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Take The Mic: The Art Of Performance Poetry, Slam, And The Spoken Word (A Poetry Speaks Experience)



Synopsis

Get on Stage and Perfect Your Performance Have you ever enjoyed a slam or two and thought, "I could do this," but felt apprehensive staring at that empty mic—or worse, you climbed up on stage and struggled? Let Marc Kelly Smith, the founder of Slam Poetry, teach you everything you need to be a confident performer, from writing a powerful poem, to stage techniques, to going on tour (if that's where your muse leads you). Take the Mic is filled with insider tips, backstage advice, and tons of examples of slam poems that wake up an audience. With this book, you'll also be able to link to the PoetrySpeaks.com community to listen to samples, meet poets, and unearth inspirations for your next performance. The Ultimate Guide to Writing and Performing with Power Take the Mic is an essential guide for lifting your poetry from the page to the stage. Marc Kelly Smith (So What!), grand founder of the Slam movement, serves as your personal coach, showing you how to craft stage-worthy verse and deliver a poetry performance that shakes the rafters and sparks thunderous applause. In Take the Mic, you discover how to... Pen poetry that's conducive to on-stage performance Overcome stage fright Practice powerful performance techniques Rehearse like a pro Shape a loose collection of poems into a killer set Connect with your audience — heart and soul Master the art of self-promotion Schedule your own slam poetry tour Transform your hobby into paying gigs Act professional to establish a solid reputation in the Slam community Take the Mic is packed with practical exercises you can do alone or in class to hone your skills and transform your body, mind, voice, verse, and spirit into an engaging stage presence. You'll also find a brief history of slam, the rules and regulations that govern official slam competitions, and a list of PSI (Poetry Slam, Inc.) Certified Slams, so no matter where you are, you always have a place to Take the Mic!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When first experiencing a poetry slam, audience members can be shocked to see how expressive and electric poetry can be. The poets who perform in these high energy poetic competitions not only write fresh and modern verse, but are also committed to bring these poems to life with solid, engaging performances. Author Marc Kelly Smith created the Poetry Slam in the mid-1980s with the goal of bringing poetry back to the people. In the decades since, Smith has toured extensively -- throughout the U.S.A and around the world -- while still running the famed Chicago Green Mill Poetry Slam and encouraging new voices. Smith has taken all that he's learned about how to be a performance poet, and put it in this book. With "Take the Mic," Smith engages and challenges the reader through every step of development, from "virgin" to professional. He starts with the basics -- history, community, intent -- and moves on how to tackle writing your first poems, how to properly vocalize your poetry, how to use your body to make your performance effective. Each section is filled with tips, exercises and things to avoid, and each section ends with a "If you remember anything, remember..." side bar which drives home Smith's vision for poetry. But where most books about performance end, Smith continues -- giving advice on how to handle gigs, how to shape your show, how to get press and how to book a tour. He balances solid tips and common sense advice, provides websites and books for further information, and imbues everything with a deep sense of purpose and decency. Smith's belief in the power of poetry, and his passion to make sure every person who wants to be a poet becomes the best poet they can be, is the bedrock on this book. I highly recommend this book for something wanting to stretch their poetic wings. Even "page poets" looking to up their game will find a lot of helpful advice in here.

This little gem helped me overcome extreme stage fright, and I made it through several successful live performances as part of a local slam poetry group using the author's advice. I like the conversational tone, it made for an easy read.

This book gives the history of spoken word in a very funny and insightful way. It also has good tips for performance and good descriptions of how actual slams are in person. The only thing that seems

sort of annoying about the book is that the author's tone seems sort of self-congratulatory. However, it's not so much so that you cannot read the book. I enjoyed it quite a bit, and it's a good buy for 9 dollars.

Great view of what poetry and community can be. Old reference, not so useful to writing slam. But examples are sweet. The best thing that I got from this book was the insistence that I promote myself as a poet and not as just a dude that writes poetry. The poet makes great words. I feel required when I call myself a poet to make great words. When I'm just a dude that writes poetry I almost grant myself an excuse for mediocrity before I start. This book is great for removing that excuse from your hands

Great book for someone just starting out in the world of poetry. Wonderful CD accompaniment with a wide range of talented poets.

This book contains pretty much everything you need to know about writing, performing and building a career as a slam poet.

Inspirational. Read this book prior to my first competition and applied lots of tips I gathered from this book.

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