

## **ABDUL ALI**

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Morgan State University  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **M.F.A. in Poetry + Creative Nonfiction**

American University, Washington, D.C., May 2013

### **B.A. in English + Theater**

Howard University, Washington, D.C., May 2008

## **APPOINTMENTS**

<b>2023–</b>	Affiliate Faculty, <b>Morgan State University</b>
<b>2021—2022</b>	Program Director, <b>MD State Arts Council</b>
<b>2019—2021</b>	Honors Coordinator, <b>Comm. College of Balt. County</b>
<b>2021–</b>	Founder, <b>The Ali Consultancy</b>
<b>2017—2019</b>	Lecturer, <b>Howard University</b>
<b>2018</b>	Lecturer, <b>Maryland Institute College of Art</b>
<b>2017</b>	Lecturer, <b>Johns Hopkins University</b>
<b>2017—</b>	Workshop Leader, <b>The Writer’s Center</b>
<b>2015— 2017</b>	English Faculty, <b>The Bryn Mawr School</b>
<b>2014 —2015</b>	Lecturer, <b>Towson University</b>
<b>2013</b>	Lecturer, <b>Goucher College</b>
<b>2013</b>	Lecturer, <b>Montgomery College</b> (Adjunct)

## **HONORS and AWARDS**

<b>2022</b>	<b>Virginia Center for Creative Arts (VCCA)</b> , Fellow (Poetry)
<b>2021</b>	<b>Sewanee Writers Conference</b> , Walter E. Dakin Fellow (Poetry)
<b>2019</b>	<b>Ruby Artist Grant</b> , Robert Deutsch Foundation
<b>2017</b>	<b>Individual Artist Award (Poetry)</b> , Maryland State Arts Council
<b>2016</b>	<b>Cave Canem Fellow</b> , 2021, 2019, 2016
<b>2015</b>	<b>Julie Sok Book Award</b> , Finalist
<b>2014</b>	<b>New Issues Poetry Book Prize</b> , Contest Judge Fannie Howe
<b>2013</b>	<b>Individual Artist Grant</b> , D.C. Commission Arts & Humanities <b>Larry Neal Writers Award</b> , Finalist in Poetry

2012	<b>Poets &amp; Writers Reading/Workshop Grant</b>
2010	<b>Election to the Board of Directors, Hurston/Wright</b>
2007	<b>College Language Association Poetry Contest Winner</b>
	<b>Mt. Vernon Poetry Contest, George Washington University</b>
2006	<b>Ronald E. McNair Scholar, Howard University</b>

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*This Beautiful and Terrible Thing.* (Poetry, In-Progress)

*Trouble Sleeping.* New Issues Poetry & Prose. 2015 (Winner of 2014 New Issues Poetry Book Prize)

### Poems in Journals

from “Micro Aggressions” (#9, #15, #25, #29, #38). *Hopkins Review*. March 2024

Poetry Feature. *Foto Specchio*. March 2024

“Pastoral,” —

“I Want to Write a Poem About Trees (Without a Lynching)” —

“Self Portrait” —

“Upon Turning Thirty-Eight” —

“Fear of Parenting” —

“Pastoral #14” —

“This Tiny Utopia Nestled in the Archive,” *Copper Nickel*, Spring 2022

“Moonlight” & “What If That Evening Was a Metaphor?” *Little Patuxent Review*, Winter 2022

“Metaphor,” *Transitions*, Spring 2021

“[Holy](#),” “[Passing \(or Notes Toward a Manifesto\)](#),” “[Elegy](#),” *Poetry Foundation*, 2017

“Imitation of Life” “And I Think to Myself/ What a Wonderful,” *The Journal*, Winter 2017

“[Carl’s Barbershop](#),” *Plume*, Winter 2017.

“[On Meeting Robert Hayden in a Dream](#),” *The Journal of Baha’i Studies*, Fall 2015

“After Ferguson, New Year’s Eve, 2014,” *Poet Lore*, Poets Introducing Poets. Fall/Winter 2015.

“Four Blue Stanzas,” —

“Gotham ‘Round Midnight,” —

“I Now Sleep With a Plastic Mask,” —

“Notes Towards an Origin Story,” —

“Praise Song #6,” —

“On Editing a Documentary on Jean-Michel Basquiat,” —

“On Fortune,” —

“The Prince” —  
“[The Amistad](#),” *Split This Rock Poem-of-the-Week*, October 2014.  
“Things are Gonna Get Easier,” “This is Just to Say,” *Lo-Ball*, 2012.  
“I Don’t Think for a Second That We Won’t Survive This,” *A Gathering of Tribes*, 2011.  
“The Subway Men,” “Burying the N-Word,” *Gargoyle*, 2010.  
“First Workshop,” *New Contrast* (South Africa), Winter 2010.  
“Arts Poetica #2,” [Beltway Poetry Quarterly](#), Spring 2008.  
“Fatherhood Poem #1,” —  
“First Poem About Us,” —  
“41 Breaths for Amadou Diallo,” ---  
“Uptown Looking Down” —  
  
“[There Were Homes](#),” *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, Fall 2007.

### **Edited Journals**

Ekphrastic Writing. Special Issue. Guest Editor. Full Bleed. Issue #6. Spring 2023  
A Tribute to Dolores Kendrick: Special Issue. Guest Editor. *Pleiades*. Winter 2019

### **Selected Poems in Anthologies**

*This is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets*, “Carl’s Barbershop.” 2024  
*Furious Flower: Seeding of the Future of African American Poetry*, “I Don’t Think for a Moment That We Won’t Survive This.” 2019.  
*Resisting Arrest: Poems to Stretch the Sky*. “Elegy.” 2016.  
*Full Moon on K Street*, “There Were Homes.” 2010.

### **Prose**

“Who Will Inherit Greg Tate’s Mantle of Culture Critic-in-Chief? I Have a Candidate.”  
*L.A. Times*. March 2022.  
“A Message to My Father, From Your Stubborn Son,” *Boston Globe*, June 2020.  
“Drama Queen: After 21 Years, This Actress is Enjoying a ‘Season of Firsts’”  
*Washington Post Magazine*, April 2016.  
“The Woman Civil Rights Leaders Threw Under a Bus,” *The Root*, February 2014.

“How Washington, D.C., Turned Its Back on Go-Go, the Music It Invented,” *The Atlantic*, July 2012.

“The Wide World of Art,” *The Crisis*, Spring/Summer 2012.

“There Goes the Neighborhood: Why Clybourne Park Doesn’t Do Right by Its Inspiration,” *Washington City Paper*, August 2011.

### **Selected Prose in Anthologies**

*It’s All Love*, “Silence, The Language of Trees,” 2008

### **SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES, INTERVIEW**

Interview with Grace Cavaleri. *The Poet and the Poem*. February 2024

### **Interviews**

“A Conversation with Victor LaValle: An Interview” *Wasafarii*. London. Issue 76, Fall 2013.

“How I Learned to Walk Through Any Door in the House”: A Conversation with Evie Shockley, *Folio*, May 2013.

“This is the Time for Poetry: A Conversation with Alice Walker,” *The Atlantic*, March 2012.

### **Critical Writing**

Introduction. *Scattered Clouds: New & Selected*. Reuben Jackson, Alan Squire Press, 2019.

“Eulogizing a Generation in Elizabeth Alexander’s “When.” *The Hopkins Review*, Vol.14, No.2, Spring 2021.pp. 179-184.

## **SELECTED READINGS AND INVITED TALKS**

Sewanee Writer's Conference. Writer's Career Lecture: On Dolores Kendrick. August 2021  
Ruby Artist Fellow Closing Reading. October 2020  
Cave Canem Fellow Reading, University of Pittsburgh, June 2019  
University of MD-College Park. Why Poetry Matters Seminar. March 2019  
Red Room Reading Series. West Village, NYC. Feb. 2, 2018.  
Faculty Reading. Johns Hopkins University. Washington, DC, September 2017.  
DC Poetry Project. DC Public Library (Anacostia). WDC, March 2017  
Anthology Reading: Resisting Arrest. Potter's House. December 2016  
Cave Canem Fellow Reading, University of Pittsburgh, June 2016  
Dickinson College Visiting Writer Series, April 2016  
Towson University Poetry Reading Series. October 2015.  
"Everybody's Protest Music,". University of Pennsylvania. October 2015.  
Reading w/poet Patricia Spears Jones. Berl's Poetry Shop. August 2015  
Poetry Society of America/ Bryant Park Reading Series: July 2015  
Reading/Interview: The Poet and the Poem hosted by Grace Cavaleri.  
Podcast at Library of Congress, July 2014.  
VisArts at Rockville, Third Thursday Reading Series. Feb. 2014  
Graduate Reading at Politics + Prose. American University. Washington May 2013.  
Poetry in the Garden: The Textile Museum of Washington, DC. September 2012. Literary  
Lunchtime Reading Series at University Library, American University, March 2012.  
Nine on the Ninth Reading Series. Busboys and Poets, April 2010.  
"It's All Love" Anthology Reading, Strathmore Mansion, October 2009. Mt. Vernon  
Poetry Festival, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 2007. Nora  
School Reading Series, October 2007.  
In Vogue: Josephine Baker and Black Culture and Identity. Centennial Celebration  
at Smithsonian Natural Museum in Washington, D.C. November 2006.

## **VISITING WRITER APPOINTMENTS, RESIDENCIES**

Mariposa Poetry Retreat. Waynesboro, PA. October 2017  
The Loft Literary Center. Minneapolis, MN. June 2017  
Visiting Poet. Dickinson College. Carlisle, PA. April 2016  
Poetry Master Class. YoungArts. Miami, Fl. March 2016  
Cinopoetics: Blending Film, Photography and Poetry Workshop. CentroNia, October 2012

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS/ PRESENTATIONS**

Moderator: "Understudied and Misread: The Ongoing Work of Decolonizing Literary Criticism," Furious Flower Poetry Conference IV, James Madison University. September 18-21, 2024.

Speaker: "Eulogizing a Generation." Presented at Sonnets from the American Conference, Johns Hopkins University. Virtual Conference. Oct. 1-3, 2020.

Speaker: "Writing Through Madness," The Writer's Center, January 2020

Keynote: Why Poetry Matters: a Seminar, University of MD- College Park, March 2019  
Baltimore City Lit Festival, April 2017

Panelist: "Writing from Your Roots": A Panel. Baltimore City Lit Festival. April 2017

Panelist: "O Howard We Sing of Thee": HU Alumni Reflect on their Path to Poetry from 'The Mecca', Moderator. AWP Conference. Washington, D.C. February 2017.

Speaker: "Celebrating Langston: Langston Hughes and Contemporary Writers," Panelist. AWP Conference. Washington, D.C. February 2017.

Moderator: "Beyond the Page: Unexplored Spaces of History and Identity in August Wilson's Plays," National Conference on the Life and Legacy of August Wilson. Howard University. Washington, D.C. October 2016.

Panelist: "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation," AWP Conference. Minneapolis, MN. 2015

Moderator: Post-Show Talk Panel: The Baton Passes On (The Mountaintop), Arena Stage: May 2013.

Panelist: "MFA Students Speak Up: If We're Not Happy, You're Not Happy," Panelist. AWP Conference. Chicago, IL. February 2012

Speaker: "Black Men Dying: A Blue Note in the Plays of August Wilson." Tell Your Story: August Wilson Conference. University of Maryland- College Park. February 2007

## **SERVICE**

### **National**

Poetry Reviewer, Callaloo, 2024-  
Advisory Board, Full Bleed Literary Journal, 2023-  
Editor-at-Large, Pleiades Magazine. 2021-22  
Poetry Editor, Pleiades Magazine. 2020  
National Poetry Reader. YoungArts Foundation. 2016-2021  
Reviewer, *The Big Read*, NEA. March 2021  
Preliminary Reader. Cave Canem Poetry Prize. Spring 2021  
Preliminary Reader. Donald Hall Poetry Prize. Spring 2019

### **Regional**

Appointee, Baltimore Pride Committee, 2022  
Juror, Stonewall International Poetry Slam, October 2021  
Juror, Selection Committee for Poet Laureate of MD. MD Arts Council. September 2018  
DC Poetry Project: Judge & Workshop Leader. DC Public Library, Anacostia. March 2017  
Diversity Monologue Contest: Judge & Coach. Dickinson College. November 2016  
Juror, Literature Fellowship Panel, DC Commission Arts and Humanities, August 2014  
Juror, Hurston/Wright Legacy Award: Poetry Book Prize, 2012  
Curator, The Washington Caravan: A photography exhibition on D.C. area poets on display at American Poetry Museum. 2008.  
Moving Words Poetry Contest Judge, Arlington Humanities Council: 2013, 2009  
Poetry Contest Judge, Virginia Poetry Society: 2008.

### **University/College**

Benjamin Quarles Conference Committee, Morgan State University, 2023-2024  
Minority Male Student Success Initiative (MSSI) Committee, CCBC Spring 2021  
Search Committee, TRIO Program, CCBC, Spring 2021  
Faculty Host for Distinguished Lecturer Natasha Trethewey, Howard University, Spring 2019  
Grievance Committee, Faculty Senate, CCBC, 2019-2021  
Presidential Distinguished African American Lecture Selection Committee, CCBC, Fall 2019  
Writing Program Assessment Committee, Howard University, 2017-2019  
Personal Pathways Committee, The Bryn Mawr School, 2015-16  
Sophomore Advisor, The Bryn Mawr School, 2015-16  
First Year Advisor (FYE), Towson University, Spring 2015  
Faculty Reader, Verge Literary Journal, Goucher College, Spring 2014

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)

August Wilson Society, Board Member

Love + Cornbread, A Food Justice Project

Poets-in-Progress, Apprenticeship with D.C. Poet Laureate

Dolores Kendrick: alumnus (active 2009-2013.)

Thread, Racial Justice and Equity Organization

Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation