

WORDSMITHING
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ART HOUSE
VISUAL + PERFORMING ARTS | JERSEY CITY | EST. 2001

NATIONAL
POETRY
MONTH ★ APRIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2016

Jersey City... Wordsmithing Web and Art House Productions combine artistic endeavors in celebration of National Poetry Month. On Thursday, April 7, 2016, Lana Rose (Wordsmithing Web) and Carolyn Light (Art House Productions) host NATIONAL POETRY MONTH JERSEY CITY JAM at The Brightside Tavern, located at 141 Bright Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302 and starts at 7 pm. This is a Free event (donations recommended and welcomed)

Poets, Spoken Word Artists, Singers, Emcees, Storytellers, and Wordsmiths of all genres are welcome! The event features an Open Mic, Wordsmithing Challenges, and a Special performance by 2016 NJ Poetry Out Loud Champion CELESTE SENA



About Celeste Sena

Celeste Sena is a senior at McNair Academic High School. She represents New Jersey in the Poetry Out Loud (POL) National 2016 Finals, to be held May 2-4th in Washington, D.C. This is Ms. Sena's third year participating in POL on the Regional level, her first state win, and first appearance at Nationals. She studied for two years at the Performing Arts Workshop in Jersey City, building craft in monologues, scene work and improv with Nicole L. Lorenzetti. She is an aspiring actress, appearing as Lucas Brickman in Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Jersey City Visual and Performing Arts Program) and as Hermia in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (McNair). Ms. Sena trained for seven years with the Junior Division at the Ailey School/Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. She will study acting for stage and screen in college. Celeste is a Shonda Rhimes fan, and hopes this is her own Year of Yes.



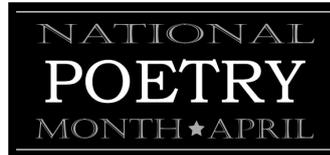
About Lana Rose

LANA ROSE was on the road to becoming a full time writer or strategically positioned to become a teacher. Instead, she opted for a route that challenged not only her English Major Career path; it challenged the world as she knew it, the one that came easy. As a graduate of Lehigh University (Pennsylvania), she used her hard earned Bachelor's degree in Business & Economics to help small business owners. Never once did her passion wane for writing. Her experiences as a nightclub manager, steel company saleswoman, and downtown liaison for the Chamber of Commerce honed her business acumen with corporate suits and board meetings and followed her full circle to her first true love: writing. As a freelance journalist and a self-published poet, Lana challenges herself when things appear to get a little too comfortable.

Lana grew up in New Jersey and spent most of her life all over Hudson County. Life opened up doors in Florida, Pennsylvania, Israel, Costa Rica, Spain and Cote d'Ivoire. Ultimately, New Jersey called her back to her roots. Each new location and experience afforded her a perspective that she otherwise would not have gained.

Combining her passion, ability for connecting people and head for business, Lana founded Positively Jersey and Wordsmithing Unplugged (Jersey City NJ). As a Wordsmith, Jersey Girl, and paramour of concrete and trees, she has been writing poetry and short stories for over two decades and performing as a spoken word artist since 2000. Guerilla Poet Tree is her first published collection of poetry. Her second book of poetry, Rain & Concrete, was released in Spring 2014. The pen and the mic have served as platforms to raise public awareness of issues within the communities she loves. As a source of information for others, she has a natural ability to tell stories, whether they are in the form of a poem, social media posts, or actual, live storytelling. Lana is a firm believer that "using the power of communicating to others with respect, we can accomplish anything..."

Through interviews with the likes of Bahamadia, DJ Khaled and local mayoral candidates during her time as a radio co-host on the Hip Hop 101 Show, through shows she has produced such as Rhyme & Revolution (her first poetry show at Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, PA) and Wordsmithing (which has been a roving open mic experience in Jersey City, NJ since 2013), and through creating websites or writing news stories, Lana has helped tell the stories of a wide variety of artists, politicians, and activists. Whether it's paid work or as a volunteer, her desire to fulfill her vocation has led her to perform at schools and prisons, stages and cafes, radio shows and community outdoor events. The



opportunity to inspire another individual to do what they do is why she follows the winding road of her creative journey. As a poet-journalist, the diversity of her subject matter and the artists she performs and collaborates with give life to the stories she tells with pen in hand and a rhyme on the tip of her tongue.



About Carolyn Light

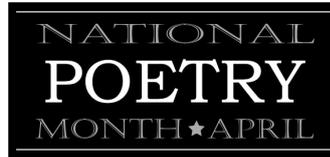
Jersey City based singer/songwriter Carolyn Light is known for her ability to stop a room. With her clear, haunting vocals, her traditionally inspired melodies, and her poetic lyrics, Carolyn's music seems timeless.

Raised in Colorado Springs, Carolyn showed a talent for singing at a young age. By the time she was 9, she had started vocal training in liturgical, musical theatre, and operatic styles of singing. At the age of 17, she sang at Carnegie Hall as a soprano for the National Youth Choir. She went on to attend college at Binghamton University. In 2007, she transferred to SUNY Purchase to pursue acting and theatre. She moved to Jersey City after graduating in 2009, and has lived there ever since. She began singing at open mics in the area, and soon found herself performing for festivals, concerts, and local venues in both Jersey City and Manhattan.

It wasn't until 2011 that Carolyn truly found her voice as a singer/songwriter. While she had always written songs and was well known for her vocal prowess, she had not presented her songwriting work to an audience until she co-founded the Jersey City band Folderol, in which she served as both the lead singer and primary songwriter. The music was received with extreme enthusiasm from fans, and after the group disbanded, Carolyn took her new-found confidence in her songwriting skills and founded Patchwork Alchemy with her good friend (and talented guitar player) Daniel Pierce.

Today she continues to perform both as a solo artist and with Patchwork Alchemy, and also works as a voice actor and audiobook narrator. She recently finished recording her 12th audiobook, and released her album, *Death and Whimsy*, in late September of 2015.

She is also writing and producing a concept album based on the Norwegian fairy tale *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*, to be released sometime in Winter, 2015.



About Wordsmithing

Wordsmithing can happen anywhere, anyplace, anytime. A movement in Jersey City since 2013, the motion of words follow the flow of the crowd as the creative process takes every form possible. Currently housed at Gia Gelato's for its events, Wordsmithing has expanded to reach every part of the Jersey City Artistic Community to become more involved and draw out the artist in each of us. Check out Wordsmithing Web <http://www.wordsmithingweb.com>



About Art House Productions

Art House Productions, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in late September 2001. Art House began as informal gathering of poets and community members in direct response to the tragedies of September 11th. At that time, there were no consistent performance venues for artists in Jersey City to meet one another and share new work. Art House's inaugural event sprung from the desire to connect a devastated community through art and dialogue.

Art House has grown since its inception and has significantly influenced the advancement of the arts community, acting as one of the major pioneering forces for the arts in Jersey City. This expansion of activity and programming necessitated internal growth as well, and in 2007 Art House became incorporated and filed for nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. In late 2007, the organization was presented with the Key to the City and an official Proclamation for its outstanding contributions to the City of Jersey City, NJ. Art House inspires, nurtures and promotes the arts in our community through accessible, multi-disciplinary initiatives.