All of the artists featured here are Get Lit Players or graduates of the Get Lit Player program and are currently available for bookings.
HI, I'M JASON ALVAREZ

I speak on culture, race, family, masculinity, and friendship

ABOUT JASON

Jason is a poet who simply loves using his voice to tell stories. Whether it be about home, the hood, his friends, mac n' cheese, or even the daily life of a Latino. Jason reached the final stage of The Get Lit Poetry Slam in his first year competing. He has also performed for Jane Fonda, and is currently featuring in the movie Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, whose first feature film “Blindspotting” was nominated for the 2018 Sundance Grand Jury Prize. Jason strives to make the world a better place with his uplifting energy, his poetry, and his visual art skills. To this day, Jason continues to find new ways of building bridges in his Los Angeles. He truly believes that teamwork makes the dream work.

VIDEOS
HI, I'M AUSTIN ANTOINE

I am a multifaceted performance artist that blends the lines between music, poetry, and theatrics.

ABOUT AUSTIN

Austin Antoine is a multifaceted performance artist who commits to mixing all of his passions by blending the lines between music, poetry, and theatrics. His abilities span from singing soulful solos to conquering opposing rappers in contests of improvised wit. After graduating California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in acting, Austin sustained artistic success through touring performances, rap battles, musical collaborations, and hosting creative workshops. He has worked with Sofar Sounds, Guinness Book of World Records, TeamBackPack, ThatLowd, Joomanji, and TheyGotTime. He is also featured in the upcoming 2020 feature film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada.

VIDEOS
MARQUESHA BABERS

HI, I’M MARQUESHA BABERS

I speak on poverty, conquering adversity, female empowerment, and more.

ABOUT MARQUESHA

After growing up homeless and channeling her pain into poetic power, Marquesha became a mentor for Get Lit and an ambassador for the film Girl Rising, which stresses the importance of education for girls in developing countries. She has performed at the MUSE Conference in Oregon, at the Women in the World Summit at Lincoln Center (alongside Angelina Jolie and Hillary Clinton), at Cadogan Hall in London, for The Atlantic Magazine, and at colleges and universities throughout the nation. She has also appeared on the series “Verses and Flow” and is a blogger for ONE.org. Marquesha is featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada. Look out for her poetry anthology and memoir, coming soon to a bookstore near you!
HI, I'M BRYCE BANKS

I speak on race, family, and the process that comes with accepting oneself.

ABOUT BRYCE

Bryce Banks recently graduated from the Academy of Music and Performing Arts at Hamilton High School and has reached the final stage at the Get Lit Classic Slam twice in his short career. Bryce is a firm believer that race is not defined by birth place or dialect. He speaks prominently about his long battle with insecurities and how he overcame them. An active member of his community, Bryce has worked closely with his local YMCA for the past 4 years. Through Get Lit he has worked with Adidas, Toms, and the United Nations. He is also featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada as well as Pamela Adlon’s Better Things on FX.

VIDEOS
HI, I’M BENE’T BENTON

I speak on race, mental illness, and politics.

ABOUT BENE’ T

Bene’t Benton has performed at Dodger Stadium, The Pantages Theatre, The Women of UTA, March for Our Lives LA, and public schools all over Los Angeles. She currently attends UC Santa Cruz where she studies theatre. In 2019, she was featured in Pamela Adlon’s Better Things on FX. She can be seen in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, whose first feature film Blindspotting was nominated for the 2018 Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

VIDEOS

1,020

Instagram Followers
@ benetjolie
HI, I'M AMAYA BLANKENSHIP
I speak on intersectionality, family, and my experience as a young biracial woman.

ABOUT AMAYA
Amaya Blankenship is currently a freshman at Santa Monica College. She was the highest scoring poet in the 2017 Get Lit Classic Slam and has been featured in three episodes of Get Lit's flagship web series "Get Lit Now." Additionally, she has been featured on KCET TV's "Literary Riot" series with her LACES high school classmates. She recently performed a reading at Skylight Books in Los Feliz with Julie-Lythcott Haims (Real American). During the March for Our Lives event in Washington D.C., Amaya spoke out against gun violence in a video following Miley Cyrus' performance on the main stage. Amaya is also a youth ambassador of peace for the UN and spoke in New York in the Fall of 2019 for World Peace Day. She is featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, who nominated by the DGA for Outstanding Directorial Achievement of a First-Time Feature Film Director.

VIDEOS
MILA CUDA

ABOUT MILA
Mila Cuda was the 2018 Youth Poet Laureate of the West Coast. Her debut book, Dishwater Blonde, was released in June 2018. She is the former captain of the LA Brave New Voices team, a two time Classic Slam champion, and ranked fourth in the world for collegiate slam poetry as part of the Wellesley College CUPSI team. Her work has been featured on Button Poetry, Rookie, and PBS, as well as on the “Wonder Woman” DVD. Mila is a spider nerd and glitter enthusiast who loves her dogs despite her allergies. She worked closely with Carlos Lopez Estrada as the Summertime story editor and is also prominently featured in the film.

HI, I’M MILA CUDA
I speak on Womens’ issues, Gay issues and Human Issues

3,561
Instagram Followers @ d.our

VIDEOS
ABOUT SAMUEL

Samuel Curtis is the Head of Production for Get Lit - Words Ignite and a founding producing partner of Literary Riot Inc., a new media company focused on feature film/television development, production, and talent management. He is responsible for the oversight, development, curriculum, and mentoring opportunities for both companies’ film/digital media programs. He also runs the professional creative collective, production company, and original content studio. Samuel currently lives in Venice Beach, California, where he is directing and producing two feature music documentaries, with anticipated releases in the Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021. He has produced web series for VICELAND, Red Bull, MeUndies, and digital spots for Ford Motor Company and Post-It’s/3M. He also produces a weekly podcast called "Write On" with screenwriting giants Final Draft. His work has screened at The Grammy Museum, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, The Skirball Cultural Center, The Actors’ Gang Theatre, The Sarasota Opera House, on the CMT network, and at regional film festivals across the country. He has a deep passion for roots music, producing and performing at live Americana shows throughout Los Angeles, and has worked with Jackson Browne, Tim Robbins, Jane Fonda, John Densmore and many more renowned folk artists.

VIDEOS DIRECTED

Hi, I’m Samuel Curtis

I’m a documentary filmmaker, musician, educator, and producer/manager. I speak on the future of digital cinema, the democratization of content creation, and American music history.
HI, I’m Walter Finnie

I speak on race, culture, fatherhood, and more.

ABOUT WALTER
After graduating from Youth Opportunities High School, Walter became the focus of a Youth Speaks short documentary called The Drop-In. The film chronicles his amazing journey from a family that struggled with poverty and addiction, to a scholarship at Lincoln University— the alma mater of his idol, poet Langston Hughes. His poem “Stand Clear,” written with Get Lit Players Brian Martinez and Kyland Turner, won the Raise Up Project, culminating in a performance at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C. In 2017, he starred in the production of Dante’s Inferno: A Modern Adaption, co-directed and produced by Academy Award winner Tim Robbins and Cynthia Ettinger. Walter’s story was the basis for the Netflix series On our Block, for which he eventually became a co-writer. He is also featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, whose debut feature film Blindspotting was nominated for the 2018 Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

VIDEOS
HI, I’M HANNA HARRIS

I speak on mental health awareness, feminism, & literature.

ABOUT HANNA

Hanna Harris is a professional spoken word artist and educator working to empower young people by improving their world through their lived experiences. She has performed for Hilary Clinton, Matthew McConaughey, Gloria Steinem, the Women’s March, LACMA, Warped Tour, Dodger Stadium, live on KPFK Radio, and at over 100 schools in the LA area. Hanna is also the coach of the Los Angeles Youth Poetry Slam team. She has taught residencies and workshops at UC Santa Barbara, Into Action, A Place Called Home, and many other schools and organizations throughout Southern California. She is raising her cats to be feminists. She is also featured in the upcoming 2020 feature length film directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, Summertime.

VIDEOS

1,959

Instagram Followers
@hannaharrispoet
HI, I'M RAUL HERRERA

I speak on immigration, culture clash, technology, and more.

ABOUT RAUL

As a Mexican-American spoken word artist, playwright, and educator, Raul Herrera has been involved with Get Lit for over 8 years, facilitating the growth of students across the U.S. Herrera has served the organization as Get Lit’s Education Coordinator, a Get Lit Player, Literati Fellowship member, teaching artist, and touring artist. In 2014, he received the Pentathlon award, which is given to the overall speaker at the California State Championship of Speech and Debate for Community Colleges. He placed 4th in the nation for the Duo Interpretation category at the 2018 American Forensic Association (AFA) National Individual Events Tournament.

His writing is featured in the books Get Lit Rising and Coiled Serpent published by Tia Chucha Press. In 2017, he wrote Dante’s Inferno: A Modern Adaption co-directed and produced by Cynthia Ettinger and Academy Award winner Tim Robbins. Raul has performed for thousands of youth across the nation, was a speaker for TEDxYouth and a panelist for AWP in 2018. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a Bachelor’s in communication studies. Raul is also a graduate of Commedia dell’Arte, an eight-week acting class offered by The Actors’ Gang in Culver City. He is featured in the upcoming 2020 feature length film, Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada, Summertime.

VIDEOS

1,749

Instagram Followers
@ rawrrule
GORDON IP

ABOUT GORDON

Gordon is an Asian-American poet, teacher, and artist. He prioritizes the uplifting of Asian-American voices in all of his work in an unapologetic, explicit fashion. He also speaks on issues of immigration, undocumented immigrants, and LGBTQ+ issues. He has performed at The Actors' Gang theatre owned by Tim Robbins, at UCLA, and at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. He has been featured twice in the Los Angeles Times. Gordon is a writer and actor in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by the Carlos Lopez Estrada.

HI, I’M GORDON IP

I speak about the Asian-American community, immigrant and undocumented rights, and LGBTQ+ identity.
HI, I'M KHAMAL IWUANYANWU

I speak on race, stereotypes, violence, and more.

ABOUT KHAMAL

Khamal Iwuanyanwu melds music, rap, and spoken word poetry into commentary on culture, mental health, and more. He is a professional spoken word performer, VFX editor, and teaching artist who uses his art to build community, challenge status quo, and empower youth to speak up for what they believe in. He has performed at high schools across California, bringing poetry into the classroom. He has also done work with the United Nations, The Library of Congress, TD Jakes, The California Endowment, Jackson Browne, the NAACP, The ACLU, PolicyLink, LACMA, The Actors’ Gang Theater, Dodger Stadium, and more. Khamal is currently a teacher for the Get Lit Saturday Class as well as the Emerging Writers Fellowship, a 32 week course designed to prepare youth poets for a career in writing. He is a writer for the upcoming 2020 Sundance feature film, Summertime, directed by Carlos López Estrada. Khamal is one of the subjects of the upcoming documentary film called Word, directed by Jordan Barrow.

VIDEOS
HI, I’M MARCUS JAMES

I speak on trans* issues, culture, acceptance, and more.

ABOUT MARCUS

Marcus James is a spoken word artist, teacher, and the Education & Pedagogy Coordinator at Get Lit. He has performed at over 60 schools across California, at the California Endowment for the Arts, Dodger Stadium, Warped Tour, Verses & Flow, and Button Poetry. He has taught workshops at various schools and organizations across California, including UC Santa Barbara and Into Action. He is the coach of the LA Youth Poetry Slam team for Brave New Voices and a teaching artist for Get Lit’s Saturday Drop-In Class. Marcus holds a Bachelor’s degree in Film and Media from the University of California Santa Barbara. He is also featured in the upcoming 2020 feature length film, Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada.

VIDEOS
LUKAS LANE

HI, I'M LUKAS LANE
I speak on voting rights, gun control, youth involvement in politics, and using film to better society and create a new world.

ABOUT LUKAS

Lukas Lane is an activist and filmmaker who has produced and collaborated on countless viral hits on social media. He helped create centerpiece promotional content with Joss Whedon for March for Our Lives and the Women’s March in Los Angeles. He appeared as a spokesperson against gun violence in a video that preceded Lin Manuel-Miranda’s speech during the March For Our Lives DC live telecast. He is a United Nations Peace Day Ambassador, has performed for the UN General Assembly, and created poetic content for a Peace Day magazine (The Zine) that was distributed throughout the United States. Lukas’ videos have a view count ranging from 11,000 to over 1 million views on multiple platforms. He is a writer for the upcoming 2020 feature length film, Summertime, directed by Carlos López Estrada.

VIDEOS
DIANE LUBY LANE - Founder

I speak on women’s leadership, nonprofit management, for profit-nonprofit management, youth education

ABOUT DIANE

Diane Luby Lane is the founder and executive director of Get Lit — Words Ignite, a California-based arts education nonprofit that has transformed the landscape of teen literacy by empowering new generations in literature, self-expression, and performing arts. She is also the founder of the Get Lit Players, an award-winning classic teen poetry troupe and the most watched poet group on the internet, with over 300 million views. The Get Lit Players consistently tour the country, have appeared at the White House three times, collaborated with the United Nations, and opened for John Legend at The Hollywood Bowl. They perform each year for over 50,000 of their peers, igniting schools and communities with art and social consciousness. In 2012, Lane created the now-annual Classic Slam, the largest youth classic poetry festival in the nation. Lane’s Lit Kit, a standards-based, in-school curriculum, has been adopted by schools throughout the U.S. and internationally. She is also an actress with numerous commercial, TV and film credits, and is the author of the award-winning Get Lit Rising, published by Simon & Schuster and of Words of Women, published by Samuel French. She is the co-writer and co-producer of DANTE, an original adaptation of Dante’s Inferno, which stars Get Lit Poets. She is a co-producer of the film Summertime, premiering at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Diane is a recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Service Award.

VIDEOS
HI, I’M CASSADY LOPEZ

I speak on culture, identity, family, and feminist issues.

ABOUT CASSADY

Cass is a bilingual Latina who has performed on the Finals stage at the 2019 Get Lit Classic Slam and competed with the 2019 L.A. Brave New Voices team in Las Vegas. She writes poetry, music, and is a self-proclaimed Space Cowboy. She is a gumball machine of contradictions and is always open to debates ranging from social justice to what type of breakfast food one thinks they are. Cass is always questioning herself. She hopes to grow and decide on a name for her two-man band before the end of the year.

VIDEOS
PATHUM MADIGAPOLA

HI, I’M PATHUM MADIGAPOLA

I speak on geek culture and love and life as an immigrant.

ABOUT PATHUM
Pathum Madigapola is a poet, filmmaker, and stand-up comedian. He has done work for TD Jakes, The United Nations, Ford, and L.A. Unified School District. His poetry and comedy revolve around geek culture, educating kids, love and life as an immigrant. He hopes to create educational and entertaining content for children. Pathum’s writing is also featured in the upcoming 2020 feature length film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada.

VIDEOS
MAIA MAYOR

ABOUT MAIA
For the past eight years, Maia has worked for Get Lit as a writer, performer, and teacher, performing for thousands of youth nationwide. Her poems are online viral sensations, and her chapter in the award-winning book Get Lit Rising is the most requested chapter for interviews and live performances. She has lectured at the ALAN Convention and was chosen as a panelist/performer in the latest NCTE conference where she spoke and performed for over 1,000 English teachers across the country. Maia has been featured on the TK Jakes Show, Huffington Post, TEDxYouth, and more. In 2017 she performed in the production of Dante’s Inferno: A Modern Adaption, co-directed and produced by Cynthia Ettinger and Academy Award winner Tim Robbins. Most recently, Maia has worked with One Vote at a Time, a grassroots PAC that focuses on gun safety legislation and electing progressive candidates to office. Maia now hosts an original web series called Get Lit Globe. She is also featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, directed by Carlos Lopez Estrada.

Videos

Hello, I’m Maia Mayor
I speak on perfectionism, image, family, and more.

4,820
Instagram Followers
@maiamayor
writingonthebones.tumblr.com

writingonthebones.tumblr.com
ABOUT OLYMPIA

Olympia is a purple-haired activist who has performed at the United Nations, the LA Times Festival of Books, the Regent Theater, and many high schools and colleges across Southern California. They are a Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador and United Nations Peace Ambassador and were a featured speaker at the Teen Vogue panel at INTO ACTION. Olympia opened for Emma Gonzales at The March for Our Lives in D.C. and helped create posters for the event, 50,000 of which were distributed nationwide. After attending Venice High School, Olympia attended The New School in New York studying political science and writing. They were featured in Pamela Adlon’s show Better Things on FX, and were also featured in the upcoming Sundance film Summertime.

HI, I’M OLYMPIA MICCIO

I speak on LGBT+ issues, mental health, and more.

1,253

Instagram Followers
@sloucho

VIDEOS
HI, I’M MONIQUE MITCHELL


ABOUT MONIQUE

Monique Mitchell is a poet and community organizer. In May 2018, she was invited to perform for the State Senate in defense of SB 933, which secured $50M for arts education across California. She has collaborated with the likes of Cass Bird, Cara Delevingne, Maria Shriver and Puma. She has also been published by The New York Times, Cultural Weekly, and various print publications across Los Angeles. Monique performed and led workshops for museums, colleges, and conferences globally and believes that to be one’s authentic self is the greatest act of service.

VIDEOS
MADYSON PARK

I, I’M MADYSON PARK

I speak on Asian-American rights/representation, youth culture, politics, and more.

ABOUT MADYSON

Madyson Park is a word artist residing in Los Angeles. She has competed all across the state of California in various poetry slams, including her first-place win two years in a row at OCRYSE. She also placed in the semi-finals at the 2017 Get Lit Classic Slam. Madyson has appeared on national television, including performing her work on the FX show Better Things, as well as being a co-writer on several films, and other community organized projects and events. Madyson’s heart lies in her identity. She purposefully demonstrates how it feels to be a young, Asian American woman in today’s society. When she isn’t writing, she is finding ways to reach out to her community through social/political activism. Her work is a constant reminder to always remember where she came from and how she got to where she is today. Madyson always sits at the adult table at dinner parties even if you don’t want her to. She is excited to be featured in the upcoming 2020 film Summertime, which premieres at Sundance in 2020.

VIDEOS

981

Instagram Followers
@ Mjjpark
ZACH PERLMUTER

HI, I'M ZACH PERLMUTER
I speak on immigration, culture clash, technology, and more.

ABOUT ZACH
Zachary Marcus Perlmuter is a Los Angeles-based poet, actor, teacher and hip hop artist. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Zach has been working with Get Lit for close to five years performing at hundreds of shows, hosting and teaching workshops alongside some of L.A.’s best spoken word poets. He has appeared on the T.D. Jakes Show, several viral commercials for the #THATSNOTLOVE campaign (by One Love) which have accumulated over two million views. He has appeared in the 2017 production of Dantes Inferno: A Modern Adaptation, co-directed and produced by Cynthia Ettinger and Academy Award winner Tim Robbins. He visited New Mexico for the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Summit where he taught workshops and performed some of his poetry pieces. He performed and taught workshops at Wordstock, the Portland Book Festival, and several schools in the Oregon area. His story appears in a chapter of the award-winning Get Lit Rising book. Zach has worked close to three years with the Turn Around Arts program, teaching elementary school students in San Bernadino, Inglewood, Compton, and Canoga Park. His goal is to help kids understand that they are not alone in the constant battles they face. He wants to give youth a means of expression in a positive way. Zach knows the power that words possess and the change that a positive mindset can bring. He wishes only to help whoever he can with what he has learned over the years. Zach can be seen at the 2020 Sundance Festival in the upcoming 2020 feature film Summertime.

VIDEOS

499
Instagram Followers
@moment_of_truth627
ABOUT CYRUS

Cyrus Roberts is the self-published author of the works "i," "esoteric," and "carpe forma." He is a spoken word artist from View Park, California. He utilizes his intense vulnerability and crafted cognizance of our world to create poetry that speaks to us— not as writers, but as human beings. He speaks through an interweaving of strict form, free verse, and hip-hop flow. He has worked as a U.N. Peace Ambassador and Poet Ambassador Finalist for L.A. Youth Poet Laureate and has collaborated with Adidas, Toms Shoes, embRACE LA, His work focuses on education, mental health, race summits, and more. He is currently a student at the University of California Santa Barbara and has hopes of establishing his own publishing company in order to foster and disseminate the works of inner city youth. He is also featured in the upcoming 2020 feature length film Summertime.

VIDEOS

Instagram Followers @cyruswrites

997

HI, I'M CYRUS ROBERTS

I speak on race, depression, adolescence, and more.
ABOUT TYRIS
Born an artist, aspiring to legend, Tyris expresses himself through poetry, drawing, and painting. He is a former Learn4life Los Angeles slam champion as well as a former L4L overall slam champion. From freshman year to senior year of high school, Tyris held a continuous first place streak at the AV Art Fair. In 2019, Tyris was a member of the Scratch Team, which took first place at Get Lit’s Classic Slam. As a sentient being, Tyris’ passion is to inspire others to be vulnerable with themselves, for in vulnerability lies honesty and the seeds to create poetry for healing. He is prominently featured in the upcoming film Summertime, which premieres at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

HI, I’M TYRIS WINTER
I speak on Domestic Violence, Sexual Trauma, Substance Abuse, Family, and more

1,105
Instagram Followers @ winterissues

VIDEOS