



BEING... SHE SAID

Being a woman,
being a warrior,
being a change agent,
being a lover,
being afraid,
being alive,
being you
in spite of...

**APRIL 11
2014**

**HONORING AND
CELEBRATING**

Women's History
Month and National
Poetry Month

PRESENTED BY

The Pittsburgh Cultural
Trust Department of
Education/Community
Engagement

SHE SAID: 2014

WELCOME

TO OUR FEAST OF WORDS.

Feel free to dine with us
throughout the presentation.

SHE SAID:
2014 **2**

FIRST COURSE

YOUNG WRITERS INSTITUTE POETS

Carlee Benhart

Kate Bour

Amanda Tybi

Young Writers Institute is for young people, grades 4–8 and grades 9–12, who like to write, and who want to develop their craft in a community of writers. In the community of writers that YWI creates, students can challenge themselves, give and receive feedback on new and revised writing. They can think of themselves as writers. YWI faculty are comprised of Fellows of the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project, graduate students and instructors from local Creative Writing Programs and graduate students and instructors in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

SECOND COURSE

HEATHER ARNET



Heather Arnet is a tireless advocate for women and girls rights locally, nationally, and internationally. An artist, activist, and philanthropist, Arnet's new film, "Madame President: Why Not U.S.?" written and directed by Heather, premiered at the Carnegie Museum and on WQED TV in March 2014. The film is now touring campus communities across the country. Arnet is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America and has her BA degree from Carnegie Mellon University in English and Drama. She studied writing and performance in NYC with the

late Spalding Grey. Arnet directed the world premiere of Vanessa German's "Root" at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in May 2010 and again at the Vineyard Playhouse on Martha's Vineyard and the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre in 2011. At She Source in 2004, Arnet read from her play, "Yo'Mama!" The Pittsburgh production starred Vanessa German, Adrienne Wehr,

HEATHER ARNET (CONT'D)

Janis Burley Wilson, and Melissa Martin, and was awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. The play has since been produced in Seattle, Chicago, and Alaska. Arnet is the CEO of the Women and Girls Foundation, and is a regular Op-Ed contributor to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Daily Beast and Huffington Post and on-air commentator to local and national media regarding women and girls' rights and economic security. She has appeared on NBC's Today Show, CNN Headline News, CNN's Paula Zahn Show, Fox News "Hannity & Colmes", MSNBC "Scarborough Country," ABC and CBS Nightly News as well as National Public Radio, and the BBC.

TAMEKA CAGE CONLEY

Tameka Cage Conley, PhD, is a literary artist who writes poetry, fiction, and plays. She received the doctoral degree in English in 2006 from Louisiana State University, where she was a recipient of the Huel Perkins Doctoral Fellowship. In 2007, she received the Lewis Simpson Distinguished Dissertation Award for her manuscript, *Painful Discourses: Borders, Regions, and Representations of Female Circumcision from Africa to America*. In 2010, she received the August Wilson Center Fellowship in literary arts. Her first play, *Testimony*, was produced at the Center in May 2011. An excerpt of the play is published in the anthology *24 Gun*



Control Plays and has been performed in Los Angeles and the Darlinghurst Theatre Company in Sydney, Australia. In fall 2011, she received the Advancing the Black Arts Grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation to conduct two community-based theater projects. In 2012, she became a Cave Canem Poetry Fellow and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize for poetry and the Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Award. Her poems are published in *Callaloo*, *Fledgling Rag*, *Chapter & Verse*, *Driftless Review*, and *The Portable Boog Reader*, and forthcoming in *African American Review*, *Huizache*, and *Cave Canem Anthology XIV*. An excerpt of her novel-in-progress, *This Far, By Grace*, is published in *Huizache: The Magazine of Latino Literature*. In July 2013, she was a participant at the Squaw Valley Writers Conference and Workshops in fiction and a Fellow at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. In October 2013, she received the Eben Demarest Trust grant, awarded annually to an artist or archaeologist to support the completion of her novel. She is also completing a debut poetry collection.

VERONICA CORPUZ



Veronica Corpuz is the director of festival management and special projects for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, including the Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival. Before joining the Cultural Trust, Ms. Corpuz served as an arts consultant for Pittsburgh Musical Theater and Attack Theatre, as well as the program assistant for the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church in New York City. She has taught creative writing workshops at Naropa University and Chatham College and has served as a guest speaker and poet at New York University and the Kelly Writers House at University of Pennsylvania. She has co-authored with Michelle Naka Pierce a book-length series of the experimental poems called *TRI/VIA* (*Erudite Fangs/PUB LUSH*, 2003). She has also produced video artist interviews and commentary for the now defunct blog, *Arts in Pittsburgh*. She is currently working to complete a memoir of prose poems about her late husband, Michael Grzymkowski, and his battle with brain cancer. Ms. Corpuz received her BA in English and American Literature with Honors in Creative Writing from Brown University and her MFA from Naropa University's Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. She resides in Regent Square with her two sons, Nico and Alexander, and husband Alex Thomson.

CHRISTIANE D



Christiane D poetically musings on the bones of life, observes the surreality of reality, awkwardly confesses vulnerability and through it all realizes her humanity. She creates modern koans (a brief paradoxical statement or question used as a discipline in meditation) for women who run with wolves.

BARBARA DAHLBERG



Barbara Dahlberg has been an artist her whole life. She taught art for 9 years at Pace School and retired in 2010 after 11 years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. A Madwoman in the Attic since 2009, she is a 2001 fellow with the Western Pennsylvania Writing Project where she found her voice. Janis Burley Wilson of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust heard her speak on Prosody, an NPR program directed by poet, Jan Beatty, and was so struck by the power of her words, her strength and her story, she immediately contacted her and invited her to “dine” and share her words as a part of She Said 2014.

VANESSA GERMAN



Vanessa German is a multidisciplinary art maker based in Pittsburgh's historic homewood neighborhood. She is a sculptor, writer and performer whose work is inherently public, performative and investigating the place of the artist as citizen as artist. She has performed and exhibited throughout the country. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, ARTnews, Sculpture magazine, and the Huffington Post which named her one of 30 contemporary black artists under 40 that you should know about.

SHAUNDA MILES



A native Long Islander, Shaunda Miles moved to Pittsburgh in 2010 to pursue her passion for the arts and administration. She is currently the Director of Public Relations at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Previously, Shaunda was employed as the Vice President of Programming & Cultivation at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. She is a graduate of Friends Academy and Dartmouth College—where she had the opportunity to study with Pittsburgh's own playwright, August Wilson. During her time at Dartmouth she was inducted into the Xi

Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In 2004, Shaunda received her master's degree in Theater Management from the Yale School of Drama. She has since interned and worked for theaters across the nation, including The Goodman Theatre of Chicago, Second Stage Theatre in New York, Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut and the Pasadena Playhouse and Cornerstone Theater Company—both located in California. She is a member of Women of Color in the Arts (WOCA), a national group of female professionals dedicated to promoting diversity in the performing arts field. In 2006 Shaunda founded demaskus. Shaunda is engaged in local consulting and teaching relative to theater as worship, and serves on regional panels and committees, including the Yale Club of Pittsburgh's Board of Directors. For more information about demaskus Theater collective, visit www.demaskus.com.

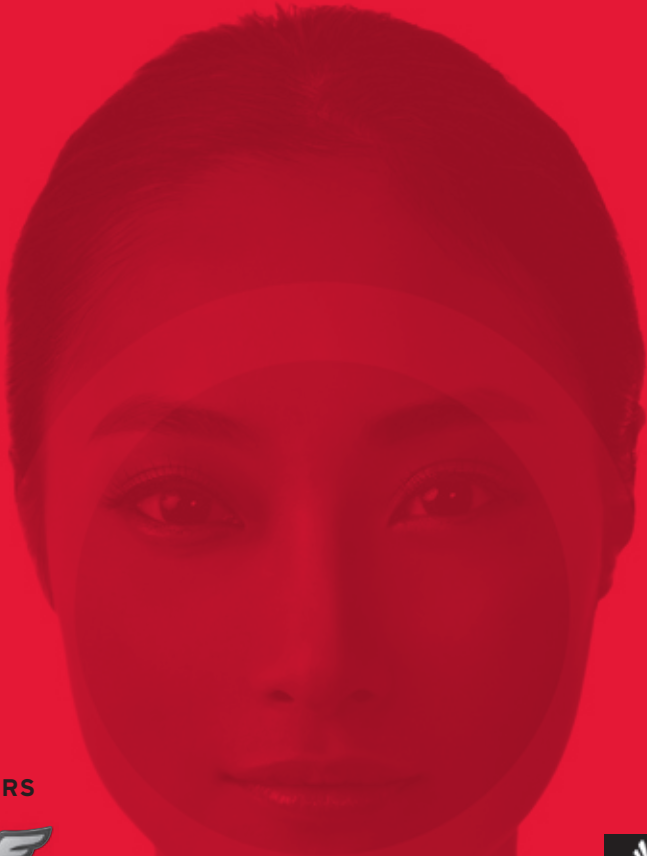
THIRD COURSE

DESSERT

Special thanks to the University of Pittsburgh, Western Pennsylvania Writing Project, the Women and Girls Foundation, Deidra Moore and Adrienne Holmes of Chef It Up with Deidra, City Deli and all the powerful, dynamic, incredibly amazing women that make “being” an art.



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