

BIOGRAPHY

BRYONN BAIN is Brooklyn's own prison activist, spoken word poet, hip hop artist, actor, author and educator. Described by Cornel West as an artist who "...speaks his truth with a power we desperately need to hear," Bain hosts BET-J's award-winning talk show *My Two Cents* airing weekly in 28 million homes worldwide. Bain's interviews include guests such as LL Cool J, Snoop Dogg, Damon Dash, Malik Yoba, Jim Jones, Malik Zulu Shabazz, Ciara, Omali Yeshitela and Kevin Mohammed and Ben Chavis. In 2009, Bryonn was invited to perform at the 100th annual celebration of the NAACP - the nation's oldest civil rights organization - for an audience including President Barack Obama.

Wrongfully imprisoned during his second year at Harvard Law, Bryonn sued the NYPD, was interviewed by Mike Wallace on "60 Minutes," and wrote the Village Voice cover story - "Walking While Black" - which drew the largest response in the history of the nation's most widely-read progressive newspaper. Bain's grassroots organization, Blackout Arts Collective, which developed the annual *Lyrics on Lockdown Tour*, has reached prisons in 25 states, and spawned a series of university courses using the arts to teach critical literacy in correctional facilities. His new book, *The Ugly Side of Beautiful: Rethinking Race and Prisons in America*, will be published this year by *Third World Press*.

Bryonn has lectured and performed at over 100 colleges and correctional facilities in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. Named resident artist for the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education in 2006, Bryonn founded the *Lyrical Minded* project -- which brings hip hop, theater and spoken word to high schools in New York, San Francisco and Boston. A *Nuyorican Grand Slam Poetry Champion*, Bain ranked #1 in the nation during the *International Poetry Slam* in 2000 and has taught courses at Brooklyn College, New York University, The New School and Columbia University in areas ranging from Hip Hop and Spoken Word to critical perspectives on the prison industrial complex.

Star of the Off Broadway hip hop theater production "Auction Block to Hip Hop," Bain plays a Nat Turner-inspired cult leader in the thriller "Pig Hunt" and appears on the soundtrack and forthcoming album of rock legend Les Claypool of *Primus*. Directed by Academy Award winner Jim Isaac ("The Fly," "Return of the Jedi"), the film is slated for release in 2009. His one-man show -- LYRICS FROM LOCKDOWN: We Are & So I Am -- tells the story of his wrongful incarceration through hip hop and calypso music, spoken word poetry and theater, lyrics and letters exchanged with a fellow poet and friend sentenced to Death Row at 17 years old. Developed in prisons, public schools, community venues and universities nationwide, Bain's show has received extraordinary reviews:

www.spectrummagazine.com/collegiate/2008/04/18/prison_activist_and_spoken_word_poet_visits_puc.

More information available at: myspace.com/musicbryonnbain and
www.BryonnBain.com

BRYONN BAIN

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EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate 1998-2001
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Harvard Law School Cambridge, MA

Master of Arts, Urban Politics and Cultural Studies 1996-1998
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, The Gallatin School New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and African American Studies 1991-1995
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Columbia College New York, NY

EXPERIENCE

Professor/Writer-in-Residence 2007-2008
THE NEW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY New York, NY
Taught courses in spoken word, hip hop and the prison industrial complex; facilitated workshops using popular culture to teach critical literacy with youth at Rikers Island.

Talk Show Host March 2006-Present
MY TWO CENTS New York, NY
Hosting the leading talk show for BET's newest network; interviewing guests and debating topics from politics to popular culture - televised daily in 28 million homes worldwide.

Visiting Lecturer/Artist-in-Residence 2003-6
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY/RIKERS ISLAND PRISON New York, NY
Developed and co-taught course instructing Columbia University students in the facilitation of an arts-based course at a high school within Rikers Island prison.

Instructor/Consultant 2003-2005
BROOKLYN COLLEGE (CUNY) Brooklyn, NY
Founded the "Lyrical Minded" project to train teachers from three Brooklyn public schools to use hip hop and spoken word in curriculum development and instruction.

Adjunct Professor 2001-2004
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY New York, NY
Developed and taught *The Spoken Word* exploring 20th century poetry and politics; led workshops on subways, produced an album and concert at the *Nuyorican Poets Café*.

Legal Associate Summer 2000

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION WORKSHOP New York, NY
Drafted contracts for "Sesame Street" television program, revised clearances and licensing agreements for properties, researched international educational products.

Legal Associate 1998/1999
MTV NETWORKS New York, NY
Drafted and revised contracts for televised music and movie awards shows, developed a community service pilot project to spotlight community activism.

ARTS, ORGANIZING & ENTERTAINMENT

Founder/Artistic Director Spring 2003-Present
LYRICAL MINDED San Francisco, CA
Designed and taught course in politics and popular culture at public schools and juvenile facilities; produced albums, live shows, and a film documenting the experiences of youth.

Actor 2007-8
AUCTION BLOCK TO HIP HOP New York, NY
Playing five characters, including the lead, in a satirical Off Broadway, hip hop theater production, remixing a classic Dixen's tale while tracing black stereotypes in pop culture.

Writer/Producer 2002-2005
YALE UNIVERSITY New Haven, CT
Created and starred in the hip hop/spoken word musical titled, "*WHAT IT IZ: The Spokenwordical*" -- a remix of the 1970's Broadway musical and motion picture *The WIZ*.

Founder/Artistic Director 1997-2007
BLACKOUT ARTS COLLECTIVE New York, NY
Launched organization empowering communities of color through the arts, activism, and education; produced monthly arts-based town halls, organized political education and arts workshops with inmates in 25 cities nationwide for annual *Lyrics on Lockdown Tour*.

Executive Producer 1993-1994
THE APOLLO THEATER/MILLER THEATER New York, NY
Managed finance and promotional aspects for the production of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*.

PUBLICATIONS

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC (BAM), Poetry Study Guide <i>"A History of the Spoken Word Movement"</i>	2007/8
ROUNDER RECORDS <i>"Next on the Mic"</i> (CD Anthology with Quincy Troupe and Patricia Smith)	2007
CITY KIDS: Understanding, Appreciating and Teaching Them "Spoken Word and Hip Hop: The Power of Urban Art and Culture" "Poetry of the Oppressed: Pedagogy of the Urban Lyricist" with P. Parmar, New York: Peter Lang Publishing	2006
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LAW SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE <i>"The Bill of Rights for Black America"</i> (Revised)	2006
BLACKOUT ARTS COLLECTIVE <i>"Problem Child: The Philosophy and Opinions..."</i> (Album)	2005
SOULS: CRITICAL JOURNAL OF BLACK POLITICS, CULTURE & SOCIETY <i>"Problem Child"</i>	2003
THE VILLAGE VOICE <i>"Three Days in NYC Jails"</i> (Cover story)	2003
WHAT IT IZ <i>The Hip Hop/Spoken Word Remix of the Broadway hit "The Wiz"</i>	2002
NYU SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW REVIEW <i>"A Performative Critique of Democracy"</i> with Lani Guinier	2001
HARVARD LAW RECORD <i>"The Bill of Rights for Black America"</i>	2000
THE VILLAGE VOICE (Cover story - set record for largest response in history) <i>"Walking While Black"</i>	2000

HONORS

Lectured and performed at over 100 universities and prisons nationwide	2002-8
Named one of "30 Under 30 Who are Changing Your Future"	2002
CBS "60 Minutes" interview with journalist Mike Wallace	2001
Grand Slam Poetry Champion, Nuyorican Poets Café (NYC)	2000
Grand Slam Poetry Champion, The Third Rail (Boston)	1999

ABROAD

United Arab Emirates (2008)
France (2008)
Jamaica (2007)
Switzerland (2006)
The Netherlands (2006)
England (2005)
Wales (2005)
Morocco (2005)
Mexico (2004/1998)
Trinidad (1983-)
Guyana (2004)
Cuba (2002)
China (2000)
Bali (2000)
Senegal (1998)
Venezuela (1997)
Puerto Rico (1992-)
Panama (1984-1988)
Germany (1979-1980)

REFERENCES

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President, NAACP
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Francisca Sanchez
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San Francisco Unified School District
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