**Tanya Chitunhu**

**Performance Poet**

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**Tanya C Poetry**

**Freelance performance poet and facilitator** **August 2018 – Current**

* Writing and performing poetry at various events and gigs.
* Collaborating in interdisciplinary art projects locally and internationally.
* Assistant Writer for Writing West Midlands’ Spark young writers’ group teaching creative writing classes including poetry, script writing and short stories.
* Writing and performing bespoke commissioned poetry for the general public and businesses
* Facilitating writing workshops in schools – teaching the basics of performance poetry.

**Formal Education & Qualifications**

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) (2:1) - Swansea University 2008

Postgraduate diploma in Legal Practice - Nottingham Law School 2009

**Public Appearances /Performances 2019**

**Celebrating Diversity, June 2019**

I was the **headline performer** at this event which aimed to celebrate the many cultures and traditions in Smethwick through music and poetry from all over the world.

**Mono – Log Sessions by BrumTown Collective, May 2019**

Collaborated with BrumTown Collective, an online platform promoting Birmingham poetry talent. Together, we produced a **poetry performance video** for my poem – The Ten Commandments of Eating Well.

**The Congo Tree, April 2019**

**Featured poetry performance** for the Congo tree, an international charity. The event raised awareness and funding for work in the Democratic Republic of Congo to develop leadership and business projects empowering communities through young people.

**World Poetry Day, Staffordshire – March 2019**

On World Poetry Day, I was part of a performance and **celebration of poetry** from around the world. It featured various poetic forms and content showcasing the diversity of the art spanning across cultures, countries and regions.

**WOKE presents Beyond the Voyage, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London- March 2019**

I was selected to participate in a **collaborative immersive event** curated by WOKE entitled Beyond the Voyage. I worked with young British and interdisciplinary artists of colour, exploring stories and experiences of migration, integration and what it means to be a person of dual heritage living in the UK.

**SOLO Fest, Warwick Arts Centre- February 2019**

I was 1 of 12 local writers selected from 90 applicants to be the opening act for SOLO Fest -a theatre showcase of solo performers in Coventry.

**Dynamo Scheme - December 2018 – ongoing**

I was selected to be part of the **Dynamo scheme** 2018/19 with Nine Arches Press – mentoring for BAME writers in Birmingham with a local publishing press to get guidance, advice on publishing and feedback on work.

**Dallas Poetry Slam, Texas USA – December 2018**

I was the **spotlight poet** at Dallas Poetry Slam and a **guest judge** for one qualifying round for the slam competition. The experience helped me realise my strengths, boosted my confidence in the value of spoken word, while at the same time appreciating the diversity of the art in different cultural contexts.

**ColabNowNow Artist Residency in Maputo, Mozambique - October 2018**

A **collaborative project** of 9 selected artists and storytellers from **East, West, Southern Africa and UK** focusing on digital art. Hosted by Maputo Fast forward Digital Festival in Mozambique and the British Arts Council, South Africa. I was **one of 2 UK** based **artists** selected from a pool of more than 700 candidates.

I created an **African Time capsule in holographic and spoken word form** – which featured a series of poems about Africa from a millennial’s perspective. It was a collaborative effort assisted by Nemesto, a Mozambican creative artist using locally sourced materials and equipment.  The result was exhibited as part of Maputo Fast Forward Festival.

**Sputnik Internship Programme - 2017/18**

* Self-published debut collection of poetry- **On Praise & Protest**.
* Mentored by Mr Huw Evans (M.A. Creative writing) developing poetic craft – through learning poetic forms, editing and critique.
* **Assisted former Poet Laureate of Birmingham 2006/2007, Giovanni Esposito (Spoz**) in local schools delivering spoken word poetry workshops.
* Catalyst Festival - **Headliner** at Poetry Afternoon.
* Catalyst Festival – **Our stories workshop**- Independently created and led spoken word workshop encouraging participants to write their own stories using spoken word.
* Shadowed artists in different fields including Anna Owen, a storyteller at the Birmingham Institute of Fine Arts and Luke Sewell, a visual artist examining work in the Birmingham Museum.

**Public Appearances / Performances 2018**

* **Featured performer** at former poet laureate of Birmingham (2010/11) - Roy McFarlane at his book launch for *The Healing Next Time.*
* **Featured poet** on **Brum Radio Poets Showcase** with Rick Sanders, Paul Woodridge and former poet laureate of Birmingham, Roy McFarlane.
* **On Praise & Poetry performance set** at Bloom Arts Festival, London.
* Wednesday Mic Fever @ the Mango Lounge, Birmingham.
* **Newstyle Radio** – Special Live Tribute to Winnie Mandela.
* Women in poetry - Inspiring a new generation - Celebration of Dr Martin Luther King Junior @ **Birmingham Midlands Art Centre** (MAC) 2018

**Special publications and features**

Sputnik Anthology (2019); *Afrinnovation,* (2018); T*en Commandments of Eating Well; Monckscorner*

British Council Literature Blog - <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/blog/2018/colabnownow-2018/>