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Friday
OCT 15
7:30 pm

The Mayhem Poets

Spoken word as you've never heard it before



This performance is
funded, in part, by:

THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION

There will be no intermission during this performance.

"Let's go see a poetry show." That is a sentence rarely proclaimed and usually responded to with cringes and excuses. The Mayhem Poets are on a mission to change that. Having been dubbed "an amazing ride" by *The New York Times*, this mind-boggling performance has been described as "The Simpsons meets Malcolm X at a Notorious B.I.G. concert." These theatre-trained, comedically-gifted, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improv and stand-up comedy to tell gut-wrenching truths that leave audiences forever changed.

The group's unique approach to spoken word has landed them feature spots on *The Today Show* and *Eyewitness News*, after winning first place and a grant for \$100K in the Microsoft Idea Wins Challenge in 2006. Since then, they've been touring internationally and performing at legendary venues, like Lincoln Center, the Apollo Theatre and Broadway's New Victory Theatre as well as hundreds of universities, local schools of all grades, group homes and correctional facilities.

The Mayhem Poets are taking part in the Lied Center project entitled "Utilizing the Performing Arts to Enhance DEIB Initiatives." Funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project aims to create an adaptable Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) curriculum that integrates these concepts, centering on the work of the participating visiting performing artists. The curriculum framework is created through collaboration with each visiting artist as well as faculty and staff at the University of Kansas, working to ensure the arts-centered program encourages critical thought and engagement for students.



Mikumari Caiyhe is an established actor, emcee, spoken word poet and arts educator. A native of Washington, D.C., Mikumari graduated from the distinguished Duke Ellington School for the Arts with a focus in theatre. He completed his formal education at Mason Gross School of the Arts at

Rutgers University as an acting major. Mikumari has toured internationally as an artist with credits including being cast as the lead actor in the musical *Revelations* in London, England, playing the role of God/MC. During the same year, he was one of the first emcees/rappers to ever do a hip-hop concert at Shakespeare's Globe. He also served as a member of NYC's Nuyorican Poets Cafe 2013 Competitive poetry team. As an educator and arts advocate, Mikumari is independently contracted by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Boys and Girls Club of America and YMCA to facilitate art residencies and workshops teaching literary arts, acting and ballroom dance. Finally, it is Mikumari's ambition to "use art to liberate individuals from fear, emancipate and empower the light within and...illuminate forever."

Twitter/Instagram handle: @Mikumari_Caiyhe



Originally from Philly, raised in Willingboro, NJ, and currently living in Queens, **Mason Granger** has been a full-time member of The Mayhem Poets since 2005. With a style that's equal parts smart and smile, Mason gets his points across in a way that leaves audiences, hopefully, a little more knowledgeable and feeling a little better than when they arrived.

Mason is also the creator of SlamFind, the world's first mobile app dedicated to performance poetry that allows poetry fans to discover and connect with live poetry venues and individual poets all over North America. SlamFind poetry videos have been featured by *The Huffington Post*, *Upworthy*, *Buzzfeed*, *Cosmo* and many more. Mason has been featured in magazines such as *Vibe*, *Complex*, *Fader* and *Rolling Stone*, and as a spokesperson for *New Era Caps*.

Twitter/Instagram handles: @masongranger, @SlamFind



A graduate of Rutgers University with a double degree in acting and journalism, **Scott Raven** co-founded The Mayhem Poets. His performance work has been featured by Fiat, Purina, CNN and *The Today Show*. His written work has appeared in *The New York Times*

and *New York Post*. He is the author of *Scnonettts*, a collection of poems based on his past romantic relationships, his family and his athletic background; *The Polygons*, *Surrealist Poems: Volumes 1 & 2*; and *6 Piece Chicken* (performable poems and stories from on tour). He's also an actor in commercials, plays and films, and he is a proud member of the Screen Actor's Guild (SAG). Scottt grew up in Edison, NJ and currently lives in Harlem, NYC, where he runs and puns with his imaginary man's best friend, Spott.

Twitter/Instagram handle: @scotttraven

