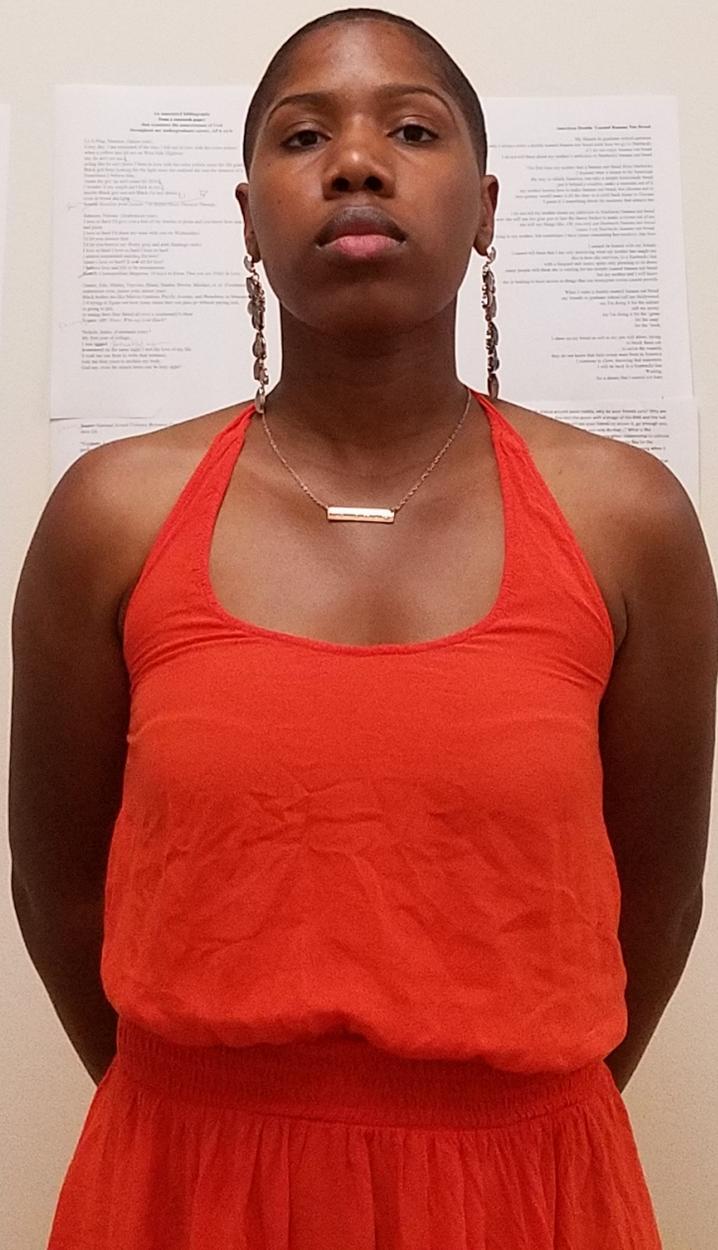


MAURISA LI-A-PING

WRITER & EDUCATOR





ABOUT MAURISA

Maurisa Li-A-Ping is a writer and educator raised by a Caribbean womxn in Brooklyn, New York. Growing up in New York City, the art scene gave Maurisa a platform to write herself and other blaxk queer womxn into existence. She uses poetry to create counter-narratives that skillfully present blaxk queer womxn's multifaceted joy, love, laughter, and sorrow. Her Blaxk Feminist writing praxis is not only the subject of her work but also the method.

As an Educator, she uses poetry to highlight blaxk queer womxn narratives as a philosophy for empowerment and resilience. She honors poetry as a culturally relevant tool for community building, identity development, conflict management, activism, and more. In her work with students, her asset-based and Blaxk Feminist approach creates spaces that position them as the intellectuals of their lives, allow them to self-define themselves, highlight their common challenges and honor their diverse identities. She has earned a M.S.Ed in Higher Education Student Affairs and is a current MFA candidate in Creative Writing at Randolph College



SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- "an ode to my mother or how to make prom prom" - Forthcoming in Obsidian
- "to the fxck gxrls at sea:" - Blood Orange Review, 2020 Contest Winner
- "6:29am, below sea level" - Up the Staircase Quarterly, Pushcart Prize Nominee
- "another Black Body takes on the role of narrator" - Lunch Ticket
- "in this universe, Blk Women are the moon", "words of affirmation" - Wusgood Mag
- "all in a days work", "will they check for us / after death?" - Puerto del Sol Black Voices Series
- "Fantasy, Reality, and What Is Needed: Debunking Fantasy and Centering Truth in Black Women College Students' Experience" - Celebrating Twenty Years of Black Girlhood: The Lauryn Hill Reader
- "do you see it?" - A Garden of Black Joy: Global Poetry from the Edges of Liberation and Living
- "American Double Toasted Banana Nut Bread" - Pan African Spaces: Essays on Black Transnationalism
- "The Power and Potential of Culturally Engaging Approaches in Student Affairs Graduate Programs" - About Campus

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Barclay Center; The New Amsterdam Theater; The World Famous Apollo Theater; The United Nations; Skirball Center for the Performing Arts; ACPA College Students Educators International Convention; NASPA's Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference; The National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education; Nuyorican Poets Cafe; Bowery Poetry Club; Poetic License Festival; Women's Center Stage Theater Festival; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.; St. John's University; St. Francis College; Monroe College; Indiana University Bloomington; Brown University; Wentworth Institute of Technology and Elsewhere

WHAT THEY SAY

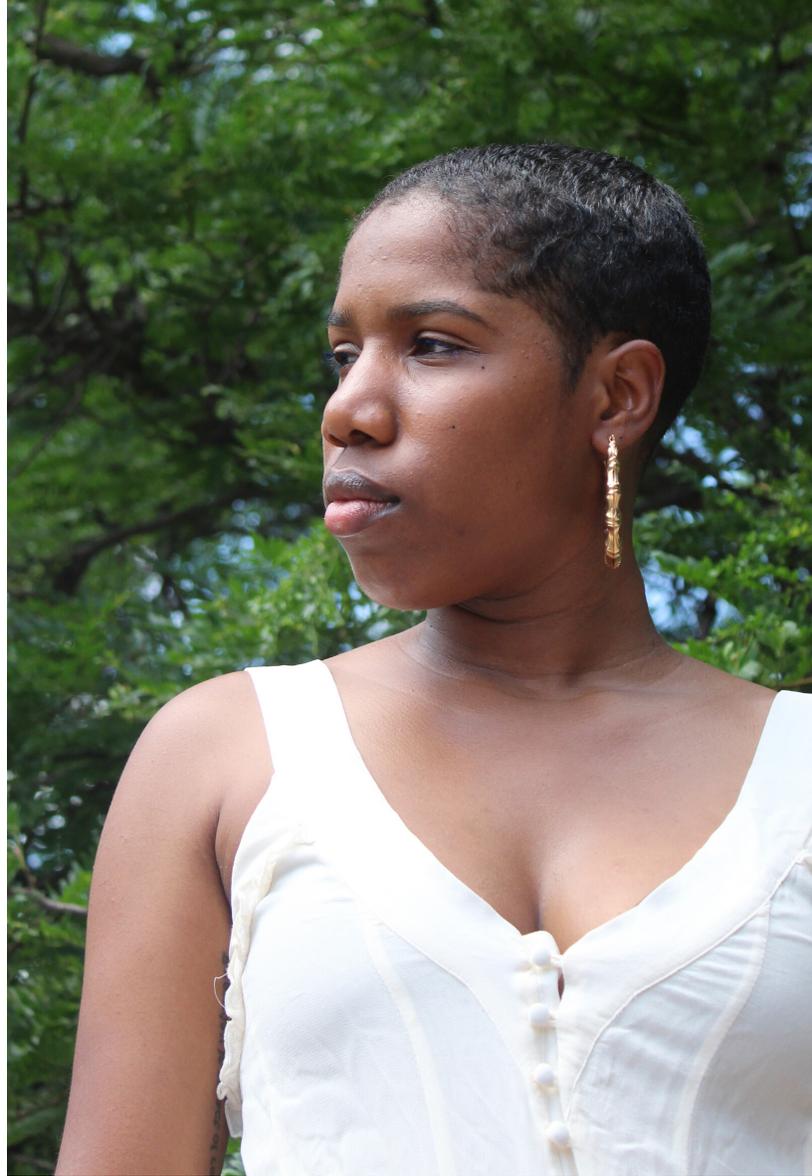
"Maurisa Li-A-Ping's artistry possesses both a keen eye and an open heart. Through her writing, she recovers the erasures of culture, history, and identity, but let's make no mistake--it is done with a candor that does not estrange itself from joy and purpose. This is Li-A-Ping's mighty work--a steadfast world-making that simultaneously soothes and challenges. The wise among us will praise the glorious tapestry her skillful hands create from any material that life sets before her."

-Yalie Kamara, author of Brief Biography of My Name and When The Living Sing.

Maurisa Li-A-Ping is an extraordinary writer and performer. Li-A-Ping is her own gravitational force; her poems and presence pull all parts of you in, and they lift you up as if you are in midair. An undeniable talent, Mauria is one of the warmest and humblest professionals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Her work resonates and affirms. She is the brightest star, and audiences are lucky to be in her orbit.

-Charlotte Abotsi, Writer & Director of Providence Poetry Slam

"Maurisa Li-A-Ping was an absolute joy to work with! It was important for Maurisa to ensure that she'd be meeting the needs of my students and was very communicative throughout the brainstorming process of my specialized workshop. At the beginning of the workshop,



Maurisa prioritized creating a welcoming space for the participants by using music, visual arts, and a fun icebreaker. Throughout the workshop, Maurisa made each student feel valued and supported as they engaged in her presentation and frequently checked-in to help students process further in order to truly connect with the materials. I highly recommend Maurisa for an interactive workshop experience and look forward to inviting her back to engage with more students at the University of Memphis!"

-Cheree Copeland Terrell, Coordinator at The University of Memphis

SAMPLE WORKSHOPS

Finding Our Light

*"I found god in myself
and i loved her
i loved her fiercely" - Ntozake Shane*

Many of us walk through the world holding the belief that we are undeserving and unlovable. Through critical reflection, this workshop will begin to help participants develop a consciousness of shame and self-hate. We will then use poetry to counter false narratives and honor ourselves from the inside out. This empowerment workshop is for participants looking to take up space by activating radical self-love as a form of leadership, empowerment, and healing.

Rituals for Joy

*"Come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed." - Lucille Clifton*

Taking care of ourselves can be extremely challenging during difficult times. This workshop will explore joy as a practice for care and sustainability. Joy does not exist in the binary of sadness or happiness but embodies them both. Joy is choosing to see the light in the midst of darkness and peace. In this workshop, we will identify red flags for burn-out and exchange practices of joy that center desire, healing, and holistic wellness.



MORE SAMPLE WORKSHOPS

What Grief Has Taught Me

"Feel what you must feel about today. Anger, grief, angst, fear, all of these are valid and appropriate...there is no "but" after that. You will know what to do. The grief will tell you." - Bettina Judd

During the year 2020, it feels like we are constantly surrounded by grief. Whether it be from the coronavirus pandemic, the uprising for Black Lives Matter, environmental disasters and so much more. The loss of 2020 can feel suffocating, but art gives us space to breathe. Grief not only reminds us of what we once had but also teaches us about ourselves and informs how we want to live moving forward. This healing workshop is for participants looking to name their grief and repurpose that energy into critical reflection and empowerment.

Radical Truth-Telling

"Poetry is a political act because it involves telling the truth." - June Jordan

Various historical events have been and continue to be inaccurately documented and/or explicitly erased. As activists, it is our duty to bring light to the truth. This activism workshop will reclaim erasure as a truth-telling tool to counter-narratives that have been imposed upon folks at the margins. This space is for participants looking to use poetry to actualize radical truth-telling as a form of resistance and activism.



MAURISA LI-A-PING

Award-Winning Published Poet & Renowned Performer

Book Maurisa for a tailored virtual interactive workshop, live poetry performance, engaging training, and more.

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