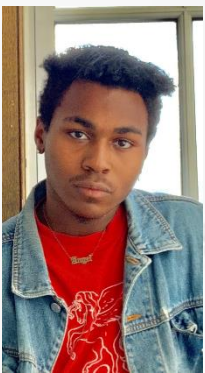




# Outspoken: A Listening Project

## Youth Voices of the BLM Revolution

### EPISODE 2 - PARTICIPANTS & MENTORS



#### Miracle Myles – Anthem: A song for BIPOC- Venmo @Miracle-Myles-1

*Miracle Myles-* A 19 year old from Keller, Texas, he is now attending the University of Northern Colorado and majoring in Musical Theatre. He has used his voice in the BLM movement by going to protests, performing at events that bring awareness to victims of police brutality and systemic racism, and have signed multiple petitions to end the systemic racism and help the victims of police brutality get the justice they deserve. For his fellow BIPOC people he hope this song brings you bliss in this moment and allows for a much needed break from the madness around us. “Remember we are Black, we are Beautiful, and we are Bold but most importantly we will not be forgotten.”

AND HIS MENTOR

**Rajdulari Music-** A Jazz & soul vocalist, actor and plus model



#### Ay’Niah Rochester – NIAH Art Within

*Ay’Niah Rochester -* A 17year Black woman coming from what she calls “a boring, predominantly white school”. She did this project because she loves the movement that she and the Black community are and she sees a change and knows it starts with the youth. She feels that if she doesn’t do it, who will? White people have told her story for years, and it’s her turn. “And if I don’t speak now then I when I see stuff that’s not true or misrepresent my culture and identity I have no real reason to speak on it cause I passed up my chance”.

## AND HER MENTOR

**Kenya Fashaw-** is the Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer of 5280 Artist Co-Op. Kenya is a Spoken Word artist, actress and Playwright. She is a member of Denver Slam Nuba's (we cut heads) slam team. She has written and directed "Colorism, Breaking The Chains of Complexion" produced by 5280 Artist Co-Op in 2015, and has won a Henry Award for "Best New Play," in 2018. She was also nominated for another Henry award for "1 Night 6 Plays," produced by 5280 Artist Co-Op, in 2019 which included two of her micro scripts; Hiphop Matrimony: A Hiphop musical and Cages: No More Boundage. Kenya has always had a passion for creative writing and wants to create stories that normalize people of color.



## Cynthia Thomas – Poem



**Cynthia "CC" Thomas-** A recent high school graduate with plans on college for psychology or art, she comes to IDEAs Outspoken with a background in Visual Art and as a social advocate for the BLM movement. She feels that All lives matter isn't specific enough. From the dirty looks, assumptions, murders, and trauma black people have and still are experiencing is unspeakably unbelievable. She is an African American who grew up getting the weird looks because her mom was white, going to jail for not being able to tell her part of the story or being assumed to be a threat, and was always told black jokes letting her never forget racism still lives and sometimes those jokes are just light beams showing someone's true thoughts.

## AND HER MENTOR

**Marisa Hebert (She, Her, Her's)-** Is an Actor, Director, and Playwright located in Colorado Springs, where she lives with her wife and four rescue dogs. Marisa studied Theatre and African American Studies at UNC in Greeley, CO. Marisa was one of the founding ensemble members of the Colorado Spring Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival, the first and only of its kind in the state. As an actor, Marisa works with THEATREWORKS, The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and numerous other local and regional Theatres. As a director, Marisa worked at the old Smokebrush Theatre, Vintage Theater, and The Millibo Arts Theatre. As a playwright, Marisa's first full-length play *Pieces of Him* won the FAC's 2013 Rough Writers New Play festival, and pieces of her lyrical autobiographical play *High Yellow* have been performed locally at UCCS and The Millibo Arts Theatre.



## Owen Zitek – Soul - Venmo @Owen-Z-Education



**Owen Zitek-** A 15 year old coming to Outspoken with a theatre background. He was a protestor in the BLM movement and chose to do the Outspoken project because he wanted his voice to be heard. He hopes you find value in listening to other perspectives in the black lives matter movement. And he would like to thank his parents, his mentor and all of the people involved in this project.

## AND HIS MENTOR

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**Ben Butler** – Graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre from Adams State is the performing arts and theatre director for Manual High School. He has been active as a social advocate for the BLM movement and chose to take part in this project to connect with young voices from across the city. He hopes to lift up those voices and stories while also providing a resource and winding board for not just now but the future. He hopes people really listen to these young voices, stories and experiences and expressions and are filled with an appreciation and motivation for what is happening around us. He would, of course, like to thank Lisa Young for bringing all of these annexing people together and creating the space and avenue for these connections to be made and stories to be told.

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## **Senait McNally – I Am From poem – Venmo @Senait-McNally**

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*Senait McNally-* A 15 year old student at Place Bridge Academy and a dancer with Cleo Parker Robinson comes to Outspoken as a social advocate for the BLM movement. She participated in this project because her people are dying and suffering and they need her words so that they can understand that she is going through the same thing. She hopes others feel safe and protected after seeing this project. She would like to thank Ilasiea Gray for being her mentor and for also helping her with her I am from poem. She also wants to thank her mom for also helping her with her project and for also being the best mom.

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### *AND HER MENTOR*

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**Ilasiea Gray** is thrilled to be the Creative Director and one of the mentors for Outspoken: A Listening Project – Youth Voices of Black Lives Matter. She is an activist, actress and arts educator, having received a True West Award for her impactful work in both. Ilasiea is passionate about work with social justice themes, theatre for young audiences, theatre arts education, and working with the youth. Ilasiea is currently pursuing her MFA in Social and Environmental Arts Practice, headed by Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

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## **Justy Robinson – I Don’t Wanna Say BLM Anymore – PayPal sirjosiris@gmail.com**

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*Justy Robinson-* Comes to Outspoken from a varied artistic background in theatre, vocal music, film and writing. For the BLM movement he is a protestor and a social advocate. He chose to take part for several reasons. Mainly because the injustice of racism is still alive, and since it is, he cannot stop until it’s dead. Another reason is because this is a theatrical production, which is something he knows how to do- using the things he loves to fight the injustices around him is the best way to make sure he’s fed while the fight continues. He hopes you gain a new perspective from other people, learn more about ways to organize and resist, and make good connections between people in the Denver Theatre Space. He is thankful Ilasiea invited him and thought of him to be part of this project.

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## AND HIS MENTOR

**James Brunt**- is an actor born and raised in Denver, Colorado most known for pushing the boundaries of what we know about theater with immersive productions in obscure settings and hard hitting concepts that make his audience truly reflect on their views of the world. Playing roles from a cleaver wielding beet butcher, to a zany detective on the hunt for answers, he loves to create anything that will make his heart beat faster and blood boil up. He recently received the 2019 True West award for breakout actors for his challenging portrayal of taxi driver, Bobby, in Mosque with The Black Actors Guild. Other works recognized were his productions with The Band of Toughs and Control Group Productions. When Brunt isn't taking the stage, he still finds ways to enlighten his audiences by performing original slam poetry or creating magical moments as the beloved Santa Claus. He is also an educator of the arts, teaching improv to the youth of Denver with the Black Actors Guild.



## Clementine Hancock – Denise, accompanying with Ukulele – Venmo @MRCochez



*Clementine Hancock*- An 11 year old Middle School student with a background in visual art (drawing), and music (drums, ukulele, guitar). They have participated as a protestor in the BLM movement and as an activism artmaker. They chose to take part in this project because they wanted to contribute artistically and bring awareness to the Black Lives Matter cause. They would like you to gain hope, inspiration and encouragement. They would like to thank Alicia Young, their sister Maya and their mom.

## AND THEIR MENTOR

**LaDios Muhammed** -A graduate with a BA in Modern Languages with an Emphasis in Spanish and Minor in Holistic Health and Wellness. She also has a Masters Certification in Corporate Training Knowledge Management in Adult Education. She also does Theater, Film, TV, writing and creating videos. For the BLM movement she has been having open and uncomfortable conversations in the workplace, she has started a podcast for actors (Actors from the DarkSide), created mentorships, participated in EID groups in the workplace that support change and advocacy for racial injustices, financial disparities and social change in the work place. She decided to mentor to support the voices of the youth. She hopes you gain the ability to be more consciously sensitive and she hopes she gets to be more educated on what she does not know. She would like to thank Lisa Young for inviting her to be apart of this project as a mentor.



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\*\* These brave participants have put themselves, their stories and their voice out there for all the world to see. If you feel moved, we have given you an opportunity to show your appreciation of their work in the form of a tip by including their venmo, cashapp or paypal info.\*\*

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## **Production Team**

Executive Producer/IDEAS Founder – Lisa Young

Creative Director – Ilasiea Gray

Video Editor – Ray Bailey ([www.raybailey.tv](http://www.raybailey.tv))

Score/Music Composer – Alex Burse

Production Manager – Bennie Palko

Post Production Manager – Mark Pergola

Social Media Editor – Peter Trinh

Social Media Score/Composer – Kelly Bidstrup