

Reyes

Reyespoetry.com
(646) 450 4014
reyespoetry@gmail.com

Where Education & Art Meets Entertainment & Activism!

For more than 12 years Michael Reyes, has brought innovative and engaging performance to audiences across America and internationally! Reyes is a Chicano /Mexicano poet, emcee, actor, playwright, artist and community organizer (specializing in youth development).

His combination of hip-hop, poetry and spoken word create a unique blend, where his narratives are infused into a rhythmically crowd pleasing performance. As a hip hop artist his work is a synthesis of radical soul, raw lyrical hip-hop, fresh beats and poetic style.

A leading voice in progressive and radical music, Reyes combines cultural stories of resistance, raw hip-hop and inspiring poems, to reach youth and elders alike. His work challenges and confronts the many social ills faced by communities of color.

He has shared the stage nationally and internationally with many poets, artists and activists such as historical figures: Lolita Lebrón and Delores Huerta; poets: Tato Laviera, Pedro Pietri and La Bruja; and musical artists such as: Roy Brown, Dead Prez, Boca Floja, Siete Nueve, and Grammy Award winner Malik Yusef.

As a poet and an artist he has been featured on HBO Latino's Habla Series, nationally on Latin Nation and the PBS documentary Dream Makers. He has released three novels of poetry and three performance CDs. His work has also been featured nationally in many magazines, anthologies and newspapers. Reyes has additionally worked with established institutions including: Chicago Public Radio, the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Museum Of Contemporary Art and the Poetry Center of Chicago.

As an actor, his credits include roles in Miguel Piñero's famed play, The Sun Always Shines for the Cool, Urban Poet, Why Are U Running? Chicago Boricua, Public Theater's 365 Project written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks and the feature film Nothing Like the Holidays starring John Leguizamo and Debra Messing. He has worked directly with famed NuYorican poet Tato Laveria on three productions titled The Spark, Chupacabera and the 1977 Division Street Riots; as part of his work with Laveria, Reyes has served, both as an actor and a director.

Currently Reyes is touring the country with his play Crime Against Humanity, co-wrote by former Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Luis Rosa. Multitalented Reyes has played the role of actor, writer and director for the play. Crime Against Humanity has received tremendous community support and has completed several tours in the past year. He is also touring with his latest mixtape titled My Word Is My Weapon taking him as far as Spain .



Some Past Performances

Ball State University (OH)
Batey Urbano Chicago, IL
Berkley (CA)
Bowling Green State University (OH)
Burlington College (VT)
Carrolton University (MN)
Central Michigan University (MI)
Chicago Labor Arts Festival (IL)
Chicago State University (IL)
Columbia College (IL)
Daily College (IL)
Delta College (MI)
DePaul University (IL)
Familia Latina Unida (DC)
Grand Rapids Community College (MI)
Grand Valley University (MI)
Harvard (MA)
Hostos College (NY)
Kelley High School (IL)
Latino Fest (OH)
Le Pena Cultural Center (CA)
Lolita Lebron Community Center (NY)
Loyola University (IL)
Malcolm X College (IL)
National Congreso, Mexico City (MX)
Michigan State University (MI)
Mills College (CA)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (IL)
National Conference on Vieques (DC)
National Louis University (IL)
Northeastern Illinois University (IL)
Not Enough Space – San German (Puerto Rico)
Not Enough Space – San Sebastian (Puerto Rico)
Not Enough Space (IL)
Oberlin University (OH)
Pa' lante Conference UIC (IL)
Resume
Saginaw Valley State University (MI)
Shades of Brown (MI)
Si Se Puede (MI)
The Freedom Ride (DC) (NY)
The Spirit in the Words (CA)
United States Hispanic Leadership Conference (IL)
University of Chicago (IL)
University of Illinois Champaign Urbana (IL)
University of Illinois Chicago (IL)
University of Minnesota, Morris (MN)
University of Nebraska (NE)
VIVE Television (Caracas Venezuela)
Wayne State University (MI)
Word is Weapon Tour, Madrid Spain

What Others Say!

"His enthusiasm is so contagious! His performance inspired me, and I'm sure many other youth to keep reaching for their dreams ... and to never give up!"

Monica Michelle Toledano- Student

"Reyes brings a critical perspective through his lyrics and inspiring words!!! His voice is something students and adults both need to hear."

Cynthia Brito- Youth Advocate

"He never fails to wow and inspire students with his skillful use of words! We can't wait to have him back!"

Rio Mia Almaria- Admissions College of Dupage



Institutional Work History

Roberto Clemente High School

Culture of Calm Instructor

2010–2011

147 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL

- Facilitate weekly social justice workshops with youth ages 14–18.
- Manage school-wide leadership and skill building presentations.
- Organize and recruit youth to participate in Culture of Calm activities.

Barrio Arts Culture Communications Academy

Lead Coordinator

2007–2009

2700 W. Haddon Ave., Chicago, IL

- Created youth organizing curriculum and developed experienced based leadership trainings.
- Instructed weekly classes in theater, radio broadcasting, and community building.
- Researched and wrote grants to maintain program.

Batey Urbano

Founding Member/Youth Mentor

2001–2009

2620 W. Division St., Chicago, IL

- Coordinated youth hip-hop and spoken word events.
- Led summer programs offering creative art and community organizing workshops.
- Co-wrote grants culminating in the funding of various projects and programs.
- Coordinated national youth summit held in Chicago, IL.

Near Northwest Neighborhood Network

Lead Youth Organizer/Youth Action Team Coordinator

2001–2009

2412 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL

- Facilitated collective youth organizing throughout the Humboldt Park Community.
- Directed youth trainings in creative arts, skill building, and leadership development.
- Presented on youth organizing throughout the country.

Zocalo Urbano

Founding Member

2004–2006

2300 S. Blue Island Ave., Chicago, IL

- Actively participated in the establishment of El Zócalo Urbano.
- Assisted in the development of the program's organizational foundation.
- Participated in the recruitment of youth for Centro Sin Fronteras programming.

Radio Arte - Mexican Fine Arts Center

Lead Art Instructor

2005

1852 W. 19th Street, Chicago, IL

- Executed the completion of multi-media projects, i.e. audio, visual and performance based.
- Facilitated civic discussions on gentrification and urban planning.
- Developed youth workshops around community activism and creative expression.

Notable Accomplishments

Awarded the C-JAM Educator Equipment Fund sponsored by the McCormick Foundation

Director and Author of theatrical production Crime Against Humanity

Award winner of The Spirit In The Words Poetry Competition– Ford Foundation ‘

Director of Chupacabra, 1977 Division Street Riots, and The Spark written by playwright Tato Laviera

Finalist in the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Competition, Guild Complex

Published poet in the University of Illinois Chicago Latino Journal

Played “Cat Eyes” in Miguel Piñero’s The Sun Always Shines for the Cool

Featured guest on Chicago Public Radio Ear to the Ground

Role in feature film Nothing like the Holidays

Leading Role and Poetry Coordinator for film Urban Poet

Featured Poet on HBO Latino Series Habra Chicago and Habla Más

Featured on national television show Latin Nation

Featured in PBS film Dream Makers

Cameo in feature film Boricua

Release of poetry album entitled My Voice



Performance Option Packages

Large Institution

Speaker: Michael Reyes

Package A

- Performance run time: 30 minutes
- Show summary: Speaker will present poetry/spoken word performance. Participants are able to delve deeper into each piece through context and narration shared by the speaker.
- Q&A session to follow

Speaker Honorarium: \$3,500.00*

Package B

- Performance run time: 45 minutes
- Show summary: Speaker will do poetry/spoken word performance. Participants are able to delve deeper into each piece through context and narration shared by the speaker.
- Q&A session to follow
- Speaker is available for informal time with faculty, staff and students to talk before or after the performance.

Speaker Honorarium: \$5,000.00*

Package C

- Performance run time: 45 minutes
- Show summary: Speaker will do poetry/spoken word performance. Participants are able to delve deeper into each piece through context and narration shared by the speaker.
- Q&A session to follow
- Speaker is available for informal time with faculty, staff and students to talk before or after the performance.
- Speaker is available for 1–2 days of workshops and presentations.

Speaker Honorarium: \$6,000.00*

Package D

- Performance run time: 45 minutes
- Show summary: Speaker will do a poetry/spoken word performance. Participants are able to delve deeper into each piece through context and narration shared by the speaker.
- Q&A session to follow
- Speaker is available for informal time with faculty, staff and students to talk before or after the performance.
- A personalized curriculum can be created to address the needs of your specific population/audience.
- Speaker is available for 5–7 days of workshops and presentations.
- Videographer available, to create memorable footage of events.
- Personalized fliers can be crafted to meet your institutions' needs.

Speaker Honorarium: \$7,000.00*

***All packages must include travel and lodging.**

***Combine any of the above themes to create the right performance for your school.**

Performance/ Lecture Themes

Dream Bigger Reach Higher

Goal: To have participants to become critical thinkers and encourage them to be agents of change.

Objectives:

- Youth will create their own personal mission statement
- Affirms the participants personal culture and awareness of others cultures
- Participants will identify own goals
- Serves as a motivation, in identifying goals
- Motivates participants to become active agents of change
- Encourages and promotes critical thinking and leadership
- Examines solutions to overcome peer pressure obstacles (I.e. drugs, alcohol and violence)

Mexican/ Chican@ Identity and History Through Spoken Word

Goal: Examines contemporary Chicano identity

Objectives:

- Delves into contemporary themes such as immigration, globalization, and community activism
- Provides the historical experiences of Chican@ and Mexicans in the United States
- Creates an awareness about Mexican and Chicano identity and culture using poetry themed around such historical figures as Emilinao Zapata, Frida Kahlo, the Zapatista and Elvira Arellano

Puerto Rican Poems of Solidarity

Goal: Examines the current state of Puerto Rico and the connection with the United States and Latin America

Objectives:

- Reflects on historical Puerto Rican figures such as Lolita Lebron, Albizu Campos, Oscar Lopez Rivera and Filiberto Ojeda Rios
- Discuss the current progressive work being done in the United States
- Examines cases of Puerto Rican political prisoners and the campaign for their release

Take It Higher Than Just Higher Education

Goal: Examines the characteristics of a critical thinker

Objectives:

- Critical analysis of being "schooled" vs educated
- Examines micro-aggressions experienced as a person of color
- Discuss solutions to bridging the gap
- Encourages movement to bring about positive change
- Call to action college to students to reinvest in building community (on and off campus)

Multiculturalism as a Culture

Goal: Understanding the history of multiculturalism

Objectives:

- Incorporates poetry dedicated to a wide variety of political figures and historical movements such as Malcom X, Che Guevara, Martin Luther King and Lolita Lebron
- Encourages participants to practice self-love and appreciation of others
- Dispelling myths of people of color, to encourage deeper thinking

Workshops Available

Each work shop includes:

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Key components:

Social justice
Critical race analysis
Active audience participation

Behind the scenes

1. Theater: Running an independent production
2. Radio Broadcasting and Journalism
3. Studio Production 101: Unpacking Pro Tools
4. Independent Artist: From the studio to the stage

Expressing Creativity

1. Poetry with a Purpose: Creative Writing
2. Visual Expression: Video and photography as a reflection
3. Hip-Hop as Resistance
4. Successful Event Planning: From flyers to performance

Bringing Art to life

1. Stencils, Spray Cans, and Silk Screens: Designing your message
2. Political Puppet Making

Community Engagement

1. Getting in the Door: The ABC's of Door Knocking
2. Asset vs. Deficit: Breaking Down Your Community
3. Creating a Youth Center that is Yours




Reyes

Where Education & Art Meets Entertainment & Activism!

Your University Here
Event Description

TIME
DATE
LOCATION



For more than 12 years Michael Reyes, has brought innovative and engaging performance to audiences across America and internationally! Reyes is a Chicano /Mexicano poet, emcee, actor, playwright, artist and community organizer (specializing in youth development).

His combination of hip-hop, poetry and spoken word create a unique blend, where his narratives are infused into a rhythmically crowd pleasing performance. As a hip hop artist his work is a synthesis of radical soul, raw lyrical hip-hop, fresh beats and poetic style.

A leading voice in progressive and radical music, Reyes combines cultural stories of resistance, raw hip-hop and inspiring poems, to reach youth and elders alike. His work challenges and confronts the many social ills faced by communities of color.

What Others Say

"His enthusiasm is so contagious! His performance inspired me, and I'm sure many other youth to keep reaching for their dreams ... and to never give up!"

Monica Michelle Toledano- Student

"Reyes brings a critical perspective through his lyrics and inspiring words!!! His voice is something students and adults both need to hear."

Cynthia Brito- Youth Advocate

"He never fails to wow and inspire students with his skillful use of words! We can't wait to have him back!"

Rio Mia Almaria- Multi Cultural Office of Dupage College

Reyespoetry.com



