

Abdul Ali - Curriculum Vitae

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Community College of Baltimore County
Office of Instruction & Special Academic Programs
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Baltimore, MD 21237
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Books

Trouble Sleeping. Kalamazoo, Michigan: New Issues Poetry & Prose. (2015)
*Winner 2014 New Issues Poetry Book Prize; Contest Judge: Fanny Howe

Education History

The American University, Washington, D.C.
M.F.A. in Creative Writing, May 2013
Honors: Merit Fellow
Creative Thesis: *Trouble Sleeping*: a collection of poems.
(Thesis Committee: Profs. David Keplinger and Kyle Dargan.)

Howard University, Washington, D.C.
B.A. American Literature; Minor Theater, May 2008
Honors: Ronald E. McNair Scholar
Critical Thesis: "Shifting Accents in the Contemporary African American Voice."
(Thesis Advisor: Jon Woodson, Ph.D)

Administration/ Teaching Appointments

Community College of Baltimore County- Baltimore, MD
Honors Program + Andrew Mellon Foundation Program Coordinator
April 2019- Present

Howard University- Washington, D.C
Full-time Lecturer, First-Year Writing Program
Fall 2017- Present

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)- Baltimore, MD
(Adjunct) Lecturer- Creative Writing
Fall 2018-Present

The Johns Hopkins University- Washington, D.C. Campus
Lecturer, Graduate Writing Program
Summer 2017

The Writer's Center- Bethesda, MD
Poetry Workshop Instructor, Spring 2017

The Bryn Mawr School- Baltimore, MD
Upper School English Teacher, Fall 2015- Spring 2017

Towson University- Baltimore, MD
Full-time Lecturer, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2014- Spring 2015
Courses Teaching: First-Year Composition and Business Writing

Goucher College- Baltimore, MD
Part-time Lecturer, College Writing Program, Fall 2013- Spring 2014
Courses Taught: Developmental Writing, Intro to College Writing

Montgomery College- Rockville, MD Campus
Part-time Lecturer, English Department, Fall 2013- Spring 2014
Course Taught: Intro to College Writing, Intro to Critical Reading,
Writing, and Research, Writing for Business

Montgomery College Writing Center
Faculty Tutor, 2013- Spring 2014

Howard University
Creative Writing Instructor, Summer 2013
Courses Taught: Multi-Genre Creative Writing Workshop

District of Columbia Public School (DCPS)
Substitute Teacher, 2012-2013

Arlington Public Schools
Poet-in-Residence, Workshop Facilitator: 2009-2012

Independent Expository Writing Tutor: 2005-08

Visiting Poet Residencies

Poetry Faculty. Mariposa Poetry Retreat. Waynesboro, PA. October 2017
Poetry Mentor. The Loft Literary Center. Minneapolis, MN. June 2017
Poetry Residency. Dickinson College. Carlisle, PA. April 2016
Poetry Master Class. YoungArts. Miami, Fl. March 2016

Invited Guest Lectures/ Workshops

Writing Through Madness. The Writer's Center. January 2020.

Why Poetry Matters. University of MD-College Park. March 2019

Poetry as Cinema: A Craft Talk. New York University. February 2018.

"Using Photography in your Poetry." Goucher College, Fall 2013
Introduction to Poetry Workshop, Professor Johnny Turtle.

"How to Pitch to Editors." Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2013
Creative Nonfiction Workshop, Professor Marita Golden.

Professional Experience

Best of American Poetry Blog.
Contributor, 2017-2018

Folio Literary Journal at American University in Washington, D.C.
Editor-in-Chief, former Poetry Editor: Fall 2010- Spring 2013

Visiting Writer Series at American University, Washington, D.C.

Graduate Student Coordinator: Fall 2010-Spring 2012

Split This Rock Poetry Festival in Washington, D.C.
Program Associate. Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

National Public Radio in Washington, D.C.,
Producer (Temporary): 2009-10, Talk of the Nation

WPFW Pacifica Radio in Washington, D.C.,
Host & Executive Producer; Poet's Corner: 2008-2010

Academic Service

Grievance Committee, Faculty Senate
Community College of Baltimore County, 2019-Present

Presidential Distinguished African American Lecture Selection Committee
Community College of Baltimore County, 2019-Present

Writing Program Assessment Committee
Howard University, 2017-Present

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

Selected Publications

Selected Publications (Nonfiction/Journalism/ Feature Stories)

[Drama Queen: After 21 Years, This Actress is Enjoying a "Season of Firsts."](#) Published in Washington Post Magazine, April 2016.

["The Woman Civil Rights Leaders Threw Under a Bus."](#) Published on *The Root*, February 2014.

["How Washington, D.C., Turned Its Back on Go-Go, the Music It Invented."](#) Published in *The Atlantic*, July 2012.

"The Wide World of Art." Arts Feature published in *The Crisis*, Spring/Summer 2012.

["There Goes the Neighborhood: Why Clybourne Park Doesn't Do Right by Its Inspiration."](#) Published in *Washington City Paper*, August 2011.

["Beats, Rhymes & Life."](#) Review published on *The Grio*, July 2011.

Interviews

["A Conversation with Victor LaValle: An Interview"](#) Wasafarii. London, UK. Issue 76, Fall 2013.

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

["This is the Time for Poetry: A Conversation with Alice Walker"](#) published in *The Atlantic*, March 2012.

Selected Poetry Publications

"Holy"; "Passing (or Notes Towards a Manifesto)"; "Elegy." *Poetry Foundation*. April 2017

Three Poems. *Public Pool*. Spring 2017

"Imitation of Life" and "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

Portfolio introduced by Grace Cavalieri. Poet Lore Fall 2015

Two poems, “Things are Gonna Get Easier” & “This is Just to Say” published in Lo-Ball #4. 2012

“I Don’t Think for a Second That We Won’t Survive This” published in A Gathering of the Tribes, Issue #13, 2011

“The Subway Men” & “Burying the N-Word” published in Gargoyle #56, 2010

“First Workshop” published in New Contrasts. Volume 38, Number 2. Winter 2010.

Featured Poet. Beltway Poetry Quarterly. Volume 9, Number 2, Spring 2008.

Anthologies

“I Don’t Think for a Moment That We Won’t Survive This.” Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry. Eds. Joanne Gabbin and Lauren K. Alleyne. December 2019.

“Elegy.” Resisting Arrest ed. Tony Medina. Jacar Press: North Carolina. 2016

“Silence...The Language of Trees.” It’s All Love ed. Marita Golden. Doubleday: New York. 2008

“There Were Homes.” Full Moon on K Street. ed. Kim Roberts. Plan B Press, Virginia. 2010

Fellowships & Honors

Ruby Artist Grant, Robert Deutsch Foundation, 2019-2020

Individual Artist Award, Maryland State Arts Council, 2017

Cave Canem Foundation, Fellow: 2016, 2019,

Julie Suk Book Award Finalist, 2015

New Issues Poetry Book Prize, Contest Judge Fannie Howe, 2014

Individual Artist Fellowship, D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities: 2013, 2010

Larry Neal Writer’s Award Finalist, Poetry: 2013, 2008

Poets & Writers Reading/Workshop Program Recipient: 2012, 2013

College Language Association Poetry Contest Winner: 2007

Mt. Vernon Poetry Festival Contest Winner, George Washington University: 2007

Professional Affiliations

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP), Member: 2010-Present
Poets-in-Progress, Apprenticeship with D.C. Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick:
alumnus (active 2009-13.)
August Wilson Society, Founding Member: 2007-Present
Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation, Board Member: 2013-2016
Thread, Racial Justice and Equity Organization. Volunteer/Mentor: 2019-Present

Literary Service

Selection Committee for Poet Laureate of MD. Maryland Arts Council. September 2018
Poetry Manuscript Reviewer. Young Arts Foundation. November 2016, 2017, 2018
Literature Fellowship Panel Reviewer, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities,
August 2014
Moderator for Post-Show Talk Panel: The Baton Passes On (The Mountaintop),
Arena Stage: May 2013.
Cinepoetics: Blending Film, Photography and Poetry. Workshop Facilitator sponsored by
Poets & Writers. CentroNia, Washington, D.C. October 2012
Curator, The Washington Caravan: A photography exhibition on D.C. area poets on display
at American Poetry Museum. 2008

Selected Literary Judging

Reviewer. Donald Hall Poetry Prize. Spring 2019
National Literary Reviewer. YoungArts Foundation. 2016-2018
DC Poetry Project: Judge & Workshop Leader. DC Public Library, Anacostia. March 2017
Diversity Monologue Contest: Judge & Coach. Dickinson College. November 2016
Annual Moving Words Poetry Contest Judge, Arlington Humanities Council: 2013, 2009
Annual Poetry Contest Judge, Virginia Poetry Society: 2008.
Hurston/Wright Legacy Award: Poetry Book Prize; Juror. 2012

Festivals & Conferences

- “Writing from Your Roots”: A Panel. Baltimore City Lit Festival. April 2017
- “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.
- “Celebrating Langston: Langston Hughes and Contemporary Writers,” Panelist. AWP Conference. Washington, D.C. February 2017.
- “Beyond the Page: Unexplored Spaces of History and Identity in August Wilson’s Plays,” Moderator: National Conference on the Life and Legacy of August Wilson. Howard University. Washington, D.C. October 2016.
- “25th Anniversary of Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation,” Panelist. AWP Conference. Minneapolis, MN. 2015
- "MFA Students Speak Up: If We're Not Happy, You're Not Happy," Panelist. AWP Conference. Chicago, IL. February 2012
- “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

Selected Readings

- Cave Canem Fellow Reading, University of Pittsburg, Greensburg, PA, 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. Washington, D.C. December 2016
- Cave Canem Fellow Reading, University of Pittsburg, Greensburg, PA, June 2016
- Dickinson College Visiting Writer Series, Carlise, PA. April 2016
- Towson University Poetry Reading Series. Baltimore, MD. October 2015.
- “Everybody’s Protest Music”: a reading with Dr. Guy’s Musicology Band. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. October 2015.
- Reading/poet Patricia Spears Jones. Berl’s Poetry Shop. Brooklyn, NY. 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. <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/media/poetpoem.html>
- 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, Washington, DC., March 2012.
- Nine on the Ninth Reading Series. Busboys and Poets in Washington, DC. April 2010.
- “It’s All Love” Anthology Reading with Marita Golden at Strathmore Mansion, Bethesda, MD. October 2009.
- Mt. Vernon Poetry Festival, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 2008.
- Nora School Reading Series at Nora School in Silver Spring, MD. October 2007.

In Vogue: Josephine Baker and Black Culture and Identity. Centennial Celebration at Smithsonian Natural Museum in Washington, D.C. November 2006.