

# Jay Bernard

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**Makers Academy, coding and technology school, August cohort, 2013**  
**University of Oxford, English Literature and Language, BA, 2008 - 2011**  
**RSA Fellow**



## **Film Programmer, BFI Flare, 2015 – Present**

I am one of five programmers who curate this long-standing LGBTQ festival. Co-curated *Year Dot* in 2016, the first gender and technology symposium and exhibition to be held during BFI Flare. Speakers included Qazi Rahman, Sophie Mayer and Rosie Wilby.

## **Co-editor, Dysphoria Zine, 2016 – Present**

A DIY publication on mental health for trans, queer and non-binary people. Edited the race/class respectability issue.

## **Rewind Fast Forward, Screening Co-ordinator, August 2016 – Present**

I am organising and supporting five national screenings of this Heritage Lottery Funded project, which aims to digitise the personal archive of Sandi Hughes, a black Lesbian who recorded her life 1975 - 2005.

## **Writer in residence at the George Padmore Institute, August – October 2016**

Three month residency working with the archive. Performed final pieces at the British Library, part of a re-living of the Black Radical Book Fairs, hosted by Linton Kwesi Johnson.

## **Columnist, DIVA Magazine, 2014 – 2016**

I wrote a regular monthly column for this popular lesbian magazine, focusing on politics, gender, non-binary issues and history.

## **Breaking Ground US Writers Tour, 2015 – 2016**

I was selected as one of ten black british writers to go on a tour of the East and West coasts of the US. I also presented several talks at Rutgers and UC Davis covering race, technology and social history.

## **100, Year of the Bus Artist in Residence, January – September 2015**

A collaborative residency with artist Yemisi Blake, commissioned by TFL and Art on the Underground. We created a three-site installation in which we wrapped various parts of the stations in 100 short one-line poems derived from the social history of transport in London. We also produced a mini digital archive: <http://art.tfl.gov.uk/projects/100/>

## **Digital Poet in Resident, CAMPUS, The Poetry School, August 2014**

I wrote about memory and memorialisation to the end of creating a simple text adventure. My concerns are: how to create visual poetry, paradoxes, the conflict between history and memory, and how memory is a product of the present.

## **Get off My Back Will You and Give Someone Else a Chance, ICA, May 2014**

Co-curated with Evan Ifekoya. This was the first in the ICA's new programme designed to merge their education and performance strands. We spearheaded this new format which culminated in a brand new filmart piece by the workshop participants, as well as performances by four queer poets.

**Helen Fraser Fellow at Hamish Hamilton (Penguin Random House), July – December 2014**

I worked as a junior editorial assistant alongside Anna Kelly and Simon Prosser. Duties included developing the ebook for Ali Smith's "How to be both", helping to develop a publicity campaign around Iain Sinclair's London Orbital, assisting outside requests for detailed publishing histories, and designing showcase pamphlets for the house.

**Cityread Young Writer in residence, Spread the Word / London Metropolitan Archives March, May 2013**

I worked at the archive for several weeks, producing a series of poems based on Visscher's panorama of London. I created five concertina pamphlets and performed the final work at Keats House.

**Workshop leader, associate and events consultant, Centred, April – July 2013**

I ran a community film-making workshop, mixed hearing and D/deaf. I helped research and develop their Summer event at the ecological centre in Mile End, London designed to investigate identity and the documentation of marginal groups, and worked on Winter Warmers, which included interviewing LGBTQ figures like Sarah Waters.

**Make and Do workshop leader, Camden Arts, November – December 2013**

I ran workshops alongside Kara Walker's first solo exhibition in the UK. Using themes from Walker's work, I worked with the education team and two other artists to develop a thirteen week programme aimed at very young children and their families.

**Wasafiri / Eastside Arts, Graphic Essay workshop leader, November – December 2013**

Four workshops with a sixth form group at Highams Park school. Part of Wasafiri magazine's 30th anniversary.

**Writing Fellow, National University of Singapore, September 2011 – October 2012**

Created films for the Substation (Singapore's last radical arts space), mentored writers for CERIPH, a literary arts journal, ran writing workshops as part of the University Scholars Programme. Exhibited as part of queer festival INDIGNATION alongside Elisha Lim, Tania De Rozario and others. Wrote and performed SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE in collaboration with Bani Haykal at the Old Parliament. Final outcome was my chapbook *English Breakfast* (2013).

**Official observer, Poetry Archive, 2011**

Acted as part of the Poetry Archive redesign, relayed information from community and made suggestions on how best to improve technology, appearance and interface of the archive website.

**Selected Publication**

Beacon of Hope (New Beacon Books, 2016)  
The Red and Yellow Nothing (Ink, Sweat and Tears 2016)  
English Breakfast, (Math Paper Press, 2013)  
TEN: The New Wave, (Bloodaxe, 2014)  
Your Sign is Cuckoo, Girl, (Tall Lighthouse, 2008)  
Flicker and Spark: A contemporary queer anthology, (Lowbrow Press, 2013)  
Out of Bounds – Black British writers and place (Bloodaxe, 2012)  
Salt Book of Younger Poets, (Salt, 2011)

**Awards**

Shortlisted, Ted Hughes Award for New Work, 2017  
Cafe Writers Pamphlet Competition, 2014; Poetry Book Society pamphlet choice, Summer 2008; Winner, Foyle Young Poets Award 2005; First place, London Respect Slam 2004