2020 MFA Creative Writing & Publishing Arts

Author Catalogue
Poem: The Nature of Hitting a Sestina

Recognized by Poetry Slam Inc as a “Legend of the South,” Amoja Sumler is a nationally celebrated poet, essayist and one of the preeminent emerging voices of leftist intersectional social advocacy. A Watering Hole graduate fellow and MFA candidate Amoja’s work throughout the Arkansas poetry scene was a legendary seed. From his essay’s discussing the role of law enforcement to the value of capitalism he is best known for fusing the art of the intellectual into the familiar. Amoja has headlined poetry festivals such as the Austin International Poetry Festival, the Bridgewater International Poetry Festival, Write NOLA in New Orleans and Rock the Republic in Texas. As a resident artist of several southern Arts in Education rosters, Amoja lectures at schools and literary nonprofits, while teaching creative pedagogy and keynoting at social advocacy conferences like Long Beach Indie Film Pedagogy Conference and Furious Flower, throughout the nation.

Amelia Miller

My Grossly Unremarkable Year - $19.00

Amelia Claire Miller is a writer with Southern roots living in Baltimore, MD. She writes ad copy by day but lives for telling her stories through memoir. She loves all things pretty, including makeup, fabulous nails, and a perfectly decorated rowhome. She is an ovarian cancer survivor who knows the best way to rock a bald head is with big earrings and big attitude. If you like a little sass and a whole lot of heart, she’s your girl.
Bryonna Sieck

**Those Who Fly - $16.00**

Bryonna Sieck is an M.F.A. of Creative Writing & Publishing Art graduate, and writes and resides in Baltimore, Maryland. She is also part owner of 1134 Press, an independent publisher and journal shop.

Jeremy Boyd

**Split - $18.00**

Jeremy Boyd is a poet, soccer coach and substitute teacher from Frederick, MD. He received his Bachelor’s in Philosophy from Towson University, and his MFA from the University of Baltimore, where he served as editor-in-chief of their graduate literary journal, Welter. You can find his chapbook, “I Wanna Be Petty // I Will Be Great,” and interview series at Ghost City Press. https://ghostcitypress.com/.
michelle...

**Blue Poppy Girl - $18.00**

michelle is a Baltimore girl through and through. born and raised in Charm City, her life took her through catholic schools, public universities, and around the world. Though she travels extensively to London, Baltimore will always hold her heart. She earned a BS in English and earned her MFA in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts from the University of Baltimore. She is a full-time lecturer in English at Towson University. michelle has three gorgeous, creative, and bubbly daughters to whom her heart will always be tied.

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Tristen Fagg

**Fagg Nation - $20.00**

A published poet and freelance editor, Tristen received a Master’s degree at the University of Baltimore in the Creative Writing & Publishing Arts program. Raised in Las Vegas, Tristen was educated at Southern Utah University in English and Sociology, and is the youngest of eleven children. Tristen lives with two VIPets; a Puggle, Sadie May, and a cat named Booger. As a modern Mormon feminist, and using a West coast cultural background, faith, and wit, they navigate social issues, current events, body politics, personal healing, and teaching writing and rhetoric. Tristen is the sole proprietor of Thicker Ink Press, an indie publishing company specializing in family histories and fatness, and queer culture.
May Brymn

**Portraits - $12.00**

May Brymn is a narrative poet born and raised in Connecticut, revived in her beloved New York City. Her works are inspired by childhood memories—captivating and sometimes humorous and moving stories told to her by her relatives, which stimulated her imagination even more. Her creative writing started at a young age in the woods of her family home. Today, she pens her works by the attic window of her Victorian home in Northeast Baltimore. She is an alum of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City (AA). While attending the “Academy” she performed in Off-Broadway productions, as well as, held positions as a page in different New York theaters, makeup assistant, and interned as a costume designer, and later served as a page at Radio City Music Hall for four years. May received her BA in Cultural Studies and Creative Writing from SUNY Empire State College, MFA from the University of Baltimore, and was inducted into the Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society of Leadership and Success in 2018. Beyond spending time with her family and friends, May loves the beach, reading, dancing, and anything arts related. But mostly kind people.

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Tessa Haynes

**Shades Familiar - $17.00**

Tessa Haynes has always been part witch, creating potions out of ingredients she found in the family bathroom, attempting to control the wind with a broom in hand, muttering made-up words in the hopes that one would cast a spell. Now she walks and drives the magical streets of Baltimore (where she is positive that rats serve as carrier pigeons to take messages between wizards on the East and West Side). She spends her free time writing a mixture of magical realism and horror and playing with cats. When she's not attempting to scare her readers (and make them think), she works at a library which she is certain is haunted. She received an MFA in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts from the University of Baltimore.
Jalynn Harris

Exit Thru the Afro - $17.00

Jalynn Harris is a poet, educator, press founder, and editor from Woodlawn, the greatest ‘burb in Baltimore. She earned her MFA from the University of Baltimore.

Richard De Simone

Chasing the Vietnam Moon - $16.95

Richard De Simone collects college degrees the way some people collect stamps. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, he has traveled through many US states and parts of Canada, Europe and Southeast Asia. He has recently been awarded an MFA in Creative Writing & Publication Arts from the University of Baltimore from whence came this first book of prose poetry. In his spare time, he likes to take things apart to see how they work which is problematic because he can never reassemble anything and make it work properly. He befriends spiders and loves cats and dogs and believes people can learn how to behave by observing them.
Zoraida Díaz

The Altering Eye - $22.00

Zoraida Díaz is a Colombian-born photographer, editor, and writer. She is the author of the photo book Guanacaste; Life Portraits. The Altering Eye; A Photographic Memory is her first collection of essays. She lives in Baltimore.

Emily Hansen

Hush Girls - $20.00

Emily Ann Hansen moved to the city of Baltimore in 2014 —hailing from Chicago—to become a high school English teacher. She presently teaches AP English Literature and heads the English department at a high school in Baltimore City. Emily graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a B.A. in Fiction and will receive her M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts from the University of Baltimore in May. Her interests lie at the intersection of adolescent fiction, literacy education, and true crime podcasts. She enjoys puns. What is the difference between a comma and a cat? One has claws and the other comes before a clause. Her work has been featured on The Huffington Post, Paragraph Planet, and elsewhere.
Nicole Jones

**Dreams Ascend - $10.00**

Nicole was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She went to Notre Dame University and graduated with a B.A. in English. She has wanted to be a writer since the age of 5. It hasn't been a constant want. She has gone from wanting to be a choreographer, to a photographer, to a music producer, but she always come back to writing. She has a few poems published in Damozel literary Magazine and has a book coming out in May 2020.

Kris Jones

**Shout Out to Me for Ruining My Own Life - $10.00**

Kris Jones is a poet residing in Baltimore, Maryland. He earned his MFA from the University of Baltimore and his B.A. in Sociology from Towson University. He enjoys running, a good buttermilk biscuit and K-Pop.
Kayla Shedden

**Sorry and Other Lies - $17.00**

Kayla Shedden lives in Baltimore in a tiny apartment she shares with her favorite canine and more pasta than any individual person should have (or consume).

Marissa Merriman

**(Un)Stable - $19.99**

Marissa Merriman is a fiction author residing in Baltimore, Maryland. This is her first published short story collection. Her work has been published in her "Rissystories" Blog, “Pulse,” Marietta College’s literary magazine, Peculiars Magazine, and elsewhere.
Kondwani Fidel

My Home is a Noiseless Gun - $20.00

Kondwani Fidel and his poetry have become one in the same. The passion Fidel brings to his work has taken the Baltimore native around the globe to confront education reform, civil rights, and growing up in an underserved community. Fidel has captivated audiences at conferences, literary events, and has lectured and taught classes at the University of East London while touring in the United Kingdom. Fidel's lyrical poetry has been featured in The Washington Post, The Atlantic, CNN, The Root, The Independent, Mic, and Baltimore Sun along with his inspiring narratives for brands such as Under Armour. His viral essay, “How a Young Boy has Been Decaying in Baltimore Since Age 10: A Death Note”, cemented Fidel as an authority in his city. In 2018, The Baltimore Sun honored Fidel in its heralded ‘Best of Baltimore’ issue for his courage, innovative thinking, and leadership in local schools and communities. Fidel is the author of his published collections, Hummingbirds in the Trenches (2018), and Raw Wounds (2017). Fidel's work has been praised by literary and civil rights giants such as Ibram X. Kendi, Eve L. Ewing, and DeRay McKesson. Fidel has M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts from the University of Baltimore. Fidel was most recently honored for his work with Baltimore's Civil Rights Literary Award; Inspiring Voices award and his biofilm was nominated for Amazon's “2019 All Voices Film Festival".

kondwanifidel.com