

## ***CHERRI POET***

In 2008, Cherri Poet travelled as the featured artist and one of several Literary Ambassadors with the organization “*Read Across Jamaica*” to the island of Jamaica. There, she visited over 15 schools across the Island, performing from her album “*Eva Success*”, and donating school books and supplies to students...while promoting the importance of literacy. Here’s her story...



**NSS:** Greetings Cheri and thanks for taking time out to reason. Please tell the readers a little about yourself; where are you from?

**CP:** Greetings Norman. My name is Cherri Poet. Known as the ReggaeRapStar...Superstar! And I do just that...and then some. I hail from the beautiful Island of Jamaica.

**NSS:** Were you born in Jamaica?

**CP:** Yes I was born in Jamaica.

**NSS:** Give us a brief description of “Jam Rock.”

**CP:** Plain and simply, Jamaica is beautiful. Sunshine and crazy rain when it rains. Great place to be. (If yuh have money inna yuh pocket) Something going on every time. Fish and bammy ah fry. Somebody a steam fish, Sensi in the air... (Although not legal) Music, a major part of Jamaican culture. You hear it all day, all night. Can’t be hungry...food always deh bout. (From yuh have yuh money still) Or even if nuh money nuh deh...And yuh in the country parts,

yam, banana, and plantain, whatever you need grows right there. No need for a supermarket more time. Poor but full of love and like anywhere else in the world, there is corruption and negativity as well. Beautiful beaches, many and plenty. Pure niceness...Yes!

**NSS: How long have you lived in New York?**

CP: I recently moved to New York just under three months now and loving it. Working on and making as many links as I possibly can and loving the idea of taking a big bite out of the Big Apple

**NSS: When did you first realise you wanted to be a poet/writer/performer? – What prompted you?**

CP: Well, to be honest, since childhood. I used to lay in my bed at a very young age...like 5, 6 yrs. old; and day dream about performing on stage. Of course in my little head, the crowd/audience was always completely taken by me. Screaming and hollering...passing out at the awesome wonder that stood before them. lol...but serious ting. I've always wanted to be on stage. I did however have a hatred for my own voice. I never liked it much when I used to record myself on the tape recorder I found laying around in our house. As for acting...Well, that is something so natural and also came at a young age. Poetry was something I was fascinated by from early on. I would read every poem posted on the wall, books of poetry like that of Edgar A. Poe, Robert Frost and yuh done know seh...Ms. Lou and Mass John. Yeah man...Love the poetry mad from long time. Did I actually believe I would wind up as a ReggaeRap artist and Poet...Not really. I really thought it was just my mind fantasising gone wild.

**NSS: Which authors/poets/musicians/rappers/toasters have you felt inspired by in particular and why?**

CP: Again...Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Frost, Miss Lou, Shakespeare...the list goes on. Musically, Lauren Hill, Missy Elliott, Eminem, more recently JZ and definitely Kanye West. As for Reggae, I think I really check for artists like Bujju, lyrically, Bounty Killer, Lady Saw, and Sista Carol. I think they all have something extra special about their music styles. Kanye West in my eyes reminds me of myself. Pure Genius. He is the type of artist that causes other artist to hate him till they love him. Totally original and mind blowing. Eminem; goodness Gracious, he major in my mind. Respect his writing to the max, (even though I may not necessarily agree with all he writes about), but an awesome writer and lyricist. Missy E; I don't know; I think fact that she could talk about absolutely nothing and make it hot. So much to say about all those who have inspired me...Too much entirely for words right now anyways.

**NSS: What is your favourite music genre or are you versatile with your listening?**

CP: Strait talkin'...I just love music. And you can tell just by listening to mine. I write without thinking "Genre". I just write and make music to match what

my lyrics have to say. Jazz, Rap...Hip hop...Reggae...R&B...Country...If it's good country. Whatever is rockin...I'm feelin.

**NSS: What inspires you to write?**

CP: Life! For the most part life matters much to me when writing. Haters, injustice, laws, parking meter ticket officers, I don't know. If it ticks me off, I'll probably write about it. Love, gotta say love. Fantasies, my dyer need to believe in fairy tales come true, my happy endings, and the serious things. Truth and lies, whatever; I just go crazy. I laugh and cry at my wording sometimes. I wonder; "*did I do that!*" a lot. Or even "*what on earth made me just say that*"; It's a turn on. It lights my fire. I know the story word for word just after I've finished writing it. I'm crazy about it.

**NSS: What subject/s do you like to write about?**

CP: Anything and everything. Especially love and Injustice. Fun things; whatever crosses my mind or just plain life issues that we all, rich or poor face and can identify with.

**NSS: I can see you have a Caribbean influence and background. Did you used to be in a sound system or was music an important/major or natural part of your upbringing?**

CP: Yes, music was all around me as a child, but no, no links to sound systems as a child. Clubbin during my high school days; yes! In fact, my crib was the party spot. My mom fixed up the basement and garage/ put a mini bar in and the rest was history. Every year, birthday bashment in the basement. After prom parties, advertising on the reggae station like mad; \$2 at the door to get in, DJ spinnin; crazy! Yeah man, High School days, crazy partying, but not yet an artist. My focus at the time was theatre/acting as my major in College. The defining moment, or the true realization that I could really grab the mike and make tunes happened later.

**NSS: Do you write full-time?**

CP: Most of the time. Recording, acting, producing, directing short plays...etc; but artistically inclined all the while.

**NSS: Do you have or set a schedule when you are writing?**

CP: No. It just happens. Like when I'm driving on the highway...Or pass a strip where someone was just killed. That's how I wrote the tune "WHY". Driving down the road and seeing flowers, teddy bears and cards lying by the side. I knew it all too well. Some youth just get shot deh suh. The words just came to me: "*Why so much youth ah shout Ready fi die. Why so much youth ah tek life fi ah toy. Why nuff ah rush so fi kill or be killed...Like it's all in a days work to kill or be killed. Why reside outside the law and not in...Why lef yuh sucklin alone inna crib. Why cause yuh baby modda eye fi puff up. When yuh gone dust to dust-There is no coming back*" And there the chorus came to me.

Just like that. I pulled over to a gas station, grabbed a piece of napkin I had in the car from McDonalds and began to write.



**Cherri Poet performing on stage**

**NSS: What kind of research is involved with your work?**

CP: For the most part, the research is what I and others see and feel everyday. If I am writing for something...A soundtrack to a film or for hire, then I may research the subject.

**NSS: What is your creative process like; what happens when you first sit down to write?**

CP: Usually I just let it flow...I don't try too hard nor do I wish to. I write as it comes to me.

**NSS: Do you impose a discipline on yourself regarding schedules, goals etc?**

CP: No I don't and I probably should. I just make sure I meet schedules and am prepared or such. I pray and keep faith alive and have dreams I dare to reach and I work extra hard for what I want...more so than setting goals I may not attain.

**NSS: Are you working on a current project(s)?**

CP: I'm currently writing and recording new tunes (mostly for features on other artists' works.) Also I'm directing a Caribbean play *Kissing Cousins* written by playwright Joy Smith. Auditions for a cast are set for early December, 2010 in Bronx, New York.

**NSS: What projects have you worked on previously?**

CP: Lots of acting...especially of late. I played the part of "Matilda the maid" in Lucille Fletcher's *Night Watch*. A suspense/thriller presented by The Stagecrafters Theatre in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, The part of "Homeless

Woman” in the African film: [Tears of my Joy](#): I also played the part of Lisa Thornton in the comic short play [Bedbugs](#): this is some of my acting.

I travelled in 2008 to Jamaica with *Read* as a “literary ambassador” and featured artist to promote literacy amongst the youth. I read to students, performed poetry and songs and encouraged the youth to “*get busy reading*”. I helped pack, sort and deliver thousands of books and supplies to many schools across the island. ([See the video here](#))

I’ve released two full length albums, *Speak My Calling* and *Eva Success*. I’ve also released a hip-hop single *Switcheroo*. Currently I have one complete (Hip-Hop-Reggae) album which I’ve decided to shop to labels and or distributors.



**Cheri Poet as *Matilda the maid* in the play *Night Watch***

**NSS:** Finally, is there anything you would like to express in regards of advice and encouragement for potential budding young writers, poets etc?

**CP:** Stay focussed; believe in oneself before expecting anyone else to believe in you. Dedicate oneself completely and fully. Go hard or go home, and definitely research the business of music. Gain as much knowledge about what you are doing before hand. Be prepared for a tough road, unless it comes easy for you. As for the female up and coming artists, get a manager or daddy or yuh big brother to roll with you. Or your moms. Full stop!

**NSS:** Cheri Poet, thank you very much for taking time out and having a reason with me and the readers of ***PANTHER NEWSLETTER***. Stay blessed and true, and may our Creator guide you and protect you in all your future ventures.

**CP:** Thank *you* for the opportunity. Blessings to you every time.

## **You can also find Cherri Poet on FaceBook**

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...And there's more information about Cherri Poet below...

### ***CHERRI POET- ReggaeRapStar...Superstar***

Cherri Poet is an accomplished stage performer, songwriter, poet and reggae/rap recording artist. She has released three musical compositions, including two full length collections, *Speak my calling* and *Eva Success*...featuring her music, which she bills as somewhat conceptual...{incorporating} poetry, hip-hop and reggae with a sweet vibe. She is also credited with several music videos of her own and featured in quite a few others; Including Summer Angel's "*Summer Sap Juice*." Cherri is also credited with composing song lyrics for the tune "Sweet Summer Angel" - A tune that took the radio waves by storm and heard in dancehalls across the board...Later released on Wildfire recording artist Summer Angel's album "*A Slice of Heaven*".

Cherri has been seen on several video shows in Philadelphia, including Franchise Live and Enter the Zone on channel 7. She was featured on the CVM-TV Morning Show in Kingston, Jamaica (one of the oldest and most respected broadcasters on the island). In 2006, having lost a brother to AIDS, Cherri embarked on a campaign supported by the Philly AIDS Walk, to raise public awareness, and funds for research, to meet the continuing challenge of this deadly disease. In 2008, Cherri Poet joined Philadelphia Senator Vincent Hughes and Wife Sheryl Lee Ralph on the steps of Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness and encourage government officials to invest much needed funds for AIDS research and health care for low income individuals suffering from AIDS and HIV.

Later that year, Cherri travelled as the featured artist and one of several Literary Ambassadors with the organization "*Read Across Jamaica*" to the island of Jamaica. There, she visited over 15 schools across the Island, performing from her album "*Eva Success*", and donating school books and supplies to students...while promoting the importance of literacy. Last year, Cherri Poet was featured in the African Film, [\*Tears of My Joy\*](#), where she wrote her own part and played the part of "Homeless Woman" alongside African Superstar actress Tontoh Dekai. The movie was filmed in Orange, N.J., Produced by Moses Ajedi and Directed by Bethels Agomou.

Just last year, Cherri Poet was seen playing the part of "*Sandra Doner Producer of the Nightly News*" in Colonial Playhouses' presentation of its 9th annual "Colonial Quickies", Cherri was featured in the short "*The Shoe*" by Ralph Tropf. Since then, she played the part of "Matilda" in The Stagecrafters presentation of Lucille Fletcher's *Night Watch*; which first opened on Broadway in 1972". A suspense/thriller by the author of "*Sorry...wrong number*".

Recently, Cherri Poet was seen performing her tunes at Shrine Lounge in N.Y.C., alongside such artists as Speed Child-from Shady Records and Paul Wayne. She was also featured as headline performer in N.W. Washington, D.C. at Almaz bar and Lounge this past December. Currently Cherri Poet is working on new music and new endeavours. Last March, Cherri Poet was seen performing live at the 4th annual Portland Curry Fest, Sunday, March 14th in beautiful Portland, Jamaica alongside such artists as Macka Diamond, Spragga Benz, King Yellowman, Lady G and many others. While on the Island, she recorded a new tune "*And Still*" (a tribute to Haiti) based off a poem she wrote on the Haitian Disaster in late January; and features Reggae Artist Hi Kee on Dutchgong Music "*COOL DOWN*" Riddim. The song has recently been released as a NEW SINGLE.

Cherri Poet continues to perform in local area plays while writing, producing and recording more hits. In fact, She has been recently commissioned to direct as well as perform in the play *Kissing Cousins...* written by Jamaican Artist and playwright Joy Smith. Cherri Poet has graced the stage at venues such as Watertower, Intl-Detroit, MI. alongside such artists as Jr. Pinchers, Ed Robinson, Phantom, Jerry Max and many more, 3 years Caribbean Festival on the waterfront in Philadelphia, Alongside Reggae Artist Summer Angel-Opened for Elephant Man at the Conduit Nightclub in Delaware, PA, Performed alongside such artists as El Feco, Benaton and Baby Cham at Pinnacle Nightclub-Centre City Philadelphia, Zanzibar on the waterfront in South West D.C. and the Sonar in downtown Baltimore, MD are some to note. More recently, she was seen performing live at "Fourth Fridays" in Philadelphia. There she was interviewed live on UStream video show headed by Artists United. Cherri is currently promoting her new singles "When I come to Jamaica" and "Tek mi laas \$20..." which took the Curry Fest audience by storm this past March. A week later, Cherri Poet was seen performing her hit tunes at the 2010 Caribbean Heritage Festival at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Bladensburg, MD.

Since then, Cherri Poet played the part of "Lisa" in the play/comedy [\*Bedbugs\*](#), directed by Valerie Monroe and Presented as part of Colonial Playhouse 10yr Anniversary Celebration. The play ran from June 11th June 26th/2010 at the Colonial Playhouse in Alden, PA. (Delaware County). A recent move to New York landed Cherri Poet an interview on H20tv with host "DOC" which recently aired in all 5 boroughs of New York. View Cherri Poet's "[\*Gets None\*](#)" video NOW!!! On regular rotation on H20 TV-Bronx, Mondays nights at 1am on channel 68. And even more recently, Cherri Poet has been heard on radio stations across New York in interviews twice on Royal Radio 106.3fm, Three times interview on Linkage Radio out of Mt. Vernon, NY and on Real Deal Radio, 94.1fm are some to note. Upcoming interviews include Royal Radio, Blackpoet Radio show out of Brooklyn, NY and again on Linkage Radio. Cherri Poet has not been wasting time as she has also been seen mashing up shows at Mingles Night Spot in Bronx, NY, featured performance at Bomb Baby 2010 Wrap up Concert at Karma Lounge in Manhattan, NY. December, 30th 2010. See video of Cherri Poet's live performance at Karma lounge [here](#) , And even performed at a Nursing Home as a holiday celebration for residents. So what is this Awesome, Original Energy Goddess and super theatrical artist doing unsigned? We'd better hold on to her special kind.

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**For more information and bookings:**

<http://www.myspace.com/cherripoet>

<http://www.youtube.com/cherripoet>

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