

## REGIE CABICO

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### BIO

Regie Cabico is a spoken word pioneer having won the Nuyorican Poets Cafe Grand Slam and is the first openly queer poet to take prizes in three National Poetry Slams. Mr. Cabico's television credits include two seasons of HBO's Def Poetry Jam, TEDx, and NPR's Snap Judgement. His first full-length poetry collection is *A Rabbit In Search of a Rolex* (Day Eight, 2023).

He is the lead poetry slam teaching artist at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He has designed innovative poetry workshops for The Whitney Museum, where he was a featured poet at the 2022 Whitney Biennial as part of A Gathering of the Tribes, The Smithsonian Postal Museum, and The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, among others.

Literary publications include *Poetry*, *Academy of American Poets-poets.org*, *The Georgia Review*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *Pine Hills Review*, and *Mid-Atlantic Review*, where he has been a co-editor since 2020. In 2010, Cabico produced Capturing Fire: An International Queer Poetry Slam. He is the publisher of Capfire Press which publishes the works of emerging queer spoken word artists.

Cabico is a literary curator and open mic host for Busboys and Poets, Hyattsville, Maryland and has curated the Friday Night Series at The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church. He has hosted the open mic series at Busboys and Poets since 2008.

His work appears in over 30 anthologies including *Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe* (Henry Holt, 1994), *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* (Thunder's Mouth Press, 1999), *Spoken Word Revolution* (Sourcebooks, 2005), *How Lovely The Ruins: Inspirational Poems and Words for Difficult Times* (Penguin/Random House 2017.) Mr. Cabico edited two anthologies: *Poetry Nation: A North American Anthology of Fusion Poetry* (Vehicule Press, 1998) and *Flicker Spark: A Contemporary Queer Anthology of Spoken Word* (Low Brow Press, 2013) for which he received a 2013 Lambda Literary Award nomination.

Cabico received a 2008 Future Aesthetics Arts Award from The Ford Foundation, three New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships for Poetry and/or Performance, the Larry Neal Award for Poetry and several DC Commission for the Arts Poetry Fellowships. He received three New York Innovative Theater Award Nominations for his work in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*.

His solo plays have been developed and produced by Dixon Place, Joe's Pub, The Public Theater, Asian Arts Initiative, Magic Theater. With UniVerses, Reg E. Gaines, Willie Perdomo, and Rha Goddess, co-wrote and starred in Rhythmicity at The Actor's Theater of Louisville's Humana Theater Festival. His solo show, *Godiva Dates & One Night Stands*, received a Broadway World nomination for Best Solo Play at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival.

He has shared the stage with Patti Smith, Allen Ginsberg and through Howard Zinn's Portraits Project at NYU, performed with Stanley Tucci, Jesse Eisenberg, and Lupe Fiasco. He has served as artist-in-residence for New York University's Asian American Studies Program and De Anza College. He is a founding board member and former board chair of Split This Rock. The Kenyon Review named Regie Cabico the "Lady Gaga of Poetry " and he was listed in BUST magazine's 100 Men We Love.

- I. **SUMMARY** A performing artist who has emerged and redefined the genre of poetry thru spoken word, experimental theater, storytelling & hip hop aesthetics since becoming the first Asian American slam poet to receive top honors in the 1993, 1994 & National Poetry Slams & the first Asian American and openly Queer Nuyorican Poets Café Grand Slam Champion. An activist and educator for the Asian American & Queer Community. Performing Arts Curator for several literary & theatrical organizations. Mr. Cabico has brought this new art form to at-risk youth, people of color, academia & internationally. One of the few slam poets who can teach both written and performing skills. An editor of several literary journals and anthologies, bringing high avant-garde and political poetry together.

## **SELECT SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, PERFORMING COMMUNITY ARTS CENTERS 2024**

- 1. Fieldsdale Collinsville Middle School, Henry County, VA 10-day residency**
- 2. Laurel Park Middle School, Henry County, VA 10-day residency**
- 3. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Professional Development ( Virtual )**
- 4. Washington Grove Elementary School, Montgomery County, MD (Performance)**
- 5. Ronald McDonald House, Washington, DC (Workshop/Performance)**
- 6. Weller Road Elementary School, Montgomery County, MD (Performance)**
- 7. South Lake Elementary School, Montgomery County, MD (Performance)**
- 8. DC Public Library Northwest One (Performance)**
- 9. Maryland City at Russett Library, Anne Arundel County, MD (Performance)**
- 10. Eastport Annapolis Neck Library, Anne Arundel County, MD (Performance)**
- 11. Connie Morella, Bethesda Library (Workshop Performance)**
- 12. Gunston Middle School, Arlington County, VA (5-day Residency)**
- 13. Hoffman Boston Elementary School, Arlington County, VA (5-day Residency)**
- 14. New Hampshire Estates, Elementary School, Montgomery County (2-day Collaborative Residency)**
- 15. Kipp High School PCS, Washington DC (Afterschool Workshop)**
- 16. Campbell Elementary School, Arlington County, VA (1-day workshops)**
- 17. Homewood High School, Howard County, MD (10-day residency)**
- 18. Oakridge Elementary School, Arlington County, VA (5-day residency)**
- 19. PGATI The Reach, Kennedy Center (Professional Development)**
- 20. Georgetown University, Creative Writing Guest (Workshop)**
- 21. Wheaton H.S. ELL/DISABILITY, Montgomery County, MD (4-day Residency)**

## EDUCATION

**New York University Tisch School of the Arts BFA 1992; Major Acting; Minor East Asian Studies and Journalism**

**Writer's Voice West Side Y Poetry Master Workshops: Agaha Shahid Ali, Tim Siebles, Fay Chiang**

## SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

**A GATHERING OF THE TRIBES 2024-present** Executive Director. Oversees literary programming in New York City and national partnerships: The National Portrait Gallery and Asian Lit Festival.

**CAPFIRE SPOKEN WORD ARTS 2020-present** Cabico's incorporated business fosters and promotes spoken word poetry, arts programs, and workshops for schools, colleges, senior centers, and mental health facilities, and publishes books by emerging poets.

**KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS 2014-present** As a teaching artist, Cabico has presented keynotes for the Department of Education, brought poetry and arts programs to children with disabilities, and led residencies for DC Public Schools.

**LA TI DO 2012-2023** Artistic Associate Spoken Word Curator co-founded and programs a weekly cabaret and spoken word series, which has received several awards from DC Metro Theater, The Blade, and BroadwayWorld.com.

**SULU DC 2009-2013** Board Chair, Programmer, Education, Community Outreach. Sulu DC is an Asian American performing arts organization with an activist mission to promote spoken word and hip-hop culture by and for the Asian American Community in the Nation's Capital and internationally. Served on the committee to plan the APA Spoken Word Summit 2013.

## HOWARD ZINN'S PEOPLE'S HISTORY ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN PROJECT

**2011-2016** Directed and compiled Asian American activist voices in American History for a National Showcase with Asian Arts Initiative, East West Players, Split This Rock and NYU Asian Pacific American Studies.

**URBAN WORD 2001-2006** Taught poetry and performance in Workshops for Queer Youth. Judge, Emcee for Brave New Voices.

**SOL & SOUL 2006 – 2010** As Artistic Director, Cabico oversaw the creative vision of spoken word/literature in art and activism through various programs such as street theater, youth outreach arts, and activist training.

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY 2005-2006** Asian Pacific American Studies Artist In Residence and resource for NYU faculty: Tisch School of the Arts: Undergraduate Drama, Art and Public Policy, Stern School of Business, Asian Pacific American Studies. Taught a course: Asian Americans and the Spoken Word Movement.

**ST. MARK'S POETRY PROJECT 1999-2002** Literary and Performance Curator/Coordinator Friday Night Series. Curated and hosted weekly performance showcases A Night Of Taboos, Drag Kings Night, Queer Shoulder To The Wheel: Allen Ginsberg Reading with The People's Poetry Gathering.

**BELLEVUE HOSPITAL 2001-2012** Poetry and Performance Developer; implemented the first poetry and performance program at Bellevue Hospital's After School program.

**POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE 2000-2006** Poet In Residence as part of a music program for children and teens in homeless shelters. Started the "Keepin' It Real" Poetry Contest throughout all five NYC 5 boroughs.

**SCHOLASTIC/ Alliance for Young Writers 2005-2006** Alan G. Ross Memorial Scholarship Poetry Advisor; nurtured a New York City Youth Poet, hosted the annual National Awards Ceremony and Benefit.

**DIXON PLACE 1996-2001** Literary Curator Writers On The Ledge Monthly Series.