

THE ROSE
EDUCATION SERIES

ARTS ADVENTURES

ARTS FOR CHANGE WORKSHOPS

WRITING FOR CHANGE

JULY 15

**WITH IAN KETEKU, JAEL RICHARDSON,
SHARADA ESWAR, AND SOPHIE ANNE EDWARDS**

Moderated By: Katy Belshaw, Strategic Projects Coordinator, Culture, City of Brampton

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BRAMPTON



IAN KETEKU

BIO:

IAN'S POETRY IS AN ARTICULATION OF A GENERATION'S HEARTBEAT. A MAGICIAN WITH SYNTAX AND A WORD SORCERER, HE CONJURES NEW REALITIES ALL IN AN ATTEMPT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR EXISTENCE. AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SPOKEN WORD POET HE IS THE 2010 WORLD POETRY SLAM CHAMPION. HE USES HIS VOICE TO INSPIRE MESSAGES OF PEACE, ACTION AND CRITICAL THOUGHT. IAN'S WORK IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY HIS UPBRINGING AND JOURNEYS THROUGHOUT AFRICA. HIS WORK FOLLOWS IN THE LINEAGE OF ANCIENT AFRICAN STORYTELLERS BY PAYING HOMAGE TO THE PAST AND REVISITING THEMES AND LESSONS FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS.

THE ROOT OF MY PHILOSOPHY CAN BE DISTILLED THROUGH AN OLD ZIMBABWE SAYING, "IF YOU CAN WALK - YOU CAN DANCE, IF YOU TALK - YOU CAN SING." I BELIEVE THAT SPOKEN WORD POETRY IS A DEMOCRATIC ARTFORM, ACCESSIBLE TO ANYONE WITH A VOICE, WITH A STORY.

TO ME, LEARNING IS NOT UNIDIRECTIONAL, IT IS A FLUID EXCHANGE BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT. THE MOST EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTS ARE ONES WHICH I AM ALSO LEARNING AS PART OF THE PROCESS. I BELIEVE ART IS A PUBLIC SERVICE AND SPOKEN WORD POETRY ONE OF THE GREATEST ASSETS WE HAVE TO REFLECT THE WORLD AROUND US AND CONJURE SOLUTIONS TO THE HUMAN CONDITION.

ACTIVITY

THE YEAR IS NOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CREATE A NEW MINISTRY WHICH YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

- CREATE A MINISTRY
- CREATE A NAME FOR THE MINISTRY (I.E MINISTRY OF HUGS, MUSIC, ETC)
- WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS?
- HOW WOULD YOU EXECUTE YOUR PLANS?
- WHO DOES THIS BENEFIT?

Sharada K Eswar

Artist Statement:

Storyteller, writer and vocalist I effortlessly combine the four facets of art. I create art that synthesizes the stories, legends, the folklore and the mythologies and aesthetics of India and the eclectic influences of the world we live in. My work reflects the hybridity of our lives and transcends borders of culture, religion and ethnicity...

My personal vision of storytelling is continually inspired by tradition. Tradition is the cornerstone for the creation and practice of my art, and it will always be the touchstone for the art I create and perform. Simultaneously, my work needs to be relevant and accessible to contemporary audiences. I strive to reflect a contemporaneity that makes my storytelling Indian in technique and universal in context.

Bio:

Playwright, storyteller, singer and arts educator, Sharada Eswar's work spans across multi disciplines and art forms. A graduate in Literature Studies, she trained to be a writer and a storyteller. Simultaneously she also immersed herself in Carnatic Music (south Indian classical music) in Chennai, India. She also took to many other styles

including Hindustani Classical (Patiala Gharana) Rabindra Sangeet, Abhang and European. While maintaining her Veena studies, her interest shifted to the voice and storytelling. She was part of the team representing India at the India Abroad show in Paris and New York. She was also one of the three chosen by the

Centres Culturels des Lions Clubs de Paris to present Indian culture in Normandy, France. Since then, she has been performing and teaching in Toronto and internationally, drawing on her own South Asian ancestry and heritage. A published children's author, Sharada has until recently been OAC's Cultural Animator In Mississauga/Peel Region. Upcoming: The Mahabharata (Whynot Theatre & Shaw Festival: Spring 2022); Butter Chicken (2021); The Lonely Wife (2021)

Writing Activity:

You'll create a piece of writing that represents specific moments in your life that contribute to who you are today. Imagine being able to express where you're from without simply saying the name of a city, state or country. This writing is about YOU!

Use the following categories to list specific details related to you. The key is making this as specific and personal as possible. Use nicknames or words that only you or your family use. Don't worry about readers not knowing what you're talking about. That's perfectly okay, because this is personal and particular to the writer, not the audience.

- a) Parent's names and significant relatives
- b) Special foods or meals
- c) Family specific games or activities
- d) Nostalgic songs
- e) Stories, novels or poetry that you'll never forget
- f) Phrases that were repeated often
- g) The best things that you were told
- h) The worst things that you have been told
- i) Ordinary household items
- j) Family traditions
- k) Family traits
- l) Family tendencies

m) Religious symbols or experiences

n) Specific story(ies) about a specific family member that influenced you

o) Losses

p) Joys

q) Location of memories, pictures, or mementos

Select from your lists the items you want to include in your poem. You do not have to include everything that you listed, and you can always add more categories or items to include in your poem.

Composing

Begin with: I am from _____. (Fill in with one of the items you listed while prewriting.)

Continue on the next line with: From ____ and _____. (Fill in each blank with items from your list.)

Continue with: I am from _____ **and** _____. (Fill in the blanks as you did before.) Continue this format until you have completed your poem.

End the poem with an explanation of where you keep any symbols, items, boxes or pictures that may represent some or most of the topics you included in your poem.

Reread your poem and make any changes or edits. This poem can be rewritten over and over again, and you'll probably find yourself thinking about more things that you can add to your poem even when you are finished.



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Ecology: from Greek: οἶκος, "house", or "environment"; -λογία, "study of"

Writing: creates worlds, ways of thinking and relating

What world, habitat, house -- what different relations -- can you create with ecological writing?

try this:

- choose an other-than-human natural element -- a houseplant, the sky, clouds, a tree, birds outside your window, the water from your tap, a local park...
- trace the life of this element: its movements, changes, patterns over time, through space... consider how human processes influence these patterns and movements (write down words)
- trace the exchanges and stories between you and this element: emotional, bodily, sensory (write down words)
- consider/create/change/follow your own process, protocols, 'rules' for engaging with, and writing about this element: what is culturally, socially, ecologically, politically important?
- draw lines between words, circle connections and contradictions... write a paragraph or a poem with these words.
- do this every day for a week, or every week for a month.