

Monica Lee Copeland

Biographical Statement



Writer, Performer and Instructor

Monica Lee Copeland is a veteran performer and writer. She began performing her poetry and short stories at Chicago's Green Mill Tavern in the late 1980's as part of the SLAM Poetry Movement founded by Marc Kelly Smith. Her strong, charismatic voice led to participation in four national SLAM teams (Chicago, Berwyn and two times on Los Angeles) and ranking sixth individually in the 1997 National Poetry SLAM competition. She has extensively toured her work throughout the US and abroad. Noteworthy performances include but are not limited to the Opening of Chicago's Museum of Modern Art, Lollapalooza, Big Goddess Pow Wow, Boston Poetry Awards, *No Ordinary Flowers* at Fountain Theatre and two United Kingdom Black History Celebration Tours sponsored by Farrago Poetry. She has been a guest on NPR's *Artistic License* with Victoria Lautman as part of Torch, an Unorthodox Love Poetry Group. Monica has taught writing and performance workshops in conjunction with tours held at Harvard University, Mt. Ida College, Regina-Salve University, the Soundings Program at Castleton State College, Occidental College, and several Michigan Public Schools via *Inside Out*.



Education, Associations and Publications

Monica holds a Master of Fine Arts in Fiction and Poetry from Vermont College and a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Sciences from Northwestern University. Copeland sits on the Southern California Committee for Poetry Society of America (PSA).

Monica exercises bright, direct language with poise, soulfulness and subtlety. Her first manuscript, *Back to Concrete* is based on a one-woman performance of the same name produced by *Hyphe Magazine* in 1996 and revised in 2010. Her poetry and fiction writing has been published in the anthologies *Poetry Slam: The Competitive Art of Performance Poetry*, *VOX Populi: 1999 Seattle Poetry Festival Anthology* and *Don't Blame the Ugly Mug: Ten Years of Two Idiots Peddling Poetry* among others. Three of her poems written about artifacts in the Pacific Asia Museum Exhibit, *40 Years of Building the Pacific Asia Museum Collection*, can be heard on the 2011-2012 audio tour.



Indelible Ink and Pasadena, CA Credits

Copeland currently is the Host and Founding Director of Indelible Ink: a Vanguard Performance Art Series. The project operates under the auspices of the Pasadena Arts Counsel, its fiscal sponsor. *Ink* features literary artists, singer-songwriters and fine variety acts. California Poet Laureate Eloise Klein Healy (*poet*), Tucker Smallwood (*actor & author*), Doug Kearney (*poet*), Swil Kanim (*storyteller & virtuoso violinist*), Jericho Brown (*novelist*), Marc Kelly Smith (*founder SLAM poetry movement*), Wanda Coleman (*novelist, poet & playwright*), Katharine Coles (*the poet laureate of Utah*), Jerry Quickley (*journalist & poet*), and David Crossland (*singer – John Stewart Band*) have appeared on the *Indelible Ink* stage. Awarded two grants from the City of Pasadena, Department of Cultural Affairs, *Ink* partners with a number of cultural institutions, including Red Hen Press, The Pasadena Library, Pasadena Playhouse, Lineage Dance Company, Southwest Chamber Orchestra, and Boston Court among others. Monica serves on the leadership team for Pasadena Lit Fest 2012, the first-ever festival of authors for greater Pasadena. She was recently honored as one of the 50 Most Fabulous Women in Pasadena by *THE Magazine*.

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Selected List of Appearances

- **Indelible Ink**, Pasadena, CA *Jul 2010-Present*
- **Celebration of Contemporary Literature**, Montpelier, CA, *January 2015*
- **Long Beach Poetry Festival**, Long Beach, CA, March 2013
- **Poetry Society of America's LA Spotlight at Boston Court**, Pasadena, CA *May 2012*
- **The Rapp Saloon**, Santa Monica, CA *May 2012*
- **Pasadena Art Night at Pasadena Museum of History**, Pasadena, CA *March 2012*
- **Interview on Poets Café, Pacifica Radio KPFK 90.7 FM** by Host Jaimes Palacio, North Hollywood, CA *Apr 2012*
- **Pacific Asia Museum, 40 Years of Building the Pacific Asia Museum Collection Audio Tour & Special Events**, Pasadena, CA, *Aug to Oct 2011*
- **The Gypsy Den**, Santa Ana, CA *Aug 2011*
- **Villa Esperanza Block Party Fundraiser**, Pasadena, CA, *Jul 2011*
- **Two Idiots Peddling Poetry Book Release**, The Ugly Mug, *Apr 2011*
- **Moon Tide Press Reading**, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton, CA, *Nov 2010*
- **Levitt Pavilion of the Performing Arts Fundraiser**, MacArthur Park, Los Angeles, *Nov 2010*
- **Duarte Poetry Festival**, Duarte, CA, *Oct 2010*
- **The Gypsy Den**, Santa Ana, CA *Apr 2007*
- **Urban Graffiti Spring SLAM Event**, Warner Hollywood Theater, Hollywood, CA, *May 2003*
- **Berkely Poetry Slam**, Berkely, CA, *Jan 2003*
- **Women in Film Fundraiser**, Los Angeles, CA, *Jun 2002*
- **Boston Poetry Awards**, Cambridge MA, *Mar 2000*
- **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, *Mar 2000*
- **Mt. Id College**, Boston, MA, *Mar 2000*
- **Regina-Salve University**, MA, *Mar 2000*
- **Soundings Program at Castleton State College**, Rutland, VT, *Nov 1999*
- **Beyond Baroque**, Venice, CA, *Jun 1999*
- **Los Angeles Poetry Festival**, Los Angeles, CA *Sep 1999*
- **All-Star LA SLAM**, The Fountain Theater, Hollywood, CA, *Aug 1999*
- **West Coast Regional Poetry SLAM**, The Henry Miller Library, Big Sur, CA, *Jul 1999*
- **Inside Out Workshops**, Detroit Public Schools, Detroit, MI, *Jun 1999*
- **Seattle Poetry Festival**, Seattle, WA, *Apr 1999*
- **Washrock and Dragon's Breath**, Santa Cruz, CA, *Mar 1999*
- **Classic Cleveland Poetry Slam at Mardi Gras Jazz Club**, Cleveland, OH, *Apr 1999*
- **Inside Out at Michigan Public Schools**, Ann Arbor & Detroit, MI, *Mar 1999*
- **Seattle Slam Poetry Tour**, Seattle, WA, *Jan 1999*
- **Farrago Poetry Tour**, London, UK, *Dec 1998*
- **Fallen Angels Opening w/ Arthur Beatty**, Paris, France, *Dec 1998*
- **No Ordinary Flowers at Fountain Theatre**, LA, CA, *Nov 1997*
- **United Kingdom Black History Celebration sponsored by Farrago Poetry**: Old Post Office Theatre, Kensington; Harpus Wine Bar, Hastings; The Forum, Tumbidge Wells; Hokney's, Croyden; Old Fire Station Art Center, Oxford; Harrow Civic Center, Harrow; Luton Library, Luton, *Oct 1997*
- **Nuyorican Poets Café with Los Angeles Slam Team**, NY, NY, *Aug 1997*
- **Can Tab Café with LA Slam Team**, Boston, MA, *Aug 1997*
- **8th Annual Big Goddess Pow Wow at Cabaret Metro**, Chicago, IL, *Jan 1997*
- **Museum of Contemporary Art: Opening Ceremonies**, Chicago, IL, *Aug 1996*
- **Private Concert for Johnny Walker, Inc. w/ Liquid Soul at the Elbow Room**, Chicago, IL, *Jul 1996*
- **Ann Arbor Art Festival at Not Another Café**, Ann Arbor, MI, *Jul 1996*
- **Front Street Pub with Team Berwyn**, Santa Cruz, CA, *1996*
- **'Artistic License' Interview by Victoria Lautman**, WBEZ FM 91.5, Chicago, IL, *Jun 1996*
- **Back to Concrete – A One-Woman Show sponsored by Hyphen Magazine at Café Voltaire**, Chicago, IL, *Jun 1996*
- **Green Mill 10th Anniversary Show**, Chicago, IL, *Jun 1996*
- **Printers Row Book Festival**, Chicago, IL, *Jul 1995*
- **Around the Coyote Festival**, Chicago, IL, *Aug 1995*
- **3rd World Funky Diva Girls Interview by Kyra Grant**, WCBN FM 88.3, Ann Arbor, MI, *Aug 1995*
- **Lollapalooza Concert at the World**, Olympia Fields, IL, *Jul 1993*