

About Sekou – The Artist’s Story

A few years ago, Sekou Andrews was amazed to discover that his father wrote a 7 page poem about him as he was being born. So it’s no surprise that Sekou went on to become a full-time poet, purchased his first home with poetry, proposed to his wife on stage with poetry, and was even invited to the White House for poetry. Poetry, however was not his initial muse. After moving from the bay area to Washington DC, Sekou discovered acting and hip-hop and pursued them both through high school – at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, then Georgetown Day School - and college at Pitzer College in southern California, where he received his B.A. in Sociology.

On course to becoming an entertainment lawyer, he quickly realized his heart was in his art. So he decided to subsidize his transition into the music industry with substitute teaching. Oh, how infectiously cute those kids are! Four years of full-time teaching later, he realized, again, that his heart was still in his art. So, having built a name for himself on the poetry scene, and just off the filming of Russell Simmons’ HBO Def Poetry, he took the leap of faith to become a full-time poet. He has not looked back.

Sekou won the national poetry slam championship twice, featured in two national spoken word tours – including Declare Yourself, the voting initiative founded by TV/film legend Norman Lear that registered over 1 million new voters - and saw the acclaim from his two spoken word CDs make the most awarded artist in Just Plain Folks, the nations largest independent music organization.

With 2 being the magic number for this rising artist, Sekou teamed up with creative partner Steve Connell and created two successful shows - “*No Easy Choices*,” which electrified crowds at the Aspen Comedy Fest and “*The Word Begins*”, which enjoyed critical acclaim and 3 Helen Hayes Award nominations. The duo has also performed at private events for Barack Obama (by special request of Oprah Winfrey) and Hillary Clinton (by special request of Quincy Jones), and inspired sold out crowds at countless other high profile events, including the Pasadena Pops Orchestra summer series, the Marian Anderson Awards and the 2009 Inaugural Peace Ball.

In love with spoken word and insistent that it deserved a larger platform, Sekou set out on a journey to show the world the commercially-viable power of poetry that led him to create an entirely new, cutting edge-form of motivational speaking called Poetic Voice. Through his unique blend of inspirational speaking, strategic storytelling, poetry, theater and comedy, **Sekou helps individuals and organizations tell their most powerful stories**, and shows them the best version of themselves so that they can live into it.

This is more than a career path for Sekou, it is a legacy. His dream is that Poetic Voice will become the household name for people looking for the best way to tell their stories; that it will be a new career that young poets can be when they grow up; and, most importantly, that it will make it possible for Sekou to not only write a poem for his first child as he/she is being born, but to give his child an amazing life abundant with, and made possible by, poetry.