



**EBONY STEWART**  
Interdisciplinary Theater Artist  
Poet Actress Mentor

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## **ARTISTIC STATEMENT**

I have never been without my voice. Growing up in a single parent household I was taught to speak strong and clear. I learned early on the importance of my voice in the community and on stage.

As an interdisciplinary theater artist and mentor I am bright words, bold thoughts and outspoken truth. I dare to be myself and encourage others to be as well. I love to create, be it on the page or in front of an audience.

I believe that through my art onto pages, through ears and seen by hearts, I have done my part to make this place a more magical planet.

Being creative is a reflection that I am human and alive.

### **Ebony Stewart Biographical Information:**

Ebony Stewart is an interdisciplinary theater artist. The Austin Chronicle stated “Ebony is a wide-eyed and physically fluid young woman.” While The Austin American Statesman describes her personality and spoken word style as “beasty.”

Ebony Stewart exploded on the scene in 2005 with *Microphone Fiend* which was inspired by hip-hop. In 2006 Ebony represented her Alumni, Texas State University, in her first ever collegiate poetry slam. Turning the heads of the 2006 Neo Soul Poetry Slam Team who would soon become 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation, Ebony Stewart would be their first female slam champ in 2007, 2009 and 2011. The female prodigy became the frontline, voice, and “ace” of Neo Soul slam team from then on. She is the only 3 time slam champ in Texas.

With an even bigger challenge ahead, in August of 2008 Ebony would share the stage with the award-winning playwright, Zell Miller III. *Radio Silence: a word opera* debut Ebony Stewart as *Zora*. “Morphing effortlessly” and embodying a character that is more like her than she knew Ebony steps up to a different stage as a young hip-hop goddess.

Ebony would go on to work side by side with Zell Miller III in two more plays with a jazz aesthetic style influenced by pioneer Laurie Carlos. “Movement is something Ebony has never had a problem with” says Alice Henry, Ebony’s mother and biggest supporter. In Ebony’s earlier years she practiced the art of ballet, jazz, hip-hop, spiritual and Caribbean dance. In 2009, Ebony premiered a short *Southern B-Girl Sings the Bluez* at Frontera Fest, and had the distinguished honor of playing *God* in *Windows*.

Releasing her first spoken word CD, *The Chrysalis*, and first published book, *The Many Faces of SHE*, Ebony is a traveling artist and established mentor. In 2010 Ebony had a leading role in another Zell Miller III play called *Arrhythmia* as *Larsin*, became an ensemble member of tAP! (The Austin Project for women), and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation at the National Poetry Slam on the Neo Soul Slam Team. Currently working on her one woman show, *Gully Princess*, giving inside looks to her life of being raised in a single-parent household, growing up in the Houston, TX area, her love for music, and how poetry saved her life, Ebony is doing her “life’s work”.

Beyond life as an artist, Ebony is passionate in working with “at-potential” teens, is an advocate and mentor in the community, an experienced teacher, and supporter of youth. She is eager to help make life long changes through our youth by encouraging and directing them to fulfill their potential.

**There is no conclusion to Ebony Stewart, because the pen is still moving...**

## **AUDIENCES**

### **HIP HOP/MUSIC/SPOKENWORD**

Ebony Stewart has been a performing artist since 2005, sharing the stage with amazing artist at the Hip-Hop Theater Explosion produced by UpRise! Productions, such as, Blacklisted Individuals, The Cipher Hip-Hop Project, P.U.B.L.I.C. O.F.F.E.N.D.E.R.S., DaShade Moonbeam, R.A.S. and many more. She has had the pleasure of working with writer and director, Zell Miller III and Sharon Bridgforth, choreographer Ananda Mayi Moss of Ballet East, and has been coached by Slam Champ, Slam Master, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation competitor and coach of the 2010 Neo Soul Slam team that finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Brian E. Francis. Her work has been edited by Mike Whalen, a leading coach and poet in the Austin Community.

After raving reviews and several performances, Ebony Stewart is skill on a new level. Stewart explores the issues of power, identity, truth and culture through dynamic language and fierce delivery in every performance.

### **WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS**

As both an artist and an activist, Ebony Stewart is a powerful role model.

Creating her own curriculum for young girls called *Spit & Speak*, giving young girls a chance to be girls without any outside judgment or discrimination. Girls come together and learn how to build self-esteem, teamwork, and friendships. Tools are implemented to enhance and transform the society hardships girls are faced with on a day to day basis.

### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Stewart recognizes and empathizes the constant struggle young African-American college students are faced with. Will I make it; Why am I not accepted; If not me, then who; and What's next. Her work is designed to capture, speak to, and feed the internal motivation needed.

## **ACTIVITIES**

- Facilitated discussion about the development and creation of the work
- Excerpt performances and discussion
- Open mic and creative writing and “ranting” sessions with audience members
- Public speaking engagements and keynote speeches

## **STAGED READINGS**

### **Spoken & Heard Truth**

#### **Poems and Performance Stories**

Written and presented by Ebony Stewart

**Run time:** 30 minutes (plus audience talk back)

**Maximum number of participants:** OPEN

**Type of Space:** OPEN

**Equipment Needs:** standing mic (depending on how big the space is)

*“Ebony is fabulous. Her performance was dynamic, entertaining, energizing and inspiring. Her poetry is beautiful and provokes an emotional response from the audience.” ~Brenda Bush M.Ed. Region XIII*

## **WRITING WORKSHOPS**

### **Your Heart Has Something To Say**

#### **For young adult writers and artist**

Facilitated by Ebony Stewart

**Description:** This is a perfect opportunity for young adult writers and artist to open up, write freely, and express themselves through text. All participants are encouraged to create in a truthful head space and to translate their truth onto the page. The hope is for the participants to be able to use the techniques they will learn to create new work outside of the workshop and dig deeper into their writing.

**Run time:** 2-3 hours max

**Maximum number of participants:** 10-15

**Type of Space:** Private, quiet, and comfortable

**Equipment Needs:** paper, pen, chart paper  
(refreshments recommended)

### **Own Your Space**

#### **For young adults and beginner spoken word performers**

Facilitated by Ebony Stewart

**Description:** Spoken word artists come in with at least 2 or 3 written works to transform into performance. During the workshop artists will concentrate on voice, nuance, and deliberate movement. Spoken word artists will be encouraged to build confidence and break the poor habits that get in the way of their performance.

**Run time:** 2-3 hours

**Maximum number of participants:** 10 max

**Type of Space:** Private, quiet, and comfortable

**Equipment Needs:** paper, pen, chart paper  
(if possible, a way to project images and video footage)

## PERFORMANCE

### **Southern B-Girl Sings tha Bluez in E-Flat**

Southern gal sings the bluez in the key of E-Flat," by Ebony Stewart. This hip-hop theater choreopoem explores using the energy of spoken word, the fluid sweetness of modern dance, and the raw energy of hip-hop movement to explore a child who is a survivor of domestic violence, racism, sexism, and her love for the music that saved her.

Directed by Zell Miller, III.

**Touring Party:** 2-4

**Length of Residency:** Varies

**Includes:** Open rehearsals and Community Dialogues

**Run time:** 30minutes PLUS audience talk back

**Maximum number of participants:** OPEN

**Type of Space:** Black Box Theater is preferred

*"Ebony Stewart's work runs the gamut both emotionally and in its range of topics. It offers a unique balance often sought yet rarely found in performance poetry; it can be both aggressive and subdued; tough and tender; in your face and subtly clever. I have read her work and been engaged by it; I've seen her perform live and been totally captivated by the performance. She's a wonder and a joy." - Jon Goode (Def Poetry Jam Participant)*

*"As a woman I do feel like Ebony's poems address me. They are visceral and classy. Regal and yet unafraid of the mud. The most painful truths palatable. Barely. She serves them up like pearls on a platter. Then she slaps your hand away and whips the prize just out of reach. You have to work for this. I'm shaking. She blows through the air like purple breezes and then smears me in the face again with the guts of a beautiful woman." - Kirsche Dickson (Local Austinite)*

**EBONY STEWART**

Performances & Appearances  
(partial listing)

Hip-Hop Theater Explosion (performing artist)

Channel Austin: ExSE Spoken Word (performing artist)

Channel Austin: Digital Fusion Fest (performing artist)

Make it Wet SpitFest (feature artist & competitor)

Frontera Short Fringe Fest (actress)

SXSW The Round @ Space 12

M.A.L.I Festival

*Radio Silence: a word opera* (actress)

*Windows* (actress)

*Arrhythmia* (actress)

*For Colored Girls* as the Lady in Red (actress)

NPS: Neo Soul Poetry Slam 2007 (slam champ & competitor)

NPS: Neo Soul Poetry Slam 2009 (slam champ & competitor)

NPS: Neo Soul Poetry Slam 2010 (4th in the nation competitor)

NPS: Neo Soul Poetry Slam 2011 (slam champ & competitor)

Sugas Deep South Cuisine & Bar (featured performer)

Texas State Multicultural Talent Show (2<sup>nd</sup> place)

University of Texas BSA (guest artist)

Black Media Council (host and guest artist)

They Speak Under 21 Slam Poetry (guest artist & mentor)

John H. Reagan High School Rally for TAKS (guest artist & mentor)

GenAustin Career Day (guest speaker & mentor)

Southwest Key Day Enrichment Program (guest artist & speaker)

Region XIII Black History Program (guest artist & speaker)

University of Texas-Austin Culture Shock! (guest artist & speaker)

University of Texas-Austin Poetic Expressions (guest artist)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Ebony Stewart

Poet

Spoken Word Artist

Actress

Performer

Community Advocate

Empowerment Speaker

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### **Contacts & References:**

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