

POET,
WRITER,
PERFORMER

CONTACT

PROFILE

I am a black, first generation, Ethiopian poet from Oakland, California. I use my writing to shed light on contemporary issues as well as a personal outlet for emotion, and I seek to push the boundaries of language as an art form and expand writing opportunities for marginalized youth.

PUBLICATION

- "The New York Times"
- "The San Francisco Guardian"
- "The Miami Herald"
- "Black Joy: An Anthology of Black Boy Poems"
- "What You Need to Know About Me" Anthology

FEATURES

- Cover of "The East Bay Express"
- "Refinery29"
- "KQED"
- "National Public Radio"

NOTABLE STAGES

- Lollapalooza Music Festival
- Google Incarceration Summit
- Shared stages with Chimamanda Adichie, Zendaya, Yara Shahidi, Angie Thomas, Tommy Orange, and many more

EDUCATION

SENIOR, OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2020

GPA: 4.5, CLASS RANK: 3/467

OTHER EXTRACURRICULARS

FEATURES EDITOR

THE SCRIBE STUDENT NEWSPAPER | 2017 - PRESENT

TEAM CAPTAIN

OAKLAND TECH MOCK TRIAL | 2018 - PRESENT

LEAD PLAYWRIGHT

OAKLAND TECH REPERTOIRE | 2019 - PRESENT

CO-FOUNDER, CO-PRESIDENT

OAKLAND TECH STUDENT ACTIVISM CLUB | 2018 - 2019

CLASS PRESIDENT

OAKLAND TECH STUDENT GOVERNMENT | 2016 - 2018

YOUTH AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR

US STATE DEP'T, YOUTH AMBASSADORS | JUNE 2018 - PRESENT

WORK EXPERIENCE

AExME COUNCIL MEMBER

AMERICAN EAGLE | FEB 2019 - PRESENT

- Selected from nationwide pool to be the youngest member of a youth council made up of artists and activists
- Heavily influenced marketing, communications, philanthropic work, & climate impact of the company
- Modeled/acted in international ad campaign
- Designed t-shirt benefiting "HeadCount" voter registration org

OPEN MIC HOST, WRITING WORKSHOP T.A.

CHAPTER 510 WRITING CENTER | NOV 2018 - MAY 2019

- Hosted monthly poetry open mics for disadvantaged teens in West Oakland
- Served as teacher's assistant in "Black Joy" writing workshop series for young black men, co-facilitating lessons and maintaining communications
- Edited and compiled manuscript for resulting "Black Joy" poetry anthology

WRITER, "MUSEUM OF THE HIDDEN CITY"

WALKING CINEMA | JUNE 2018 - SEPT 2019

- Walking audio tour that tells the story of the redevelopment of San Francisco's Fillmore district
- Wrote poetry from the perspective of a 1950's architect based on research and interviews and written over the course of a year

AWARDS/HONORS

2018 OAKLAND VICE YOUTH POET LAUREATE

2019 OAKLAND YOUTH POET LAUREATE

YOUTH SPEAKS

2017, 2018, AND 2019 TEEN POETRY SLAM CHAMPION

YOUNGARTS

2019 WINNER IN SPOKEN WORD

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2019 100 LIST HONOREE

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF YOUTH VOICES

2018 AND 2019 DELEGATE