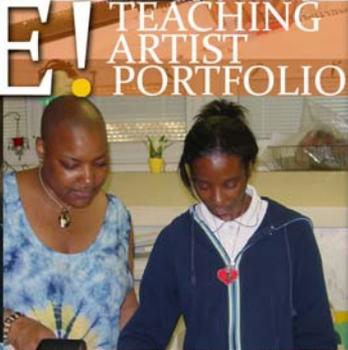




JADE! TEACHING ARTIST PORTFOLIO



Poetry, Spoken Word
Black History, Harlem History
Folk Culture, Self-Actualization

Creative Writing & Book Publishing

Jade!

Teaching Artist



poet

writer

publisher

photographer

workshop provider

community folklorist

Jade! - Teaching Artist

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Jade!
Teaching Artist

▪

poet
writer
publisher
photographer
workshop provider
community folklorist

▪

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www.JadeDBanks.com

Why? "... If they can do it, then others who write printed words are just people, too. It's harder for them to be bullied by printed words."

– Ron Padgett

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TEACHING ARTIST'S STATEMENT

all it took
was for me to:

allow my artistic self to flourish,
listen to our youth's truths,
continue to educate myself about my crafts,
encourage creativity,
be passionate about my subject matter,
see the scribes as individuals,
buy gel pens & craft scissors,
encourage the scholars to use the equipment,
remember what it was like when i was their ages,
share my human journey,
watch YouTube,
affirm multiculturalism,
engage in social media
&
avoid adultism

in order to:

plant seeds,
get individualized participation
&
be blown away by original results.

...that's all it took...

Jade!

“THESE KIDS TODAY...”

(teaching artist is angry at grown folks)

As a teaching artist and community worker on the front-lines for the past 20 years in both New York City (Harlem, The Bronx and Brooklyn) and Harrisburg, I have to say this...

Just like President Barack H. Obama INHERITED an America-in-crisis, our youth inherited a jacked-up society. Let us stop blaming them for something they were BORN into!

The mess we complain about happened on OUR WATCH (those of us who are 40+). Granted, we did not know what we were seeing when crack, guns and HIV invaded our communities in the 1980's. Nor could we have foreseen the decimation. And, now, many of us are on overtime and burnt out - raising children not our own, whose parents may have made some unfortunate and/or poor choices. Nevertheless, we have to cease blaming our young folks for NOT being raised/reared.

I discovered the following because of being a teaching artist. When you see young people about to make wrong turns:

1. LISTEN to them. Let them talk, no matter how much it burns your ears and hurts your heart.
2. REMEMBER what it was like to be their ages. You know you didn't think adults understood you when you were a teen, either.
3. TALK to (and not at) them. Nobody wants to hear rhetoric.
4. DIVULGE some of your own raggedy decisions and behavior from the past - in order to connect. Don't be a hypocrite.

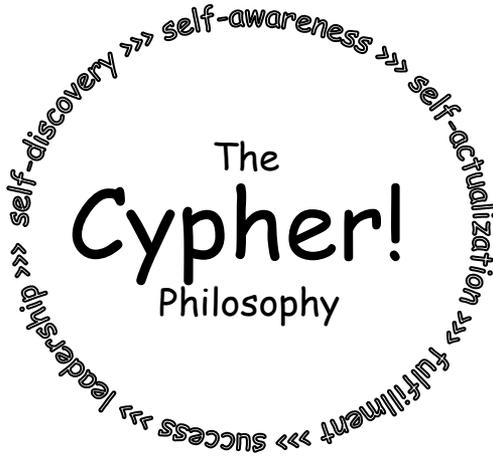
I know this little diatribe is simplistic from a critical point of view. But, I tell you this much - it has worked for me. And, if we try, just maybe, maybe we can attain some credibility with our young people and begin to turn this-here ship around...

MOTTO: DO YOU & DO WHAT YOU DO!

(inspired by Langston Hughes' "Motto")

do you &
do what you do
cuz
i am i
&
you are you
dreams die
from compromise
won't live my life
through another's eyes

Jade!



*Imagine what a harmonious world it could be
if every single person, both young and old,
shared a little of what he is good at doing.*

- Quincy Jones

THE STEPS FROM SELF-DISCOVERY TO LEADERSHIP

1. Self-discovery - Let me try some new things.
2. Self-awareness - I like some of the new things, but not all of them.
3. Self-actualization - I'm getting good at those things I like to do.
4. Fulfillment - I do those things that I like to do because I like them and I'm good at them.
5. Success - I'm getting better and better at those things I like to do.
6. Leadership - People ask me to show them how to do those things that I'm good at; to be of service.

CLIENTS SERVICED

SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS & COLLEGES

Boys & Girls Harbor

C.I.S. 339 / Diana Sands School

Columbus High School

C.S. 67 / Mohegan School

Family Academy

Frederick Douglass Academy II

Harlem Educational Activities Fund

High School for Science, Mathematics and Engineering

I.S. 174 / Eugene T. Maleska School

Lanier High School

Martha Neilson School

Martin Luther King, Jr. High School

Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center

Off-site Educational Services—GED Program

P. 754 / Jeffrey M. Rapport School

Rider University

Stevenson High School

Jade!

CLIENTS SERVICED

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

African Burial Ground Monument Foundation

American Museum of Natural History

Capital BookFest

Community Works

Drum Cultural Center (Birmingham, England)

Ecumenical Community Development Center

Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church

GRADS Foundation

Hottest Poets

Impact Repertory Theatre

Lewisham Library System (London, England)

Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center

New Perspectives Theater

New York City Parks and Recreation

New York Public Library

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Smithsonian Institution

Ubuntu Education Fund

Writer's WordShop

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Teaching Artist



poet

writer

publisher

photographer

workshop provider

community folklorist

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ESPERANZA

- Ana Mejia
(11th grade)

I am the one who
sits around waits forever
for dreams to come true

Teaching Artist Portfolio



Danielle LaHee

Jade!

BLUE INK INSANITY

- Danielle LaHee
(10th grade)

A Girl sits in her room with only a poem.

Girl: Why do you keep trying to run from me? Don't you understand that you only live because I live? Should I sacrifice my identity just to give you that life? No. I'm not going to be no has-been, one-best-seller book writer. I am a hip-hop scribe destined for greatness.

Poem: I am not trying to run. I am the thing you scribe. The bee-hop in your Hip-Hop. And you know as well as I do that you can't live without me. It is I who make YOU. Get rid of me and you die.

Girl: Without me who would write you?

Poem: Without me where would your words go? Your heart? Young scribe, let's be honest, your heart is not stitched into your sleeves but into this paper. Lose me and who are you really?

Girl paces around her room hearing the clanking of imaginary chains in the background

Girl: I write therefore I am.

Poem: Your Philosophy. Don't you remember? I was there when she died. When he broke your heart. When controlling the pain with blades wasn't enough. When controlling words was all you had.

Girl: And I was there before you were written. In despair. But there. In MY mind with the words that you stole from me and, yet, I have not punished you despite you continuing to punish me.

Poem: I did not steal them. They came to me and danced onto the page to make me. I did not punish you. We punished ourselves.

Girl: Self-execution.

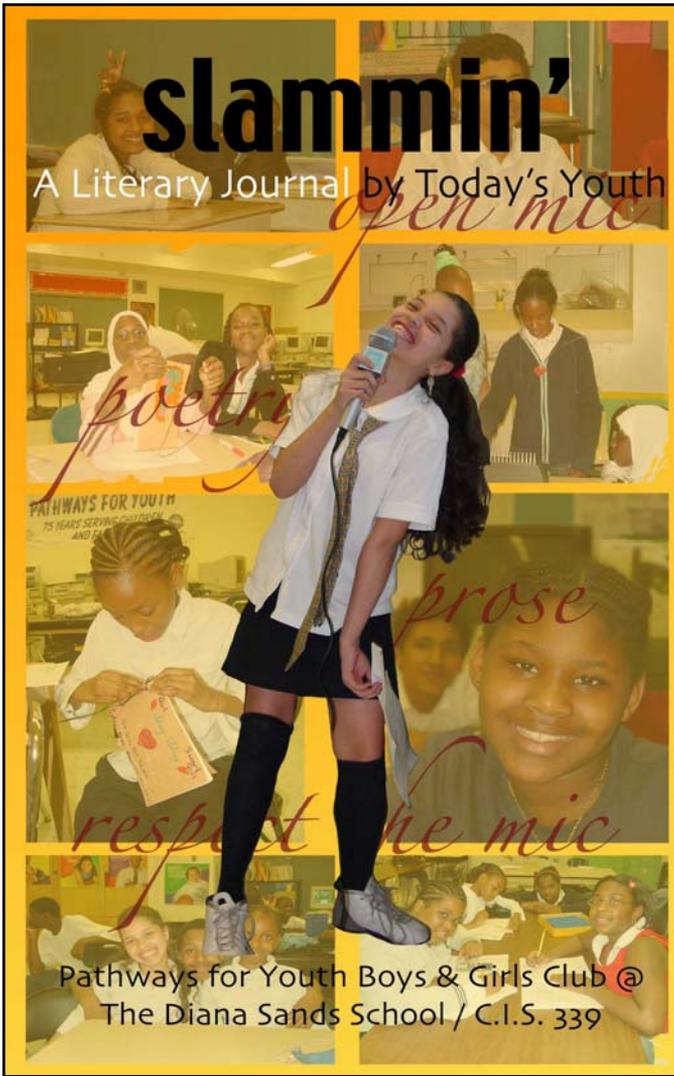
Poem: Yes.

Girl: No.

Poem: NO?

Girl: No.

Jade!



SLAMMIN'

(2005)

Jade D. Banks

Publisher, Executive Editor and Teaching Artist

Pathways for Youth Boys & Girls Club After-School Program

The Diana Sands School / C.I.S. 339

Teaching Artist Portfolio



Allison Eng



Allison Eng

ASIAN EQUALITY

- Allison Eng
(10th grade)

When people think of racial equality

They think of Blacks

But what about the Asians?

We may not have been slaves

But we've also been through hardships

People think we're smart and expect us to be good with numbers

Yet they leave us with menial jobs

Like railroads and laundromats

During WWII, they sent the Japanese to those intern camps

What about the Germans and Italians?

How many times have they called us names?

Like Chinamen and Japs

They expect us to be meek and ignorant

How many times have I heard the words,

"Can you speak English?"

"These are how Asians look like?"

How many times have people spoken nonsense

And claim that it is Chinese?

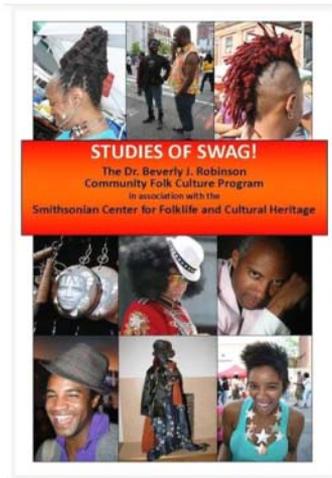
We, Asians, deserve equality as well!

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM
"The Will to Adorn" Project



THE WILL TO ADORN

Exploring diversity in African American communities
through the lens of dress / adornment



Train-the-Trainers
Curriculum Study Guide

Jade D. Banks
NYC Research Coordinator, Curriculum Developer
and Project Trainer
2009 - Present

Jade!



Jade D. Banks documents barbering demonstration by master artisan Dennis “Denny Moe” Mitchell for THE WILL TO ADORN PROJECT at the **2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival**.



Jade D. Banks as panelist for THE WILL TO ADORN PROJECT at the **2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival**.

LA GRINGA

- Kimberly Torres
(college sophomore)

I come from my mother's beautiful womb and my father's masculinity

I come from the city that never sleeps and, although I have never seen a big apply anywhere, it's known as La Gran Manzana

I come from "Red light, green light, one, two, three," Hide and Seek, Catch Me If You Can, Casino and Pache

I come from platano con salami, spaghetti and meatball cans, Lipton soup, Frosted Flakes, Fruit Loops and Apple Jacks

I come from those who ended up as the bitches and hoes on the block or the pregnant mothers at 15 and the guys who became the hustlers, los tigueres, all about cars and their stolen parts

I come from "H block," whose name has been repped and fought over by the niggas that is tattoo it on their skins

I come from the chismosa, who's aware of what you do 24/7, and the old-ass pervs playing dominoes while they make sure to catch a quick glance at all of the platano con salami and arroz con pollo y habichuela badunkadunks... me being the exception

I come from merengue and bachata blasting every weekend, all night long, not letting anyone sleep

I come from teens dropping out of school and concerned only with who can get in more girls' pants or which guy is in between their thighs

I come from pastelitos, quipe and morir sonando being sold outside and Chinese food that we'll continue to eat (although we'll be in the toilet all night long)

Jade!

I come from potato salad and lasagna my aunt, Nani, would make on Sundays when all the women in the family would be bochinchando while making sancocho or mondongo

I come from my father who's driven my mom sick to her stomach because of all the money spent on his DJ system while we drove ourselves crazy with the perico piriao, merengue, bachata, my favorite... merengue classicos (from the '80's), hip hop (which taught me how to cuss very well), reggaeton (which is creating little horn dogs out of the younger generation) and the salsa everyone wishes they could kill on the dance floor like me

I come from the adults getting together after slammin' parties to talk and joke about the ol' times and all the crazy shit they did while trying to act like saints now and making their children feel guilty because of all the things they do (just like their parents did)

I come from plastic covered couches and crosses hung over entrances

I come from making fun about how country we Dominicans can be, how wild and annoying our parents can be (as they talk about how we're getting on their last nerve and don't let them sleep at night... but they still love us and can't live without us!)

I come from hopes of not being the usual Dominican man's slave who doesn't know what it's like to be happy and doesn't dare divorce because of the kids (who will eventually leave and make their own lives, anyway)

I come from hopes of being a successful, well-educated and knowledgeable woman who never shall depend on a man

I am "La Gringa," who can be as sweet as honey but also the biggest bitch from Brooklyn, independent, head-strong, open-minded and full of life!

UNTITLED

your father's so ugly
that when he looked out the window
he got arrested for mooning

Naemi Nieves
(10th grade)

THE NOTE
(Limerick)

dedicated to J

I almost got caught with a note
Her feelings for the boy she wrote
The teacher, she found it
Then, I said "sh\$%"
And, I ran out the door with my coat!

Rafael Mejias
(9th grade)

HAIKU

a hot sunny day
at the beach catching the sun
eating Mama's food

Kelechi Baxton
(10th grade)

Jade!



COMMUNITY DOCUMENTATION

Jade D. Banks, Interviewer
Street Interview of Senator Bill Perkins
Harlem, NYC, NY
November 4, 2008

The Historic Election Day
of Barack H. Obama to the U.S. Presidency

I HAVE THE BRONX BLUES

- Jessica Gonzalez
(7th grade)

I have the blues on 170th Street
My mother and father sometimes arguing
My brother and I sometimes fighting
A mother beating her child
People just shooting around

I have the blues about violence and fighting
It just causes pain
In peoples' hearts
Tearing them all apart

I have the blues about mother earth
It is coming apart
Because of great violence
Why can't we just try to get along?
Because it feels like this anger just tags along

I have the blues about kids thinking fights are fun
But they're not
Because it can hurt someone

I have the blues
Because of marriages going crazy
Men killing women and
Women killing men

I have the blues from people going out with each other
You say "yes"
But then you will regret it
Because of abuse

I have the blues about the Twin Towers
Crashing down to the ground
Thousands of people died
Millions of people cried

I just have the Bronx Blues

Jade!

GIRLS

- Phillip Crews
(8th grade)



Girls can be very confusing.

They have many thoughts
that are different than boys.

Sometimes these females act crazy!

Most of the time, they're interesting.

Girls are attractive to boys.

Girls always act mysterious. Really mysterious!

JAZZ IS MY GRANDMA'S HIP HOP Harlem Workshops & Walking Tours

JAZZ IS YOUR GRANDMA'S HIP HOP— CENTRAL HARLEM

Ms. Jade! - Workshop Facilitator & Walking Tour Guide

1. The United House of Prayer
2320 Eighth Avenue (b/w 124th & 125th Streets)
Founded by Bishop Charles Emmanuel "Sweet Daddy" Grace in 1921, The United House of Prayer became an early Black owner of Harlem real estate by purchasing the famed 555 Edgecombe Avenue.



Sweet Daddy Grace

2. New York Amsterdam News (current headquarters)
2340 Eighth Avenue (b/w 125th & 126th Streets)
Founded in 1909 by James Henry Anderson, The New York Amsterdam News is a nationally prominent voice for African-Americans. Throughout the 1950's & 1960's, The Amsterdam championed the cause of Civil Rights and the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while also becoming the first to note the rising of the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X.

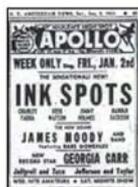


"Don't Buy Where You
Can't Work"
Demonstration

3. S.H. Kress Five and Dime
256 West 125th Street
(b/w Seventh & Eighth Avenues)
The 1935 Harlem race riots were begun at Kress upon the arrest and alleged beating of alleged 16-year old shoplifter, Lino Rivera.

125th Street & Eighth
Avenue
in the 1930's

4. Apollo Theater
253 West 125th Street
(b/w Seventh & Eighth Avenues)
Originally a vaudeville and burlesque theatre that was named the Scamon and Hurtig Music Hall, the Apollo Theatre was desegregated in 1934 when it changed owners (and changed its name to the Apollo Theatre). Thirty shows per week were scheduled at the Apollo and were broadcast live on the radio. Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Sarah Vaughn, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Lena Horne were amongst the jazz greats of their time who performed at the Apollo. Its famous *Amateur Night at the Apollo* turned many unknowns into stars. From 1981 to the 1990's, Percy Sutton (former Manhattan Borough President, Tuskegee Airman and former attorney to Malcolm X) and his company InnerCity Broadcasting owned the Apollo Theatre and its TV program, *It's Showtime at the Apollo*, became a hit.



5. The Victoria 5
235 West 125th Street
(b/w Seventh & Eighth Avenues)
The Frank Silvera Writers Workshop (FSWW) housed their offices and performing space in The Victoria 5 from 1970's-1990's. Founding members included Morgan Freeman and Angela Bassett. Frank Silvera (1914-1970), himself, was a star



Frank Silvera

Jade D. Banks
Creator, Tour Guide & Workshop Facilitator

Jade!

JAZZ IS MY GRANDMA'S HIP HOP Harlem Workshops & Walking Tours



Jones-Ratcliffe Family Reunion



Jade D. Banks
facilitating the Central Harlem Tour
for the Jones-Ratcliffe Family

THE TRUTH IS...

- Stephanie Araujo
(college sophomore)

The truth is I really don't speak
when I should

The truth is sweets slice tongues
yet I keep feeding

The truth is I really don't believe
in myself the way I believe
in You

The truth is
in Truth, days pass where I can't stand
my reflection

The truth is I really don't know
what I know
but I know what I haven't learned

The truth is I really don't care
for chit-chat
cacophony, shit talk
about issues disconcerting

The truth is i really don't
care to share my food
when I'm hungry -
what nourishes me is not enough
for two

The truth hurts is what they say

The truth is I never met
the "they" we speak of
but we believe them anyway

The truth is I really don't
I really don't do

Jade!

what I want to do
that simple
maybe I don't know what I want

The truth is I really don't know my worth
but I'm not finished yet
I'm not finished

The truth is I really don't dress
to impress
I dress to stay fresh
and freshness rests in comfort
in sweats, tees & sneaks

The truth is I speak in dreams

The truth is I really don't
hate your style
unless your style is cut
from hatred, from seven deadly sins
from unoriginality

The truth is we really don't have
to think too hard about who
we really are
because who we are is
what comes naturally
when we're freed from mental imprisonment

The truth is

The truth is
and it leaks from our pores
when eyes are blanketed

The truth is I really don't want
to disappoint myself
I really don't want to hurt
but I invite essential pain

Teaching Artist Portfolio

The truth is I wouldn't be whole
without it

The truth is I really don't
realize your point of view of me
yet you continue to shape my self

The truth is I really don't care
I don't care, I don't care
don't care if you think I'm lying
if you don't take my word
then I didn't write this for you

The truth is I write more
than I utter
and this is my truth
temporary and real
unconsciously deepening
this is my truth
penetrating
this is my truth

my truth

my truth

my truth Is

Jade!

GLORIOUS HARLEM

- Sammy Murrell
(6th grade)

The grey paved streets of gold
Urban peeps as kings and queens
Old time royalty



KILLA SWAG (WORKIN IT)!

**The Dr. Beverly J. Robinson
Community Folk Culture Program
Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center
In Association with**

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage



Jade!

KILLA SWAG!

(2010)

It's time to discover the history and culture of urban style and find out why we do what we do! Join the youth of MIND-BUILDERS CREATIVE ARTS CENTER in a fun-filled, multimedia event featuring the hottest fashion designers, hairstylists, tattoo artists and flyest of the fly dressers of the community. If you think you've got it, come flaunt it on the runway!



Jade D. Banks

Director—

The Dr. Beverly J. Robinson Community Folk Culture Program

Co-Writer, Director and Producer—

“Killa Swag!”

Dwyer Cultural Center

New York City, NY

May 2010

INSPIRATION IS THE BEST DRUG

A Workshop Participant's Testimonial

- Amber Brown (college sophomore)

Today, I decided to be faithful to Rance (and my duties as an executive member of On Fire!!) and went to the writing workshop the club gave this morning from eleven to four. I wanted to have been home since yesterday evening, craving some baked ziti my mother whips up like a pro.

I already knew who was coming to provide the workshop, **Jade D. Banks**—who works with the overall production of On Fire. Now, we have published her in all three of the previous journals and in the upcoming one that will be released on November eleventh. Let me tell you, gurl is definitely fire! Actually, I mean woman. She's in her early forties and one of the most original people I know. So, yeah, I had high expectations even though, for a writing workshop, I didn't really know what to expect.

I'm much more of a story, prose, bullshit writer than a poet so I was a little 'blah'ed about a poetry workshop beforehand. But, I am so turned out! Jade did her thing and then some. I think she repeated the theme over a thousand times - literally. It was a line from one of her 'economy' pieces, "Do You and Do What You Do." Don't you *love* that?

The entire time she was preaching about doing what we are passionate about and do what we love to do. In the end, people who are happy do the best at what they do and they love their lives. (To set the record straight, it was not like the sweaty preacher on Sunday morning, screaming at the top of his lungs about Jesus and being saved, stomping and everything.)

And I tell you that Jade is loving her life because she has done and continues to do what she does and is doing her. I mean she *loves* her life. I've never seen someone so original and unique and loving everything about herself and her life as much as she did. She was filled with charisma, passion, and vigor for life. She truly cared about each one of us and wanted to make sure we got the point of her workshop.

Jade!

I swear, every word and sentence that dripped from her lips sounded like poetry. I wanted to write down every other line that she spoke. Sistah was *that* good.

I am not easily impressed, but I'll tell you that I was *impressed*. There was not one boring moment or one moment where I looked at the clock on the wall and wished the second hand was more of a fifth hand...you know what I'm saying? When my BlackBerry vibrated I was so annoyed. My devotion to what she was saying, 'cause she was *that* real, was serious.

She told us, "I have fun every day." That was my favorite thing Jade told us. I want to be saying that one day. I'm sure I will. I liked it when she said this too: "We are all victims of victims." Deep, right?

Jade was so inspiring that I wrote four poems there and wrote down like four pages of notes and things that I could use for my own life or writing. As a matter of fact, that's just what I am going to do as soon as I finish telling you all about it.

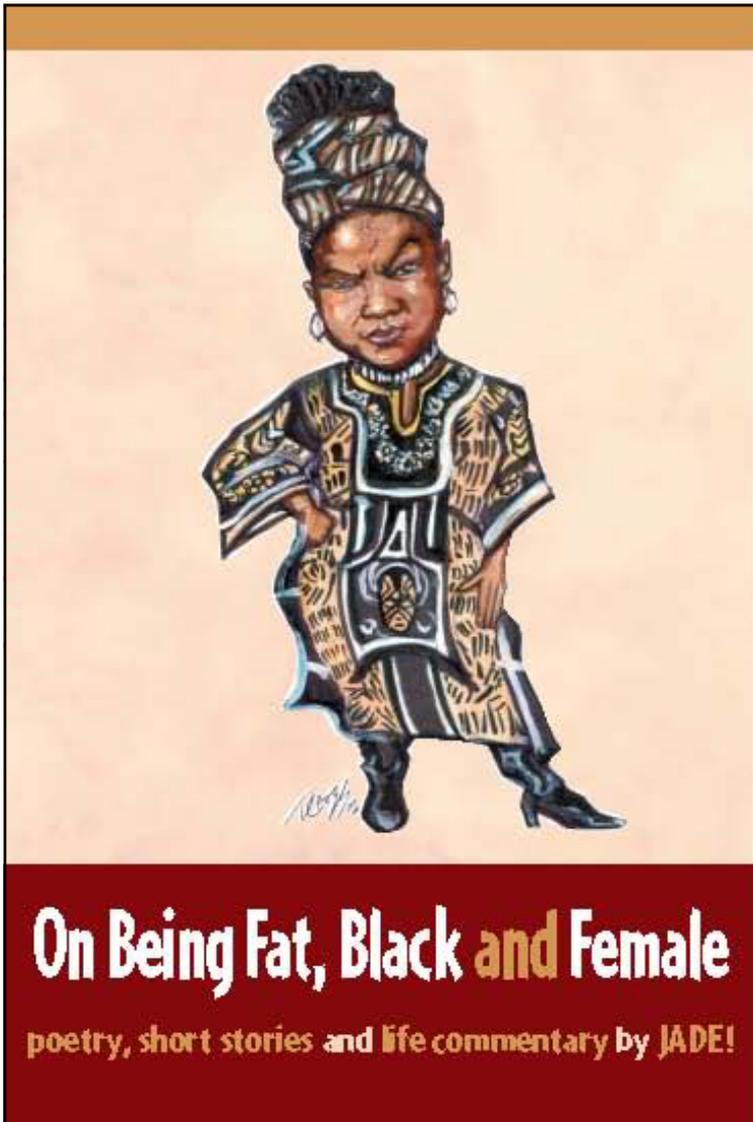
The other focus of the workshop was self exploration and discovery. Now, being the Amber that I am, I think about myself, my life and how I can make both better just about every day. As a human being, I will never know all there is to know about myself, but I know a lot. Much more than the average eighteen year old knows. I am proud of that, but with the exercises Jade taught us and made us do really got me to stretch myself even more... in directions I usually wouldn't have gone. It was mad cool.

I shared one of the pieces I wrote in fifteen minutes for her and her jaw dropped. She stared at me like I dusted flecks of fire on her. Then she made me read it again. I was happy too.

She was very impressed. I was very pleased. To get it from a woman like Jade (a woman's work I respect like crazy) was insane! I loved it!

Oh, and don't worry. I got my baked ziti after all.

[Reprinted from the internet blog of Amber Brown.]



ON BEING FAT, BLACK AND FEMALE
by Jade!

Preview paperback released April 2002

Jade!

HOTTEST POETS



Jade! at release party for ON BEING FAT, BLACK AND FEMALE
Hottest Poets' "Poetic Vibes"
Jimmy's Uptown Restaurant in Harlem
(April 2002)

invites you to... **Poetic Vibes**

Featuring - The BlackPlanet.com afterwork party! Come meet & network with the BP staff, members and NY's Poetic Elite

Hosted by: Serenity & LuQuantumLeap

Afterwork Party: 6pm *Showtime: 8pm
Admission: \$10 *HP & BP members \$8
food & drinks available

Every Tuesday

Enter the Hottest Poets \$5,000 Poetry Slam and get a chance to be screened on the internet and TV!

Alize COGNAC
GlobeScope Management

event hosted by Trilecta Entertainment

Jimmy's UPTOWN
2207 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. (7th Ave.) between 131st and 130th Streets

For info & reservations call (212) 410-9387 or visit www.hottestpoets.com or BlackPlanet.com

Poetic Vibes is a HottestPoets.com Production, copyright 2001

Jade!

Hottest Poets' "Poetic Vibes"
Associate Producer, Guest Hostess and
US International Hottest Poets Slam Team Tour Manager
(2000—2004)

I LIKE ME! I REALLY DO!

I like the way my family loves & cares for me & appreciates everything I do & shows me support every step of the way. - Shameka Burrowes

I like that I write poems and they come out good!
- Fatoumata Kebbeh

I like that I'm American, Indian and Antiguan. I like that I'm these things because I get to know about different things. - Makeba Nedd

I like that I was able to read before I could talk. My mom always gave me a book. It made me feel good. - Phillip Crews

I like the way I do poems. I like the way I do poems because my teacher, Ms. Jade, loves the way I do my poems.—Naomi Agosto

I like that I have good friends because if I am having trouble they always have my back.
- Juanita Mays

I like that I make my friends laugh. My friends laugh their heads off. While we all laugh, we have a lot of fun. - Jessica Gonzalez

I like my hair. I like it because it is natural & it is always curly & I don't need a perm or relaxer.
- leisha Jackson

I like that I can cook. My family loves it. I make them soulful. I like cooking. - Darikis Abreu

Jade!

INTERPRETATION

- Ellen Guerrero
(9th grade)

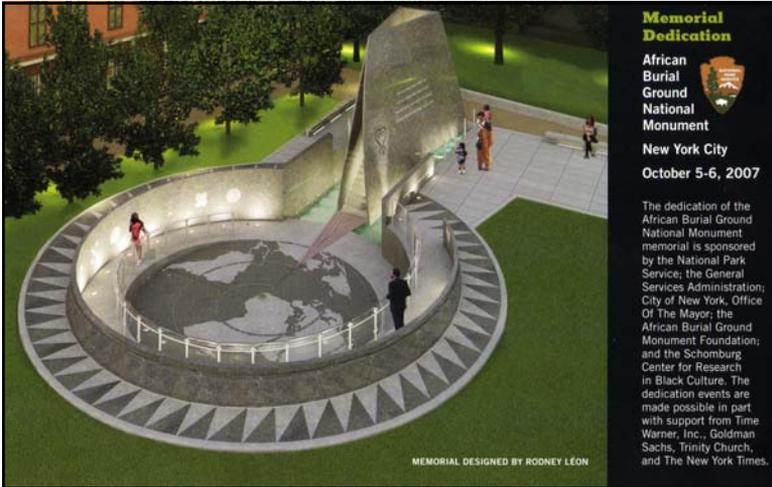
Looking at me
What do I see?
Mother to a newborn
A person I have to support
A child that I will guard under my wing
Giving him love
Receiving some back
Sharing smiles and having fun
Knowing that my love for you
Will be endless

-or-

Messed up teenager
Don't know which way to go
Got a newborn
I don't even know how to console
I messed up my life
There is nowhere else to go
But downhill from here
What will it be?
Mother to a child?
Protector from evil?

-or-

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT



 **AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND MONUMENT FOUNDATION** 515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, New York 10037

Friday, October 5, 2007
1 p.m. – Opens to public
Grand Opening of the African Burial Ground National Monument memorial
Duane Street between Broadway & African Burial Ground Way (Eik Street)
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Greet the Torch
Battery Park
Drummers and a mass choir greet the ceremonial torch as it arrives from the Statue of Liberty.
8 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Candlelight Procession
Battery Park to Foley Square
Honor the Africans who helped build the city of New York by marching in a candlelight procession from Battery Park to the African Burial Ground National Monument. Performances to follow at Foley Square.

Saturday, October 6, 2007
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
International Tribute Concert
Foley Square
Performers from Africa and the African Diaspora celebrate the ancestors of the African Burial Ground.
For more information on dedication events call 212-491-2012.

October 8-12, 2007
Youth Week
Educational programs for youth. For class or group reservations, call the African Burial Ground National Monument at 212-637-2019.
*All events are free and open to the public.

About the African Burial Ground National Monument (www.nps.gov/afbg)
The African Burial Ground National Monument is the first National Monument dedicated to Africans of early New York and Americans of African descent. It is the newest National Monument in New York City, joining the Statue of Liberty, Governors Island, and Castle Clinton.

Design: Peter Hirtz

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY

Jade D. Banks
Artist Coordinator
October 2007

Jade!

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT



COMMUNITY DOCUMENTATION

Jade! with friends celebrating
the inauguration of President Barack H. Obama
at the African Burial Ground National Monument
January 2009

Binge Drinking

- Amber B. Carter
(college junior)

Bacardi, Vodka, Gin
I *pollute* my body
To destroy the **poison within**

Jade!

Skinny Bitch

- Clarissa Gould
(college junior)

You told me I needed to eat *more*.
Well I did.
So stop staring at my gut.

Teaching Artist Portfolio



Kenny Lewis

Jade!

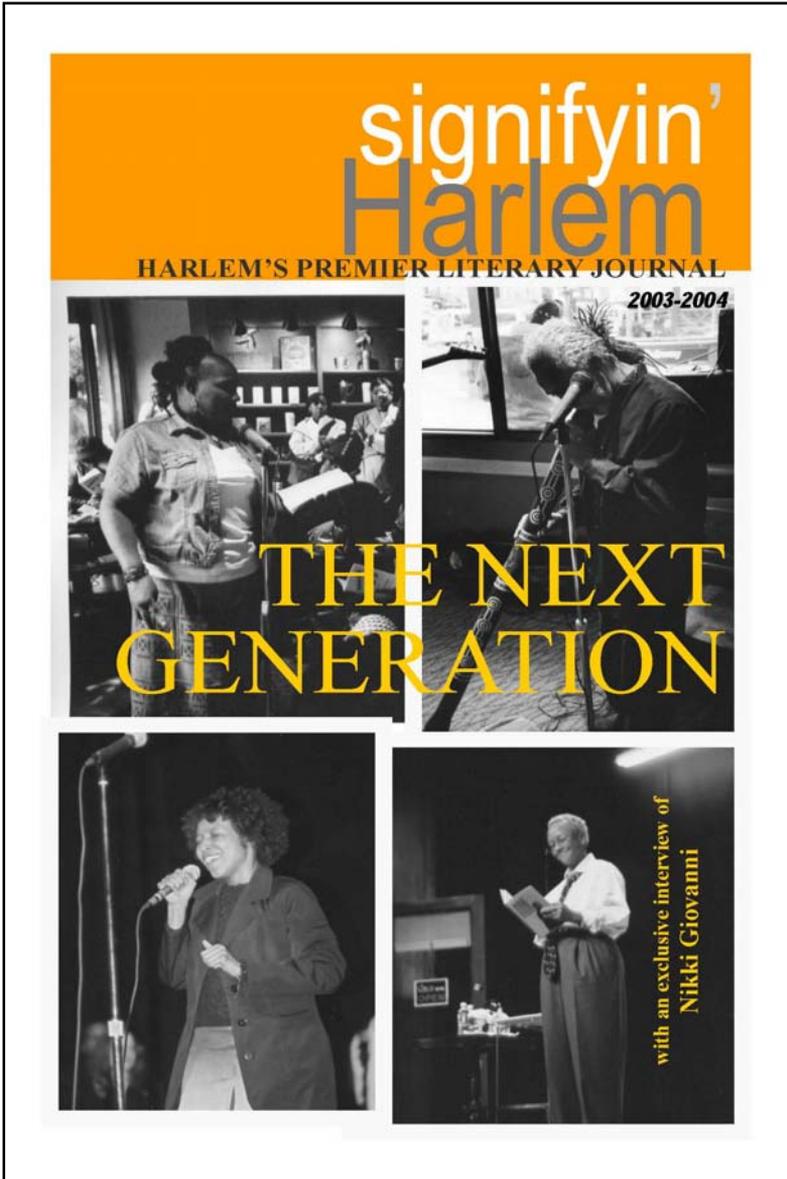
What does it mean to make a difference?

- Kenny Lewis
(11th grade)

To affect
someone's life in a
positive way.

To make a negative
situation positive and
benefit at least one
person other than
yourself.

To implement
something that is a
public benefit.



SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM LITERARY JOURNAL
(2003-2004)

Jade D. Banks

Founder, Publisher and Executive Editor



signifyin' Harlem 2003-2004 Release at the Harlem Book Fair

On Saturday, July 19, 2003, Signifyin' Harlem released its 2003-2004 issue as a scheduled feature of the 2003 Harlem Book Fair. Taking the stage by storm and holding the crowd captive, contributors to the 2003-2004 issue spit fire and flowed on issues ranging from the NYPD and Amadou Diallo -to- trying to talk to sistahs in the club -to- being a corporate mule. Participating poets included Kasim Allah, Ngoma, Iyaba Ibo Mandingo, Sugar Johnson, Lloyd Witter, Phya, Dominique Morisseau, Claudia Alick, Jade!, Blue and Sydnee Stewart.

Additionally, on Wednesday, July 16th, Jade!, Phya and Sydnee Stewart performed at *WomanWords*, a Harlem Book Fair-sponsored event at Hue-Man Bookstore.

The Harlem Book Fair, A QBR Book Festival, celebrated its fifth year and was held as a street festival on 135th Street between Malcolm X Boulevard and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard.



C is cuz I' m cool to be around

H is cuz I' m always happy to help out

A is cuz I' m ambitious, determined & classy

S is cuz I' m sweet, sensitive & sassy

T is for the times I wanna act a clown

I is cuz I' m interesting when you know me deep
down

T is cuz I' m talented without a fact, but most of all

Y is cuz I' m young, gifted & black

- Chastity McFarlan

(9th grade)

Jade!

TERRORISM

-Angel Agramonte
(11th grade)

Hello platano

I am the NYPD

Want to get beat up?

THE ART OF BOOKMAKING!



Writing

Typesetting



Editing / Revising

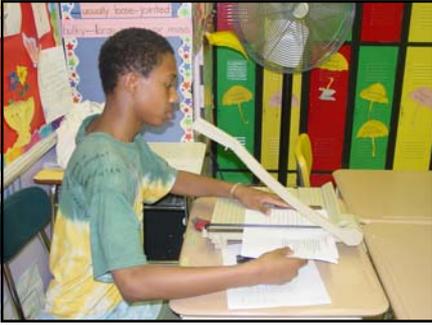


Teaching



Thinking
Thinking
Thinking





Phillip Crews uses a paper cutter to prepare his manuscript.



Shaianna Adams creates a side-stitched booklet using leather cording.



Makeba Nedd uses a long-reach stapler to finalize a saddle-stitched booklet.

Putting it all together!



Ms. Jade! demonstrates the use of a plastic comb book-binding machine.



Juanita Mays uses a plastic comb book-binding machine by herself.

I WAS READY...

- Kelsey Paul-Stubbs
(10th grade)

My soul escaped through a gaping hole,
it felt more like stole,
it slid through and dropped real slow like molasses,
coming together and forming on the floor
like something elastic,
arms outreached, it left me feeling lifeless,
no matter what,
there was no way I could fight this,
without my soul my emotions were gone,
one would think I would feel forlorn
but I couldn't,
because I didn't know,
externally or internally
my emotions wouldn't show.

It formed together with a heart of steel,
it was sent to lead not to feel,
giving it the power to cock back and
stroll through real slow,
by any means necessary ... you know,
it was a deluge of powerful dreams,
and thoughts strong but gray like steam,
thoughts that were hot and heavy,
weighing the average person down,
but you see,
I was ready.

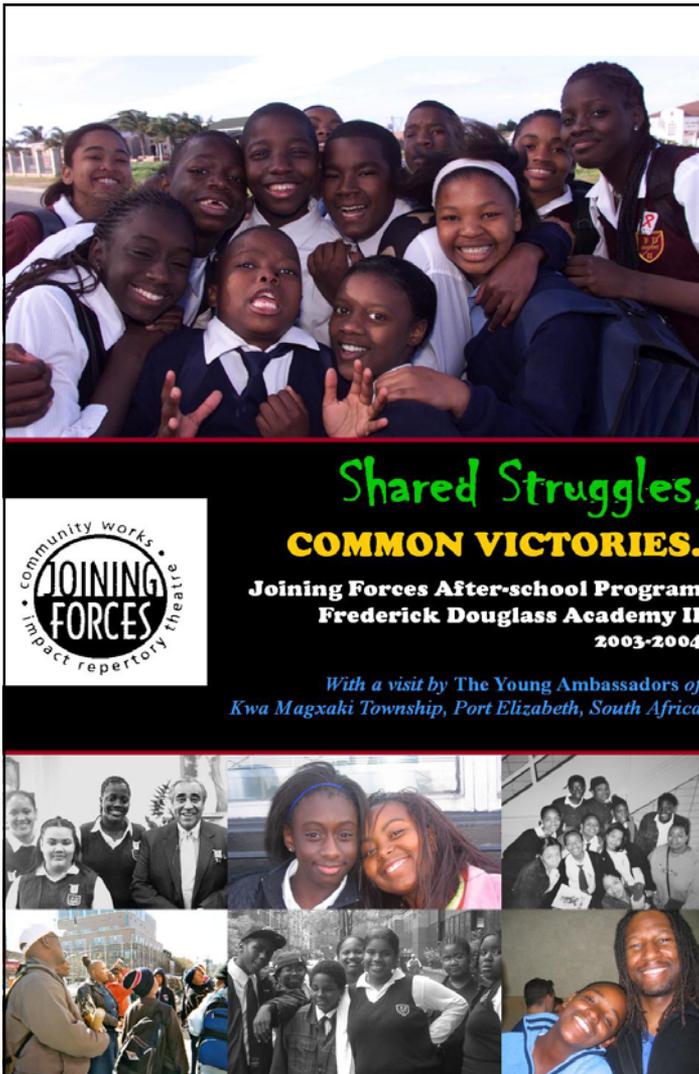
Black as the dirt it fell on
hundreds of years ago,
it came back to finish what it started,
though, it had to follow,
blows and blows,

Jade!

and the huff puff of the
slurs of battling souls,
many fell but mine took them
hit right in the chest,
and just flowed,
but it remembered those blows,
and marked them down as something disrespectful,
it would come back with something
twice as hard,
to make you regretful.

Time is of the essence,
and it has this mind of forgetfulness,
in time's mind events just start to fade,
so my spirit would just wait,
the trigger about to be pulled,
something like a gun,
in itself it stored the power to be used.

It leaks out like blood running profuse,
your mistake 'cause now the power is loose,
and it wades and confides in my soul
for those plans to be made,
then it runs up on you and cuts deep
like a blade,
my soul stands tall,
over 200 year ago it stopped being
your slave,
old and wise now it knows all
the tricks of the trade
once was lost but now it's found,
was blind but now it sees,
that powerful entity in itself bound,
but waiting to be set free.



Jade D. Banks

Publisher, Executive Editor—
SHARED STRUGGLES, COMMON VICTORIES
(2003-2004)

Site Coordinator—
Joining Forces After-School Program
Frederick Douglass Academy II

Jade!

REDEMPTION SOLDIER

- Autumn Peña
(9th grade)

I am a warrior of the street
NO! I don't carry any weapons on me
I am a warrior of words, music, and dance
And, most importantly, I am a warrior of the Lord
I let the beat of my drums be my shield
The words of God be my sword
There is no boundary
The whole world is my battlefield
The house of the Lord steadies my stance
The women of church are my army
The lyrics of gospel music cause my trance
Our war tactics are the Holy Ghost and conversion
Our motto is Matthew 7:1 --
"Judge not that ye be not judged."
I don't think there needs to be any translation
This is not meant for anyone to be holdin' a grudge
I am this generation's Moses
Don't underestimate me because of this feminine body
You see, because saving lives and souls is my purpose
I have warriors from the New York subway
To the San Francisco trollies
Everyone in a different disguise
I have Matisyahu fans to Sean Paul lovers
Each master trying to sanctify
So, when you ask me what am I
I will say that I am one of many redemption soldiers
Fighting to keep hope alive

“ Bashful ”



ImageMaker—Lashea Suggs

Subject: Taylor Wardlaw

IF I WANT TO

- Taylor Wardlaw
(6th grade)

I can be as sweet as a pie

(If I want to)

Though I may seem to be shy

(If I want to)

I really love to laugh, play and snap

(When I want to)

Sometimes I just show it in a quieter way

(If I have to)

I love marshmallows.

I like being fat, black and sensitive.

(Yes I do)

I love being black, being fat,

having short hair.

(It ' s me)

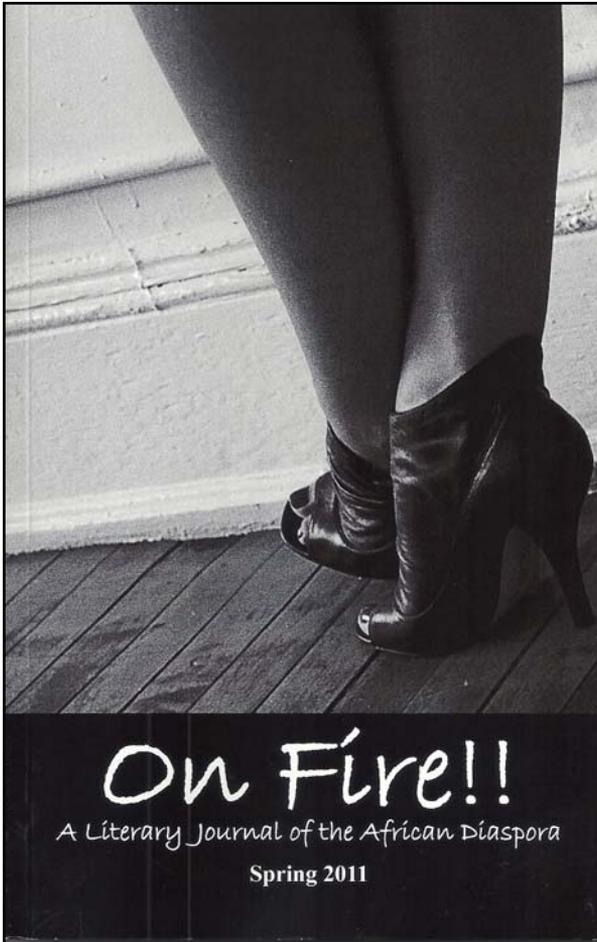
Me being black shows who I am.

Me being big shows that I like my food

and if you mess with me while I am eating

I WILL CATCH AN ATTITUDE!!!!!!

(Because that ' s me)



ON FIRE!! Literary Journal
Rider University
(2011)

Jade D. Banks
Publishing Advisor and Workshop Provider

Jade!



Jade! with ON FIRE!! founder, Rance Robeson, and staff photographer, Ezra Mabengeza.



ON FIRE!! Literary Journal debut premier.



Jade! with workshop participants.

Domestic & Dating Violence

Public Service Announcement

SCRIPT

Cast - John Ramos, Norwood Jackson & Taylor Wardlaw

Setting - Classroom at I.S. 174. John Ramos & Norwood Jackson are seated at desks, facing each other, conversing.

John: My mom told me that under no circumstances should I hit a woman.

Norwood: My mom told me the same thing, but if a woman fights you like a man, hit her back like she's a man.

John: Yo, even if she hits you like a man, it gives a man no right to hit a woman.

Norwood: Yeah, even though my mom told me that, I always hold myself back.

John: My father also told me that a woman should be treasured at all times.

Norwood: If I ever see a man hit a woman, I'll jump in it and help.

John: No. It's not always good to jump in it, man.

Jade!

Norwood: Why not?!?

John: [Lifts sleeve and shows Norwood scars on his arm where he was sliced by a relative's boyfriend when John tried to prevent the boyfriend from assaulting the relative.]

This is why.

Norwood /

John: [Look directly into the camera.]

If you see something, tell somebody. Stop domestic violence!

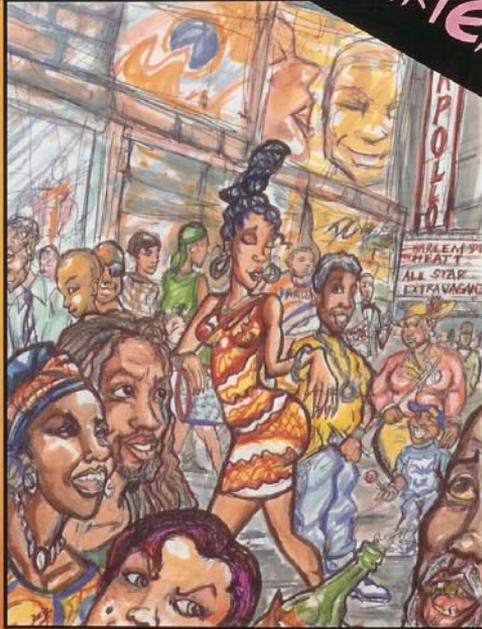
Taylor: [Appears "out of nowhere" with cue cards that spell out her lines:]

DON'T HATE. ENJOY YOUR DATE!

PREMIERE ISSUE!!!

Spring / Summer 2002

SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM



A JOURNAL OF LITERATURE

Jade D. Banks

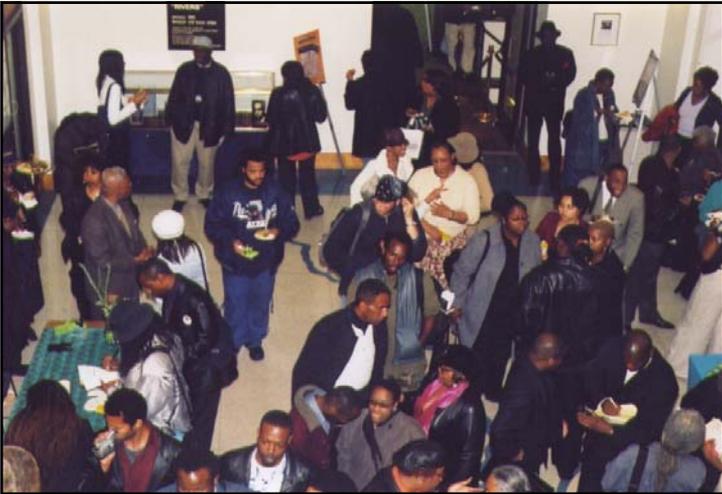
Founder, Publisher, Executive Editor—
SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM LITERARY JOURNAL
(2002-2003)

Jade!



**SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM STAFF
(2002-2003)**

Harlym 125, Sheila Smith, D-Cross, Saquan Stimpson, Deborah Renee Smith, Andrea Cunningham, Michael Hodge, Jade D. Banks and William David Jackson, IV.



**SIGNIFYIN' HARLEM
(2002-2003)**

April 2002 release party at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Did you know that "Snaps" are a shortened version of a poetic format called THE INSULT POEM, which originated in West Africa?

Snaps!

You're so stupid that when I told you to take the 4-train
you took the 2-train twice.

You're so fat that when you jumped into the pool the water came out
and said "you first."

Your mama is so stupid that she snuck on the bus
and paid to get off.

Your mom is so stupid that she sold her car for gas money.

Your mom is so fat that they had to grease her with butter to
get through a door frame.

Your mom is so funky that a skunk smelled her and passed out.

**Your mom is so stupid that she tried to commit suicide
by jumping out a basement window.**

**YOUR MOTHER IS SO FAT SHE CAN'T EVEN JUMP
TO A CONCLUSION.**

You 're so skinny that you wipe your butt
with dental floss.

You're so old you got Jesus' beeper #.

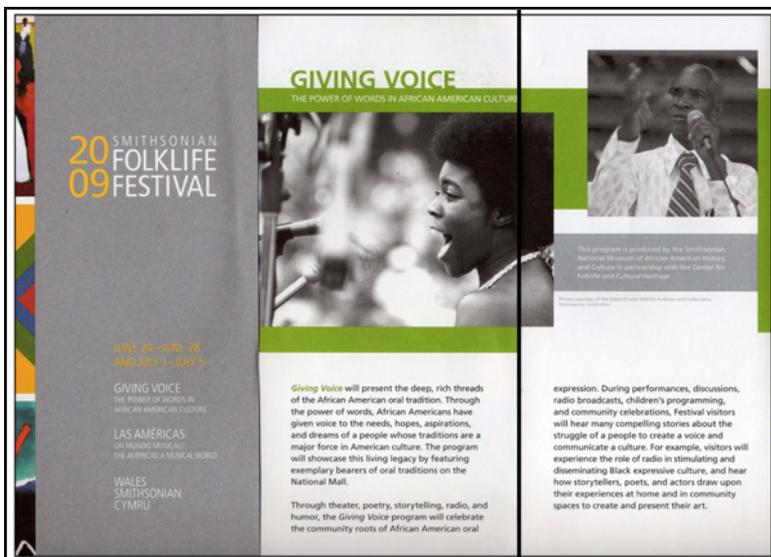
Your mother is so tall that when she does a backflip
she kicks heaven.

Stresssssssss

- Joel Encarnacion
(12th grade)

Stress. Stress. Stress. Not the best. I can't get by without the smoke of a cigarette. I'm trapped and caged, held down with chains. a minority in the Divided States of America. People always treating me like I'm a nigga, but I get past that. I'm filled with anger. And I'm confused. I'm put to work like a slave and being used. Damn. I'm so depressed. Stress. Stress. Stress.

2009 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL



Jade D. Banks
Director—

Dr. Beverly J. Robinson Community Folk Culture Program

Co-Writer, Director and Producer—
“The Blues, Raps, Rhymes & Snaps”

THE BLUES, RAPS, RHYMES & SNAPS

Outlandish lycin’ contests, colorful Blues narratives, comical children’s rhymes and hyped-up rappin’ and snappin’ are all a part of the rich tapestry of storytelling as it has evolved within the African-American community. Youth from MIND-BUILDERS CREATIVE ARTS CENTER’S FOLK CULTURE PROGRAM will present an intimate look at this exciting cultural phenomenon of tales and comedy. The audience will have an opportunity to participate!

Jade!

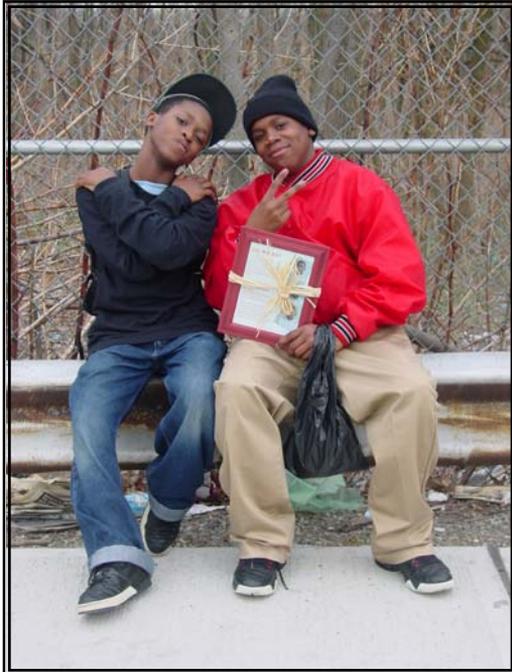
2009 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL



Jade D. Banks with presenter Sonia Sanchez, professor, playwright and human rights activist.



Jade D. Banks with presenter Roger Guenveur Smith—actor and playwright (*Malcolm X*, *The Huey Newton Story*, *All About the Benjamins*, *Do the Right Thing*, et. al.).



Sammy Sam & Big Willy
(Sam Hurley and William Moore)

BIG WILLY!

- William Moore

(8th grade)

They call me Big Willy
African, Indian big boi
Number 12, that' s my favorite
Color red, I always save it
Like when I got my first kiss
Yeah me, Bookie, that' s what I miss

They call me Big Willy
I like to play football
Outside on the weekends
On a field
Or the game "Mavis Beacon"
It makes me feel like I' m tuff
Yeah, I like to play ruff

They call me Big Willy
I want to be a CIA or FBI agent
'Cause I like the right things
And look good things in the eye
I like to put people in their places
And smack them in their faces

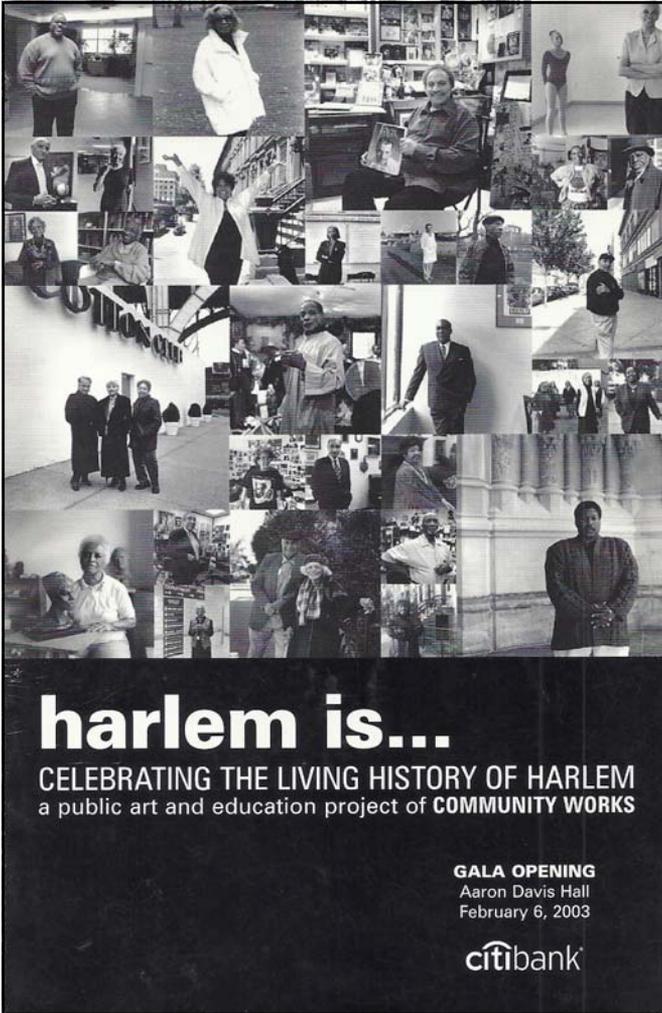
Overbearin' Motha Blues

—Edmond Asante
(10th grade)

I got a mother who won't let me be
Said I got a mom who, oh God, she won't let me be
Dag, Ms. Lady, can I, will I ever be free?

That woman won't ever let me go
That woman, my momma, will never ever let me go
How you think I know? Cuz, every single day she tells me
so...

Jade!



HARLEM IS...

Public Art and Education Project
Community Works

Jade D. Banks
Teaching Artist, Book Publisher and Photographer
(2001-2011)

A Gift... is a Gift

- Myra J.D. Galloway
(college freshman)

If anyone wants to give up their youth
to raise a child
seeing the **gift** of life
as a **debt** to be repaid

I beg them

Kill the child
or give it away
fore living the life
someone else
wanted to live
is death.

Jade!

Gotta Love ‘Em

- Clarissa Gould
(college junior)

BITCH/

SLUT/

HOE/

SMUT/

HOMEWRECKER/

WHORE/

SLORE/

BACKSTABBER/

TWO-FACED/

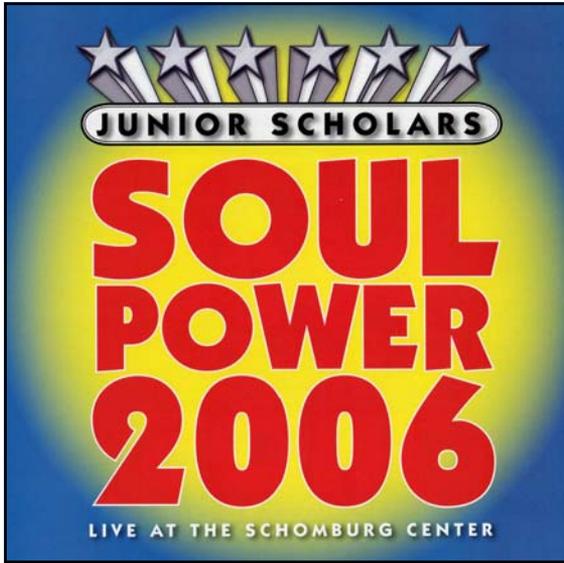
TWO-TIMING/

PHONY/

FAKE

These are my *friends*.

**THE SCHOMBURG CENTER
FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE**



Jade D. Banks

Poet-in-Residence & Teaching Artist -
Junior Scholars Program

Director / Producer -

“Soul Power & The Spoken Word”

Youth Summit Poetry Performance

(featuring Abiodun Oyewole, founding member of The Last Poets)

SON OF RAGE & LOVE

- Aliandro Brathwaite

(9th grade)

I say that I'm the son of rage & love
A fantasy where reality takes place
United as one, yet still individual
That's soul power
Remember those dreams of trying to be like Jordan?
There's a 10% chance, but still soul power.
The 3-train. The Black train.
Crowded workers waiting 20 minutes during Rush Hour.
Cussin' the Conductor because there ain't no one else.
That's some soul power.

A Revolution Soundtrack

A different type of rap.

Wait... isn't that me?

I hate degrading women with dubbing

And, that "I was gettin' some..."

Please, you don't have a real one.

Oh, targeted again. But a 95 on a test is soul power.

A gymnastics class headed by a black man? Soul power.

Overcoming slavery? Gaining the rights of bravery?

A black man sellin' snowballs in Times Square.

My life, let's talk about that again.

My dad passed when I was 8. And, I have a legacy to fulfill.

Over this crash course, I've made 2 real friends.

And, they will stay until it's the end. However,

I have a hole to fill in this game of life.

Wait... life, that's soul power!

Malcolm X's life, power!

Martin's legacy, power!

Emmitt Till... let me get started.

I wonder what power he could've had.

His soul lives on and the power is in us.

Hello! A real life. The scream of a "Yes!"

As my friend turns 15.

What more can I say? It's your world.

I wish there was more, but Soul Power has its limits.

NOT! It's in everyone, Africa to Europe.

We need to tap into it & see what reality is.

Tú

- Aimee Kelly
(8th grade)

tú eres la luz que me
ilumina todo el día & también
eres la flor que perfuma toda
mi vida

You

- Aimee Kelly
(8th grade)

you are the light that makes me
shine all day and you
are the flower that perfumes me
all my life

Jade!

Thanks

- Myra J.D. Galloway
(college freshman)

Thank you...
For the bull shit
For the pain
For the embarrassment
For the lies
For the tears
For the cries
For the depression
For the cold heart
For the indebted start
For the rough past
For the cut with the glass
For the ass whooping
For the blood shed
For the dizzy head
For the low self esteem
For the hard times
For the **inspiration...**

That led me to write.

“The Will to Adorn” Project Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

The Arts

PAGE 3

“The Will to Adorn”

Wearable art archives at Smithsonian to include VI culture

STEPHANIE HANLON

ST. CROIX — What cannot be expressed through words can be observed through fashion, style and art — not so subtle undertones that bring a culture to life — and the Virgin Islands is being included in this often overlooked part of African-rooted culture.

The Smithsonian Institution and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation is currently documenting the wearable art traditions of African descendants living in the United States and the Virgin Islands. They are working with the VI Council on the Arts and The VI Heritage Institute to bring together local culture bearers with stateable artists who are keeping African-based arts alive.

The project is called “The Will to Adorn.”

For the past several days the local and stateable artisans have been sharing presentations on costume making, clothing and textile design, jewelry making, hair styling and other wearable art at the Frederick Dorsch Center in Frederiksted, and Danka David’s Art Studio in Christiansted where they will continue presentations today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exchange is being documented and will be made part of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage archives to be used in a Folklife Festival in 2012. The work may also be used in presentations, a publication, a Web site, a traveling exhibition and/or video documentary.

Sally Van de Water, program associate for the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, said the program is meant to bring artists together for an educational exchange, as well as to document culture before it’s lost.

“Culturally it’s really empowering,” Van de Water said. “We forget that we have stories to tell. Folks are reminded that what they do is very important.”



Local and stateable culture bearers, many pictured above, have been sharing cultural experiences based on African roots for the Smithsonian Institute’s “The Will to Adorn,” project.

Local historian Edgar Lake said it was a gathering of some of the best America has to offer.

“It’s a great gathering. Once again St. Croix proves that it’s a portal, a gateway, through the deep restoration of the living arts,” he said. Clothing Lake said, in one of the most resilient carriers of culture, as people can express the best of themselves. He called it “psycho-social armor.”

This is St. Croix’s opportunity to contribute to world culture, he added in reference to the project.

Bradley Christian, of the VI Cultural Heritage Institute, gave a presentation on hair tying. He explained how the fabric is prepared with starch and the different meanings behind tying styles. For instance, he said one point means you are single, two points means you are married and three means you are divorced and available.

Christian said a ke will come out of the experience, particularly considering the Virgin Islands’ contribution to the project. Yawwra Moja, a cultural arts activist based in Washington D.C.,

said the legacy of African culture is alive and very much a part of St. Croix, which is not the case in the states.

“Here it’s just forgotten,” she said. Xenobia Bailey, a textile artist, said it’s alive but in its raw stages, whereas in the states it is developed but fragmented.

Bailey said not enough of African culture has been preserved for African descendants in America. It’s a culture that unfortunately hasn’t made its way into the mainstream, she said. And, now, artists like her are trying to keep it relevant and a part of modern culture. African-Americans, she said, now live with four seasons, they eat and grow up differently than their African ancestors, so the culture is going to translate differently.

“We’re going back in order to go into the future,” Bailey said. Moja wore a symbol that represented an ancient Guyanese proverb that means you must look at your past to know your future.

“Morals and values were passed down,” said Moja. “If we don’t keep this alive, if we don’t keep perpet-

uating it, it becomes something lost.”

Gerard Emanuel, who works with the VI Department of Education’s Cultural Education Division, agreed that culture evolved but he said it needs to be rooted in something. Technology can enhance the cultural experience, he said, but it must have a foundation. Through his exchange, he said, he wanted to explain what is culturally out of context and what is in context.

Emanuel and Lake both said they wanted to explain to the visitors that the culture on St. Croix is not simply African-American, but a variety of cultures coming together to form a Crucian culture.

For local jewelry maker and overall culture bearer Sandra Michael, just being able to observe the exchange was empowering. Meeting other people who understand the importance of acknowledgment, she said, has given her confidence.

“This makes me feel like what I’m doing is important,” she said.

Michael said her art is constantly changing and evolving but it is rooted in the culture of her grand-

parents who were also culture bearers. Her grandfather was a moko jumbie and her grandmother a masquerader.

Betty Mahoney, executive director of the VI Council on the Arts, said it was a pleasure working with the stateable artists and they hope to do it again next year.

The visiting artists include: Dr. Diana Baird N’Daye, a folk cultural specialist at the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington D.C.; Jade Banks, a researcher, educator, writer, social dress artist and program director for the Beverly Robinson Mind Builders Cultural Arts Center in New York City; Januwa Moja, a dress artist and designer of signature performance wear for the capella women’s group Sweet Honey in the Rock in Washington D.C.; Sally Van de Water, a program associate and folk and traditional art specialist at Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation in Baltimore; Xenobia Bailey, a crochet and embellishment artist in New York; and Nekhera Evans, a jewelry maker and hair designer from New York.

Local contributors include: Wayne Peterson, musician; Bradley Christian, hair tying expert; Richard Schrader, a storyteller; Donna Samuel, a storyteller; Asta Williams, a storyteller and masquerader; Sandra Michael, who makes cultural dolls; Eleanor Sealey, a dress maker; Olase Davis, an herbalist; Edgar Lake, historian; Gerard Emanuel, educator and historian; Petra Matthew, a hair designer; Cindy Male, a fabric designer; Raymond Galloway, body painter; Yena Jones, a fabric designer; Camille Macedon, a musician; and Al Haynes, a designer.

The visiting artists spent time on St. Thomas from March 11 to 14 and they are hoping to visit St. John as well.

For more information on the project, visit www.folklife.si.edu.

Jade D. Banks

NYC Research Coordinator and Photographer

“The Will to Adorn” Project

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

St. Croix and St. Thomas, USVI

November-December 2010

Jade!

“The Will to Adorn” Project Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage



Jade D. Banks with Willard John, historian, Moko Jumbie (stilt walker) and educator.



“Bully” and his band play the local folk music—quadrille.

the teacher's
the twin
of the michelin baby
miss, could you please have less expression in your
eyes?
why must you always emphasize?
dag on! when will this period end?

oh *no she didn't* put us in groups again!

then He ... stares
as I struggle for
mathematic solution
LOOK AWAY!
Look away!
I silently plead
as he smiles at me

yOU iGNORED mE!
You can't pick me up &
dROP me AGAIN!

PERFORMANCE ANXIETY

The first step to combatting it is to acknowledge it ...



PERFORMANCE ANXIETY

The first step to combating it is to acknowledge it ...

People might laugh at me.
I might make a fool of myself.—Sabrina Cruz

If there are more than 14 people in the audience,
I get afraid. I start to repeat things.

If I mess up people might make jokes about me. I will get sick.

—William Moore

I don't like it when people look at the clothes I wear.
I'm also afraid when the light shines on me. - Kayla Edwards

I like performing! - Jose Gonzalez

I don't like people talking
or laughing after I do something. - Michele Santana

**I am afraid to perform because I might feel stupid.
Plus I'm not used to performing in front of people. -
Javier Pimentel**

I am afraid to perform because I have stage fright. Also because I get nervous; I don't like people looking at me. - Melanie Cintron

I hate the way it looks like from on the stage.

- Tonique Collazo

I might forget my words or what I'm about to do. I don't like to be the center of attention. - Jenny Cuevas

I am afraid because my feet start to shake. Sometimes I get a little scary because I get butterflies in my stomach.
- Aninsa Owens

I am not afraid because they are just people and there is nothing to be afraid of. - Tiffani Collazo

CHANGES #1

-Jessica Gago
(9th grade)

Clothing

Nothing seems to fit
everything needs a size or 2 larger
no more jeans
hello maternity!
not ma fault I can't wear
regular clothes
other girls are wearing
goodbye kicks & Timbs
cuz ma feet are swollen

My Body

Stretch marks are consuming
ma body
breasts & thighs are enlarged
I can feel the excess water
flow through ma body
making me swollen
the beauty I once had
has slowly been sucked out of me
my hair falls out
and the last word I am is
"Beautiful"

Jade!

Him

He doesn't look at me
the same way
every girl but me
is bangin"!
I'm beyond his sense
of sex appeal

End

I'm just a statue lying there...
my weight continues to rise
like a rocket
and all of this sacrifice
for my baby...
in the end,
I'm just another
pregnant girl...

DRUG-FREE

- SAEBRIENE SWINSON
(9TH GRADE)

MY BODY BELONGS TO ME.
YOU CAN'T HURT IT.

•

I'M NOT GOING TO DO WHAT YOU DO.
I'M GOING TO BE SMARTER THAN YOU.

•

MY LUNGS ARE NOT GOING TO BE BLACK.
MY TEETH AREN'T GOING TO BE YELLOW.
MY MOUTH ISN'T GOING TO LOOK LIKE YOURS.

•

BECAUSE, UNLIKE YOU, I WILL STAY
DRUG-FREE!

Jade!

LICKLE RUDE BOY FROM JAMAICA

-Stephen Furze
(10th grade)



 Mi name Stephen, AKA Hoggy
 Mi a real bad man from Jamaica,
 Jamrock,
Weh mi eat ackee and saltfish from
 frying pan,
 Sit down pon di veranda,
 and a drink some sugar and water,
 Wen di sun hot,
 Mi inna da guinep tree,
 Wen di sun go down,
 Mi inna di mango tree,
 Man inna di road mi a play
 football my yute,
 barefoot and buck off mi toe,
 when mi kick di ball,
 Wen mi done dat,
 Mi a ride mi bicycle and do wheely,
 Pretty gal dem a pass in her fish net
and her batty rider shorts... Yea man!
 Later on mi go a di dancehall
 and go grind the pretty gal dem
and a drink something heavy – you done know
 turn on di lighter,
 and burn di torch,
 more fire, more fire
 den mi go home,
 who a sleep and
 dweet again tomorrow.

What I Would Tell Adults (If I Would Not Get Into Trouble)

— Part One: The Questions

Why can't we have cell phones
at a young age?

Why can't we go shopping by ourselves to pick out
our own clothes?

Why can't we stay up late
on school nights?

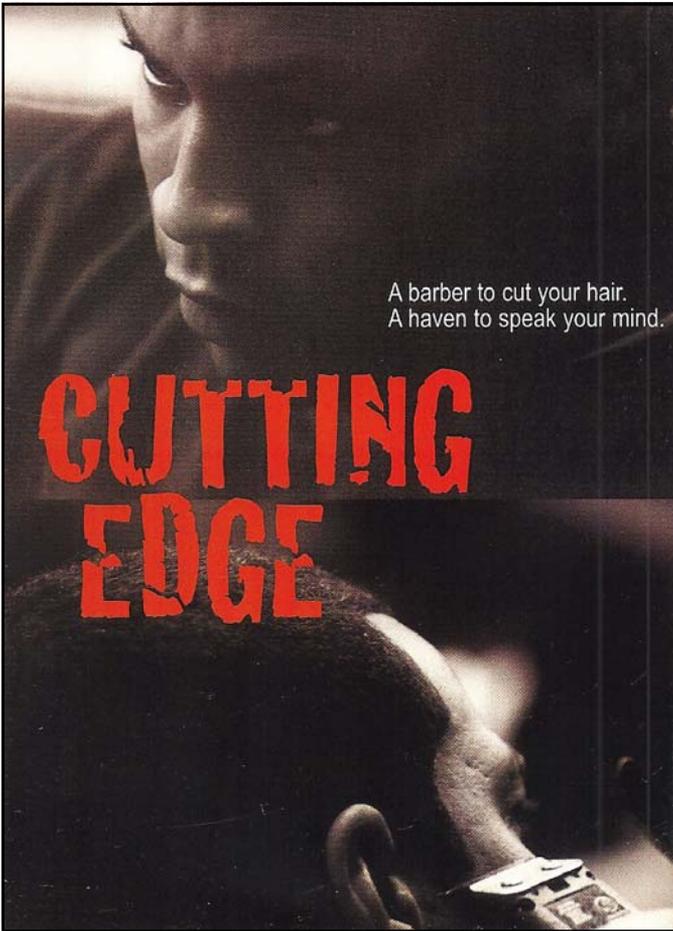
Why do you tell us to tell the truth and when
we tell the truth we still get in trouble?

Why did you wait until I was eight years old to
tell me I have two sisters. I used to cry every
night thinking I was alone and miserable.

Why can't I have a boyfriend?

Why do family members still try to treat us like lit-
tle kids when we're trying to act like adults?

Jade!



CUTTING EDGE

HBO/Cinemax Documentary Film
(2004)

Jade!

Featured Interviewee

MY LITTLE BABY SISTER

- Fatou Kebbeh
(7th grade)

My baby sister is beautiful
So tiny and so perfect
Her skin is velvet brown and soft
Her eyes are dark and shiny
Her hair is black and fixed in a ponytail
Her first new teeth are sharp and white

My mother takes care of my baby sister
She is 9 months old and
She is still growing bigger and bigger
I love it when she sucks her thumb
When she laughs, it's like it's the happiest day of my life

My baby sister is who I need
She will stay with me
When she cries I try to make her happy
When she is happy I play with her
And even though she plays too much
She is still beautiful

My baby sister is beautiful
I care about her and
She cares about me
She's black and I'm black
She knows how to slap people, too
So don't mess with her
Or she will slap you

Jade!

My baby sister is beautiful
So tiny and so perfect
Her skin is velvet brown and soft
Her eyes are dark and shiny
Her hair is black and fixed in a ponytail
Her first new teeth are sharp and white
My baby sister is beautiful

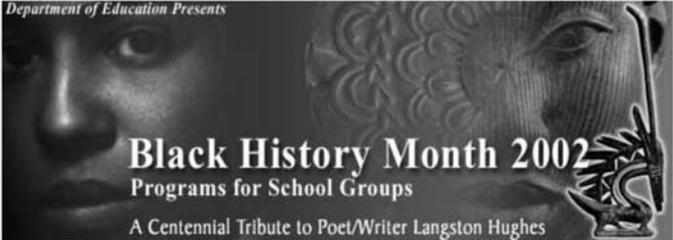


THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 

ON EXHIBIT | PROGRAMS | PLAN YOUR VISIT | RESEARCH | MEMBERSHIP | KIDS & FAMILIES | TICKETS | SHOP

Department of Education Presents



Black History Month 2002
Programs for School Groups

A Centennial Tribute to Poet/Writer Langston Hughes

Encourage your class to celebrate Black History Month with a special centennial salute to Langston Hughes through live performances, music, dance, poetry, storytelling, theatre and film or a participatory workshop. A teacher's guide correlated with New York State Teaching and Learning Standards is available.

Tuesday and Thursday • February 5 & 7

Leonhardt People Center • 2nd Floor
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Age group: Grades 6 - 8
Program Code: ED02001M

Workshop: The Unique Experience of African-American Poetry

Poet/Writer Jade D. Banks



Jade D. Banks (photo credit: Sheila H. Smith)

Featuring the works of poet Langston Hughes, this interactive workshop will sample African-American poetry from Phyllis Wheatley to Tupac Shakur. Poetry from this workshop will be distributed to all students. *This workshop is limited to 30 students.*

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO LANGSTON HUGHES

The American Museum of Natural History

Jade D. Banks, Workshop Facilitator

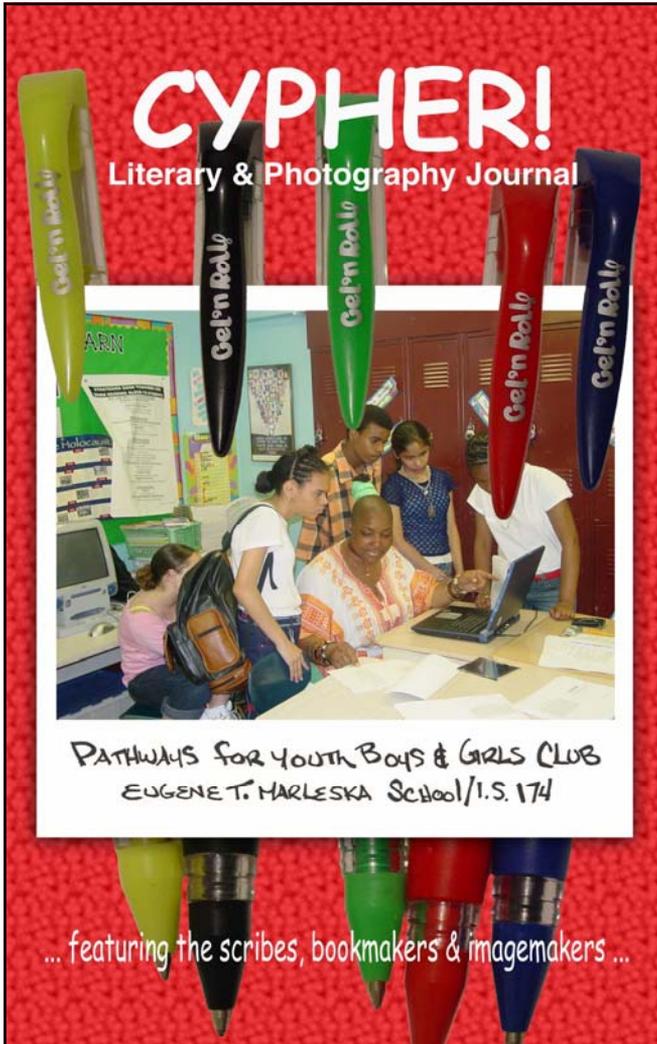
February 2002

Jade!

¡RAPE!

- Anonymous
(12th grade)

Screams didn't matter
He did what he wanted to
Pain and shame haunt me



CYPHER!

(2005)

Jade D. Banks

Publisher, Executive Editor and Teaching Artist
Pathways for Youth Boys & Girl Club After-School Program
Eugene T. Maleska School / I.S. 174

Psalm 1.4 – Religion

-Veronica Simmons

(10th grade)

Religion – a system of practices and beliefs /// deacons, pastors and priests /// from Islam to Judaism with the Jews /// Christianity and the Black Hebrews /// in Harlem, we got spirituality /// care about the community and our own individuality /// God is almighty /// God can't be seen with the eye /// can't be heard with the ear // but the Holy Spirit is sensed /// and His presence is near /// His hand of guidance we see and we seek His will and way /// the paths of righteousness we follow and we see and feel Him everyday /// religion is all around us /// from the biblical men on the trains /// to the old ladies handing out texts, tryna get religion into our brains /// but what privilege has been ours to live in a nation /// with biblical principles as our foundation /// people pledged their lives, honor and all /// and relying upon God's protection whatever befall /// you got religion in education and accessories, them gold chains with the cross /// we may lose everything in life, but our faith is never lost

Teaching Artist Portfolio



Manuel Gomez, Jr.



Jade!

I SPIT FIRE

- Manuel Gomez Jr.
(10th grade)

The World sits deep within trenches
Attacked by the consequences of our actions
We all close our eyes and try to forget its existence
To hide so as not to deal with it
Famine and dying children
Starvation, death, prostitution an' guilt
YES, Guilt
For we know of these things
Yet we choose to act ignorant
Living in our selfish little lives
Billions for a Stadium, Thousands for a car, and Hundreds on a
phone
When it only costs \$2.00 to feed one kid
950 million kids just died in one instant
Horrible actions created for horrible illusions
Just so you can be happy for that little second
LORD, please stop the insanity!
This ignorance has to stop
I'm steppin' out of the Trench
Ready or Not

Teaching Artist Portfolio

I spit fire like MLK at the Lincoln Memorial

I spit fire like Malcolm X living beyond the grave

I spit fire like Bob Marley bringing the Peace, “ONE LOVE”

I spit fire like Moses, “Let my people go!”

All spoke to free their people of the madness around them
Their people were the world, their lessons for all
Spitting fire is speaking the harsh reality
Or it can be the warming miracle needed for some
The fire I spit is the sword that protects the innocent and weak
The fire I spit is the warning of what is to come
People don't react until action is taken
I'm Spittin' Fire today and Taking action tomorrow
It's time for the world to wake up to reality
The rough ride of revolution is about to start
Time is almost gone for the dying victims of reality
Tomorrow we take Action
Today... WE SPIT FIRE!!

Jade!



COMMUNITY DOCUMENTATION

Jade D. Banks, Photographer

"Justice for Sean Bell"

Protest March on 125th Street in Harlem

May 2008



**I HAVE NO TITLE
(‘CAUSE MY POEM HAS SO MUCH FLAVOR)**

- Georgette Morgan
(9th grade)



Watashi wa
Georgette Alicia James
Morgan san a beautiful car-
ing soul. Birth from Andrea Marie
James san to George Sylvester Morgan the
boss of the world and the writer of this play
called life. I live at 1921 Noname Ave Bx NY 10462.
Where the people “do them and do what they do.” – Ms. Jade!
My building? My building is a place where you don’t have to go to the
white neighborhood to see a clean building with art that will not be
stolen by the next crackhead. Now, if you heard the sounds
coming from my living room you’d be a hell of a lot
confused between the “Law and Order Special Vic-
tims Unit” to MTV from Caribbean Country
to the newest R&B and rap songs from
my niece singing the “Dora”
theme at the top of her
lungs to me and my
mom blasting
the oldies,
like Luther
Vandross’ “Dance With
My Father and Me” to Christmas
songs in the summertime. The smells
the smells the smells are Febreze, in every corner
of the room smelling like flowers, moth balls thrown

Jade!

in every corner of the room for no good reason. To my mother's perfume. Collections of perfume you never even heard about. All of this is mixed with incense and cocoa butter that just gets stronger with every person who comes out of the shower. Oooh! And the food, the food, the food, the food. Mmmm, don't get me started. Oooh, the food my family cooks from a range from African American cultural food to Caribbean food. A few of my favorites are ox-tail & curry goat & chicken pink salmon & fried chicken, potato salad, baked macaroni
Mmm. I could go on and on and if you are what you eat then I'm everything on the food pyramid and a whole lot more. My favorite place in the Bronx is my kitchen because of the food that comes out of it. I love food and wherever food come out w/ all of those flavors like that... Hmph, I'm there. My love and inspiration are my sister, Abby, my father, George, and my mother, Andrea, (through their struggles, they teach me to be stronger. Also, my niece, Sanaa, I love that little girl to death. She is an inspiration 4 me
2 do better for myself –
4 her and
4 me.

I come from Antigua
I come from a loving home.
I come from the Bronx all day.
And from all of this, I am a fabulous, beautiful,
loving, caring and deserving young woman.
I am Georgette Alicia James Morgan.
I AM ME!!

DO YOU & DO WHAT YOU DO!

(Why Ms. Jade! is adamant about self-actualization...)

Early April 2009 – 8:30 AM (roughly). I had just snuck to the corner store for a cup of coffee and was hurrying back to my apartment – because I looked early-morning busted in sweat clothes and was probably ashy – when a young woman’s voice yelled out, “Hey, Poetry Lady! Poetry Lady! Wait!”

Running across the street toward me was a young girl I didn’t recognize, about 16, looking very Harlem around-the-way in a denim jacket, jeans, and hair gelled-back into a ponytail.

“Are you that lady who does those poetry shows?” she asked.

“Yup, that’s me,” I said, smiling. “I’m Ms. Jade! Good morning, baby.” I always greet folks with a salutation because I’m “old-school.”

“I knew it had to be you,” she said, catching her breath and smiling back. “There can’t be two people walking around with that hair.” She was referring to my signature haircut – a bald head crowned with a bun of dreadlocks. “There’s only one Ms. Jade!” Of course, we both laughed and I forgot how busted I looked.

I absolutely love it when young-folks engage me on the street! It lets me know I’m being effective in what I do.

It’s also a reminder that I’m a member of the community, now in an “elder” position and am quite visible.

“You saved my life,” she said, suddenly serious.

“What?”

“You saved my life, Ms. Jade!” she repeated. “See.” She then rolled up her sleeve and revealed about 10 healed slices on her forearm. “I’m a borderline.”

Jade!

"You cut? Oh, baby..." I cried giving her a long big mama hug, tears rolling from both our eyes.

I had encountered a person with borderline personality disorder only once before. A _____ for the State of Pennsylvania. I was assistant to a lobbyist she was stalking. She poisoned his dog, destroyed his boat, stole his mail, wire-tapped his phones and eventually went to jail.

Note: Glenn Close portrayed a woman afflicted with borderline personality disorder in the movie, "Fatal Attraction."

"You saved my life, Ms. Jade! At the poetry show, you kept saying 'Do you & do what you do!' every time you got on the mic. You had our whole school saying it for the rest of the year. If a hater would say something foul, we would say, *Unh uh, cuz Ms. Jade! said 'Do you & do what you do!'...* When I was in the psych ward, I kept saying it to myself, 'Do you & do what you do! Do you & do what you do!' That saved me, Ms. Jade!"

I was speechless and hoped my tears were speaking for me.

"And guess what, Ms. Jade!? I can sing! I can really sing!" Right then and there, on the corner of 126th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, that 16 year-old belted out a rendition of "Summertime" that would've made Gershwin clap.

"When I sing, everything's alright..." she said, staring pensively at the ground.

"And guess what else, Ms. Jade!? I just got off a national tour with _____ [a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical]. I was with them for a year. I always wanted to sing, so I convinced my mom to let me audition cuz you said 'Do you & do what you do!'"

She said she's gonna call me. She wants help in starting a writing club for teen girls healing from mental illness. How wonderful! I can't wait!

Jade!

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 famed *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 Researcher/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 sole, 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. 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.

“Capture a child’s mind and look at what [s/]he can do!”

- Berry Tindle

In order to capture the minds of today’s youth, we need not ignore or compete with pop culture. Instead, we can capitalize on its extensive reach to encourage youth’s individuality of thought, excellence & artistic exploration by employing familiar sources within creative lesson planning.

Arts Education

What do multiracial, multicultural, multi-ethnic youth of the world’s most famous city have to say ?

I like that I am unique
Mi a real bad man from Jamaica
I have no title ‘cause my poem has so much flavor!
The right word to call myself is Boriqua
If it’s possible, I’mma spit Harlem’s gospel
I say that I’m the son of rage & love
My dad passed when I was 8. And, I have a legacy to fulfill.
Girls can be very confusing
Stop telling me what to do!
Tú eres la luz que me ilumina todo el dia
The truth is I speak in dreams
We may lose everything in life, but our faith is never lost!
Can bliss’ ignorance pay off dividends?
I want to have a good life!

\$ priceless United States
\$ precious Canada
£ invaluable United Kingdom

