

Imagine a drummer turning to poetry. That's croc E moses. Mysterious clever fool. Born in sub arctic Canada, he has now been based in Swaziland and South Africa for more than half his life.

His performance is rhythm driven. It is word music, the music of word, talking song. His delivery borders on incantation. With oodles of poly-rhythms, a soothing accent, and lots of word play, he draws his audience into many different ways of experiencing words. You will be inspired to listen! He takes many risks in his content and with his imagination. He draws upon exposure to extremes. His work is serious, sensitive, deep, sometimes profound, but equally flippant and possibly humorous! It is inspired work and it rubs off. He aspires to levity, to lift whoever is willing to listen.

Over the last twelve years he has independently produced and published a volume of poetry (*Twilight Sunburn*, 2004), a book (*Through*, 2008), and three music CDs *Mellowdrama* (2006), *Incite The In Sight* (2010) and *Common Suspense* (2014). To date he still prints, binds and trims his first publication by hand. He continues to offer this as a bookmaking workshop. A new album is in the pipeline as well as a new book due to be published by UNISA Press in 2013.

In 2008 he was awarded a grant from the Centre of the Book, Cape Town to print and publish his second book (*Through*). He was also commissioned to write the opening song (We Don't See) for the eTV documentary "Welcome Nelson". This was screened at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Nelson Mandela's release in February 2010.

More often in the last three years, croc E is overlapping with education efforts, offering workshops, talks and performances to mainly high school students. In addition to writing, teaching and independent publishing, croc E has taught himself guitar, performing a unique blend of vocal phrasing that he calls 'talking song' over a subtle rhythm driven approach to playing the guitar. It's soothing and unclassifiable with a strong element of song resonating through. His content is mainly social commentary, always encouraging people to 'play attention'.

He has performed his poems and songs at festivals, conferences, schools, universities, open mics, fund raisers, dinner parties, exhibition openings, a rehab centre, Pollsmoor prison and solo gigs mainly in South Africa, but also internationally. Highlights include:

- 2014** | Maun International Arts Festival, Botswana
- 2013** | Green Pop Reforest Fest, Western Cape, South Africa
- 2012** | 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Africa International Festival, Durban, South Africa
- 2012** | TEDxTableMountain Talk, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** | Schools Literature Outreach Program, North West Province, South Africa
- 2010** | Badilisha International Poetry X-Change, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** | Support act for Linton Kwesi Johnson, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** | Poet On Strike Tour, Southern Africa
- 2009** | Magic Word at the Junction, Cambridge, UK
- 2008** | Bushfire International Festival of the Arts, Swaziland
- 2007** | Latitude Festival, Suffolk, UK
- 2007** | Fringe Programme, The Aldeburgh Music Festival, UK
- 2003** | The Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, New York City, USA
- 2002** | The Herman Charles Bosman Literary Festival, South Africa
- 2001** | Grahamstown National Arts Festival, South Africa



His current one hour solo show showcases a variety of material from the last fifteen years of writing. Its focus is on spoken word poetry delivered through the voice as an instrument.

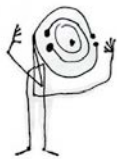
He presents various poems in a variety of formats; usually on their own but, also accompanied with acoustic guitar and sometimes with a backing track for surprising contrast. At the onset of the show he dresses up the croc E mooses *provacateur* in dark blue coveralls (standard issue disaster management volunteer corps!), a cheap velvet cape, some faux driftwood bling, a *tsotsi* hat and an African walking stick. It is a spoof on the modern day super hero/rap star.

The performance is rhythm driven. It is word music, the music of word, talking song. It borders on incantation. With oodles of poly-rhythms, a soothing accent, and lots of word play, the audience is drawn into many different ways of experiencing words. You will be inspired to listen! He takes lots of risks in content and imagination. He draws upon exposure to extremes.

His work is serious, sensitive, deep, sometimes profound, but equally flippant and possibly humorous! His show constellates between poetry, music, dance theatre and an element of ceremony. He has crafted strings of words to draw the audience into an experience that uses words to help us glimpse and taste a state of being beyond words. He delivers in such a way as to try and inspire listening. The heart of the show is always about presence.

The content varies from a lyrical playful and light poem about a donkey named Mr. Flabbergaster to some more abstract free association material. There is also some global and African state of affairs commentary. Other themes deal with consumerism, politics, nature, the esoteric and of course love!

Croc E also incorporates an element of collaboration with local performers in his show wherever he is performing.



Some excerpts by croc E:

"The only revolution left is tree like, so let roots take wing"

"It's hard to stay soft...when the future isn't what it used to be"

"Mischief is a team sport"

"Do you risk or do you rust"

"Do you plant, do you love your plant, do you know your plant is in love with you"

"Our hearts are a puzzle not peaced yet"

"Play attention, rhythm is our mother tongue, we are rhythm driven"

"Fire is our favourite colour"

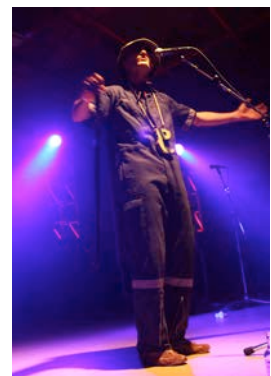
"Pace and the pulse and the peace"

"Which way to what"

"Excavate ancient instinct"

"Grenades of laughter"

"Shrink bigger"



"The House of Truth introduces a new voice in South African literature tonight - Croc-e. His poetry is introspective and had he been invisible you would not have guessed that he is a white boy without inhibition. His words are universal and fresh with subliminal attitude. He could be speaking from anywhere in the world. In the context of South African poetry this is a voice of the present if not the future."

**Sandile Dikeni, Cape Times 2001**

"In the Poetry Arena new talent is featured heavily with the addition of the 'New Voices of Poetry' section. This is an opportunity for up and coming Poets to showcase their talent on stage. Last year acts included Croc E Moses, an extraordinary spoken-word performer who uses his native South African rhythms..."

**Latitude Festival, UK 2007**

"Canadian born poet Croc E Moses mystified the crowd with politically charged poems and personal comments on contemporary issues on the continent. His experiences in Canada, Swaziland and South Africa echoed in renditions punctuated with metaphors, and accompanied by live and recorded music."

**John Owoo, Ghanaian Journalist, Bushfire Festival, Swaziland 2008**

"I love your way with words, you joy fully unlock the gird this English tongue can be, revealing the hidden magic of music and meaning within."

**Malika Ndlovu, Cape Town 2008**

"His work has a distinctive and exceptionally dynamic presence, especially valuable within the (South) African literary environment where there is a struggle to find a true poetic voice"

**Anonymous, 2012**

"Like it? I think he's masterful! I think he loves life, and definitely love, and has thrown himself into both enough to laugh at himself and them both. I can see why his performance brought down the house. He's the king of suggestion, naughty but so nice. I especially like the line that I remember as, "I love my love because she loves love"

**Kitt Albritton, USA 2009**

#### References

Africa Centre, Cape Town, SA - Malika Ndlovu, Tanner Methvin  
 1Giant Leap (DVD) and Grammy nominated CD, London, UK – Jamie Catto  
 House on Fire, Malkerns, Swaziland – Justin Thorne  
 Children's Book Network, Cape Town, SA – Lesley Beakes  
 Off the Wall Poetry Sessions, Cape Town, SA - Hugh Hodge  
 University of Cape Town, Centre for African Studies – Prof. Harry Garuba, Prof. Nick Shepard  
 Rhodes University, Fine Arts Dept, Grahamstown, SA – Ashraf Jamal  
 Rhodes University, English Dept, Grahamstown, SA – Dan Wylie  
 Herman Charles Bosman Literary Society, Groot Marico, SA – Egbert Van Bart  
 National English Literature Museum of South Africa, Grahamstown, SA - Malcolm Hacksley  
 The Poetry Trust, Halesworth, UK - Naomi Jaffa  
 Sound and Motion Studios, Cape Town, SA – Simon Ratcliffe  
 Waterford Kamhlaba School, Mbabane, Swaziland – Lucy Mensa, Sue Hall  
 Fundamental Skills Training Centre, Cape Town, SA - Noel Daniels

