

SHAGGY FLORES



Nuyoricán Massaricán Bilingual Spanglish Speaking Afro-Taino Poeta!

In the best expression of this lineage Shaggy Flores poetry is boldly political, representing a cultural practice committed with the decolonization and liberation of the Puerto Rican people. In his politically engaged poetry the nation can appear as a lived experience of racism, labor exploitation, social marginality, and internalized violence, but is also a project of emancipation that is enacted in a vast array of struggles by a variety of social movements fighting for survival, dignity, rights, and respect. The profound political vocation of Shaggy's poetry gives it a quality as a tool for education and consciousness raising in our community. As Shaggy is already recognized because of his cultural activism, given his leadership as an organizer of a new Nuyoricán movement in this part of America, his writings and lectures also represents a significant step forward in Puerto Rican aesthetic expressions in (and from) this corner of the transboricua nation.



The Nuyorican Massarican Poeta



Shaggy Flores is a Nuyorican, Massarican, Bilingual, Spanglish Speaking, Afro-Taino, Santero, Centaur, Warrior, Jibaro, Borinquen Poeta hailing from Spanish Harlem (Nueva Yol), Cupey (Puerto Rico,) and Springfield (MA.) He believes in using literature as a means to uplift and educate people.

A graduate and scholar from the University of Massachusetts with a degree on the African Diaspora and a Masters in History from Virginia State University, Mr. Flores follows

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Considered by many to be an organizer and leader for the New Generation “Nuyorican” Latino poetry movement, his first collection of poetry, *Sancocho – A Book of Nuyorican Poetry* deals with issues of stereotypes, cultural preservation, racism, and personal growth.

Shaggy Flores is the founder of the annual Voices for the Voiceless Poetry™ Concert which occurs in the five-college Umass-Amherst area and the Louis Reyes Rivera Lifetime Achievement Award™.

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Shaggy Flores is an up and coming cultural worker in the best tradition of the Frederick Douglass dictate: agitate, agitate, agitate, organize, organize, organize, educate, educate, educate. A Puerto Rican from Spanish Harlem NYC and Springfield, MA who embraces his African American cousins,

his insular uncles, and his mainland siblings. A searcher who has pored through volumes of both Caribbean, Latino, Black history and New York Rican (Nuyorican) letters. Mr. Flores does not capitulate to the condition or the authority, and has not acquiesced to a standard of art that insists only on self-gratification. He is grounding himself inside understanding the job that comes with the claim of poet.

“Afro-Taino Nuyorican Massarican Poeta with a serious Negritude Flow. A very talented hermano who writes some interesting poems about Barrio life and the African Diaspora.”

As one of the poets who has worked to reinvigorate the Nuyorican poetry movement in recent years, Shaggy Flores brings a scholarly attitude to what he refers to as cultural work. He sees poetry as a way to simultaneously inspire people and educate them.

For Shaggy Flores poetry is a vehicle to dismantle stereotypes and damaging myths and to share knowledge of music, Puerto Rican culture and traditions, urban culture, the political movements of the 60s and 70s, African cultural traditions and black history in the Atlantic.



SANCOCHO:
A BOOK OF NUYORICAN POETRY
 by shaggy flores