

SEAN AVERY MEDLIN



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Phoenix AZ

PROFESSIONAL POET, MUSICIAN, AND CREATIVE WRITING EDUCATOR

Sean Avery Medlin (they/he) is a rapper, poet, and teaching artist. Their work integrates music, literature, and theater to question the limits of Black masculinity, media (mis)representation, and personal narrative.

EDUCATION

2012 - 2016

University of Madison-Wisconsin

- Bachelor of Arts in English with an Emphasis in Creative Writing
- Certificate in African-American Studies

SKILLS

- Curriculum building for creative arts
- Lesson Planning and implementation
- Generative writing workshop facilitation
- Program Coordination
- Ethical assessment, grading, and evaluation
- Reading material curation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Resident Writer

Tempe Public Library, Feb 2024 - Apr 2024

- Offered writing consultations for community members
- Developed and facilitated monthly creative writing workshops
- Held weekly office hours for consultations and generative writing

Resident Educational Writer

Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture,
Mar 2023 - May 2023 | Mar 2022 - May 2022

- Created lesson plans, and provided in-person instruction to help students achieve district standards and goals with teachers and district specialists
- Instructed students to improve their understanding of narrative writing and figurative language
- Cultivated a safe creative space for youth

Teaching Artist & Project Coordinator

Childsplay: Theater for Kids & Families,
May 2017 - current

- Lesson planning, directing youth theater presentations, and co-teaching theater activities
- Creating preschool theater curriculum to teach social-emotional skills
- Conducting professional development for preschool teachers
- Managing preparation for meetings, In-Services, lessons, and educational programs
- Developing online content, storybook readings, and socio-emotional-learning lesson plans

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Teaching Artist & Workshop Facilitator

ASU Virginia Piper Center, Aug 2020 - 2023

- Developed creative writing workshops, lesson plans, and curriculum
- Maintained supportive relationships with staff and students at multiple locations
- Presented creative writing lectures

Teaching Artist

Free Arts of Arizona for Abused Children
July 2017 - Mar 2020

- Planned writing and performance workshops
- Hosted and performed in the culminating showcase and prepared students to perform

Creative Writing and English Teacher

South Pointe High School, July 2017 - May 2019

- Planned weekly lesson plans based on Arizona ELA state standards
- Instructed multiple courses each semester
- Graded and assessed student assignments
- Coordinated student showcases and performances
- Tutored after school for both informational and creative writing
- Instructed students in the credit recovery program, aiding them in coursework completion

LECTURES

“How to Write Diverse Characters w/ Vanessa Marie, Taté Walker, Sean Avery Medlin, and Austin Davis”, Desert Willow Program Room, Tempe Public Library, Tempe, Arizona, 11 March 2023

“a few notes on the (mis)representations of Black masculinity” ASU Tempe Social Sciences Building, room 229, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology course, Instructor Lilly Villa, 7 October 2022

“Writing Beyond Boundaries w / Sean Avery Medlin, Steven Dunn & Alyesha Wise”, Streamyard, [margins.] by the Word, Denver, 17 March 2022

“Reading & Conversation w / Sean Avery Medlin & Diane Exavier”, Zoom (Lostintheletters, Atlanta, GA), 12 March 2022

“Dialogue with Anthony Cody, Sean Avery Medlin, and Dianna Settles”, Zoom, Lost in the Letters (Festival), Atlanta, Georgia and Phoenix, Arizona, 13 November 2021

“FUCK YOUR TABLE (Panelist), Zoom, La Phoenikara, Phoenix, Arizona, 6 October 2020

“Jeff Chang in Conversation: 'From Hip Hop to Policy Making, Performative Panel (Panelist & Performer)'”, Civic Space Park/ A.E. England Building, Phoenix, Arizona, 11 Sept 2018

HONORS/AWARDS

Best of the Net Anthology Nominee
Sept 2023

Phoenix Office of Arts + Culture Artist To Work Grant Awardee
Nov 2022

Otherwise Award Recommendation
Dec 2021

Governor's Arts Award Nominee
Jan 2021

Black Male Excellence Awardee, Delta Sigma Theta
Feb 2016

Mentorship Awardee, OMAI/First Wave
Feb 2016, Jan 2015

2nd Place Poetry Contest, Wisconsin Academy
May 2015

Marion McCommond Awardee, Wisconsin Union Directorate
Mar 2015

ARTISTIC WORKSHOP FACILITATION

Tempe Public Library Writer-In-Residence

Feb 2024 - April 2024

Loud 'N Unchained Theater Co. Writing Workshop

Aug 2022

Advanced Essay Workshop Class with GrubStreet

Aug 2022

South Pointe High School Summer Hip-Hop Camp

July 2022

Free Arts of Arizona Mini Summer Arts Camp

June 2022

Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture Educational Writer-in-Residence

Mar 2022 - May 2022

“Building Protected Worlds” a generative writing workshop

Nov 2021, Mar 2022 | Apr 2022, Aug 2022

Durango Detention Facility Writing Workshops

Sept 2021 - June 2022

One•N•Ten Youth Poetry Writing Workshops

Jan - June 2020 | Oct 2020 - June 2021

Aug 2021- June 2022

Slam! Poetry, Childsplay Online Class

May 2020

Tucson Poetry Festival Generative Workshop

April 2020

RE:FRAME Youth Art Residency @ South Pointe HS

Feb - April 2020

Noname Book Club (Meeting Facilitator)

Feb - July 2020

Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference

Feb 2020

skinnyblk performing arts showcase Writing Workshops

June - Sept 2019

Queer Youth Art Showcase Performance Workshop

April 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Poetry Collections

“808s & Otherworlds: Memories, Remixes, and Mythologies”, Dead Ink Books, Print, 110 pages, April 2022 (U.K.)

“808s & Otherworlds: Memories, Remixes and Mythologies”, Two Dollar Radio, Print, Audio, 110 pages, 3hr 10min, Sept 2021 (U.S. & Canada)

Essays

“new amerika (v)”, Indiscernibles in Arizona: On the hope and reality of being Black in Arizona (Anthology), Print, Pg. 9-10, Emancipation Arts, September 2021

“Rap Music is Becoming Unsafe for Black People,” Msc.wisc.edu, Electronic, April 2016

Poem

“The UnFree Echo, Toward Anti-Carceral Poetics: Poems and an Interview with Sean Avery Medlin”, Women's Studies in Communication, Vol 47, No. 2, 2024, Electronic, May 2024

“FESTIVAL OF ME”, New Delta Review, Issue 13.2, Electronic, September 2023

“Small Press Release: 808s & Otherworlds (An Excerpt)”, ENTROPY, Electronic, 11 September 2021

“Three Poems”, Write on Downtown: A Journal of Phoenix Creativity, Electronic, April 2020, N/A

“Four Poems from ‘Otherworld’”, ChArt: Celebrating the Humanities Through Art, Print & Electronic, March 2020, Pg. 53, 57, 63, 89

“Dear Masculinity,” Maskuline x Dear Masculinity Chapbook, Print, Pg. 4, April 2017

“skinny-black jeans,” Art Hoe Collective, August 2016, Electronic, N/A