

jo reyes-boitel

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joreyesboitel.com

Poet, essayist, and playwright.
Queer, mixed-Latinx parent working in community.

Education

University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, MFA – Creative Writing, anticipated graduation 2023

University of Texas at San Antonio, Bachelor's in American Studies, 2007

- Focus on ethnic music expressions within dominant culture

Artistic Experience

Written Work

- Publications: mouth, Neon Hemlock Press, 2021; Michael + Josephine, a novel in verse, Flowersong Press, 2019.
- Journal and print publications include: OyeDrum, The Ice Colony (forthcoming), Scalawag Journal, Windward Review, La Voz de Esperanza, Chachalaca Review, San Antonio Express-News, Borderlands Texas Poetry Review, Huizache Journal, About Place Journal, The Americas Review, Your Impossible Voice, and Acentos Review.
- Anthologies: Good Cop/Bad Cop (forthcoming), Boundless (RGV International Poetry Festival anthology), Dismantle (a VONA anthology), and Imaniman: Poets Writing in the Anzaldúan Borderlands.

Performances and Productions

- “she wears bells” : Featured guest artist. Produced and live streamed with Palo Alto Community College’s Teatro Palo Alto. 2020.
- “she wears bells” : Jump-Start Performance Co.’s INKubator-invited guest artist; creator, production lead, and librettist for the operetta, including team development. Produced and recorded streaming event. 2020.
- “Cascara | this body” : one-woman performance piece at W-I-P (Work In Progress), at Jump-Start Performance Co. 2019.
- “This is a Manifesto” : workshop participant, script development, and performance under Virginia Grise at Jump-Start Performance Company. 2018.
- “Nahual” : one act play, written and directed for World Theater Day, one night only live performance at Palo Alto Community College, 2014.

Professional Experience

Editor

- Advisory Editor, FlowerSong Press: critique of initially-accepted manuscripts, assist with copy editing, manuscript development, and/or design.
- Guest Editor, Red Salmon Arts: providing one-on-one mentorship for one to two writers annually, from draft manuscript to published work.

Speaker/Presenter

- Panelist and presenter: Gemini Ink annual conference (2019 – feature, 2018), Peoples’ Poetry Festival (2020), RGV Poetry Festival (2019 feature).

Workshop Leader

- “Notes to Gilgamesh”, month-long writing workshop around oral traditions and the novel in verse. Participants discovered techniques and tools needed to create their own novel in verse; with Gemini Ink.
- “Caesura”, monthly workshop at Gemini Ink, taught for community over 6 months, addressing silence and action around issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, and migration.
- “Cultivating Fields: an introduction to poetry”, a short session workshop for the new or returning poet which looks at ways into new work, what to consider, and how to build community.

Event Planning

- This City is a Poem (2016 – 2019), Co-Founder. Annual National Poetry Month initiative providing daily poetry writing prompts, community writing workshops, and readings. Graphics creation, social media posting, event planning, artist cultivation, new poet outreach.

Designer

- Providing instruction for creating image and consistency in branding, with an emphasis on easily accessible software and design tools to allow for better client access.
- Develop and create graphic design use for nonprofits and creative individuals.
- Public relations work, including electronic press kit and website development.
- Work history includes local and regional nonprofits: Writers’ Block, Latina Mami, Zombie Bazaar, FlowerSong Press.

Skills

- Grant writer and database management. Nonprofit management.
- Graphic work experience.
- Bilingual (Spanish and English – read, write and speak).
- Music researcher.

Awards & Recognition

- Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation award winner, granted by Sandra Cisneros, 2001.
- Macondo fellow, 2021.
- Voices of our Nation (VONA) fellow.

References

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Lilia Rosas : lrosas@utexas.edu, 737.444.0707

Focus/Studies

Latinx, Latina, Cuban, Chicana, queer, LGBTQ+, family, sexuality and kink, gender, alternative relationships, migration, chronic illness, storytelling, community engagement and community building, poetry, writing, spirituality, Cuba, Mexico, working class dynamics, writing workshops, journaling, novels in verse.