

Special Performances and Guests

The 2010 invitational is packed with special guests and performances from past participants in collegiate slam and Boston poets. Don't miss out on the chance to see appearances by the poets below.

Appearing at the Championship Finals & Awards Ceremony Event

Saturday, April 10, 7 p.m.

Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont Street

Special Performance: Regie Gibson & Neon Juju

Regie Gibson is an internationally acclaimed poet, songwriter, author, workshop facilitator, and educator, whose poetry appears in *Storms Beneath the Skin* (EM Press 2000). Winner of the 1998 National Poetry Slam competition, he has worked with Gwendolyn Brooks, the Last Poets, Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, Fareed Haque, Kurt Vonnegut, David Amram, and many other artists in a host of musical genres. Gibson describes Neon JUJU as "...Mozart meets James Brown. Neon JUJU is a seamless marriage of word and song. It's what happens when funk meets Moroccan rhythms; when a Shakespearean sonnet hangs out with nasty groove and modern American poetry flirts with African modality.

MC and Guest Performance: George Watsky

George Watsky is a Youth Speaks Grand Slam Champion, Brave New Voices National Poetry Slam Champion, a 2009 College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational Finalist with the Emerson College team, and has represented Providence at the National Poetry Slam. He has performed on *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry* on HBO, in primetime on the NAACP Image Awards on FOX, on the Sundance Channel, and on BET. George's most recent theater piece, *Where the Magic Happens*, was presented by SpeakEasy Stage at the Boston Center for the Arts in January. While studying at Emerson College, George has performed in thirty states, Australia, the Apollo Theater, the Kennedy Center, and has shared the stage with, among others, Beyonce, Stevie Wonder, and former President Bill Clinton. A graduating Interdisciplinary Studies senior, he won the 2009 Rod Parker Playwriting Fellowship, and has recently relocated to Los Angeles.

Finals Bout Host: Simone Beaubien

Simone Beaubien, decade-plus-veteran of the New England poetry scene, makes her home in suburban Massachusetts, working as an EMT and hosting the Boston Poetry Slam at the Cantab Lounge. She has competed at a national level in pinball, ultimate frisbee, and poetry slam. As a performance and slam coach, Simone has both competed for and worked with the Cantab Slam Team since 2004. In 2008, the team placed fourth at the Finals of the National Poetry Slam, Boston's highest placement since 1995. That same year, she also coached the Emerson College slam team, who reached the semi-finals at the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational. As a host, Simone takes the stage at the Cantab Lounge every Wednesday night to kick off the open mic, welcome the feature, and run the late-night poetry slam. As the SlamMaster of the Boston Poetry Slam at the Cantab Lounge, she can run the four-hour show singlehandedly, from setup to breakdown, including all the math in between.