



1420 N. CHARLES ST.
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

T: 410.837.6190
F: 410.837.6168

WWW.UBALT.EDU

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April 12th, 2017

Contact: Chris Hart
410.837.5739
chart@ubalt.edu

EVP: Emerging Voices Project 2017 *Spotlight UB releases lineup for showcase of creative work*

Spotlight UB is presenting its roster of writers and performers who will present creative projects as part of this year's Emerging Voices Project, or EVP. EVP was established to feature the work of UB community members, and produce it on stage for workshop. Audience members are encouraged to offer constructive feedback to the artist, who will use their invaluable commentary to hone their vision. Spotlight UB is dedicated to providing quality performance programming to the UB and surrounding Baltimore community as well as developing the talents of local writers, performers, and artists. All these events are free and open to the public, and will be held on the fifth floor of the UB Student Center.

EVP 2017 begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11th, with a staged reading of a new play by Victoria Kennedy, *The Uninvited Guest*. Kennedy, an alum of UB's Creative Writing and Publishing Arts MFA program in 2016, adapted the script from the eponymous short story in her fiction collection *Where Love Goes*. *The Uninvited Guest* utilizes the setting of a contentious dinner party to foment observations about the intersection of class and race in Baltimore. Kennedy is the founder of Zora's Den, a writing group for black women writers and her novel *Sometimes Love...* is forthcoming from Brown Girls Books. This reading will be held in the Wright Theater.

EVP's second event will be a performance by The Whole Dog, an improv group formed by students in ARTS 297: Improvisation taught by Bruce Nelson. This course, which is part of Performance Studies: Baltimore, teaches students creativity and performance technique through the art of improv. Bruce Nelson is a company member with the Everyman Theatre and is emblematic of the Performance Studies specialization's commitment to using working artists from Baltimore to teach UB students. The Whole Dog will take the stage on May 15th at 11:00 a.m. in the Wright Theater.

Also on May 15th, Spotlight UB is co-sponsoring the release party for the third issue of *Skelter*, a literary journal that exclusively features creative writing by UB students, staff, faculty, and alumni. *Skelter* is edited and designed by undergraduate students enrolled in ENGL 401: Publication and Performance, taught by Kyle Meikle. The release party will feature readings from contributing authors, and will be held in the Bogomolny room at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Author, editor, and faculty member Betsy Boyd will continue the series on Thursday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. with a reading of her fiction. Boyd teaches journalism and fiction to both undergraduate and graduate students at UB. She is the editor of "My Real Life Modern Family" a non-fiction series published by *Baltimore Fishbowl*, and is formerly the editor-in-chief of *Baltimore STYLE* magazine. Her fiction has garnered her a number of accolades, including a Maryland State Arts Council Award, a James Michener Fellowship, and a Pushcart Prize. Boyd will read in the Wright Theater.

EVP's final event will be a staged reading of *Black Maggies II*, a play by Sharea Harris. This is a direct sequel to *Black Maggies*, Harris's first installment into a universe where balance is maintained by a secret network of black women practitioners of magic. Harris, who staged *Black Maggies* during last year's Emerging Voices Project, graduated from the Creative Writing and Publishing Arts MFA program in 2016 when she published her poetry collection, *Dictionary*. In addition to being an artist and performer, she is an adjunct writing professor and consultant on UB's campus. *Black Maggies II* will be performed in the Wright Theater.

The University of Baltimore Student Center is located at 21 W. Mt. Royal Ave. in Baltimore. Reduced rate parking is available on event nights at the UB Maryland Avenue Garage, located on Maryland Avenue between Biddle and Chase Streets or the Fitzgerald Garage on Oliver Street; a voucher will be provided at the box office, and the UB shuttle is available to transport patrons between the venue and the garage.

Complete details about the Spotlight UB 2017 season are available [here](#). For more information about Spotlight UB, please visit www.ubalt.edu/spotlightub or send an e-mail to spotlightub@ubalt.edu.

The University of Baltimore is a member of the University System of Maryland and comprises the School of Law, the Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts and the Merrick School of Business
