
SUMMER OF THE ARTS SOUL & BLUES FESTIVAL LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS SPOTLIGHT



LOYCE ARTHUR

Loyce Arthur is an associate professor at The University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts and she's the director of undergraduate studies. Working as a costume designer for the Theatre, she has a strong interest in masks, puppets and Caribbean Carnival, Brazilian Carnaval, and other world Carnival traditions.

Some of her favorite personal works include the costume designs she created for *Iphigenia Point Blank*—written by Lisa Schlesinger—at the University of Iowa, and her work for the Iowa City Community Carnival Project that began in 2013. *Iphigenia Point Blank* was a collaborative project with a group of Syrian, University of Iowa, New York theatre artists, musicians, dancers, and filmmakers, telling the story of the Syrian refugee crisis. The Iowa City Community Carnival Project was created to educate people about the traditions of Carnival and Carnaval and bring together people from all walks of life to create art together.

Arthur is currently working on a BLM mural project with the City of Iowa City, Public Space One, and the center for Afro-Futurist Studies. She is honored and humbled to join forces with local artists and activists to lend her talents to such an important project at such a momentous time.

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JEAN BERRY

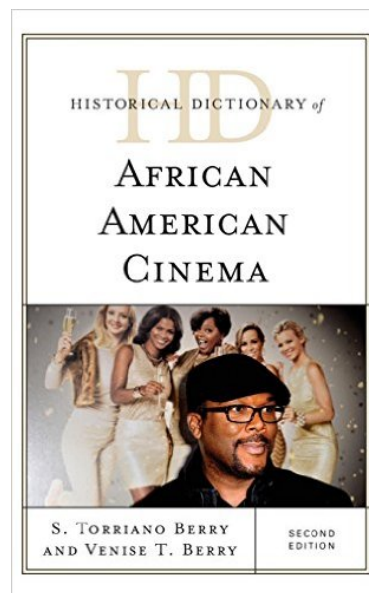
Jean Berry is a visual artist who works in many mediums including charcoal, pencil, pastels, watercolor, and collage. She studied at the Des Moines Art Center with internationally acclaimed artist Chaney Rosenbaum, and in 1980, she earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Des Moines Area Community College. After losing her youngest daughter to cancer in 1984, Berry enrolled as a student at Drake University, and in 1989 she earned her B.F.A. in Art. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Berry creates many different series of related works taken from Black life. Some of these works include: "Endangered Species", depicting the social, economic, and emotional status of African American males in society, "Black Fathers & Sons", depicting African American fathers loving, caring for, and nurturing their sons, and "The Contemporary 14 Stations of the Cross", depicting Christ's turbulent journey to Calvary as if viewed from modern times, and "Blood on the Field Series" inspired by a jazz symphony by Wynton Marsalis.

In 1998, she was inducted into the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa. Several of Jean Berry's pieces are in the permanent collection of The African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. In honor of her Black Wall Street Gallery exhibit, the mayor of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, declared October 4, 2019, as "J. Berry Day."

She has recently embarked upon her "Golden Hour" Silent Auction Art Tour, which is a series of fundraising events and exhibits taking place across the country with a retrospective of matted and framed prints and originals that span over 30 years of her work in charcoal, pastels, pencil, watercolor, and mixed media collage. Locations include: The Black Wall Street Gallery, Tulsa, OK - First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN - The Reeves Center, Washington, DC - Stewart Gallery, Grinnell, IA - Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, IA - Cedar Rapids Public Library, Groundswell Café, Cedar Rapids, IA. Additional host sponsors and cities are welcome to apply through Berry's website.

<https://jeanberryart.com/> - sberry@howard.edu - 319-337-7557



STEVEN TORRIANO BERRY

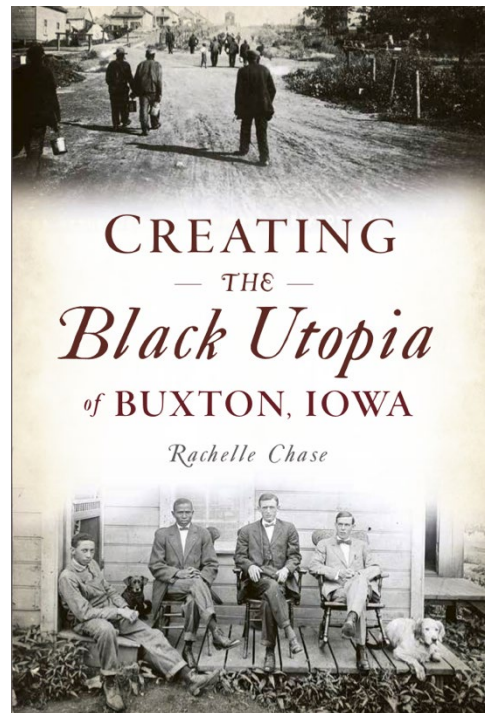
Steven T. Berry is an award-winning independent film producer, writer and director, born in Kansas City, Kansas. He became a still photographer at age 15 while at Tech High in Des Moines, and after earning his BA in Art/Photography from Arizona State University, he attended film school at UCLA from 1981-85. Berry freelanced as a cinematographer and crew member until he began teaching at Howard University in 1990. While at Howard, he continued to do freelance and personal productions, while also writing film resource books and novels.

Berry has always wanted to make a positive difference in the world; one of his earliest goals was to make a film that would totally 'un-do' the damage to race relations caused by the 1915 film "The Birth of a Nation." For this, while at UCLA, he wrote a feature length screenplay entitled "T. E. A. R. S." It is an acronym for Teach-Everybody-All-Racism-Sucks. Berry works consistently to try to take on projects and storylines that will hopefully motivate people to think and act differently in positive ways.

Berry's accomplishments stretch far and wide in the arts industry. Some of his proudest work is co-writing two film resource books: "The 50 Most Influential Black Films" and "Historical Dictionary of African American Cinema." His 1996 feature length film, "Embalmer," was also a major milestone in Berry's career; a 30-minute version was a finalist in Showtime's Black Filmmaker Showcase. He went on to write two novels called "T. E. A. R. S." and "The Honeymoon's Son," and he directed and co-created the 1st dramatic TV series of Belize, "Noh Matta Wat!"

Berry is currently working with a group in Trinidad on a grant proposal to direct a documentary on the Icons of Caribbean Music, and he started writing his 3rd novel "Daddys Might Be." He's also in the process of raising the production budget for his contemporary Gospel Musical feature film, "Light of the World."

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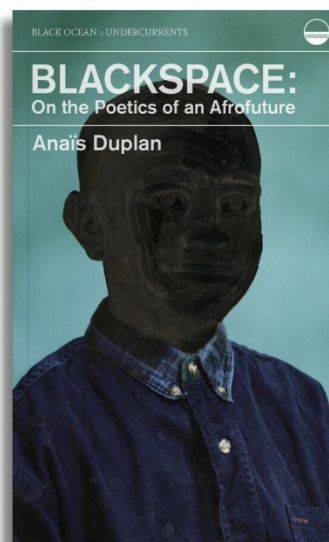
RACHELLE CHASE

Rachelle Chase is a public speaker and she has been a published author since 2005. While writing romance novels in 2008, Chase stumbled upon a coal mining town in Buxton, Iowa; it was a racially integrated community—consisting of a majority African-American population—that was developed in the early 1900s. She began researching it, which led Chase to write two historical nonfiction books about the town: "Lost Buxton" (2017) and "Creating the Black Utopia of Buxton, Iowa" (2019).

Chase lived in San Francisco before starting her Buxton series, but decided to move to Iowa because she wanted to be closer to do research and write about Buxton. Chase believes that Buxton is one of Iowa's best kept secrets, and she wants people in Iowa and beyond to know about this amazing town.

Giving more than 70 presentations—many to standing-room-only crowds—and doing numerous interviews about Buxton, Iowa, Chase is proud and humbled to be called an expert on the town. She is currently working on two historical fiction projects set in Buxton, Iowa, and she is creating a nonprofit which will focus on expanding the awareness of "lost" history.

<http://rachelchase.com> - <http://lostbuxton.com> - <http://www.facebook.com/LostBuxton/>



AN DUPLAN

Before he started teaching at an arts organization called Recess in Brooklyn, **An Duplan** was a University of Iowa student. While completing his MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Duplan stepped out of his box and took a few film and video classes at The University of Iowa. After a little experimentation, Duplan found his creative niche blending video and poetry elements into his work.

Through an artist-run arts organization in Iowa City—Public Space One—Duplan is currently working with an artist residency program for artists of color called the Center for Afrofuturist Studies (CAS). Since its inception in 2015, the Center for Afrofuturist Studies' mission is to reimagine the futures of marginalized people by creating dynamic workspaces for artists of color. The program at Public Space One recently published its own website in hopes that artists across the country will tune into the project. Although Public Space One is currently closed due to COVID-19, this year they opened a reading room dedicated to CAS programming; it contains books and articles written by artists of color.

After accumulating six years of multidisciplinary research about the aesthetic strategies used by experimental artists of color, Duplan wrote a book called Blackspace: On the Poetics of an Afrofuture that will be released this September. It's about the practices of Black avant-garde artists and the ways they've reimagined their own futures. Duplan also integrates his own personal story about his journey through gender transition while writing the book.

afrofuturist.center - worksofanais.com - Instagram: @an.duplan



ANDRE PERRY

Andre Perry, balancing his art practice with a full-time job in arts administration and community engagement, is a talented writer and musician. Perry serves as the executive director of the Englert Theatre, and he is the co-founder and director of the Mission Creek Festival.

Drawn to writing since an early age, Perry finished his first short story in 7th grade. After studying English literature and film in college, he returned to actively writing in 2003. He strives to create work that represents an accurate reflection of the complex, difficult and somewhat distant realities, inspiring promise of America. His book of narrative essays, Some of Us Are Very Hungry Now, came out in November 2019. These sequential stories reveal a journey into exploring self-reflection and both individual and national identity.

In addition to writing, Perry started his journey in music collaborating, composing, and performing in 2000. He is a co-songwriter and performer for a band called The Lonelyhearts, an apocalyptic folk-rock band. Moving to San Francisco in 2000, Perry fully embraced its music scene playing keyboards, guitars, and singing in other projects including The Kuffs, Expatriates, Rust Belt Music. He still writes and tours with The Lonelyhearts and his main collaborator John Lindenbaum.

During this time, Perry continues his work for the Englert Theatre and he's also in the early stages of writing a new book.

<http://blackclapton.com> - Instagram: @leblackclapton - Publisher: <http://twodollarradio.com>



DAMANI PHILLIPS

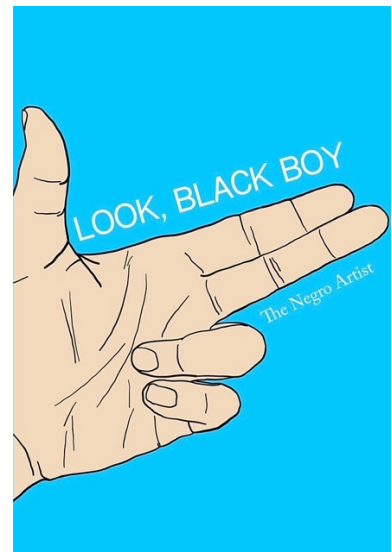
While he is a jazz saxophonist by training, **Damani Phillips** works as a performer, educator and scholar. He's been a professional performer for 24 years, and he's currently the Director of Jazz Studies and Associate Professor of African American Studies at The University of Iowa.

Phillips believes a musician is as diverse as his personal background, and he himself is an artist of many dimensions. While feeling rooted in the jazz tradition of hard bop, Damani constantly listens for new styles to integrate into it. His aspirations as a saxophonist and composer are to strike a soulful balance between jazz tradition and contemporary innovation. He strives to make music that speaks to all people on a wavelength that they can appreciate, regardless of their walk of life.

Some of his favorite personal works include "The String Theory," which combined a jazz quartet with a string quartet, and he is also particularly proud of his double-disc "Duality" album, which paired an album of more traditional jazz with another album of jazz on equal footing with hip hop music.

Phillips is in the planning phases of a new recording project that is planned to be released in the spring of 2021. The project will be a collaboration with the Grammy Award winning Matt Jones Orchestra and focus on the gamut of styles originated from Black culture.

www.damaniphillips.com



CALEB “THE NEGRO ARTIST” RAINEY

Caleb “The Negro Artist” Rainey studied English and creative writing at The University of Iowa. Since his graduation in 2017, he’s worked as a local restaurant manager, a house manager at The Englert theatre, and he’s the program director for IC Speaks. As an artist, he’s made a huge impact for young writers in our community. Two years after graduation, Rainey founded a spoken word poetry group called IC Speaks. This group works with The Englert Theatre to create a safe space for kids to connect with other writers, and hone new writing and performance skills.

Since COVID-19 forced the group to convert to virtual workshops, Rainey came up with the idea to hold an online spoken word competition for the group this past April. Online competitions like these encourage young writers to keep practicing during these ever-changing times; through numerous virtual workshops and events, Rainey creates an outlet for young writers to share their stories and continue to write.

As an author and spoken word artist himself, Rainey channels his work to focus on honesty, vulnerability, and the ability to learn and grow. In 2019, Rainey published two poetry books called Look, Black Boy and Heart Notes. They explore racial tensions from a young perspective and consider how emotions like love and joy affect us as humans. He’s currently working on converting Look, Black Boy into an audio book/album.

Thenegroartist.com - Thenegroartist@gmail.com



JAMES TUTSON

James Tutson has officially been doing music for five years. Within these last five years, Tutson has learned a lot, and despite being 31-years-old, he feels like he is just getting started. Besides being a musician, Tutson also works for a student organization at the University of Iowa.

His style was once described by a review as being roughed up soul, and Tutson agreed that it was quite accurate. He enjoys putting a current spin on the old school artists that he grew up listening to. As he continues to refine his voice, he would like to one day connect a bit of crooner style with Mississippi gospel. Tutson believes that a great way to support himself—along with other local artists—is to follow them on varying social media sites and share their posts. He has had many opportunities arise for him from someone seeing a video of his that had been shared. Tutson also said that many venues and potential gigs look at follower levels and ratios as a determinate for hiring, so following your favorite artists is important.

Tutson is proud of all of his previous work; however he is not necessarily a fan of this work. He contributes this process of reflecting back and cringing on older work to growing up as an artist, and believes it is all steps towards the artist he wants to be. Tutson relates it to this James Baldwin quote, “Every writer has only one story to tell, and he has to find a way of telling it until the meaning becomes clearer and clearer, until the story becomes at once more narrow and larger, more and more precise, more and more reverberating.” Tutson thinks that this is the journey we are all on, and that we can be proud of whatever attempts we make to keep moving toward that story.

In regard to current projects, he has a new solo album that will be done by the end of the summer. It is an autobiographical project called Late Bloomer that Tutson is really excited about and believes it will be his best work to date.

jamestutson.com - Instagram: jtutson - Twitter: james_tutson - Facebook: James Tutson (musician)



DEBORAH WHALEY

Dr. Deborah Whaley has published original art, poetry, as well as articles on social movements, popular culture, fine art, documentary photography, and film. She produces visual art and works with oil, watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, graphic design and cartooning.

In collaboration with UI studio art students and graffiti artist Lady Pink, Whaley helped create one of her favorite projects: a mural that was created for the University of Iowa Museum of Art exhibition called "Two Turntables and a Hip-hop Contexts Featuring Harry Allen's Part of the Permanent Record; Photos From the Previous Century." In addition to this project, Whaley takes pride in creating a series of paintings of hip-hop artists that were sold to raise money for HIV/AIDS.

She's also a Professor of American and African American Studies at the University of Iowa; her research and teaching fields include the institutional history, theories, and methods of American and Transnational American Studies, 19th Century to the Present Cultural History, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Black Cultural Studies, Popular Culture, the Visual Arts, Digital Humanities and Critical Theory.

Professor Whaley's first book is Disciplining Women: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Black Counterpublics, and the Cultural Politics of Black Sororities (SUNY Press, 2019), which examines the cultural practices, work, and politics of the oldest historically Black sorority. Her most recent book is Black Women in Sequence: Reinking Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime (University of Washington Press, 2015), which won an award from AAUP for its graphic design and book cover.

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<http://twoturntablesandamicrophoneexhibition.blogspot.com/>