

Desdamona

Spoken Word & Hip Hop Artist

Desdamona's writing and performance focuses on themes of domestic violence, self-esteem, individual identity, being an outsider, and being a woman in hip hop. Much of her work touches on social issues. Desdamona has worked in over 200 schools throughout the Midwest and recently visited a school in France conducting workshops as artist in residence. She has worked with more than 15,000 students in public, private, and alternative schools as well as colleges, universities, and prisons.

Performances of Note

<i>Featured Vocalist</i> Ursus Minor, "Don't Take But For An Answer" Tour France	2010
<i>Featured Vocalist</i> Ursus Minor, Son D'Hiver Festival Paris, France	2010
<i>Performer</i> We B Girlz Festival Berlin, Germany	2008
<i>Performer</i> 2nd Nature Tour Midwest Region, USA	2008
<i>Featured Guest</i> Summer Jam Tour With Grammy Award winners Sly & Robbie	2007
<i>Featured Performer</i> Minnesota Music Awards First Avenue, Minneapolis, MN	2005

Experience

<i>Workshop Leader</i> Urban League Youth Leadership Camps Minnesota Guest speaker and performer working with inner city youth	2001-Present
<i>Guest Performer/Workshop Leader</i> The Lab St. Paul, MN Arts & Wellness Program for special education youth 7th-12th grade	2008-Present
<i>Curriculum Development/Teacher</i> "Too Big For My Skin" Campaign MN, IL, IA, WA Teaching in state colleges, universities, middle schools, and high schools	2009-Present
<i>Substitute Teacher</i> PYC School Minneapolis, MN Spoken Word & Hip Hop	2008-Present
<i>Teacher</i> MacPhail School of Music Summer Hip Hop Camp Minneapolis, MN	2008-Present

Awards and Honors

<i>2009</i> Urban Griots Award MN Spoken Word Association People's award for "Two Tongues" Judges Award for "Best Open Mic Series" Blue Nile Open Mic People's Award for "Best Spoken Word Feature On Album" "Press Rewind," <i>Something Random LP</i> Cheap Cologne	<i>2005</i> SASE The Write Place "Verve Grant" Recipient
<i>2007, 2005</i> MN State Arts Board "Artist Initiative Grant" Recipient	<i>2003-2006</i> MN Music Award for "Best Spoken Word Artist"
	<i>2000</i> MN Music Award for "Best Spoken Word Artist"

Additional Information

<i>Creator</i> Too Big For My Skin Campaign A video campaign with focus on promoting positive images of women in the media. Based off of Desdamona's poem "Too Big For My Skin."	2010
<i>Co-Founder</i> B-Girl Be A celebration of women involved in the four elements of hip-hop (DJ, MC, Graffiti, Breakdance)	2005