



inspiring literature: writers, events and tours
www.renaissanceone.co.uk

Bio

renaissance one

renaissance one is a literature company that champions, produces and curates the full range of literature – from poetry and prose, to satire and spoken word. Established in 1999, we remain a unique company in terms of our independent creative business model, our high level of advocacy for writers, our artistic, social and economic commitment to diversity, and our championing of a wide palette of writing and voices.

Over the years we have nurtured and supported new commissions, had a keen eye for new talent, and have sought artistic opportunities, income streams and development for writers. Our passion for curating enables us to be artistic, enterprising and to respond resonantly to society and culture.

We collaborate actively with writers, venues and practitioners in regions around England, working with both established and up-and-coming writers and practitioners to provide tailored services that are resonant, enterprising and respond creatively to society, politics and culture. We have created literature with the **Southbank Centre**, **Chris Ofili**, **British Council** and **Miami Book Festival**, shaped tours for novelist **Caryl Phillips**, poet-novelist **Bernardine Evaristo**, journalist **Gary Younge** and writer and satirist **Sophie Woolley** and developed participation activities on the theme of 'finding your own voice' with poet **Adisa**. www.renaissanceone.co.uk

What they say...

'...represents some of the most brilliant, culture-wise, history-wise, world-wise, word-wise, word-dancing, word-romancing writers and performers working in Britain and the world today.' *Poetry Can*

'renaissance one are particularly adept at choosing people who they sense will work well with the children here. Both the events and the residencies added some vivid and memorable features to school life. I hope this link continues for a long time!' *Live Poets Society, Uppingham School*

'I knew little of renaissance one before my course, but since then I've been singing your praises and will continue to do so. I believe you are doing essential work in bringing together, and putting forth, writers and performers who have important things to say and eloquent means of saying them. I believe there is a wealth of further potential for renaissance one (and Arvon) in the bringing together of prose writers and poets, performers and page-jockeys, and fiction and non-fiction writers.' *Greg Klerx, writer on renaissance one's Arvon residency*

'renaissance one are fantastic to work with. Many of their writers tour overseas for the British Council, they always provide us with excellent advice and information.' *British Council (Sarah Hemmings)*

'... a dream organisation to work with - great authors, efficient organisation and lovely people' *Barbican Library (John Lake)*

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renaissance one bio (contd.)

What they say...

Reviews of spoken word show 'Modern love' (Queen Elizabeth Hall), 2001

'Is love dead? Eight of England's most innovative poets didn't think so. And after two hours of creatively demonstrating this through spoken-word aided by hip-hop beats and a jazz-influence band, the modern love tour brought something to London that's been long overdue... love. As the performers collectively took a bow, they reaffirmed love is far from dead – it's only getting started.' *Review of the Week, The Voice (2002)*

'I enjoyed modern love because it was great to see artists I consider as my peers taking the art form to the next level at a packed out QEH; I loved modern love'
Jonzi D (artist & performer)

'modern love'? ..some of the most exciting minds and mouths in the spoken word scene today. Minds and mouths that intrepidly explore what love means to them in these most easily distracted of times. From Malika Booker's whirring and purring to the maniacal crescendo of Roger Robinson's internal monologue, the styles on show are as many as the opinions expressed. All this underpinned by the exquisitely solid foundation of James Yarde's band. Essential.' *Hip Hop Connection*

Reviews of KIN and Off Centre at the Barbican 2004 and 2005

"I thought setting the stories to music was a fantastic idea as it adds a more emotive and dramatic quality to the readings." *Vogue*

"a good balance of deeper, more serious material and stories with a lighter tone."
Channel 4

'Fantastic. (They are) slick and in touch, especially for young people. It was good to see such a diverse audience in the Barbican.' *Barbican Education*

"I was impressed by the mix of performers. These events are a great way for people to find out about new writers. I did." *Undercover magazine*

'When my debut novel, *Brixton Rock*, was published in 1999, opportunities to publicise and market my first novel were limited. renaissance one invited me to appear in a number of their events and were committed to helping writers and poets they felt deserved more of a public standing. In those first tentative appearances for renaissance one, I learned how to perform readings and other aspects of an event. In 2005 renaissance one helped me launch my fifth title, 'Island Songs'. With their vast contacts, they managed to get funding for the event at the High Commission of Jamaica and they hosted a launch for *Island Songs* that hasn't been matched in quality and organisation for any other launch I had. It is my pleasure to recommend renaissance one for any publishing initiative or event involved with the written or the spoken word.'
Alex Wheatle, novelist

Writers and musicians we have worked with include: Ali Smith, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Michael Horovitz, Mike Ladd, Dana Bryant, Amiri Baraka, Mutabaruka, Jackie Kay, Bernardine Evaristo, Kwame Dawes, Beverley Naidoo, Patience Agbabi, Paul Beatty, Ty, Lydia Towsey, Gary Younge, Sia Figiel, Danzy Senna, Jean 'Binta' Breeze, Colin Channer, Michael Brome, Byron Wallen, Adisa, Zadie Smith, Sophie Woolley, Mellow Baku, Rob Gallagher, Jacob Sam-La Rose, Choman Hardie, Imani Uzuri, Dorothea Smartt, Charlie Dark, Anthony Joseph, Psykhomantus and more

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