizer: Mark Webster Reading Series, University of Michigan, 2010-11
- Presenter and Panelist: Experienced GSIs and Lecturers, English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan, 2011
- Presenter and Panelist: “Trading Places,” sponsored by the University of Michigan’s English Department Writing Program and the Graduate Student Mentors, Winter Teaching Colloquia, 2011
- Fire & Ink, Inc., Founding Board Member, Washington, DC, 2002-2009
- National Black Justice Coalition, Board Member, Washington, DC, 2006-2007
- Black Pride NYC, Board Member, New York, NY, 1999-2000
- BGC: Arts & Performance Co., Founding Organizer, Oakland, CA, 1995-1996

SELECTED COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

- **Lead Time Consulting, Writer | Editor | Communications Consultant (1999 – 2009)**
Selected client list: Pushback Network, Southern Echo, ALLGO, Avery Institute for Social Change, Harm Reduction Coalition, Columbia University, Essence Communications, Women’s Sports Foundation, Fenton Communications, American Public Health Association.
 - Freelance writer, editor, public/media relations and communications consultant.
 - Work with organizations, corporations, academic institutions and others in the development of publications, materials, strategic communications plans, media campaigns and public relations.
 - Completed written and editorial assignments for newspapers, magazines, journals and online media.
 - Work with publishing houses as an outside editor for book projects.
- **Freedom to Marry, Communications Director (2005 – 2007)**
 - Member of four-person senior management team.
 - Management of annual departmental budget of over \$180,000. Consulting role in expenditure of \$1.6 million budget.
 - Built a sustainable communications department from the ground up.
 - Recruited, hired and managed communications staff, plus consultants and volunteers.
 - Developed and oversaw local, regional, national and international media (including web) campaigns.
 - Responsible for complete overhaul, expansion and oversight of organizational identity including website, print materials, e-communications, and more.
 - Served as organizational and issue spokesperson.
 - Developed and oversaw of book publicity campaign.
 - Extensive travel for public speaking duties, and to conduct trainings, workshops and event oversight.
 - Cultivated and maintained relationships with media and partner organizations, including creation and management of media lists and the establishment and coordination of media protocol.
 - Collaborated with diverse national and international partners to achieve organizational mission.

- **The Balm In Gilead, Inc., Director of Communications (2003-2004)**
 - Managed staff of six plus regular consultants.
 - Developed and oversaw local, regional, national and international media campaigns.
 - Developed and managed production of organizational publications and promotional materials including oversight and production of websites.
 - Served as organizational and issue spokesperson and cultivated and maintain local, regional, national and international media relationships.
 - Conducted media trainings of international HIV/AIDS advocates, activists and health workers.
 - Developed national and international media protocol.
 - Developed and manage departmental budget.
 - Collaborated with diverse national and international partners to achieve organizational mission.