

The Chase Room

Friday, March 18, 2016 at 8pm

NJPAC presents

**Dodge Poetry at NJPAC
Newark Voices**

Featuring

Patricia Smith

with Newark Poets

Marjorie Barnes

Sean Battle

Marina Carreira

Robert Hylton

Leah Jackson

Paula Neves

Jorge Sanchez

Starski

Margie 'Mia X' Johnson

Support provided by



As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please be sure to silence all mobile devices. The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs are strictly prohibited.



This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Meet the Poets

NJPAC Poet-in-Residence **PATRICIA SMITH** is a four-time National Individual Grand-Slam Champion (an unsurpassed achievement) and the author of six critically-acclaimed volumes of poetry, including *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the 2014 Rebekah Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress, among other awards. She last participated in the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival in 2012 when she performed *Blood Dazzler at the Octoroon Balls*, a collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra String Quartet in NJPAC's Prudential Hall.

MARJORIE BARNES is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Union County College where she teaches writing and critical thinking. Her career as a performance poet spans the past 25 years, including the late 1980s as a poet with Afro-One Dance, Drama and Drum Theatre and now as a New Jersey Poet-in-the-Schools with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Marjorie has received grants from New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) to conduct a series of hip-hop/poetry workshops for performance poets in Newark, and she was also instrumental in planning and organizing NJPAC's first hip-hop festival, where she acted as guest curator and host of the festival's poetry series, *Sacred Circle Café*. A recipient of artist grants from the Puffin Foundation and the Newark Arts Council, Marjorie has a poetry CD entitled, *My Blues Ain't Over Yet*. Marjorie and her one-year-old daughter, Arayah, live in North Plainfield, NJ.

Residing in Newark by way of Camden, NJ, **SEAN BATTLE** is the result of the combination of an ambitious mother and pro wrestling theatrics. He holds an M.F.A. in Poetry from Rutgers-Newark and is the founder/ CEO of Evolve NJ, a Newark-based arts education and entertainment firm that produces *Evolution Open Mic*. Battle's first full-length poetry collection, *The Forest of Bricks*, was self-published in 2014. He is also a member of the performance ensemble The 3rd Pyramid. Learn more at seeseanbattle.com

MARINA CARREIRA is a Luso-American writer from the Ironbound area of Newark. She holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Rutgers University. Her work is featured or forthcoming in *The Acentos Review*, *The Writing Disorder*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Writers of the Portuguese Diaspora: An*

Anthology, *Bluestockings Magazine*, *THE FEM*, *Rock&Sling*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Paper Nautilus*, and *All We Can Hold: A Collection of Poetry on Motherhood*.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, **ROBERT HYLTON** has been performing poetry since 1996. He has been an English teacher in Newark for over 17 years, as well as a poetry club curator in many public schools, universities, community centers and churches in the tri-state area. Hylton is the curator of Slammetry, a long-standing poetry venue since 2004. He has performed at renowned venues such as the former Serengeti Plains, The Poet's Corner (Bogies), Euphoria Café and NYC's The Nuyorican Poet's Café. Hylton prides himself in mentorship and introducing writing and the art of slam poetry to young people across the tri-state area. He has represented New Jersey in national slams (NPS) from 2003-2006 as well as the popular *Southern Fried Slam* in 2008 and 2010. Hylton has been a featured guest poet on New Jersey 12's *Another View* with Candace Kelly and spotlighted in *The New York Times* and New Jersey's *The Star-Ledger*.

Advocate, Mother, Counselor and Agitator, **LEAH JACKSON**, is a published author (*Release*) and has been writing and performing all her life. Under the moniker Lyric, she has shared stages with poets and performance artists such as Jessica Care Moore, reg e gaines, Helena D. Lewis and Jamaal St. John, to name a few. As an Academic Advisor at New Jersey City University, Leah regularly presents, locally and nationally, in topics ranging from networking to LGBTIA issues. She is a Leadership Newark 2011 Fellow and board member for Bayonne Community Health Center and ArtHouse Productions. She is a sassy mother of two young men, who are her inspiration. Leah has been featured in Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry events in Newark, including its 2014 Poetry Festival.

PAULA NEVES is a native of Newark, whose writing has most recently appeared in *Writers of the Portuguese Diaspora: An Anthology*, *Pilgrimage Magazine*, *Gávea-Brown Journal*, *Luna Luna Magazine* and *Quiddity International Literary Journal*. Her artwork is featured in the Glassbook Project collections *Provisions*, *Changed Relationships After 9/11* and *Domestic Violence* (glassbookproject.org). A Canto Mundo fellow, she has also

Meet the Poets

received scholarships/residencies from the Sundress Academy for the Arts, the Luso-American Development Foundation and the Disquiet Literary Program. She is a member of the Kale Soup for the Soul collective (www.facebook.com/KaleSoupfortheSoul/), which has presented panels, readings and workshops nationwide. When not writing, she is teaching writing, watching movies or contemplating where to travel next. Follow her at @itinerantmuse or paulaneves.net.

JORGE SANCHEZ is a poet living in Newark, where he co-hosts a monthly poetry reading series called *Brick City Speaks*. He is also the co-founder of artspace Apt.16. He most recently collaborated with artists Brendan Mahoney and Hyun Cho in the poetry zine *Unlock Me 0000* as part of the Emerald City exhibition for The Gateway Project. This past summer, he participated in the Ashbery Home School program.

STARSKI is a southern gentleman, born in a northern city. Writing and performing since 1998, Starski has written and self-published two books of poetry (*Development*, 2000 and *A Sober Man's Thoughts*, 2011) and released an audio recording of poetry entitled, *A Reckoning* (2011). Co-founder and Managing Partner of *The Newark Times*, he is dedicated to cultivating the arts and art programming here in the city of Newark. He currently produces and hosts *LIVE & Direct*, a monthly spoken word and live entertainment showcase. He is also father to two beautiful, brilliant children, Sabrina and Xavier.

At Gallery Aferro every first and third Wednesday, Margie **'MIA X'** Johnson hosts *People's Open Mic*, the longest running open mic in downtown Newark. She is currently developing her poetry into a performance art show entitled #bluefloozywaterfalls. When she's not being super mom to her three children, Teal, Boaz and Orchid, she is teaching Newark youth personal development through creative writing and poetry. Mia X is also an arts advocate, teacher, producer, youth developer and blogger for *The Newark Times*. "Everything about Newark is poetry, I live it and I love it <3"... Follow @lifeweimagine.

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