



iLL-Literacy believes that poetry and performance is a valuable tool for achieving freedom, love, and social justice. While performance arts are often disregarded as less important than more traditional methods in the realm of political and social action, iLL-Literacy uses spoken word to demonstrate that arts play an integral role in the growth of communities.

Justice is not blind. We have tossed out the concept that freedom comes as a by perceiving our surrounding society as a one-dimensional, uni-cultural, genderless, universally heterosexual entity. Instead, we choose to amplify our various uniquenesses, not to eliminate our differences, but rather to demand respect in light of them.



Based in the University of California, Davis, iLL-Literacy works with various high schools, universities, and organizations through poetry workshops and performances, and our artists perform in showcases, concerts, and conferences across the nation. We are currently comprised of over 15 poets originating from the San Francisco bay area to the Midwest to Japan, who have interests ranging from grassroots organizing to graphic design, from working with the youth to engaging in personal writing.

Please visit us at www.ill-literacy.org



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● outreach projects

At UC Davis, iLL-Literacy's mission is to provide venues and resources for students to write, perform, share, and hear spoken word.



Spits is a monthly open mic produced by iLL-Literacy and held on the UCD campus. It creates a safe space for poets to exchange ideas and emotions through poetry.

Phlegm is a free quarterly magazine that contains poetry, short stories, articles, and artwork by UCD students. While many artists in the collective enjoy sharing their work on stage, *Phlegm* is an instrument of expression for those who prefer the beauty of written language and art.

SPEW (Series of Poetry/Performance Enhancement Workshops) is a monthly poetry workshop that focuses on how spoken word can be a vital tool for empowerment, self-discovery, and resolution of social and personal issues. Exploring the writing process, performance techniques, and methods of appreciating the poetry of others, *SPEW* is the foundation of what iLL-Literacy is all about.



We share a symbiotic relationship with the greater community. While we benefit from showcases, slams, and workshops as venues for us to share our works, our performances and workshops intend to teach, uplift, and inspire.

IHOP (iLL-Literacy Highschool Outreach Program) speaks to the youth by addressing race/gender/sexuality relations, violence, self-empowerment, and other key issues that are not often discussed in an academic setting.

SPEW is a poetry and performance workshop that encourages members of the community to share personal thoughts, demonstrate understanding towards others, embrace differences, and integrate all of this into writing. Creating an open forum of spirits and minds, we hope to use these workshops to erase the gap between performer and audience, and to mutually vibe off of each other's experiences.

iLL-Literacy Performances are sets that generally run 25 minutes or longer, based on the event. The number of artists performing in the set depend on funding and availability, and our sets are a culmination of talents! Besides individual and group poems, iLL-Literacy shows also include our live house band, and our resident hip-hop collective Color Coated People.

**For booking,
please contact
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shows & samples

Highlighted Features

2002 & 2003 YouthSpeaks Teen Slam Finals
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
(San Francisco, CA)

Barrio Fiesta
Santa Clara University

Pilipino Cultural Night
University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA)

2002 End-Dependence Spoken Word Tour
California

Blackalicious & Zion I Benefit Concert
Bimbo's (San Francisco, CA)



Soul Food
Black Box Theatre (Oakland, CA)

First There Was Word...Then There Was Fist!
2003 APIA Spoken Word & Poetry Summit
Chicago, IL

2003 End-Dependence Spoken Word Tour
National

Columbia University (New York, NY)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Taller Puerto Riqueno (Philadelphia, PA)

Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)

YouthSpeaks Presents: Bringing the Noise for Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr. 2004
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA)

Excerpt from "Airport Screener Anthem"

By James Arcala, Adriel Luis, Armael Malinis & Ruby Veridiano

Manang holds out her hands and takes my bags from me
But I see her bags, only her's are under her eyes
And I want to take away her baggage
That she carries upon her back
Back breaking
Back straining
Back aching
Aching to go back to those years before her struggle.
Manang wonders why,
After 23 years of
Planting seeds of her strength in American Soil
That she still gets weeded out
Because of her roots as a Pilipina and as a minority in this
country?
Manang wonders,
Why do Immigrants like her
Plant the seeds of labor
And only harvest fruits of injustice?
Where's the justice at?
I guess there's only enough justice for just them
Leaving none left for just us Pilipinos

It's so hard to cherish a country
where you struggle to be a domestic hero to the ordinary
people of your motherland,
But in the end,
You are labeled as the enemy.
Yet the only thing we've showed in this country was loyalty.
I thought we'd at least be trustworthy enough to handle
airplane safety after all this time,
But I guess I've been blind,
Blind from the fact that some rich ass-Americans already
predetermined
That all brown skin, non-citizen, Asian immigrants cannot
be trusted.
And the truth is
Justice is still being served according to color,
Leaving honest hardworking Filipinos left to wonder
Where's the justice at?

More poetry and audio available at:
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