

A man with short dark hair and a goatee, wearing a red blazer over a dark green sweater, is seated in a dimly lit room. Behind him is a large, multi-paned stained glass window. The top panes show a religious scene with figures in red and blue robes. The bottom panes are darker, with a bright rectangular light source visible. The overall mood is serious and contemplative.

DASAN AHANU

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PRESS KIT



A self-described introvert with a public profession, Dasan Ahanu is an award-winning cultural organizer, artist, and scholar based in North Carolina. As a cultural leader and poet, Dasan has appeared on NPR, TV One's *Verses and Flow*, and the documentary *Poet Son*. Through his projects and appointments, he highlights North Carolina's creative artistry. He has served as a resident artist at St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/Hayti Heritage Center and as Rothwell Mellon Program Director for Creative Futures with Carolina Performing Arts. He directs the Jambalaya Soul Slam, founded the Bull City Slam Team, and co-directs Black Poetry Theatre, a company producing original theatrical works.

Dasan's writing has been published extensively, and he is the author of seven poetry collections. His most recent collection, *Concrete Jungle Allegories*, was the winner of the Unsung Pots Award from Jacar Press and Sable Books. He has performed across the country, sharing his unique blend of storytelling and critical analysis. He has also competed in regional and national competitions with the Bull City Slam team. Dasan is a teaching artist who has crafted and facilitated poetry workshops for writers of disparate ages and backgrounds.

A respected recording artist, Dasan has collaborated with many Jazz, Soul, and Hip-Hop artists in North Carolina. He is a member of the Recording Academy and has released a variety of singles and albums commercially. He is also known for blending spoken word, soul, Hip Hop, and jazz with his band Eloquent Soul.

Dasan has worked with multiple educational institutions, teaching courses on Hip-Hop, Creative Writing, and Black culture. Among the many great honors throughout his career, Dasan was a Nasir Jones Fellow with the Marcyliena H. Morgan Hip Hop Archive & Research Institute at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research. In 2023, he was named the 15th Piedmont Laureate for his poetry. His work in the arts as a curator, program developer, and administrator led to his recognition as a 2023-2024 National Leaders of Color Fellow (curated by Creative West). Dasan is currently a Southern Fellow with the International Society for the Performing Arts, exploring the impact of the performing arts globally.

BIO

Dasan Ahanu



Dasan is a seasoned poet and spoken word artist known for delivering powerful performances. He uses storytelling as a means of deepening our understanding and awareness of what's happening around us. He has captivated audiences of all walks of life with his work.

THE POET

THE TEACHER

Dasan is a skilled teaching artist. He has developed and facilitated workshops for participants established, emerging, or just beginning. He is known for his ability to craft welcoming generative spaces that are affirming and inspiring. He works with collaborators and stakeholders to shape experiences that fosters new work, deeper understanding, and lasting impact.





THE MUSIC

Dasan blends poems with new and recognizable grooves from the band to create a performance experience unlike anything else. Stories are brought to life on stage to a dynamic backdrop of jazz, hip hop, and soul instrumentation. Dasan and the band take audiences on an eloquent musical journey of joy, hope, love, resilience, and courage.

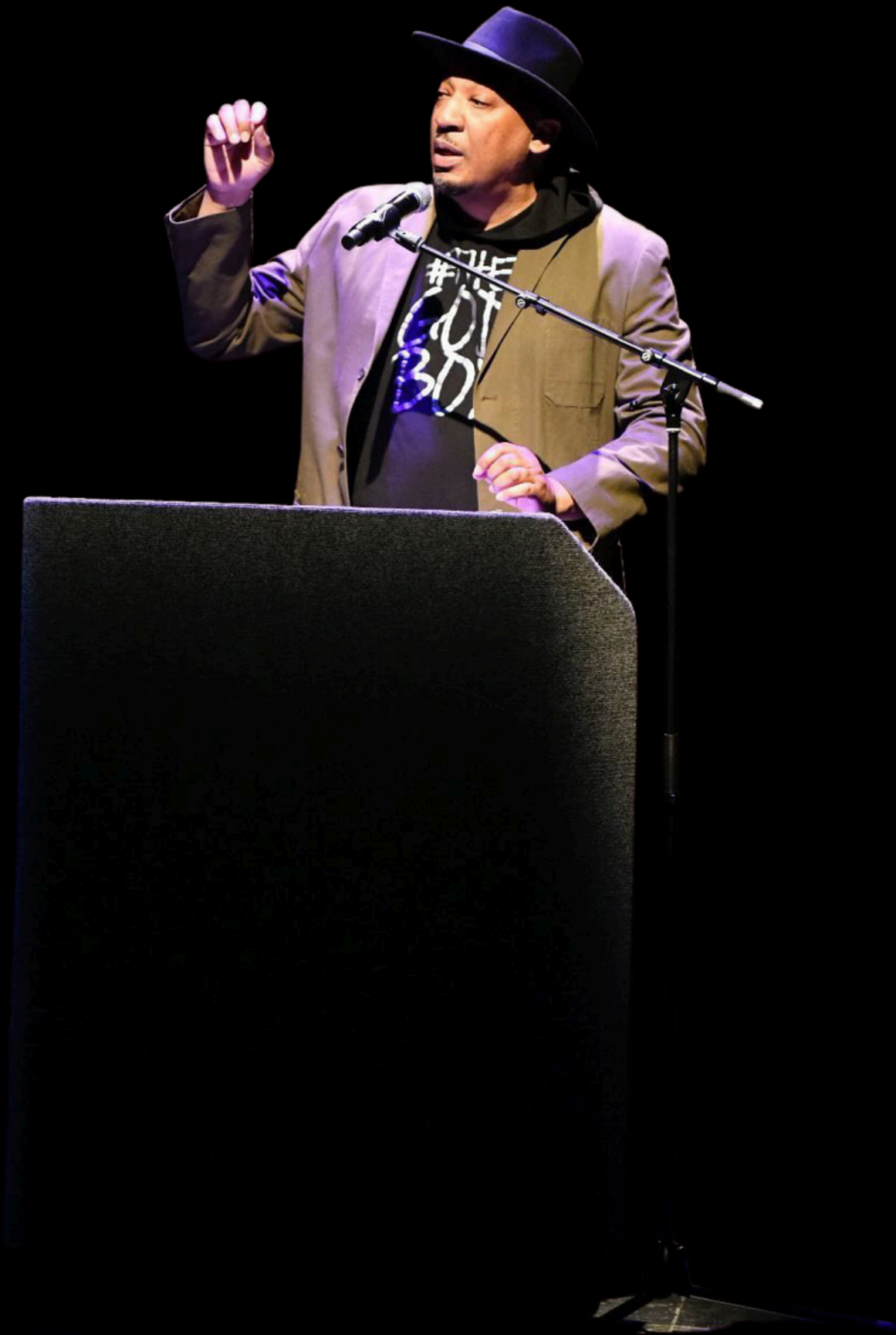
THE HOST/CURATOR

Dasan is a veteran host, having guided a diverse array of cultural arts events. He also has curated and coordinated readings, lectures, conferences, showcases, panels, and more!



THE SPEAKER

Articulating the Power of Art and Culture



Art is one of the most amazing reminders of the simple complexities of our lives and the world we live in. It is a vehicle for centering necessary conversations and can be a catalyst for change. We can never forget how powerful of a tool it is. Dasan seeks to remind us all of what we have at our disposal and pushes us to consider how to nurture and cultivate that resource.

HONORS

2026-2028

**International Society
for the Performing Arts
Southern United States
Fellow**

2024

**Jacar Press & Sable
Books Unsung Poets
Award Winner
(*Concrete Jungle
Allegories*)**

2024

**Literary Titan Book
Award (*a brilliant
uncertain rebellion*)**

2023

Piedmont Laureate

2023-2024

**National Leaders of
Color Fellowship
(Creative West)**

2019-2021

**Gilbert-Chappell
Distinguished Poet (NC
Poetry Society Gilbert-
Chappell Mentor
Series)**

2019

**Black History Month
Honoree, African
American musicians
and artists (By NC
Governor Roy Cooper)**

Exhibition format

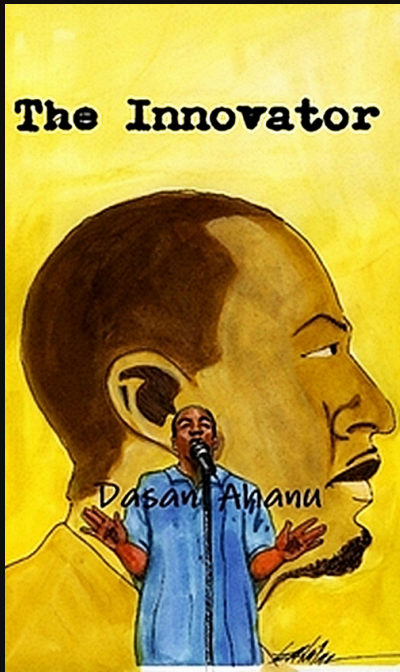
**Nasir Jones Fellow -
Harvard University's
Marcyliena H. Morgan Hip
Hop Archive & Research
Institute**

2015

**Indy Arts Award Winner,
Indy Week Magazine**

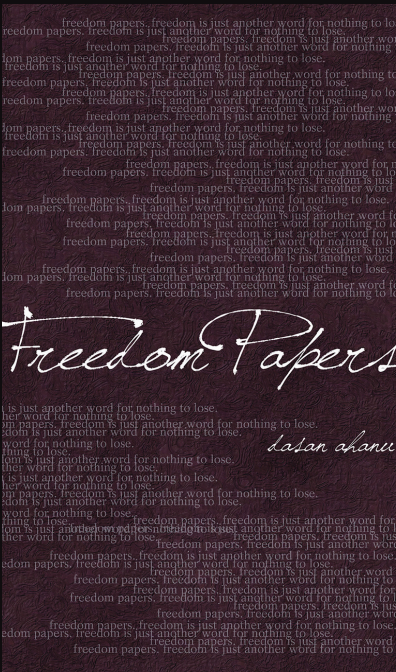
2004

**Indy Arts Award Winner,
Indy Week Magazine**



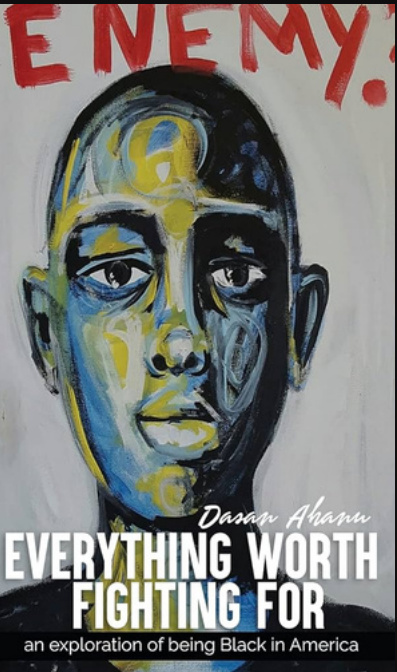
The Innovator

HPWJ Publishing



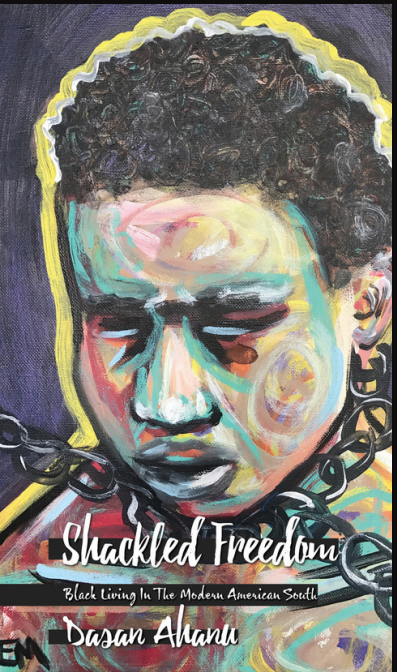
Freedom Papers

HPWJ Publishing



Everything Worth
Fighting For

HPJW Publishing



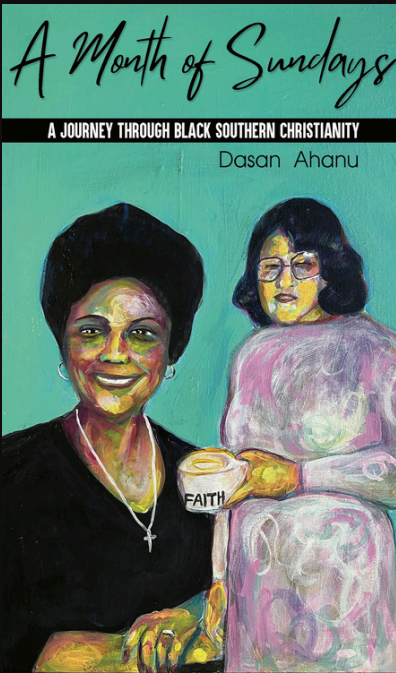
Shackled Freedom

Willow Books



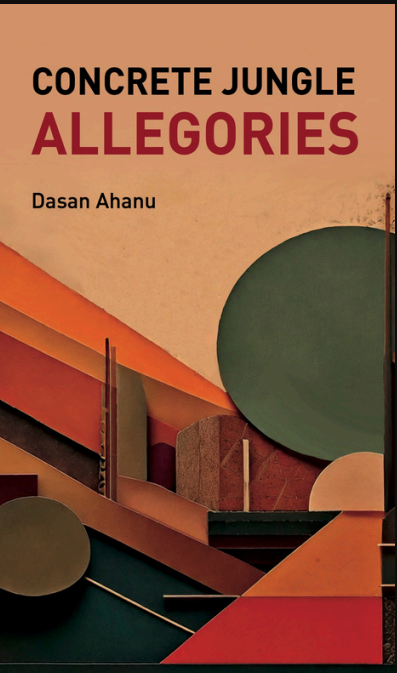
a brilliant
uncertain rebellion

HPWJ Publishing



A Month of Sundays

Willow Books



Concrete Jungle
Allegories

Jacar Press

THE BOOKS

THE ALBUMS



WORDS, RHYTHMS, AND MELODIES

2024



(STAW) + (REE) + (TEL) + (UH), VOL. 1

2023



(STAW) + (REE) + (TEL) + (UH), VOL. 2

2024



(STAW) + (REE) + (TEL) + (UH), VOL. 3

2025

GET IN TOUCH

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Performances and more!