

**DASAN**

**AHANU**

POET, EMCEE, WRITER,  
PLAYWRIGHT, PERFORMANCE  
ARTIST, LECTURER, EDUCATOR

EPK 2019



# **CHRIS MASSENBURG IS DASAN AHANU.**

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"WRITE FREE...  
SPEAK FREE...  
LIVE FREE!"

## INTRODUCTION

**Dasan Ahanu** is a artist, educator, scholar and community organizer born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to performing across the country, Dasan has hosted or coordinated many Poetry, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Cultural Arts events. Working as an organizer around such issues as literacy, social injustice, workers rights, domestic violence and sexual assault, Dasan has assisted several institutions and organizations with programs, trainings, and art based projects intended to engage their communities.

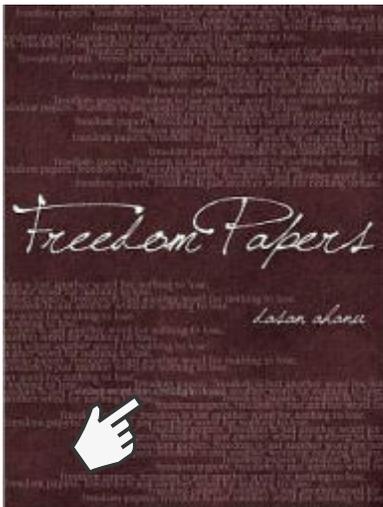
One of his most notable features was on **National Public Radio** (NPR), where he was noticed for his appearances on "*News and Notes with Ed Gordon*" and "*State of Things with Frank Stasio*." He has also been showcased on **NBC 17**, featured on the third season of *Lexus Verses and Flow* (aired on **TV One**), and in a documentary entitled, "*Poet Son*" (that aired on **WUNC-TV** as a part of the North Carolina Visions film series). As a resident artist with the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/ Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, NC, he developed poetry and spoken word programming for both the local youth and adults. Currently, Dasan is the co-founder and managing director of **Black Poetry Theatre**, a Durham based theatre company that creates and produces original poetry and spoken word based productions. To date, Dasan is an alumni Nasir Jones Fellowship with the Hip Hop Archive at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research. He is proud to be a scholar whose academic work is focused on critical writing, creative writing, Hip Hop and popular culture.

# PUBLICATIONS

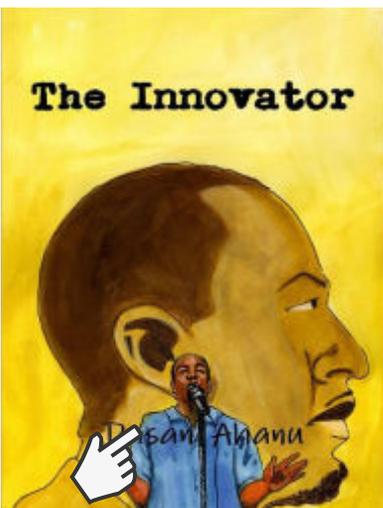
Dasan Ahanu is a southern storyteller who uses his poetry as a tool for conveying messages and for giving voice to the lived experiences of those who find themselves at the center and in the margins.



**Everything Worth Fighting For:** An exploration of being Black in America takes the reader on a journey of discovery into the many layers of Black life. From coming to understand the value in elder wisdom to struggling with the dangers facing Black youth, the book paints a picture of a multi-faceted existence. It is a resistance to narrowing perceptions and a call for society to never forget that there is so much more to any Black person than meets the eye.



**Freedom Papers:** This book is a collection of thoughts, observations, inspirations, and declarations about life. It is about the freedom of the human spirit. It is about freedom of speech and free thought. Each poem is intended to reflect the lives we live, the obstacles we face, and the victories we claim.



**The Innovator:** A collection of poems inspired by a 2005 chapter book of the same name, this offering features some of Ahanu's signature poems. Full of emotion, sincerity, passion, and social commentary, Ahanu's unique perspective is on display. Not only an inside look into this poet's mind, "The Innovator" is a critical analysis of the world we live in.



SEE MORE ON AMAZON.COM

## LECTURER

Hip Hop Lyricism | Cultural Arts as an Alternative | Art's Activism | Hip Hop Education | The Art of Spoken Word | Black Influence in Pop Culture | Narratives of Identity in Pop Culture | The Reach of Rap Music & Hip Hop Culture | Courageous Creative Expression | Wonderment, Discovery, and the Developing Writer | Healing & the Arts

## FACILITATOR

**WORKSHOPS** Documentary Writing | Poetry & Performance | Playwriting | Poetry Slam | Fostering Engagement Through the Arts

**TRAININGS** Trauma Informed Art Interventions | Effective Arts Programming | Art as a Tool for Social Justice | Integrating Pop Culture in the Classroom | Hip Hop Based Pedagogy | Facilitating Growth in Writers



## CONTACT

[WWW.DASANAHANU.COM](http://WWW.DASANAHANU.COM)



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