

Bio of performers for Black History Month event

Touka Fernande

Touka Fernande is passionate about the history of people of African descent. She has been engaged in the study and research of world history and in particular African history for the past two years. Touka is a community activist and has regularly volunteered for Narrative Eye. She is one of the founders of Emerge, a young people' forum. Touka is an entrepreneur who is working with other women to establish self-reliance.

Watusi

Watusi87 is an experienced multi-faceted practitioner who has gained most of his facilitating skills through working with North London Charity KORI, where he has used the opportunity of working with young people to build his communication levels and leadership skills, in addition he is widening his experiences by working with young people from Kenya to Zanzibar, Morocco, Gambia and Tanzania within the realms of creative writing and drumming, moreover he has also done work in Primary, Secondary schools and Colleges. Though most of his skills have been directed through running creative writing workshops he will be transferring his skills towards drumming specifically for this coming event.

Lujinton

Jang-Jang Bureh previews his upcoming debut intergenerational novel YGFM – The Hieroglyphics of Modern Day Literature.

Ashton Da Costa & Crew

Ashton is a qualified music engineer who studied at College of North East London Enfield & Haringey. He did his apprenticeship at Hackney Wharf music studio. He also works with young people in the community who are risk of offending behaviour, and uses music to motivate and inspire them. Ashton is a motivational speaker and a rapper.

Moina McInnis

Moina McInnis is an all-round creative writer of poetry, prose and scripts. She is also a dramatist and loves acting and directing. Last year she completed her MA in Creative Writing (Playwriting and Screenwriting) and plans to set up drama and poetry classes in North London next year. She also offers writing services including autobiography & memoirs, and does proof reading & editing. She has been writing poetry for many years and has a wide range of writing styles. If you like what you hear and would like to hear more she has some poetry CD's, and single poems for sale. So please enjoy the poetry of Moina.

Platinum Dance Group

Today you have a group of talented students to perform for you from Platinum Performing Arts. A performing arts academy based at the Millfield Arts Centre in Edmonton North London. They take great pleasure in coaching students between the ages of 3-21 to develop their talent and pursue their dreams, whether that would be in dance, drama, singing, Tap, Ballet, Contemporary or in everyday life. They run classes on Saturday`s 2pm-5pm or Sunday`s 11am-2pm. They encourage students to build on their strengths and participate in activities which will enable them to gain confidence to work as part of a group and/or solo artist. Annually they put on their Urban Pantomime, which takes place at the Millfield Theatre every January.

Robert Lungu

Is an aspiring Poet whose style is known as “The Spoken Word”. During his youth he found his creative niche as he showed a great interest in English Literature. His inspiration is drawn from American rapper, songwriter, record producer and actor NAS.

Selena Carty

Selena embarked on a journey where she attended a Black Poppy Event which highlighted names, pictures and accounts of Africans who served in World War I & II. It was not only in these wars, but HOW they contributed in many other wars on the various continents around the world. This sparked an interest to find out more physical representation of those from Africa and the Caribbean whom contributed to the War effort. This led to working in collaboration with others to create the BlackPoppyRose project. The atrocities of slavery has scattered us all over the world and this symbol is remember that we are Africans/Black regardless of where we are in this world. When November 11th (Remembrance Day) comes around they too should be able to remember the legacies left for them. Since the start of BlackPoppyRose in 2009, we have worked in collaboration with Narrative Eye’s The Black Poppy Rose & The Empire Needs Men project as well as The West Indian Ex-Servicemen & Women association in Clapham Junction. The BlackPoppyRose will keep the memory of our ancestors ‘contributions, sacrifices and efforts alive in our minds, hearts and spirits for the foreseeable future. Selena will tonight give a short presentation on the BlackPoppyRose.

Kate Osamor MP

Kate Osamor MP, born in North London, is a community activist and mother of one. Daughter of Martha Osamor (former Deputy Leader of Haringey Council, community leader and activist). Kate grew up in North London, attending Creighton comprehensive school. Having successfully obtained a BA (Hons) degree from the University of East London in Third World Studies, Kate went on to work for the Big Issue, a magazine sold by homeless and long-term unemployed people. She became the Chair of Governors at a local school, while working in the voluntary sector.

Kate started her 15 years' service to the NHS by working at an Out Of Hours Co-Op before moving on to becoming a GP practice manager. In 2014 Kate was elected onto the Labour NEC to represent constituency members alongside Ken Livingstone, Ann Black, Ellie Reeves, Christine Shawcroft and Johanna Baxter. Early 2015, following the late retirement of outgoing MP Andy Love, Kate was selected as the Parliamentary Labour candidate for Edmonton. Following the election campaign, Kate went on to become the new MP for Edmonton.