

Brian A. Sonia-Wallace
1149 W 37th Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(310) 906-8345
bsoniawallace@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Poetry of Strangers: What I Learned Traveling America with a Typewriter. Harper Collins: Harper Perennial, June 30, 2020. Literary essays & poetry. (Forthcoming)

I Sold These Poems, Now I Want them Back. Yak Press, 2016. Poems.

Textbook Chapter

“RENT Poet: Commodity, Institution, and Scam in Los Angeles.” *Art & The City.* Rutledge, 2017.

Creative Nonfiction & Articles

“Malibu is Open Again - Now What?” *Rolling Stone*, 2018.

“Riding the Rails.” *Mississippi Review*, 2018.

“What Happened When a Poet Was Sent to the Mall of America.” *The Guardian*, 2017.

“Alas, Poor Diversity: A Case for the Jubilee.” *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, 2016.

“Pierre Huyghe at LACMA.” *LACMA Unframed*, 2015.

“Moving From Event to Tradition: A Report from the Latino/a Play Project at Oregon Shakespeare Festival.” *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, 2015.

Ford Theatres Blog (regular contributor, ongoing)

LA County Arts Commission Arts Inventory (regular contributor, ongoing)

Theatre Criticism

ArtsBeatLA (regular contributor, ongoing)

LA Theatre Review (regular contributor, 2012-2015)

Selected Poetry in Literary Magazines

My Gift is the Sculpture. “Rattle.” #64, Summer 2019.

State of the Nation. Indolent Books (What Rough Beast Online Series, 2019).

Untitled. Homology Lit, 2019.

LA Boy goes on a Road Trip in the Midwest. LA Press, 2019.

Commissioned Poems for Choirs

Pyrophytic. Salvatores (New York), forthcoming 2020. Composer Saunder Choi.

Coming Home. LA Master Chorale, forthcoming 2020. Composer Saunder Choi.

Generations. Tennessee Gay Men's Choir, forthcoming 2020. Composer Saunder Choi.

If Lawrence of Arabia had Hazel Eyes. USC Thornton School of Music, 2017. Composer Saunder Choi.

PRODUCED PLAYS

"The Wall of Language." Writer - One Act. Written for the Polish-American International Theatre Festival, Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena, CA & Warsaw, Poland, 2015. Published in the Santa Ana River Review, 2019.

Deathmatch Poetry Cabaret. Co-Writer - Feature Length. Premiered at the Bootleg Theater January 2018.

Quickdraw Poetry Cabaret. Co-Writer - Feature Length. Premiered at the Bootleg Theater January 2016.

Nevermore: METRO Immersive Theatre Festival. Writer and Artistic Director - Day-Long Immersive Festival. A Collaboration between Theatre Magnet, Creative Economic Development Fund (CEDF), City of Los Angeles Artist-in-Residence Program, The Office of Councilmember Nury Martinez (Van Nuys, CA), and LA Metro. 2016.

Bike Odyssey LA. Writer & Director - Feature Length. 2014. Immersive at various Los Angeles, CA locations, in partnership with LA Metro, C.I.C.L.E., The Santa Monica Museum of Art, The Hollywood Fringe Festival, and Long Beach Arts Council.

The Dirty Pint Pub Crawl. Writer & director - Feature Length. Immersive in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland. 2011.

UNDERROADS. Writer & director - Feature Length. Barron Theatre, University of St Andrews, Scotland. 2011.

Werewolves vs. Bureaucrats, the Musical. Writer, Director & Libretto - Feature Length. Barron Theatre, University of St Andrews, Scotland. 2010.

1984. Stage Adaptation & director - Feature Length. Barron Theatre, University of St Andrews, Scotland. 2009. Winner, "Best Director," The Saint.

INVITED READINGS

Homo-Centric (forthcoming)
 Queer Slam (forthcoming)
 La Press at Beyond Baroque. 2019, 2020.
 Witchpunkx Cabaret. Salem, Mass. 2019.
 Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas's 2nd District Empowerment Congress. 2018, 2019.
 Da Poetry Lounge at Greenway Court Theatre. 2018.
 The Poetry Circus. 2014-2019.
 The Poetry Brothel. Electric Forest, Michigan. 2016, 2017.
 Chaffey College. 2015.

EXHIBITION & PROJECT HISTORY

2020	Long Beach Airport UCLA CAP Neuhouse Cinema Fete the Venue City of West Hollywood	1-day residency as part of the We Make Flying Fun Program Martin Luther King Oratorical exhibition Dolittle Pre-Premiere Party exhibition Wedding expo exhibition Grantee & organizer for Pride Poets queer poetry initiative
2019	Ford Theatres Lighting in a Bottle Sierra Club Midcity LA Boston Harbor Islands Witchpunkx Cabaret, Boston La Brea Tar Pits VICE Media The Poetry Circus Denver Pride Walton Arts Center, Arkansas The Poetry Brothel LA City of West Hollywood The Getty Beyond Baroque San Gabriel Valley Lit Fest Safe Place for Youth Get Lit - Words Ignite Perch Bar Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas's Empowerment Congress	Holiday Party exhibition Exhibition Co-Organizer, Weekend Arts Retreat 2 week artist residency with National Park System Exhibition and featured poet Summer Nights exhibition Getaround Sponsored Content featured poet Event design & immersive director, Griffith Park Exhibition in partnership with Bubby Water Exhibition as part of summer arts programming Featured Poet Grantee & organizer for Pride Poets queer poetry initiative Exhibition for Walt Whitman 200th Anniversary Featured reader, April 29 Featured reader, April 13 Poetry workshop leader for homeless youth Curator of Poetry Church reading Exhibition for Citrus Holiday Party Featured reader, January 19
2018	The Grove LA EA Games Jewish Women's Theatre Co. dA Center for the Arts NPR's How I Built This	Exhibition sponsored by Tacori Jewelry Exhibitions for launch parties Exhibition at gala Workshops on poetry and business Exhibition at opening party

Summit

Melody Shekari for Congress	Poet in Residence, 2 weeks
UCLA Welcome to Bruin Life	Featured Poet, poetry trainer for students
Liminal LA	Workshop leader, Poetry's a Drag, Sept. 20
Get Lit Poetic Convergence	Workshop leader for classroom teachers
The Poetry Circus	Featured poet & director of intermission show
The Federal Bar	Co-creator, Typetease Cabaret live show
LA Times Festival of Books	Exhibition with LA Department of Cultural Affairs
Better Things Emmy Party	Exhibition
The Music Center, LA	Disco-themed exhibition for Sleepless series
PEN America	Exhibition at Skylight Books
UC Unions United	Exhibition and featured poet for Teamsters #werise
Bootleg Theater	Mardi Gras exhibition
Boomtown Brewery	Exhibition
Supervisor Mark Ridley	Featured reader, February 6
Thomas's	
Empowerment Congress	

2017

YouTube	Exhibition for Marina Del Rey company party
LitCrawl LA	Co-curated Melrose Poetry Bureau installation & performance
LA Philharmonic	Created 5 pop-ups for LA Phil's <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
UCLA Royce Hall	Recurring exhibitions in conjunction with season
Santa Monica COAST	Curated interactive poetry tent with 5 poets
UCLA Welcome Show	Co-directed poetry performance for 9,000 incoming students
Fashion Week OC	Corporate partnership with Alice & Olivia for store exhibition
Natural History Museum	Curated 4 evolving exhibitions throughout season
Poetry Society of New York	Featured Poet at Electric Forest Music Festival, Michigan
LA Board & Tourism	Scripts on Demand Project for prospective investors
MESH Dance Project	Performance/exhibition
Beautify Earth	Gala performance/exhibition
UCLA World Arts & Cultures/Dance	Project created with students as guest lecturer (Fowler Museum & Highways Performance Space)
Beyond Baroque	Poetry Postcards
Flintridge Bookstore	Indie Bookstore Day exhibition
LA Times Festival of Books	Exhibition in collaboration with LA DCA
NEA The Big Read	Exhibition at LA City Hall in collaboration with LA Department of Cultural Affairs
Arts for LA	Poetry Performances at City Council & Supervisors' meetings
Lambda Literary	Featured Poet for Lambda LitFest
Gallery 6021	Featured Poet for Long Beach ArtWalk bus series
University of North Dakota	Featured Poet, Warming House Koselig Series

	Chandler Center for the Arts	Week long residency during tour in Arizona
2016	Melrose Bellow LA2050 Center for Cultural Innovation & Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs	Curated exhibition for West Hollywood Lit Crawl Created exhibition at polling places: Poets at the Polls
	Ford Theatres	Creative director, Nevermore immersive poetry festival
	SBCLTR LA	Exhibition in partnership with Invertigo Dance performance
	Poetry Society of New York ArtShare LA Ron Findley Project LA Central Library	Exhibition at Dusty Decompression at Bonaventure Brewing
	Santa Monica COAST Electroluxxx Stage Raw Awards	Featured Poet, Poetry Brothel LA Multiple exhibitions & performances Community exhibition at Da FUNction Poets at the Polls & Day of the Dictionary exhibitions
	AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs)	Solo exhibition Solo exhibition at The Regent event Solo exhibition at Stage Raw Awards at LA Theatre Center
	Google Inc. Bootleg Theatre	Booth exhibition Corporate exhibition for company-wide convening Quickdraw Poetry Cabaret original stage show
2015	Dorothy Chandler Pavilion	LA County Arts Commission Holiday Show exhibition
	Galerie Ulrikt Petschelt	Performance & exhibition for gallery in Kassel, Germany
	Dismaland	Performance & exhibition for Banksy amusement park, UK
	Edinburgh Fringe Festival Imperial Theatre	Performance Feature, North Dakota poetry festival (The Word Parlor)
	Grand Park, LA	Exhibition for brown bag poetry series

RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2019 Artist-in-Residence, Boston Harbor Islands (Boston Harbor Now & National Parks System).

2017/18 Leadership LA Fellow (LA Chamber of Commerce, Scholarship Recipient).

2017 Writer-in-Residence, Mall of America.

2016/17 Arts4LA ACTIVATE Fellow (Arts4LA).

2016 Writer-in-Residence, Amtrak.

2016 Artist-in-Residence, City of Los Angeles.

2016 Creative Economic Development Fund Recipient, Center for Cultural Innovation & LA County Arts Commission.

2015 Artist-in-Residence, Santa Monica Mountains (National Parks System)

2015 Doris Duke Impact Award Nominee.

2015 Poet-in-Residence, Dollar Shave Club.

2014 Poet-in-Residence, Silverlake Picture Show Outdoor Summer Cinema.

2014 Director's Lab West Directing Fellow at Pasadena Playhouse.

2013/14 Poet-in-Residence, ArtWorks Theatre, Hollywood.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer in Poetry and Performance, UCLA. Los Angeles, CA (2016-present).

Lectured and coached students for the following undergraduate courses:

Arts & Architecture: AA10/Arts Encounters.

Fall 2017, 2018 and 2019.

WAC/D 2: Poetry: Writing & Performance.

Spring 2017 and 2018.

Student trainer and performer for Welcome to Bruin Life, Fall 2017 and 2018.

Frequent collaborator with CAP UCLA for typewriter installations at events.

Manager of Education & Teaching Artist, Get Lit - Words Ignite (2017-present)

Create teacher trainings and lead student workshops (4th-12th grade) as a teaching artist.

Oversee teaching artist training and in-school programs for partners, including:

LAUSD Teacher Trainings, In-Class Observations, and direct work with students.

Learn4Life Charter Schools Teacher Trainings and direct work with students.

LA Library/Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) 32-week poetry publishing curriculum.

Organize LA Convergence Poetry Conference. 2018 workshop lead. 2019 conference chair.

Master Teaching Artist, 24th Street Theatre. 2016-present.

Create curriculum for After 'Cool after-school program and Summer 'Cool summer

program, integrate guest teaching artists, and produce final show of student work.

Work in-class delivering workshops to 40+ LA County schools, 1st-8th grade.

Webinar Presenter, Americans for the Arts, Online, 2019. "Supporting Queer Artists."

Artist Residency, Chandler Center for Performing Arts, Arizona. 2016.

Created poetry workshops for local schools, 1st-5th grade.

Guest artist talk and workshop with youth advisory council, 9th-12th grade.

Teaching Artist, B.R.I.D.G.E Theatre Project. 2014-2016.

Pioneered & helped create curriculum for Lynwood Elementary Schools, 3rd-5th grade.

Workshop Leader, Center for Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, University of Miami, Oxford, Ohio, 2014. "Using Liberation Arts Tools for Urban Planning."

Speaker, Center for Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, University of Nebraska, Nebraska, 2013. "Between Emancipation & Tradition: Liberation Arts Educational Frameworks with the Shuar People of Ecuador."

Workshop Leader, Nación Shuar de Ecuador, Makuma, Ecuador in partnership with the Department of Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews, Scotland, 2012. Created a 2-month liberation arts and performance curriculum for participants ages 14-50 through local indigenous government and anthropologists in Amazonian Ecuador, resulting in the creation of a new indigenous theatre company.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts (Scottish MA). Sustainable Development. University of St Andrews. St Andrews, Scotland. 1st Degree Honors. Honors Thesis: *Toward a Green Theatre: Adapting Theatre of the Oppressed for the Environmental Movement*. Thesis Committee: Emilia Ferraro (advisor), Rehema White. Prize for Innovative Research. Entrance Scholarship in Philosophy. 2007-2011.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Arts4LA Program Advisory Board

Writers Blok Poetry Group Facilitator

Friends of the West Hollywood Library Board Member (forthcoming)

Jewish Women's Theatre Company Rebranding & Strategy Committee