

GRAFFITI  
VERITE'

www.graffitiverite.com



## GV7 RANDOM URBAN STATIC: The Iridescent Equations of Spoken Word

Traci E. Currie, PhD - Comments / Review

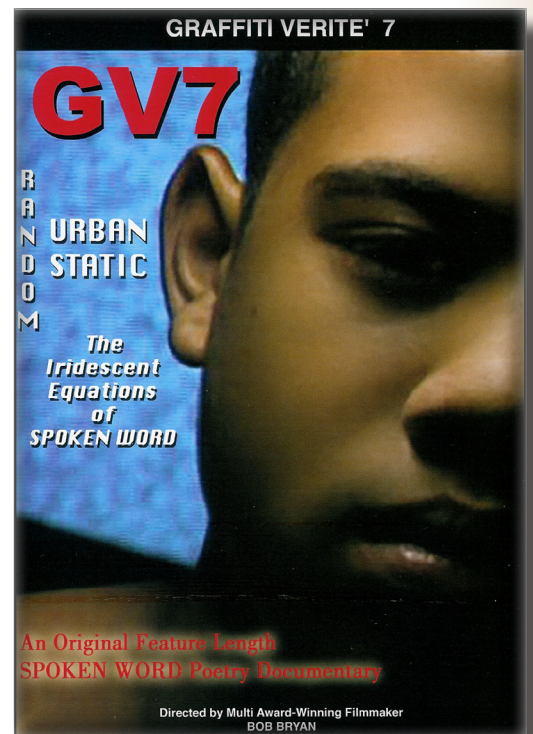
**“A solid strong dialogue on Spoken Word  
among and between Artists....”**

The sudden jump cuts that start the documentary are similar to how I see Spoken Word: sudden, jumpy, exciting, unexpected, and personal. Following the credit introduction and voice over of the poet Hunter Lee Hughes, I liked the various voices that spoke, which powerfully is followed by poet, Bridget Gray, stating how important the voice is. Again, it speaks to Spoken Word and helps the viewing audience understand what it is. Although I thought unique technically and visually, the jump cut between bulb, microphone, quiet speaking voice and so forth...I was looking for more talk/conversation of what spoken word is. I was looking to find out who these people are – self identity.

I felt like I heard poet after poet sprouting their work and offering personal views based on their opinion (i.e. how parents raise their children - **Mollie Angelheart**), which is fine, but it gives me the feel of a poetry DVD, not a documentary. The documentary feel comes back when **Vejea Jennings** states that a poem is a “speech act.” I feel like

this is the beginning discussion of understanding what Spoken Word actually is. It was a short preview, which wets our appetites (if we are listening), but for an audience that does not know Spoken Word, this may be a challenge for the simple fact that they may be looking for a “working” definition of Spoken Word from the beginning of the documentary (again, I suppose this depends on who your audience is). I do recognize that the discussion of “what” Spoken Word is comes up much later in the documentary... **Eric Haber** seemed to touch on the ‘personal’ when he read from his work and discussed his father... He talked about looking at his kindergarten photo and shared the emotional attachment... **Sekou** talked about confronting personal pain... I wanted the poet to talk about their life so that I could connect it to their poetry/Spoken Word as well.

The poet, **Nicolas Lopez** (who did “Suicide”)... from what I could perceive, I loved the purity of him being him...It was pure and unadulterated,



which is something I look for in a poet...

**Natalie Patterson** --- she seemed to bring us closer to truth and what she’s been through and why it is important to be honest. It was interesting watching her ‘type’ her story. Nice scene.

**Poetri** talked about his life becoming a poet and how poetry chose him... Now that is what I was seeking - the stories that link to the uniqueness of his style (i.e. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts). I also enjoyed what **GaKnew** stated about the poet who cries all

the time. I enjoyed many of the shared truths that were stated about poets and what they do on stage.

I loved **Tim'm** talk about his sexuality and how it links to his poetry as well as the bigger context of how sexuality is seen in the Hip Hop culture. To go from his story into his poem "Love" absolutely worked!!! And then later he talked about schooling, his school of writing, health – one of the best interviews! He had so much to share as it connects to why poetry is so important. I recognize that his interview may be uncomfortable, simply due to his personal story, and THAT is what made it so appealing and beautiful and poetic in itself. The honesty and vulnerability that it takes to share YOU with your audience – the very reason why poetry and spoken word is so powerful and scary! I loved when **J. Walker** talked about edutainment and what he does....Being a psychologist, working with others. I actually wish it came earlier in the film.

**Rachel Kann's** piece "I Will Come" felt long and with a bit of editing or shortening even at the end, it probably would not feel so drawn out and long. Immediately after, though, she talks about the history of Spoken Word.

As the documentary came to a close, the conversation was powerful and I found the connection between poets and their poetry (i.e. **Jenning's** story,

**The Lindz, Poetri** using language/words)... Overall, this is a solid strong dialogue on Spoken Word among and between artists.... I absolutely LOVED **Bridget Gray's** poem on Hip Hop.

### Powerful documentary!

**Review by Traci E. Currie, PhD.** (LEO Lecturer IV in Communication and Visual Arts Department) - University of Michigan-Flint

#### On a Person Note:

"...Overall, a powerful necessary tool to use in the classroom / film festivals and so forth. Thank you for asking me. I am teaching Spoken Word this Fall 2008, and would love the permission to show excerpts..." Traci

For more info on director Bob Bryan and **Graffiti Verite' Docu-Series** please visit <http://www.graffitiverite.com>

#### Contact Information

**BRYAN WORLD PRODUCTIONS**  
P.O. Box 74033  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Tel: (323) 856-9256  
Fax: (323) 856-0855  
Email: [bryworld@aol.com](mailto:bryworld@aol.com)

## MULTI AWARD-WINNING **GV** DOCU-SERIES NOW AVAILABLE ON



www.graffitiverite.com