

SPECIAL GUEST

Joanne Black Poet Stephen

AUTHOR ON THE RISE

It is my pleasure to introduce you to my SPECIAL GUEST this month, Joanne ‘Black Poet’ Stephen from outta Brooklyn New York. I recently hooked with Joanne to reason with her, about her and her works...



NSS: Greetings Joanne, thank you for taking time out to be interviewed on PANTHER NEWSLETTER.

JBPS: Thank you for having me it's a pleasure and an honour.

NSS: Please could you tell the readers a little about yourself and where are you from?

JBPS: Well I was born and raised in Brooklyn New York but my parents are Guyanese.

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

JBPS: Actually that's a good question. It was the furthest thing from my mind. I had a friend who always told me that the public should hear my work and about three years ago I said I'll do it.

NSS: **What authors/people have inspired you in particular?**

JBPS: I always loved to read [Langston Hughes](#). I was always fascinated with his poetry.

NSS: **What do you enjoy about writing?**

JBPS: I enjoy writing about things that happen in everyday life. I also like to put a smile on people's face. Most people may want to omit certain things but it's life. Whatever comes to mind is going on paper as is!

NSS: **Do you perform live?**

JBPS: Yes I have started to perform live. When I do I usually have my books with me but I have performed at a few places. This past March I held my very first charity event called Love The Youths/Stop the violence which I also performed on. I also performed at a show on May 28th in Queens.

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

JBPS: I would not say that I write full time. I can write at any given time. If I'm sleeping and the words are there I have to write them down before I go back to sleep. If I'm on the train I have to jot it down in my phone. So I don't have a schedule at all.

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

JBPS: When I sit down it comes to me naturally. I've been asked if I needed a certain situation to get me flowing but for the Grace of God I don't.

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

JBPS: Yes I do. I always have a goal in mind and for it to be completed at a certain time. I think having a goal gives you more of an incentive to complete whatever task you start.

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

JBPS: Yes I am. I am proud to say that I am working on my very first Children's Book.

NSS: **What projects have you worked on and have been published in previously?**

JBPS: I have worked on My Deepest Thoughts Through My Eyes as well as The Insights of Blackpoet.

NSS: **You are a regular broadcaster on a radio station – could you give us a little background information about it what radio station do you broadcast from and the name of your show?**

JBPS: Well I work on a station called Allblackradio.com. It's a mixture of community affairs and interviewing veteran and up and coming artists. I also do a bit of poetry in between shows. I'm on air on Thursdays from 4-6pm.



NSS: How did you get into radio broadcasting?

JBPS: I was asked to come and do an interview on Noyzradio.com which is owned by a friend of mine. After a few times I ended up doing a segment on Saturday nights teamed up with Whandah The Dainty Queen and the show was called Mixed Vibes. I then left that station and teamed up on E2On Air which I was there for a couple of months. Finally I was called for an interview on allblackradio.com and was offered a position and I'm still with them up until today.

NSS: How do you promote yourself; do you have a website?

JBPS: Where do I begin (all smiles) I promote myself heavily on my Facebook page as well as I constantly carry my books with me everywhere I go. I also travel with my CD's. I have quite a few friends and business clientele that promote me just as much. I have several websites such as:

- www.reverbnation.com/blackpoet08www
- www.joannestephen.com
- www.facebook.com
- www.twitter.com/blackpoet08

- www.myspace.com/sexychocolate580

I can also be found on:

- www.Amazon.com

And:

- www.lulu.com/joannesluv4poetry

If all else fails you can look me up on Google by my name or the titles of my books.

NSS: Outside of writing, what other interests and hobbies do you have?

JBPS: I love to draw and do crafts. I used to design T-Shirts by hand but I stopped because it was time consuming. In my spare time I love to draw and I design hand laced oriental fans. I also have the fans for sale.

NSS: Finally do you have any advice and encouragement you would like to share with any potential budding writers?

JBPS: My advice for anyone willing to write something is quite basic. Just do it! Never give up on your dreams because you'll only be giving up on yourself.

NSS: Joanne, it has been a pleasure connecting with you. May our creator guide and protect you in all your future ventures.

JBPS: Once again Norman thank you for the invite and to all the readers of Panther Newsletter, bless.

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