

June 2021

UH Arts celebrates National Writing Day on 23 June



Photography by Sylvia Suli

UH Arts celebrates National Writing Day on 23 June with an online spoken word performance by award-winning poet and writer Rakaya Fetuga.

National Writing Day encourages and supports young people from all backgrounds to write for pleasure and to tell their own stories. An advocate for self-expression, Rakaya Fetuga performs spoken word inspired by her multi-heritage and overlapping identities.

Commenting on her performance Rakaya said, "These poems represent the reasons I found and valued writing poetry as an outlet, a solace and way to communicate beyond conversation. From honouring parts of my cultural heritage to responding to global injustice, I write from my personal view, informed by all the identities that have raised me."

As part of their Live Arts programme, University of Hertfordshire Arts offers spoken word by award-winning writers and poets to share perspectives. Performances are based on topical issues such as family dynamics, feminism, heritage, identity and ethnicity.

To see Rakaya's performance and more visit: www.uharts.co.uk/stories/the-watch-list

Ends

For further press information or images please contact Hayley Lewis at h.lewis4@herts.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

About Rakaya Fetuga

Based in London, Rakaya is an events producer, poet and writer of Ghanaian and Nigerian heritage. In 2017, Rakaya won the *Spread the Word* Poetry Prize and won the Roundhouse Poetry Slam the following year. Rakaya holds an MA in Fiction Writing from Royal Holloway University of London. Her commissions include work for the BBC, Bloomberg Philanthropies with Vanity Fair, English Touring Theatre and Kyra TV. In 2020 Rakaya curated a 10-week workshop course in collaboration with Apple as part of Made in LDN arts engagement programme. An advocate for self-expression, Rakaya hosts an open mic in NW London and works with the Poetry Society to support other young writers. She is currently working with the Roundhouse Theatre to put together a monodrama and poetry play about coming of age, learning to cornrow hair and growing up Black and Muslim in London. Find out more about Rakaya's work [here](#).

About UH Arts

University of Hertfordshire Arts offers a vibrant arts and cultural programme for the University campus and local communities, working cross-arts with artists and performers. With a programme of exhibitions, performances, residencies and engagement projects, UH Arts delivers innovative arts and culture with associated research; offering space for artists and performers to experiment, and audiences to engage and co-produce. For more information, visit www.uharts.co.uk