

ASHANTI ANDERSON

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Poet + Writer + Advocate

Ashanti Anderson (she/her) is an award-winning writer who advocates for health equity, reproductive justice, disability rights, and criminal justice reform through her poetry, prose, playwriting, and more. A Black disabled queer woman herself, Ashanti's writing frequently explores the connections between identity and health. Her debut short poetry collection, *Black Under*, is forthcoming with Black Lawrence Press in Fall 2021 after winning the Spring 2020 Black River Chapbook Collection. *Black Under* reflects the African-American experience over several eras, the author leaving no stone unturned in her interrogation of the racialized violence that has occurred throughout history. At once haunting and hopeful, Ashanti "documents atrocities while singing."

Ashanti has collaborated with universities, at-risk youth groups, non-profits, and healthcare professionals to develop programs and activities that promote diversity, inclusion, and minority health. She received her MFA in Creative Writing in 2018 and went on to teach creative writing courses and workshops for both teens and adults. Leading by example, Ashanti encourages her students to develop multi-dimensional characters, find their unique voice, and do their research.

Awards and honors:

- Winner, Black Lawrence Press Black River Chapbook Competition (Spring 2020)
- Winner, Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival Poetry Contest (2018)
- Winner, Haley's Flight, LLC Page-to-Screen Short Film Competition (2017)

Organizations She's Worked With:



Writing Workshops and Speaking Subjects (can be one presentation, week-long training, or recurring seminars):

- **Imitation is the Sincerest Form of Poetry:**
In this generative workshop, participants examine poems in various classic and contemporary poetry forms—from the Shakespearean sonnet to the Golden Shovel—to use as blueprints for creating their own masterpieces.
- **UnknOWN Voices:**
Through tips, resources, and prompts, Ashanti shows writers how to balance "writing what you know" and writing diverse, multi-dimensional characters. Participants will develop the tools to write a manuscript that would make a sensitivity reader proud.
- **The Poetics of Joy:**
Part-workshop and part-celebration, this seminar de-centers pain to focus instead on those poems hiding in its periphery: poems of resistance, audacity, and hope. Participants will reflect on the political implications of joy, as well as its craft, as they write and share their own celebratory poems.

To book Ashanti Anderson for your event, email Nanda Dyssou at nanda@corioliscompany.com.