



Chris August- Poetic Resume

About Chris

Chris August has been writing and performing poetry for nearly as long as he can remember. In the spring of 2002, he attended his first poetry slam at Baltimore's nationally certified poetry slam venue Slamicide!, and was hooked immediately. Within two months, he was featuring throughout the DC and Baltimore areas, and had become a full time host of the Baltimore reading, a potion he maintained until the reading's final show in 2009. From 2006 until 2009, Chris also took the administrative lead for the series and its slam team as the official slammaster.

Chris became a member of the DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam team the following year, representing his scene in Chicago in 2003. He has since represented the DC and Baltimore scenes as a member of seven national teams, including the 2006 DC/Baltimore slam team that competed on finals stage, ranking fourth in the nation.

In 2011, Chris competed in his fifth individual World Poetry Slam (iWPS), a spot he earned as the winner of the hosts city of Cleveland's Last Chance Slam. In this competition, he was ranked number one, earning the title of Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. He is currently the only poet from his region to hold this particular title. His victory enabled him to travel to Paris France as the American representative at the Coup de Monde world poetry championship, in which he competed alongside 18 other world renowned poets and placed second in the world.

For nearly a decade, Chris has been deeply committed to his work as a special education teacher in Baltimore. For years, he was in charge of multiple self-contained classrooms of students with an array of physical and intellectual disabilities. In January of 2012, he made the difficult decision to leave this calling

to pursue poetry full time. *A Life Called Special*, his most recent book, is a collection of poems based on his experiences in this field.

In the spring of 2012, Chris was invited to join the Maryland teaching artist roster of the nationally known non-profit organization Young Audiences. In the 2012-2013 school year, he has led workshops and assemblies in roughly 30 schools and community programs throughout the state, culminating in school and community based students projects and performances. Through them, he has been able to maintain his love of the classroom as a performer and workshop facilitator in schools throughout Maryland. He is currently planning curriculum that will be used to incorporate performance poetry into lesson plans for students of all ages and abilities.



Titles/Competitions

- 2011 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion (Cleveland, OH)**
- 2012 US representative at Poetry World Cup/Coupe de Monde (Paris, France)
- 2nd place performance poet in world, Coupe de Monde (Paris, France)
- Grand Slam Champion, 2011 DC Beltway slam team (Washington, DC)
- Champion, Spring 2011 Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) Poetry Slam (Black Mountain, NC)
- Member, 2011 DC Beltway National Poetry Slam, 5th place in nation (Boston, MA)
- Champion, 2010 Capturing Fire National LGBTQ Poetry Slam (Washington, DC)
- Member, 2010 DC Slam team, Southern Fried Regional Poetry Slam (Knoxville, TN)

- Top 20 competitor, 2009 Individual World Poetry Slam (*Berkeley, CA*)
- 2nd place finalist, 2008 Great Plains Poetry Pile Up (*Freemont, NE*)
- Champion, 2008 National Poetry Slam Haiku Head to Head Competition (*Madison, WI*)
- Member, 10th place Baltimore team, 2008 National Poetry Slam (*Madison, WI*)
- Member, 2007 DC/Baltimore, National Poetry Slam team (*Austin, TX*)
- Top 20 competitor, 2007 Individual World Poetry Slam (*Vancouver, BC*)
- Member, 4th place 2006 DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam team (*Austin, TX*)
- DC Representative, 2006 Individual World Poetry Slam (*Charlotte, NC*)
- Champion, Spring 2006 Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) Poetry Slam (*Black Mountain, NC*)
- Member, 2005 10th place DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam team (*Albuquerque, NM*)
- 2nd place finalist, 1st annual Nickel City Invitational Poetry Slam (*Buffalo, NY*)
- 7th place finalist, 2005 Individual World Poetry Slam (*Worcester, MA*)
- Champion, Fall 2004 Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) Poetry Slam (*Black Mountain, NC*)
- Champion, 5th Annual Heavyword Poetry Slam (*Harrisburg, PA*)
- Member, 2004 DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam team (*St. Louis, MO*)
- Grand Slam Champion, 2004 DC/Baltimore slam team (*Washington, DC*)
- Member, 2003 DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam team (*Chicago, IL*)

Professional Artist Employment

Young Audiences of Maryland

Teaching Artist (*March 2012- present*)

- Perform poetry in cultural arts assemblies at public schools (K-12)
- Plan 3-10 day long residencies geared toward teaching school aged students elements of writing and performing poetry
- Design poetry curriculum that aligns with Maryland state standards for summer learning and other special programs and events

- Meet with teachers and other school representatives to plan arts integration lessons
- Design and run school and community based culminating projects and performances that showcase student work

Nebraska Writers Collective

- Coached teams of high aged performance poets in and out of competitive settings
- Ran professional develops for teachers and coaches leading writing workshops, coaching performances and connecting with young people in meaningful, safe capacities
- Led several public poetry events in and around Omaha. *Omaha*.

Publication Credits

Poetry Manuscripts

Loving Instruments, Sargent Press, 2013

A Life Called Special, The Fridge Press, 2012

Journals/Anthologies

Beltway Poetry Quarterly- 2016, 2012, 2011

Flicker and Spark: A Contemporary Queer Anthology of Spoken Word, Edited by Brittany Fonte and Regie Cabico, AbeBooks, 2013

Hyperlexia Online Journal of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Split This Rock poetry anthologies, http://www.splitthisrock.org/poetry-database/search/search&poem_author_text-exact=Chris%20August

Workshops and Professional Developments Offered

How to Teach and Coach Slam Poetry Even if You're Not a Poet!: PD for teachers

Lecture, writing prompt and interactive activity

Presented at: Harford County Slam Poetry Conference, Churchville, MD-April,2007

Cherish the Child Advocacy Conference, Bel Air, MD- April 2009

Slam Theory: Strategy and Memorization: All ages workshop

Lecture, interactive activity

Presented at: Louder Than a Bomb Youth Slam Workshop, Omaha, NE- April 2012, March 2013

Making the Personal Universal: All ages writing workshop

Lecture, writing prompt and guided critique

Presented at: Harford County Slam Poetry Conference, Churchville, MD-April,2007

Cherish the Child Advocacy Conference, Bel Air, MD- April 2009

Louder Than a Bomb Youth Slam Workshop, Omaha, NE- April 2012

The Narrative Continuum: All ages workshop

Lecture, writing/performance prompt, interactive activity

Presented at: Harford Community College Poetry Expo. Churchville, MD, February, 2007

The History of Slam Poetry

Lecture, multi-media presentation

Presented at: Harford County Slam Conference, Churchville, MD- April 2008

Louder than a Bomb Youth Slam Workshop, Omaha, NE- April 2012

Arts Integration as a Literacy Tool in Special Education Settings: PD for special educators

In conjunction with Young Audiences of Maryland, for presentation in Maryland Public Schools

School Performances/Workshops

-University of Maryland, College Park (College Park, MD)

-University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Catonsville, MD)

-Goucher College (Towson, Maryland)

- University of Delaware (Newark, DE)
- Hampshire College (Hampshire, MA)
- Edgewood High School (Edgewood, MD)
- North Harford High School (Street, MD)
- Bel Air High School (Bel Air, MD)
- Aberdeen High School (Aberdeen, MD)
- Kenwood High School (Essex, MD)
- Baltimore Talent Development High School (Baltimore, MD)
- Matapeake Middle School (Stevensville, MD)
- Windy Hill Middle School (Owings, MD)
- Graceland Park Elementary School (Baltimore, MD)
- Parkview High School (Sterling, VA)
- Peekskill High School (Peekskill, NY)
- Peekskill Middle School (Peekskill, NY)
- Peekskill Field Library (Peekskill, NY)
- Lincoln North Star High School (Lincoln, NE)
- Creighton Preparatory High School (Omaha, NE)
- Duchene's High School (Omaha, NE)

Slam Poetry Features



-Toronto Poetry Slam- Toronto, ON

-Capital City Slam- Ottawa, ON

-Port Veritas Slam- Portland, ME

-Mama's Crow Bar- Portland, ME

-Providence Poetry Slam- Providence, RI

-Got Poetry Live- Providence, RI

-Poets Asylum- Worcester, MA

-Cantab- Boston, MA

-Slam Free or Die- Manchester, NH

-Nuyorican Poets Café- New York, NY

Bowery Poetry Club- New York, NY

White Plains Poetry Slam- White Plains, NY

Syracuse Poetry Slam- Syracuse, NY

Loser Slam- Freehold, NJ

The Fuze- Philadelphia, PA

The Arts Alliance- Newark, DE

Wilmington Poetry Slam- Wilmington, DE
Slamicide!- Baltimore, MD
Be Free Fridays- Baltimore, MD
Organic Soul Tuesdays- Baltimore, MD
Warm Wednesdays- Baltimore, MD
Art of Conversation- Baltimore, MD
Jammin' Java- Ellicott City, MD
Roadhouse Slam- College Park, MD
Busboys & Poets- Washington, DC
Spit Dat!- Washington, DC
Urban Energy- Washington, DC
DC Slam- Washington, DC
9 on the Ninth- Washington, DC
Slam Charlotte- Charlotte, NC
Delray Beach Poetry Slam- Delray Beach, FL
Lexington Poetry Slam- Lexington, KY
Black Pearl Poetry Series- Columbus, OH
Writer's Block Poetry Series- Columbus, OH
Queen City Slam- Cincinnati, OH
They Say Poetry Series- Detroit, MI
Milwaukee Poetry Slam- Milwaukee, WI
Madison Poetry Slam- Madison, WI
The Green Mill- Chicago, IL
Lincoln Poetry Slam- Lincoln, NE
Oklahoma City Slam- Oklahoma City, OK

Austin Ego's- Austin, TX

Puro Slam- San Antonio, TX

Ft. Worth Poetry Slam- Ft. Worth, TX

Corpus Christi Poetry Slam- Corpus Christi, TX

Boise Poetry Slam- Boise, ID

Special Events/Hosting

-Host of Baltimore's Slamicide!, Nationally certified slam series (Baltimore, MD), 2002-2009

-Slammaster- DC/Baltimore National Poetry Slam- 2006-2009

-LGBTQ Youth Group Workshop-Harford County Unitarian Church (Churchville, MD)- 2011

-Occupy Baltimore, Educator's Rally-Guest Speaker (2011)

-Enough is Enough Rally on the Capitol-Guest Speaker (2011)

-Atlanta Queer Literary Arts Festival-Guest Speaker (2011)

-Cherish the Child Educators and Social Workers Convention- Guest Speaker/Facilitator

- Baltimore's Slamicide! Poetry Series, Co-host/Curator (2002-2009)

- DC/Baltimore slam team, Slammaster (2007-2008)

-Capturing Fire LGBTQ Festival, Featured performer (2010)

-Maryland Youth Poetry Slam Festival, Host/Panelist (2007)

-Maryland Youth Poetry Workshop, Facilitator (2008)

-Voices Out Loud- A Tribute to Bayard Rustin, Featured Performer (2012)

-Minnesota Collegiate Poetry Slam, Coach, Guest Performer (2012)