



SYNNIKA LOFTON AND GREGORY LEE

NU WORLD GRIOTS

Poet, Synnika Lofton, and percussionist, Gregory Lee, make up Nu World Griots. They are a performance poetry ensemble that unites poetry, live drums, education, and poetry slam to create a unique and interactive poetry experience. Lofton uses poetry to explore social justice, human rights, race, and culture, while Lee provides light music with percussion instruments. The group has performed in classrooms, Memory centers, coffee shops, libraries, nightclubs, and on television programs.



Synnika Alekzander-Chizoba Lofton is a poet, educator, and a founding member of the indie hip-hop group Black Lion Insurgents. He is originally from Mississippi, but he grew up in Southern California. Lofton is the author of twelve collections of poetry, three novels, and one work of nonfiction. He has recorded more than one-hundred and seventy-five singles, EPs, and albums of spoken word poetry. He received his BA and MFA from Goddard College. He is a Literature instructor at Chesapeake Bay Academy and an English Composition instructor at Norfolk State University.



Greg Lee is a native of Long Island, New York. His passion for percussion was birthed in the early seventies, when he was exposed to his father's Latin-Jazz, Afro-Cuban, and Brazilian records. He arrived in Hampton Roads, Virginia in 1996, studied film at Regent University, and started playing drums for a praise team in Chesapeake, VA. While at Regent University, he met a choreographer that led him to playing for dance classes at Old Dominion University and The Governor's School for the Arts. He is a versatile percussionist and a student of his craft.