

Playbill for Def Poetry Jam on Broadway

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

BEAU SIA (Poet) is a Chinese-American poet who was raised in Oklahoma City. He discovered spoken word after seeing MTV's "Spoken Word Unplugged." After two years of performing locally, he moved to New York City to attend the Dramatic Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Since then, Beau has been quite active in the poetry slam community. He has been a membership of six national poetry slam teams, two of which have won championships. In 2001, Beau placed second in the national poetry slam individual competition. Because of his various poetry slam accomplishments, Beau has been featured in the award-winning film Slam and the documentary Slam Nation. Not just a live performer, Beau is the author of A Night Without Armor II: The Revenge and has two spoken word CDs, Attack! Attack! Go and Dope and Wack. He is a recipient of the California Arts Council Writer in Residence Grant for Youth Speaks, during 2001-2002, and is the lead artist for the Creative Work Fund. Beau recently appeared twice I. HBO's "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam on Broadway, Beau is writing the live show for Norman Lear's Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

BLACK ICE (Poet) was born Lamar Manson in Philadelphia, where he began perfecting his craft on the streets of North Philly. Russell Simmons discovered Black Ice at New York's Soul Café during the pitch for HBO's "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry." The meeting led to Black Ice being the first spoken-word artist signed to Simmons' Def Jam Records. Performing spoken word since 1994, Black Ice has received standing ovations from audiences as diverse as those at the Hip-Hop Summit, the Black Congressional Caucus, the Source Youth Foundation and SHiNE. Black Ice's focus is in the sharing of messages that help nurture and build character among our young people.

STACEYANN CHIN (Poet) is a resident of New York City and a Jamaican national. She has been a practicing poet since 1998, performing to enthusiastic audiences from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe go Off-Broadway, and from college campuses and poetry slams across America to poetry workshops, slams and television programs in Denmark and London. Staceyann won the 1999 Chicago People of Color Slam; was the first runner-up in the 1999 Outright Poetry Slam; winner of the 1998 Lambda Poetry Slam; a finalist in the 1999 Nuyorican Grand Slam; winner of the 1998 and 2000 Slam This!; and winner of WORD: Tje First Slam for Television. The Joseph Papp Public Theater has featured this young poet on more than one occasion, and Staceyann has enjoyed great success internationally, with much-lauded theatre performances in London, Denmark, Germany, Norway and New York's own Central Park SummerStage. Her poems can be found in her first chapbook, Wildcat Woman, as well as in the one she now carries on her back, Stories Surrounding My Coming, and the anthologies Skyscrapers, Taxis and Tampons (out of print), Poetry Slam and, most recently, Role Call. Hands Afire, Staceyann's first one-woman show, Dan for ten weeks at 45 Bleecker Theater in the summer of 2000. The same Off-Broadway theatre welcomed her second show, Unspeakable Things, in the summer of 2001, before she took it to Copenhagen for a

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[[image - seating chart]]

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National Museum of African American History and Culture

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