

Testimonials

For Bruce George, Poet, Activist, co-founder Def Poetry Jam

“Bruce,

It’s not often that I’m willing to stand up at the end of an event to publicly thank a guest artist, and with that, I saved my highest endorsement for you. We were up against considerable competition, with our university’s championship tournament basketball game, and a concert by our premier choral group all happening at the same time, yet you were able draw and captivate an enthused audience that you left happy and smiling. In my many years of event production, I’ve seen all sorts of artist interaction with audience members. With you, we got the added value of your obvious expertise, the generosity of your time, and best of all, the special encouragement you extended to each member of the audience in making sure that they could love the spoken word. Many thanks for a terrific performance!”

Sincerely,



Serni Solidarios
Director, Student Programs
University of Puget Sound
Tacoma, Washington

"Bruce George is an enthusiastic poet – his energy for his craft shines through his superbly selected and dynamically delivered words! In his writing workshop, Bruce brings to life the meaningful connections he creates with language."

The United States Military Academy
at West Point
MAJ Toni K. Sabo
Instructor, Dept of English

“Mr. George has proven himself to be an accomplished businessman, innovator, and visionary in the literary world and beyond. He has conducted a **Masters Classes** at **Hampton University** and each visit has always been met with great anticipation on the part of faculty, students and staff. He has a gift of making people see themselves as powerful beings. I would like to offer **Mr. George** my highest commendation.”

Eleanor Earl, Assistant Professor
Cinema Studies Program
Coordinator, Hampton University

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" Bruce George brought a fresh and eye opening experience to our student body. Drawing from the online publications of the Def Poets and the lyrical talents of several of our own students, Bruce exposed our students to a new world-view of political influence and action. "

-Jivanto van Hemert
Director, Spotlight Committee
Campus Activities Board
Salve Regina University

"Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to recommend **Bruce George** as guest college speaker for a variety of courses, but specifically for classes focusing on English Literature, Writing and Social Action. I am an English and Writing teacher at **George Mason University** in Fairfax, Virginia, and on September 24, **Bruce George** guest-taught my three hour English 396-Introduction to Creative Writing course. **Mr. George** did an exceptional job engaging the students, challenging them to consider their ideas on the world that they express through writing, and motivating them to pursue writing and other related creative fields.

Mr. George used the three hour class period in exciting, creative ways: he had each student speak on their ideas on writing and what they would like to do with their writing; he lectured on his writing habits, and he spoke about solid writing behavior

that the students should develop, such as being specific in their descriptions, editing and reworking, and injecting emotion and feeling into their work.

The students were particularly engaged when **Mr. George** discussed some of his creative pursuits, such as **Def Jam Poetry**. Many of the students had seen this before and were very excited to know that **Mr. George** would be leading the class. **Mr. George** showed a few **Def Jam** clips, then read and performed a few Spoken Words poems. The students (and I) *loved* when **Mr. George** recited one of his own poems.

One of the last things **Mr. George** did in the class was to encourage the students to come up to the front of the classroom and read one of their poems. At first the students were tentative, as they usually are with this type of thing, but after some kind, heartening words from **Mr. George**, student after student read their work. It was truly beautiful. The other students supported them, laughing and cheering and clapping, and the community feel in the room was powerful.

Mr. George had a wonderful influence on my students. They often mention him, and they tell me they hope to see him again. He had an especially strong effect on two students who are now performing more of their Spoken Word poetry around the Washing DC area. Without **Mr. George**, these students might not have realized their potential. And maybe that's **Mr.**

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George's strongest suit—he believes in people; everyone should have a chance, a good shot in this world at being heard and making a difference. I think he believes that it's in all of us, and that we just need to realize it ourselves."

If you have any questions about **Mr. George** or his teaching, please contact me at (518) 524-5818 or cwiley@gmu.edu.

Sincerely,
Casey Wiley
English Department
George Mason University

"It was a pleasure to have you perform at our **Kwanzaa** celebration. We are still getting request for you poetry! Members of the **African American Caucus (AAC)** believe your work captures the unspoken frustrations and joys of being an **African** living in **America**. The **AAC** wishes you would return and share your poetry in the near future."

Thank you,

Millicent Redick,
AAC Chairperson

"We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for your magnificent gift of poetry. Your sensitive recitations are very much on target. Those of us who have had the privilege of hearing your compositions have felt those shivers of recognition and know that your voice truly echoes the voice of African-descended individuals everywhere."

Yours most faithfully,

The KUUMBA Society (USA), Inc.
Hosea L. Johnson
President

"**Bruce George** recited **African American** poetry in **Copeland's**. He was very well received by the guests. I would definitely recommend him to anyone interested in this type of entertainment."

Copeland's Restaurant
Vincent Copeland (Owner)

"...I have found that **Poet, Bruce George** has been able to lend his unique and powerful voice of verse to a world audience like no other. I find his poetry to be timely, relevant and sincere."

Metro Exchange
The Arts & Culture Newsmagazine
Lori Thompson-Reid
Editor

"...I have had the rare privilege of becoming your friend by reading your insightful, beautiful, and inspirational written words. Running the emotional gamut, your poetry has motivated me, brought me to tears, laughter and provoked countless deep thoughts."

Owensby & Co. Communications
Jean Y. Owensby
President

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"I had forgotten what good "reading" is and how much excitement and meaning can be "spoken" into the air by people who know hoe to breathe life into words."

Yours for the Children,

Cush Campus Schools
Ora C. Abdur-Razzaq
Principal

"The poetry of **Bruce George** flows out of a political and cultural worldview, it addresses the realities of our surroundings and information systems, and it uses the rhyme and rhythm of Hip **Hop** to a deliberate beat."

The Center For Culture
The Afrikan Poetry Theatre, Inc.
"The Power of the Word"
John Watusi Branch
Executive Director

"**African Voices** wants to thank you for raising the level of artistic consciousness during your performances at our "**Hear the People**" poetry series. You are one of our strongest "voices" so we pray that God will continue guiding your heart, mind and spirit."

African Voices
Carolyn A. Butts
Executive Editor

"This letter is to certify that **Bruce George** was received very well at **Barnes & Noble**, 2289 **Broadway** in **Manhattan**. **Mr. George** read a sample of his poetry and was received enthusiastically by a crowd of approximately 75 people."

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Bobby Potterton
Community Relations Coordinator

"I'm writing on behalf of **Mr. Bruce George**, who I feel is a very talented writer and poet. In the years I've known him, I've been quite impressed with his enthusiastic nature toward writing great literature."

Essence Magazine
Angela Kinamore
Poetry Editor

"I have had an opportunity on several occasions to read and hear **Bruce George's** poetry. I find his poetry to be dramatic, thought provoking and highly relevant to the African American experience."

Julie A. Clark
Attorney at Law

"Dynamic, thought provoking and insightful are just some of the words I would use to describe the poetry penned by **Mr. Bruce George**. **Bruce's** poetry enables the readers to understand the changes which are constantly occurring around us, and relates them in terms that allow us to feel the passions of the situation. The creativity and social awareness expressed in his poetry sends

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messages of concern, love and in-depth understanding. It's a welcome change from all the rest."

Emerge Magazine
Black America's Newsmagazine
Janniece Leonard
Associate

"**Bruce George's** writing is thoughtful and thought provoking. Fierce in its deliverance and rapid fire rendering of socio-political polemic, **George's** writing is born of the struggle to be, and be Black in contemporary America. Whether writing in full length essay or three and four line poetic sound bytes, his work cleverly dissects the hypocrisy of government and the irony of societal protocol. In **Last Poets** tradition, this up and coming writer tackles truth head on- straight, no chaser!"

Writers and Readers
Writers and Readers Publishing,
Inc.
Deborah Dyson,
Harlem River Press

"...It's refreshing to find a poet who is able to express feelings ranging from love and peace to injustice and intolerance with equal finesse. Your poetry readings/dramatizations are additionally impressive. Yours is a clear, insightful and positive voice, at a time when there is so much about which we need to be aware."

Class Magazine
Denolyn Carroll
Executive Editor

"It is an honor to write this note of praise for the artistic attributes of Bruce George. His poetic writings are creative, stimulating and straightforward. They exhibit the profound concern he has for life and continuity. His words speak for themselves."

Birth, Books & Beyond
Twana Adams
Coordinator

"On behalf of the African History Month Committee, **The Administration for Children's Services**, and the Staff of the **Administration for Children's Service**, I want to extend to you exultation and gratitude of the staff, and all members who witnessed your performance at the **Schomburg Museum**. You are truly a **Word Engineer**. You created a vision of your past, present, and future that will stay with all of us for years to come. There was not a sound heard during your performance coming from the audience until it was over and you received a rousing standing ovation."

Administration For Children's Services
Lawrence A. Pinder Jr.
Supervisor I ACM Unit 10

"It was a pleasure reading your poetry! They were filled with deep,

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spiritual, thought-provoking issues....
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The Terrie Williams Agency
Terrie Williams Founder