

**URBINTEL, WHAT?**

**URBINTEL, WHO?**

Born to the hip-hop community, and steeped in spoken word poetry, **Urbintel** brings entertaining, educational, and empowering artistic content to audiences around the world.

From poetry cafes and college auditoriums, to off-Broadway theatres and screens of all sizes, **Urbintel** produces the best in poetry, street theatre, television and film.

HerStory chronicles four female poets-by-night struggling with vanity, hardship and cultural confusion. From girlhood to the real world, this multicultural cast takes you on their journey through self discovery. Tahani is mourning the loss of a close friend while coming to terms with her place in the world. Suzen always wanted to fall in love, but now that she's married it's not what she expected. Seary is trying to overcome her uptight personality, while finding a poetic voice. Helena runs a food pantry, masking her concern and insecurity with a constant mix of wit and humor. Amid the conflict of their private lives, the performers join together each night to share friendship and lyrical verse at HerStory Poets' Cafe.

# HerStory





**SUZEN JENNE BARAKA** IS AN AWARD-WINNING POET, WRITER AND ACTOR WHO BEGAN HER CAREER ON THE OPEN MIC STAGES OF NEW YORK'S NUYORICAN POETS CAFÉ AND MAPLEWOOD'S SERENGETI PLAINS. SUZEN APPEARED IN THE MY NAME IS BARACK OBAMA TELEVISED AD IN TIMES SQUARE, AS WELL AS THE SHORT FILM NO BOUNDARIES (2008). AS AN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJ PAC), SUZEN PROVIDES UNDERSERVED KIDS ACCESS TO POETRY AND PERFORMANCE, AND CREATES CURRICULUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE NEW JERSEY LAW AND EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT PROJECT. CURRENTLY, SUZEN IS TOURING NATIONALLY IN URBINTEL PRODUCTIONS' HERSTORY, WHILE ATTENDING CORDOZO LAW SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY.



**TAHANI SALAH** IS A DYNAMIC PERFORMER, POET AND ACTIVIST FROM BROOKLYN. SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE 2007 NUYORICAN NATIONAL SLAM TEAM AND A GRADUATE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. SHE HAS A WIDE VARIETY OF WORK EXPERIENCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS TO NON-PROFITS LIKE URBAN WORD NYC, FAMILY INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM AND THE AAFSC. TAHANI HAS BEEN WITH URBAN WORD NYC FOR THE LAST 8 YEARS. SHE IS NOW THE YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR AND HAS A PLACE ON THE URBAN WORD YOUTH BOARD (WORD WIDE) TAHANI IS A 2006 URBAN WORD NYC SLAM TEAM MEMBER. TAHANI HAS PERFORMED ON A NUMBER OF WORLD FAMOUS STAGES FROM THE APOLLO THEATERS IN NYC TO UNIVERSITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA. AS A PALESTINIAN-AMERICAN MUSLIM WOMAN, TAHANI IS COMMITTED TO BRINGING LIGHT AND SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS FACED BY PEOPLE FROM COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES WHOSE VOICES ARE SILENCED. SHE'S APPEARED ON THE HBO SERIES DEF POETRY JAM.

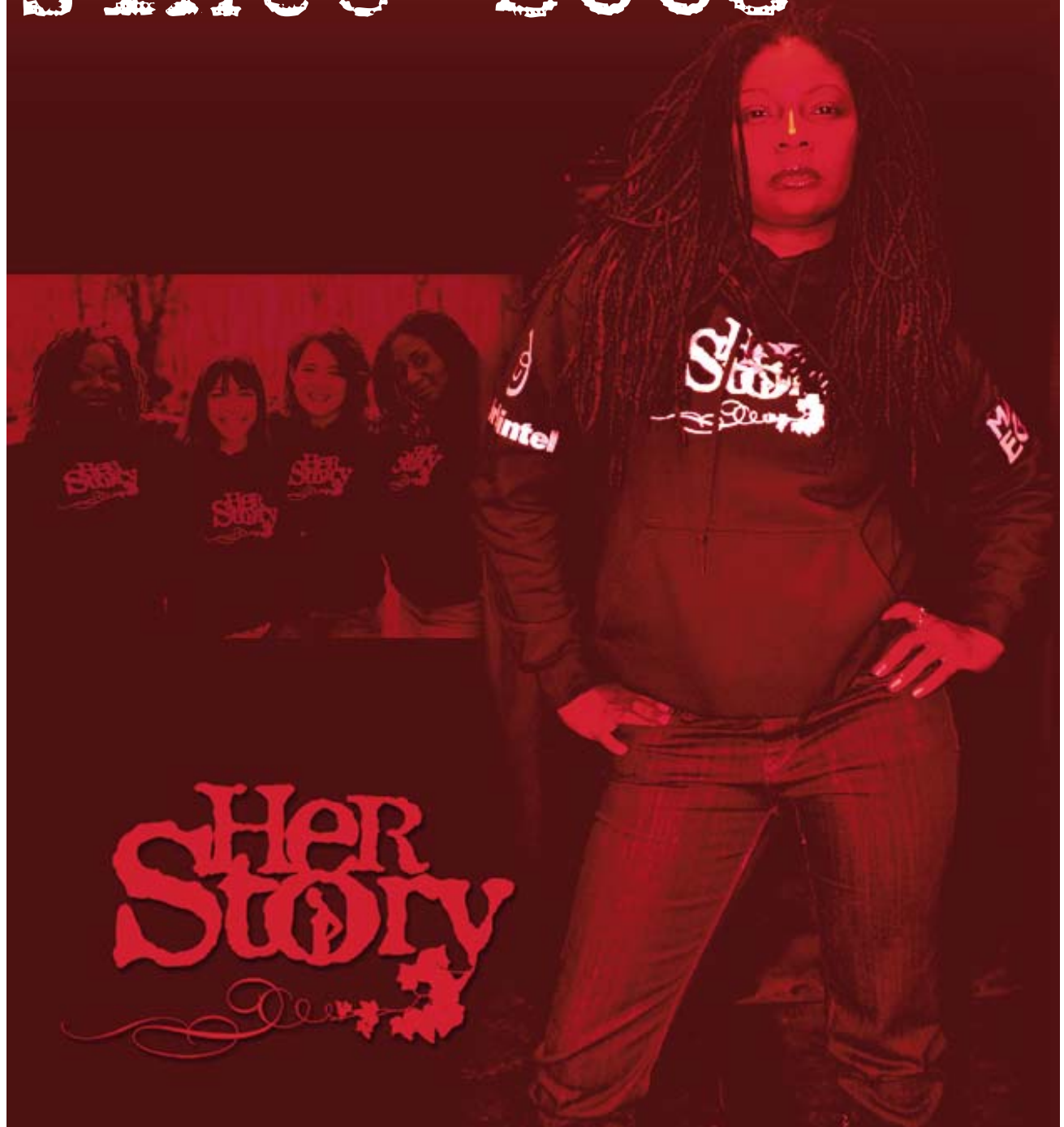


**J. F. SEARY** IS AN EDUCATOR, POET AND ACTOR LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY. HER TEN YEAR POETRY CAREER HAS BROUGHT HER THE PRESTIGIOUS NUYORICAN POETS CAFÉ, THE BOWERY POETRY CLUB, CEMÍ UNDERGROUND, 5C CULTURAL CENTER, BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY STONY BROOK AND OTHER VENUES. SHE IS CURRENTLY CAST IN URBINTEL INC.'S HERSTORY.



**HELENA D. LEWIS** WROTE AND STARS IN HER ONE-PERSON SHOW "CALL ME CRAZY: DIARY OF A MAD SOCIAL WORKER." SHE HAS APPEARED ON THE PEABODY AWARD-WINNING SERIES "RUSSELL SIMMONS PRESENTS DEF POETRY" ON HBO, AS WELL AS PERFORMING AT UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. HELENA ALSO CO-HOSTS THE MIDNIGHT POETRY JAMS AND THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATER FESTIVAL IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA.

in production  
since 2005



HER  
STORY  
*Deer*

# THE MALE EGO

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Coming from a world where men are synonymous to macho, and pink should rarely be worn, it is hard to believe that a grown man can cry-that giants can gently weep-that the safety of men can be found in the Male Ego. When five giants engage behind six strings and harmony, the result is monumental.

in production  
since 2006



THE  
**MALE**  
**EGO**  
Its A Man's World

# THE MALE EGO

The Freudian topic of male ego is probably the single most used excuse to explain the chauvinism of men. On movies, they are warriors, defenders, and champion lovers. In the news they are oppressors, abusers, and attackers. In break rooms they are cheaters and liars, a mean boss, or a run away father. It goes without surprise then that 5 dynamic men would decide to tell a different story; a story that challenges everything thought to be known



about men, to expose the man through his male ego. Chief, Jamaal St. John, Anthony Morales, Akil Dasan, and Buddha Love Jones do just that by creating a synergy of music and narrative to pioneer a remarkable translation of the trials and tribulations of manhood. Backed by Akil, (the human beat box) and his acoustic guitar, these men explore the myths and preconceived notions about growing to become a man in America. .



**AKIL DASAN** studied music and creative writing at Columbia University and has performed everywhere from New York City to London, including tapings for MTV and BET. He's been featured in magazines such as Marie Claire, worked with top producers like Mark Ronson, and shared the stage with major acts including Blackalicious, The Roots and Black Eyed Peas. You could find Akil Dasan walking the streets of Morningside Heights, with a guitar slung over his shoulder, face hidden by a hoody. Akil is a reminder of Mississippi bluesmen like Robert Johnson, wandering the south with a guitar and an arsenal of stories. An athletic six foot slice of raw talent, Akil embodies virtually every significant musical movement from the early 1920's until now.

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**BUDDHA LUV JONZ**, Adrian Michael Sayaphet, better known as Buddha Luv Jonz was born and raised in Bridgeport, CT. Ethnic background is Laotian, government classification is Asian. As an Asian-American, Buddha Luv Jonz ultimately crossover every color line in order to diversify your mind while challenging Asian stereotypes in today's society. Acknowledging his Asian culture lost in American History books, he delivers the truth behind the issues of racism and prejudice. Very active in his community, he also conducts creative writing/self-fulfillment workshops, deejays at local clubs, and organizes poetry open-mics. He delivers cultural metaphoric words onto the canvas of your mind while massaging your eardrums with a touch of yellow soul that blends with the essence of hip-hop, psychedelic funk, and a slice of reality to fulfill your thoughts.

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**ANTHONY MORALES**, received his Master's Degree in English Education from Columbia University's Teachers' College. He has shared the stage with talented artists such as Martin Espada, Gayle Danley, Kenneth Koch, Willie Perdomo, and has opened for Hip-hop acts like Dilated Peoples. In 2000, Mr. Morales received the Van Renselaar Poetry Prize from the Columbia English Department while editor of Roots and Culture Magazine. In 2001, he was named Fresh Poet by the Nuyorican Poets' Café, a title that stands until today. In January 2002, he appeared on National Public Radio as a part of a panel discussion on the film, "Pinero" and was featured in the New York Times article entitled, "The Poetry of the Nuyorican Experience" (Jan 2, 2002). In the same year, Anthony let the world know where he is from on HBO's Def Poetry by performing "Story Avenue" (2nd Season). In 2003, he was awarded the Bronx Writers' Center's Van Lier Literary Fellowship. His work has been featured in BLU Magazine (Puerto Rico Libre), MiGente.com and the 10th annual Muevete Boricua Youth Conference CD.

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**JAMAAL ST. JOHN** has been imitated but will never be duplicated....there is only one Jamaal St. John. Jamaal's career started at the famed Nuyorican Poets Café when he was 18 years old. Through many poetic slams, Jamaal paid his dues to earn the opportunity to slam 3X for the Grand Slam Finals at the Nuyorican (1996, 1997, 2000). In 2000, Jamaal won the opportunity to slam in Nationals under the Nuyorican to eventually take 3rd in the nation. Jamaal has continued performing spoken word throughout the United States and Canada. Recently, Jamaal won the coveted Toronto International Poetry Slam in Toronto, Canada in September 2004. Jamaal has become a regular spoken word artist to perform at Yale University's MLK Invitational Slam at the Peabody Museum in New Haven, Connecticut that occurs every January. Jamaal has performed in the Off-Broadway Production of "Snippets: Which Way Is to Broadway" with Urbintel, Inc. Lastly, Jamaal has taped for HBO Def Poetry Jam.

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**MICHAEL "CHIEF" PETERSON** merges social consciousness with mellow poetic verses. Born and raised in New Britain, CT, he declares himself a man dedicated to his family and focused on helping our youth. A recent graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Elementary Education and Child Psychology, he is no stranger to the injustice he speaks out about. He is currently a Dean of Students at his alma mater, New Britain High School, and a part-time Child Development Specialist at Kingberg Family Center. Chief's accomplishments include: 2005 Nuyorican Grand Slam Semi-Finalist, 2005 University of Connecticut Grand Slam Champion, Two-time Enchanted Garden (Hartford, CT) Grand Slam Champion, and St. Joseph's College "Love Jones" Slam Champion. His dedication to excelling in poetry has placed him in collaboration with some of today's finest poets; allowing him to be noticed by and become a member of the Urbintel Inc. Family. He now works as a current writer, actor, poet, and assistant director for the Urbintel Production the Male Ego. He also serves as the A.D. for the Urbintel production HerStory.

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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