

# kristiana rae colón

KristianaChicago@gmail.com :: www.kristianacoln.com

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### ::: summary

Kristiana Colón is a multiethnic poet, playwright, actress, and educator who has been writing, performing, producing, and teaching in Chicago for eight years. Her professional philosophy acknowledges that teaching revitalizes her artistic process and that arts integration invigorates the learning process, therefore, she strives to build a career that synthesizes both aims. Kristiana believes that literary and performance arts are important tools for developing critical thinking skills and challenging power structures, including race, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

### ::: objective

Kristiana is energetically pursuing opportunities that further her aim as a self-sustaining artist, performer, and educator.

### ::: education

MFA, Writing (2009)

The School of the Art Institute Chicago

Thesis: *the darkest pit* (play)

BA, English Language and Literature/Creative Writing (2007)

University of Chicago

Thesis: *A Laying on of Hands, A Laying on of Fists: Black Feminism in Literature and Its Portrayal of Black Men* and *but i cd only whisper* (critical essay and play)

- Dean's List, 2004-2007
- Graduated in three years with a 3.65 GPA

### ::: teaching experience

*Malcolm X College – Chicago, IL*

English 101, English 100

2009-present

- Implemented innovative teaching techniques using poetry and hip-hop to energize comprehension of argumentative academic writing
- Evaluated Exit Exams for Department of Communications and Fine Arts to maintain institutional standard of excellence

*CCA Academy & Ada S. McKinley High School – Chicago, IL (YCCS/YCA)*

Louder than a Bomb Academy – Performance Poetry

2009-2010

- Synthesized poetry and hip-hop to demonstrate literary forms, concepts, and devices such as metaphor, simile, persona, personification, and more
- Selected and prepared talented students to represent CCA at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Louder than a Bomb Chicago Teen Poetry Festival

*Nicholas Senn High School – Chicago, IL*

After School Matters – Performance Poetry

2009-2010

- Developed in-depth poetry and performance curriculum for an intensive nine-hour-per-week program for talented teens

- Coordinated and showcased a final performance of youth-developed performance poetry

*Young Chicago Authors (YCA)*

Women of the World Poetry Slam, National Poetry Slam, Brave New Voices National Teen Poetry Slam – Performance Poetry Coach

2009

- Supervised and coached 10-15 teens and young adults representing Chicago in national and international performance poetry competitions
- Implemented poetry slam strategy and on-the-scene coaching in competitions in Detroit, West Palm Beach, and Chicago

*Rogers Elementary & Lee Elementary – Chicago, IL*

Poetry Center of Chicago-Hands on Stanzas – Poet-in-Residence

2008-2009

- Developed 20-week poetry curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to increase competency in literary forms, concepts, and devices such as haiku, pantoums, imagery, and sensory detail
- Selected semi-finalists from 180 students for the Poetry Center of Chicago's Presidential Inauguration Poem contest
- Maintained weekly blogs featuring selected student poems

*Chase Elementary – Chicago, IL*

American Theater Company-Chronicle Project – Resident Playwright

2008-2009

- Led documentary theater workshops with talented middle school teens in the Logan Square community and instructed students on interview techniques
- Affirmed the importance of community-based theater by conducting and transcribing interviews with Logan Square community residents and transposing their diverse narratives from transcriptions to theatrical scenes
- Developed an ensemble-built script and production in the documentary theater style based on interview material obtained throughout the course of the project

*University of Chicago*

University Theater-Summer Drama Workshop – Playwriting Teaching Artist

2007-2008

- Developed playwriting curriculum for talented community teens
- Developed ensemble-built script and production from student-generated writing

*Jim Fischer Development Center – Chicago, IL*

Creative Writing-Ages 5-14 – Teaching Artist

2007

- Developed 10-week creative writing curriculum for underserved youth in the Woodlawn community
- Produced culminating ensemble-built showcase of student work
- Selected student work and assembled anthology of final writing

*Bronzeville Alternative Academy – Chicago, IL (YCA)*

Louder than a Bomb Academy – Performance Poetry

2006

- Developed 10-week performance poetry curriculum for talented teens

- Selected and prepared students to represent Bronzeville Academy at 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Louder than a Bomb Chicago Teen Poetry Festival

*North Kenwood Oakland Charter School – Chicago, IL*

University of Chicago-School Partnership Program – Drama Teaching Assistant  
2004-2005

- Developed and instructed drama curriculum for grades 4-6
- Assisted lead teaching artist in daily performance activities

*ACT Charter High School – Chicago, IL (YCA)*

Performance Poetry – Teaching Assistant  
2003-2004

- Coordinated multiple extracurricular spoken word events
- Developed and instructed performance poetry curriculum
- Assisted lead teaching artist in daily writing activities

### **::: professional affiliations**

*Teatro Luna – PlayLab II*

*American Theater Company – Chicago Chronicle, 10 x 10 Play Festival, The Silver Project*

*Vox Ferus Poetry Workshop*

### **::: productions**

*the darkest pit*

Prop Theater – August 28 – October 9, 2009

*when in rome*

American Theater Company – July 19, 2009

*transit* (staged reading)

School of the Art Institute Chicago – December 16, 2007

*but i cd only whisper*

University of Chicago – February 22-24, 2007

### **::: publications**

#### **:: books**

*Best of the Web 2010*

Dzanc Books, June 2010

*Not A Muse: The Inner Lives of Women – A World Poetry Anthology*

Haven Books, March 2009

*pieces of shedu* (chapbook)

Ice Box Press, November 2008

#### **:: journals**

*Chickenpiñata*

“love/logic,” Fall 2009

*Inertia Magazine*

“in winter,” Spring 2009

*Our Stories*

“ex libris,” Spring 2009

*The Houston Literary Review*

“mission accomplished” and “sarah hunting,” Winter 2009

*After Hours Press*

“stones of small,” Winter 2009

*Acentos Review*

“holy water” and “pieces of shedu,” Fall 2008

*f News Magazine*

“all of it is beautiful,” Summer 2008

*Two With Water*

“intersect,” Summer 2008

*Girlspeak*

“too hot to play chess,” Summer 2008

*Contrary*

“she who comes with her own things,” Winter 2008

*Bare Root Review*

“esperanza,” Fall 2007

*Girlspeak*

“instead” and “to beg beneath,” Spring 2007

**::: certificates**

*Intermediate Blackboard training*

**::: awards and accomplishments**

- 2009 – *the darkest pit* produced at The Prop Theater
- 2009 – *but i cd only whisper* workshopped at the Lincoln Center’s Director’s Lab in New York City
- 2009 – launched *Sprite Green* as branding poet in conjunction with Commonground Marketing in New York City and Chicago
- 2008 – served as Assistant Director for Charles Newell’s production of *Titus Andronicus* at Court Theater
- 2008 – *but i cd only whisper* awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Theodore Ward Playwriting Competition
- 2007 – *but i cd only whisper* produced at the University of Chicago
- 2006 – launched 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition *Air Force Ones* as branding poet in conjunction with Commonground Marketing in Chicago
- 2005 – appeared on the 5<sup>th</sup> season of HBO’s series *Russell Simmons presents Def Poetry*
- 2005 – released independently produced spoken word album *Who Haunts Eden*