

Abstract:

As a spoken word artist, I take pride in defining my work as unapologetic. As a young Haitian-American female, there are many barriers automatically set against my character; however, my poetry speaks for more than just race or feminism. My poetry brings to surface the conversations that many shy away from or heavily avoid due to political correctness.

Introduction:

The thinking process for my poetry is a bit non-existent, simply put; I go through the motions. Everyday tactics and events that hold great meaning to me are what begin the creative process. Whether it be social action, systematic oppression, everyday girl-challenges or just writing about a gracious day - I try not to force anything. There are no steps or intricate rules written down anywhere - being free spirited and self-conscience is really all there is to it for me.

Creative Commentary:

Originally being from Brooklyn, New York, I feel as though being as diverse and open as I am stems from my upbringing. My family and I moved to a small town in Pennsylvania eight years ago when I was thirteen years old - culture shock is an understatement of what I experienced. Being so completely out of my element, I took to writing to release any heavy burdens that I had been dealing with at the time. My first piece of work had been published in a poetry series called "Celebration of Poets" when I was in the eighth grade. Writing was never something I took seriously; if anything it was a hobby to turn to whenever I would get upset. As time furthered, I found myself slowly learning, adapting and rebelling to the Pennsylvanian culture. Fast-forward to my college years - any and everything has given me the opportunity to gain a more liberal outlook to not only be more transparent but sociologically aware.

My projects consist of finding and realizing that I have a voice and have the ability to inspire or mentally stimulate others with similarities in thoughts and emotion. I had written the piece "To Whom It May Concern" one day walking to Gordinier, after an encounter with a peer, consisting of how the stereotypes placed upon African Americans are not only true but also parts of their character. I remember being filled with anger and disgust, knowing that there are individuals who truly believe that there is no more to minorities than whatever it is they hear about them. With that being said, this is where the platform of being "Unapologetic" was formed - regardless of how others may feel, we [minorities] are more than our stereotypes and have no issue redefining the negative overtones placed upon us and bringing new life to it.

The first time I presented this piece was at an organization showcase, Original Thought. Nerves got the best of me and I remember rushing through the content, not allowing myself or the audience to truly take in what I was presenting. On the other hand, the audience feedback was more than I could hope for - they were very receiving and in that moment revealed to me that we are given a voice for purposeful reasons. What good is that if we remain silent? We owe it to ourselves, to redefine and reinstate our being.

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