Poet

Bianca Spriggs
Thursday, March 30

CRAFT TALK
Writing Speculative Poetry
12:30-1:45 p.m., 201A Price Lake Room, Plemmons Student Union

READING
7:30 p.m., 169 Three Top Room, Plemmons Student Union
Affrilachian Poet and Cave Canem Fellow Bianca Lynne Spriggs is a writer and multidisciplinary artist from Lexington, Kentucky. Currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky, she holds degrees from Transylvania University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Named as one of the Top 30 Performance Poets in the country by The Root, Bianca is the recipient of the 2016 Sallie Bingham Award, a 2013 Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship in Poetry, Artist Enrichment and Arts Meets Activism grants from the Kentucky Foundation for Women, and a Pushcart Prize Nomination.


THE VISITING WRITERS SERIES is named in honor of Hughlene Bostian Frank (class of 1968), a 2013 Appalachian Alumni Association Outstanding Service award recipient, past member of Appalachian’s Board of Trustees, current board member of the ASU Foundation, and generous supporter of Appalachian State University.

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Bianca Spriggs is a member of the Affrilachian Poets, with whom she appeared at Appalachian State in October 2016 through the Appalachian Heritage Council. The term “Affrilachia” was originally coined by recent Kentucky Poet Laureate (2013-15) Frank X Walker. In reference to the region of Appalachia, a mountain range stretching over thirteen states along the East Coast of the U.S. from Mississippi to New York, Affrilachia is an ever-evolving cultural landscape poised to render the invisible visible. Affrilachia embraces a multicultural influence, a spectrum of people who consider Appalachia home and/or identify strongly with the trials and triumphs of being of this region. Since 1991, the Affrilachian Poets have been writing together, defying the persistent stereotype of a racially homogenized rural region.

Through their writing and the very existence of their enclave, the Affrilachian Poets continue to reveal relationships that link identity to familial roots, socio-economic stratification and cultural influence, and an inherent connection to the land.

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