

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 aims to apply her talents for written and oral communication, arts programming, marketing, event planning, and education in diverse spaces, including academia, community outreach, activism, and media.

::: 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
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::: awards and accomplishments

- 2011 – Pushcart Prize Nomination awarded by OVS for poem “severance”
- 2010 – *one week in spring* awarded finalist in Victory Gardens Theater *Ignition Theater Festival*
- 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 – served as co-writer and recording artist for a CD featuring a spoken word adaptation of Isaac Perry's novel *All Falls Down*
- 2008 – *but i cd only whisper* awarded 2nd place in Theodore Ward Playwriting Competition
- 2007 – *but i cd only whisper* produced at the University of Chicago
- 2006 – launched 25th Anniversary edition *Air Force Ones* as branding poet in conjunction with Commonground Marketing in Chicago

- 2005 – appeared on the 5th season of HBO’s series *Russell Simmons presents Def Poetry*
- 2005 – released independently produced spoken word album *Who Haunts Eden*

::: productions

Crossed: How One Trip to Arizona Flipped Our Script (writing ensemble)
Teatro Luna – November 21-December 18, 2011

one week in spring (staged reading)
Teatro Luna – October 25, 2010

moon come
roadtrip (10 x 10 K.I.S.S. festival)
Simple Theater – August 14-28, 2010

flight
Teatro Luna (10 x 10 festival) – July 24, 2010

a message from earth (The Silver Project)
American Theater Company – January-June 2010

the darkest pit
Prop Theater – August 28 – October 9, 2009

when in rome (10 x 10 festival)
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

Chorus: A Literary (Re)Mixtape edited by Saul Williams
MTV Publishing, Spring 2012

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

Pank, Winter 2012
“the pilgrimage of mouths” and “instructions for giving”

African American Review, Fall 2011
“safe word” and “stranger fruit”

Diverse Voices Quarterly, Summer 2011
“a daughter” and “intra”

Logan Square Literary Review
“ash,” “Several Songs,” and “the true vine,” Spring 2011

OVS
“post” and “severance,” Spring 2011

Hinchas de Poesia
“eat,” “first service,” and “port,” Fall 2010

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

fNews Magazine
“all of it is beautiful,” Summer 2008

Two With Water
“intersect,” Summer 2008

Girlspeak
“too hot to play chess,” Summer 2008; “instead” and “to beg beneath,” Spring 2007

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

Bare Root Review
“esperanza,” Fall 2007

::: professional affiliations

Teatro Luna – Artistic Associate, PlayLab II participant, *Crossed* writing ensemble

Muzzle Magazine – Assistant Editor (online literary journal)

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

Vox Ferus Poetry Workshop – Founding workshop participant

::: teaching experience

Chicago State University

Writing and Editing Nonfiction

Writer's Workshop I: Composition

Winter 2011-Spring 2011

- Crafted rigorous syllabi that challenge students to think critically about literary and historical texts across multiple genres, using them as lenses to interrogate contemporary concerns in the humanities, including race, class, and gender
- Instructed students on proofreading, copyediting, and revision, including use of standard proofreading symbols, Modern Language Association (MLA) standards of writing and researching papers in the humanities, and proper citations
- Evaluated and copyedited student writing, with detailed individual feedback on content and form

Tribeca Flashpoint Academy

Humanities Survey II

Fall 2010

- Developed interactive curriculum that explores philosophical and mythological foundations for narrative and storytelling in film, video gaming, interpersonal relationships, and other forms of media
- Instructed and evaluated media arts students on video, sound, animation, and literary responses to assigned projects in the humanities

Malcolm X College – Chicago, IL

English 101, English 100

2009-present

- Instructed students on Standard American English conventions of grammar, sentence structure, essay composition, and argument
- Developed exercises in critical analysis of literary works to sharpen reading comprehension
- 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

Nicholas Senn High School – Chicago, IL

After School Matters – Performance Poetry

2009-present

- 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

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 10th Annual Louder than a Bomb Chicago Teen Poetry Festival

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 5th and 8th 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 6th 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

::: certificates

Intermediate Blackboard training – City Colleges of Chicago

Faculty Development Seminar – City Colleges of Chicago