

# Jade!

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## BIOGRAPHY

Jade D. Banks (Jade!) is a **writer, book publisher, teaching artist, arts administrator, producer, community folklorist, photographer and author** of *ON BEING FAT, BLACK AND FEMALE*. Founder of Iman Books, she made Harlem history by publishing *SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM* literary journal (2002-2004), the first literary journal of Harlem artists since the revered *Fire!!* (1926) – published by Wallace Thurman, Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. Jade served as publisher / executive editor of eleven (11) youth anthologies in the NYC School system and publishing advisor for *ON FIRE!!* literary journal of Rider University. Jade is the NYC Research Coordinator, Curriculum Developer and Trainer for *THE WILL TO ADORN* project of the Smithsonian Institution. She is additionally Director of the Community Folk Culture Program at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, the premier, year-round, folk arts program globally for youth. Jade created the *JAZZ IS MY GRANDMOM'S HIP-HOP* workshops and walking tours of historic Harlem and *ON SACRED GROUND* workshops and walking tours of the African Burial Ground and NYC Underground Railroad Stations, which were subsequently utilized for the *HARLEM IS...* public art project. She was the tour manager / workshop developer for the U.S. HottestPoets International Slam Team in addition to hosting *Spoken Word on the Waves*, NYC's inaugural poetry cruise. Jade is also a featured interviewee in the HBO/Cinemax documentary, *CUTTING EDGE*, and was filmed for *LET'S GET THE RHYTHM*, *IMAGES OF DIGNITY: DECENT PEOPLE'S CHILDREN* and *BLACKS IN NEW YORK*. Her literary and photographic works are archived in permanent collections at the Smithsonian Institution and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

NYC Research Coordinator, Curriculum Developer & Project Trainer <i>The Will to Adorn</i> - Smithsonian Institution	05/09 – Present
Publishing Advisor <i>On Fire!!</i> – Literary Journal Rider University	05/09 – 06/11
Digital Coordinator / Text & Research Associate Transatlantic Slave Trade Abolition Commemoration Website Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	12/07 – 05/08
Artist Coordinator African Burial Ground National Monument Dedication Ceremony The African Burial Ground Foundation w/ The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	08/07 – 10/07
Director The Dr. Beverly J. Robinson Community Folk Culture Program Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center	01/07 – Present
Education Site Coordinator Joining Forces After-School Program Frederick Douglass Academy II / Community Works	10/02 – 11/04

Tour Manager / Workshop Coordinator U.S. Hottest Poets International Slam Team - England Tour	08/02 – 09/02
Executive Editor <i>Signifyin' Harlem</i> Literary Journal Iman Books	04/02 – 05/05
Publisher / Executive Editor Iman Books and Press	06/99 – Present
Program Manager Visions of Success Summer Youth Employment Program	04/95 – 08/00
Coordinator of Administrative Services / General Manager Olympic Vision	04/95 – 06/99

### BOOK PUBLISHER

Title	Facilitating Organization	Dates
The Will to Adorn Curriculum Guide	Smithsonian Institution	2013
What's Good?	LEAP – R.A.V.E. Center	2010
We Spit Fire!	Community Works	2008
...Dique...	NYC Department of Parks & Recreation	2008
Telling Our Stories	Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center	2007
JECDO Community Newsletter	Ecumenical Community Development Organization	2006 – 2010
Cypher!	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	2005
Slammin!	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	2005
Making a Difference	Community Works	2004
Shared Struggles/Common Victories	Ubuntu Education Fund	2004
Signifyin' Harlem: The Next Generation	Iman Books	2003
Keep It Real!	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	2003
Harlem Is...	Community Works	2003
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Signifyin' Harlem: The Premiere!	Iman Books	2002
Sistahs on the Verge!	Iman Books	2001
The Edge!	Iman Books	1999
On Being Fat, Black and Female	Iman Books	1999, 2002

### PRODUCER

Title	Venue	Dates
Hattitude	Arts Westchester	01/14
Studies of Swag	New York Public Library – Countee Cullen Branch	05/13
Studies of Swag	Bronx Library Center	07/12
Rep Your Style	Dwyer Cultural Center	04/12
Killa Swag!	Bronx Library Center	08/11
Killa Swag!	Bronx Community Board 12 / Carriage House	08/11
Rock Your Wear!	Dwyer Cultural Center	01/10, 04/10
Rhythm, Rhyme, Dance & Mime	Dwyer Cultural Center	04/09
The Blues, Raps, Rhymes & Snaps	Smithsonian Folklife Festival	06/09 – 07/09
The Blues, Raps, Rhymes & Snaps	National Black Theater	01/09
Barefoot Dancing in the Park	Van Cortlandt Park of NYC Parks and Recreation	07/08

The Roots & Rhythm of Step & Tap	National Black Theater	05/08
Let's Explore Dominican Culture	National Black Theater	01/08
Bronx Tales: Stories of the Taino Diaspora	National Black Theater	05/07
African Folk Expo	National Black Theater	04/07
I Am / We Are	National Black Theater	08/07
Telling Our Stories	Bronx Library Center	08/07
Signifyin' in Harlem – Spoken Word Poetry	Harlem Book Fair	07/03
Slammin' & Jammin' – Annual Poetry Show	Pace University	04/03 – 04/08
Signifyin' Harlem Starbucks Saturdays	Starbucks Coffee House – Harlem	05/02 – 08/02
Signifyin' Harlem Debut Release	Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	04/02
Poetic Vibes Spoken Word Weekly Slam	Hottest Poets w/ Jimmy's Uptown	05/01 – 10/03
The Dark Corner Poetry Jam	New Perspectives Theatre	01/00 – 09/01

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES / WORKSHOP SERIES

School / Program	Facilitating Organization	Dates
Young Adult Internship Program	Ecumenical Community Development Organization	08/11 – 04/13
The Will to Adorn	Smithsonian Institution	11/09 – Present
JHS 22 / Jordan L. Mott School	LEAP – R.A.V.E Center	09/09 – 06/10
Jefferson Center – NYC Parks & Recreation	Community Works	05/09 – 07/09
Community Folk Culture Program	Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center	01/07 – Present
Wright Center – NYC Parks & Recreation	Community Works	11/06 – 07/09
125 <sup>th</sup> Street Branch – NY Public Library	New York Public Library	10/06 – 11/06
Off-Site Educational Services	Community Works	05/06 – 06/06
P. 754 / Jeffrey M. Rapport School	Community Works	04/06 – 06/06
HS for Math, Science & Engineering	Community Works	03/06 – 05/09
Junior Scholars	Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	10/05 – 05/06
Harlem Education Activities Fund	Community Works	07/05 – 08/05
Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center	Community Works	04/05 – 06/06
Martha Neilson School	Community Works	04/05 – 06/06
Impact Repertory Theatre	Community Works	02/05 – 08/05
I.S. 174 / Eugene T. Maleska School	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	11/04 – 06/05
C.I.S. 339 / Diana Sands School	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	11/04 – 06/05
C.S. 67 / Mohegan School	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	06/04 – 08/04
Stevenson High School	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	02/04 – 06/04
Frederick Douglass Academy II	Community Works	11/02 – 01/06
Columbus High School	Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club	02/02 – 06/04
Family Academy	Community Works	11/01 – 06/02

## WORKSHOPS

Title	Host Organization	Dates
Kwanzaa and Adornment	Flushing Town Hall	12/13
Do You and Do What You Do!	Rock What You've Got / Dixon University	05/13
WordSmith! Self-Publishing	Rider University	04/11
By Any Means Necessary: The Legacy of Malcolm X	The GRADS Foundation	12/05
Sacred Ground	The GRADS Foundation / Community Works	09/05
The A-Z of Me!	Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	05/04
Shared Struggles Common Victories	Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture	04/04

Do You! Poetry Workshop	The Drum Cultural Center – Birmingham, England	05/02
WordSmith! Self-Publishing	Hottest Poets	06/02, 02/03
Do You! Poetry Workshop	Martin Luther King, Jr. High School	05/02
The Unique Experience of African-American Poetry	American Museum of Natural History	02/02
WordSmith! Self-Publishing	PA Council of the Arts - Writer's Conference	06/01
WordSmith! Self-Publishing	Writer's WordShop	05/99

## LECTURES / PANELS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Title	Host Organization	Dates
The Will to Adorn Youth Access Presentation	Smithsonian Institution	12/13
The Will to Adorn Curriculum Study Guide	Smithsonian Institution	07/13
The Will to Adorn	Smithsonian Folklife Festival	07/13
The Will to Adorn	New York State Folk Arts Roundtable	05/13
Folk Arts & Traditional Arts Advisory Panel	Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	03/12
The Legacy of Beverly J. Robinson, Folklorist!	American Folklore Society Annual Meeting	10/11
The Will to Adorn	American Folklore Society Annual Meeting	10/11
Community Folklore & Arts Education	PA State Museum / Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation	04/11
The Will to Adorn	Virgin Islands Council on the Arts – St. Croix	11/10 – 12/10
The Will to Adorn	Virgin Islands Council on the Arts – St. Thomas	03/10
It's Not Their Fault: Youth Culture Today	YMCA	04/09

## FILMS (featured interviewee)

Title	Production Company	Dates
Images of Dignity: Decent People's Children	Hollis King Productions	2014
Let's Get the Rhythm	CityLore	2009
Cutting Edge	HBO / Cinemax	2004
Blacks in New York	New Heritage Films	2002

## HOSTESS / MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Title	Host Organization	Dates
ON FIRE!! Poetry Slam	Rider University	11/11
ON FIRE!! Poetry Slam	Rider University	04/11
Capital BookFest	PA State Museum / Book-in-a-Day	09/10
What's the Word?	Pace University / Community Works	04/07
What's the Word?	Pace University / Community Works	04/06
What's the Word?	Pace University / Community Works	04/05
Honoring Our Heroes	Riverside Church / Community Works	10/01
Spoken Word on the Waves	10,000 Tongues Productions	09/01
Poetic Vibes (Special Events)	Hottest Poets	04/01 – 06/03

## AWARDS

Bronx Community Heroes	Community Works	2012
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## **CERTIFICATIONS**

<b>Credential</b>	<b>Educational / Granting Organization</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Design Thinking	Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum	2014
Structuring Programs for Youth's Identified Needs	Ramapo for Children	2012
Family Development	Cornell University	2010

## **EDUCATION**

### **Traditional:**

Harvard University	African American Studies	1986, Open Return
Harrisburg High School	Class Valedictorian / Honors Program	1986 Graduate

### **Independent Scholarship:**

African American Studies  
Cosmetology  
Folk Arts & Culture  
Harlem History / The Harlem Renaissance / The Black Arts Movement  
Health / Nutrition / Vegetarianism  
Identity / Self-esteem / Self-actualization  
Poetry / Spoken Word  
Publishing / Bookmaking  
Spiritual Studies (Eastern & Western)  
Women's Studies

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Folklore Society  
Association of African and African American Folklorists  
National Alliance in Media, Arts & Culture (Youth Advisory Panel)  
National Museum of African American History & Culture (Charter Member)  
National Writers Union  
New York State Folk Arts Roundtable