

EMANUEL XAVIER

"Emanuel's poetic tones inform the listener of the struggles one takes when attempting to create beauty out of decades of decay. It is obvious he has studied past voices and thus has been able to craft a unique sense of phrasing which is a synthesis of masterful wordplay and a deep sense of musicality."

-REG E. GAINES, *BRING IN DA NOISE, BRING IN DA FUNK*

In 1996, Emanuel Xavier took the New York City spoken word scene by storm, quickly becoming one of the most significant voices to emerge from the neo-Nuyorican poetry movement. Following in the tradition of writers/performers like Miguel Piñero, Xavier captivated audiences with a fresh and poignant brand of art that celebrated sexuality, Latino heritage, and the often brutal streets of New York.

A painful past of sexual abuse at the hands of an older cousin, rejection by a devoutly religious mother, homelessness, and a life of prostitution and drug-dealing, are among some of the experiences that served as inspiration for the vibrant and emotionally raw poems for which Xavier became famous.

Pier Queen, released in 1997, was Emanuel's debut anthology, which included many of the poems that earned him the Nuyorican Poet's Cafe Grand Slam Championship.

In 1998, he founded The House of Xavier, a collective of poets, and created the annual Glam Slam which fuses the excitement of the ballroom scene with the energy of the spoken word movement.

In 1999, Xavier released the semi-autobiographical novel *Christlike*, which garnered a Lambda Literary Award nomination. A year later, these achievements prompted *PAPER* magazine to choose Emanuel Xavier as one of its "50 Most Beautiful People."

In 2002, six years after he first graced the stages of smoky cafes and independent theaters that made up New York's underground poetry scene, Suspect Thoughts Press released his second collection of work, *Americano*. With *Americano*, the self-proclaimed *Pier Queen* grew up. With thirty-five new poems, Emanuel Xavier considered what it means to be American- but Latino; Latino- but gay; Nuyorican- but Ecuadorian; revolutionary- but not an activist. In essence, it was the next chapter in the life of a native son surviving the contradictions of his homeland.

In 2005, he edited *Bullets & Butterflies: queer spoken word poetry featuring the likes of Regie Cabico, Alix Olson, Daphne Gottlieb, and Staceyann Chin*.

Emanuel Xavier's publications have also appeared in *Drumvoices Revue*, *Genre*, *Urban Latino Magazine*, *James White Review*, *Long Shot*, *Men on Men 7*, *Blood & Tears*, *Besame Mucho*, *Virgins*, *Guerrillas & Locas*, *Of The Flesh*, *The Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name*, *Coloring Book: An Eclectic Anthology of Fiction and Poetry* and *Bad Boys*.

Emanuel Xavier has performed as a spoken word artist throughout the country at venues such as: Austin's *Resistencia Bookstore* and *Tillery Street Theatre*, San Francisco's *Yerba Buena Center for the Arts*; New Orleans's *Le Petit Theatre*; Chicago's *DePaul University* and the *University of Chicago*; *Brown University*; *Hartford Public Library*; *University of Massachusetts*; New York's *Lincoln Center*, *Riker's Island Prison*, *Central Park Summerstage*, *Washington Square Park*, *The American Crafts Museum*, *Barnes & Noble*, *Queensborough Public Library*, *Dixon Place*, *Columbia University*, *St. Mark's Poetry Project*, *Irving Plaza*, *The Henry Miller Theater*, *Bar 13 Lounge*, *The Blue Ox Bar*, *Joe's Pub*, *Aaron Davis Hall*, *Bowery Poetry Club* and *Nuyorican Poets Cafe*, where he became a two-time Grand Slam winner.

He has also appeared on PBS's *In The Life* and *Russell Simmons presents Def Poetry* on HBO (Seasons 3 & 5). He will also be featured in the forthcoming *Wolfgang Busch* documentary about the ballroom community, *How Do I Look?* and *Maurice Jamal's* independent feature film, *The Ski Trip*. The spoken word CD, *5 Past 13- a little bit LOUDER: Volume 1*, features a live performance of his poem, "*Americano*."

He has produced several spoken word events in New York City such as: *OUTSPOKEN*, the *Realness & Rhythms* monthly series at *A Different Light Bookstore*, the *House of Xavier's* annual *Glam Slam* competition and the *Words To Comfort* benefit which brought together poet laureates, spoken word artists and celebrities such as *Lou Reed* and *Claire Danes* to raise money for the *World Trade Center Relief Fund*. He has also hosted the *Lambda Literary Awards*, *Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors* and an episode of PBS's *In The Life*.

Emanuel Xavier is recipient of the *Marsha A. Gomez Cultural Heritage Award* for his contributions to gay and Latino culture and received a *City Council Citation* for his contributions to the gay and lesbian community of New York City.

Management:
Leonardo Toro
917-698-9888
leo@leotoro.com