

Introducing

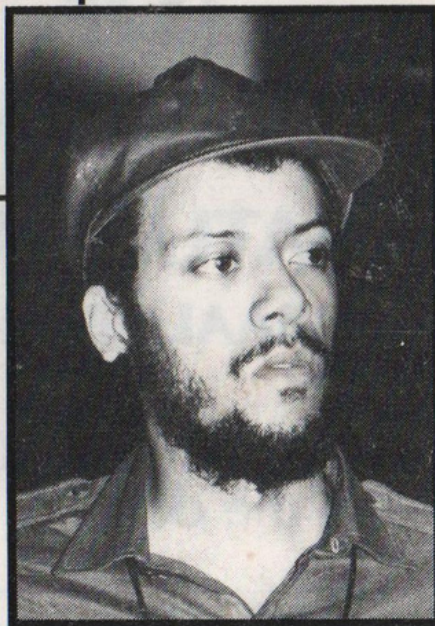
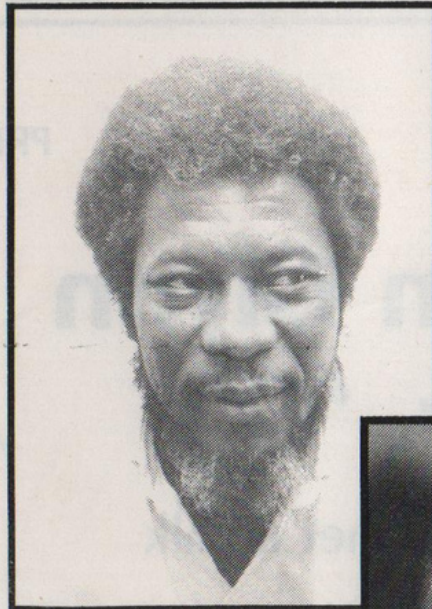
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# **OBAALA Poetry Theatre**

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A new venue for  
Black Oral Arts Expression

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**225 Seven Sisters Road London N4**  
**Tel: 01-263 8016 (Tube: Finsbury Park)**

# OBAALA

## Poetry Theatre

A new venue for Black Performance Poetry

PRESENTS

**Martin Glynn**  
**(Dr. 'G')**

The Ratchet a Talk

**Abdul Malik**  
**De Coteau**

AND

Radical Contemporary Poet

**SATURDAY 3RD MAY 1896 8.00PM**

**OBAALA Poetry Theatre 225 Seven Sisters Road London N4**

Tube: Finsbury Park (Victoria/Piccadilly/BR) 50 yds

**Admission: 2.00**  
**at the door**

Tickets Adults 1.50 in advance from:  
Children Free  
OBAALA Poetry Theatre (263 8016)  
Ring for details of Creche facilities.

The Black-Art Gallery (263 1918)

Financially assisted by  
**Greater London Arts Association**



CURRENTLY ON EXHIBITION AT THE BLACK-ART GALLERY

**"'andswort'"**

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY BY VANLEY BURKE  
OF HANDSWORTH AND ITS PEOPLE  
BOOK EARLY : LIMITED SEATING



**SATURDAY 3RD MAY 1986**

**MARTIN GLYNN — (Dr. 'G')**

MARTIN GLYNN does not refer to himself as a 'poet', but merely someone who uses words in various forms. These forms document and give oral expression to the experiences of AFRIKAN people at home and abroad.

Brother Glynn is a warrior in the battle 'gainst downpression. He uses the lyrical forms of today to chant the words of freedom. His quick-fire rootical stylii just mek you 'ave fe bubble, mek you 'ave fe rock to the home truths the man a chat.

Martin has delivered his 'word-forms' up and down the country, at nuff community venues. He has been on radio and TV not only in Britain, but also TV and radio stations in Boston USA. His latest book 'De Ratchet a Talk' was published by AKIRA Press in March 1985, this follows his two previous books; 'True Reflections' and 'Subtle Racist Top 10'.

**DELANO ABDUL MALIK De COTEAU**  
accompanied by  
**ANNISE HADEED Trinidadian Tenor Pan Player**

A figure in the sixties Black Power upheavals in Trinidad. His poetry reflects the contemporary cultural and political pulse of both Trinidad, where he has been living for the past twenty years and Grenada, where he was born.

Much of his work incorporates the rythms of Shango, (Yoruba deity associated with lighting whose festivals and ceremonies are still alive in the Caribbean), steel drums and calypso. A powerful and moving performer, Abdul Malik has featured in several public performances in Trinidad.

His two books are 'Black Up' (1972) and 'Revo' (1982). He is also regarded as a music composer, and has recorded an album, 'More Power', featuring some of his poetry set to music. Abdul Malik's rendition of two recent poems on Grenada lent a touch of poignancy to last year's Channel 4 documentary, 'Caribbean in Crisis'.

## OBAALA POETRY THEATRE

During the last 5 years we have seen the **re-emergence** and continued growth of our oral expression, spearheaded by names such as Michael Smith, Oku Onuora, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Mutaburuka, and Jean Binta Breeze. All of these artists are of Afrikan descent and hail from the Caribbean.

To many in England, Linton Kwesi Johnson or LKJ, as he is commonly referred to, is probably the most well known, both for his publications and a number of recordings he has made of his poetry accompanied by music. It was in fact he who first coined the phrase '**dub poetry**' to describe the work of Oku Onuora and himself.

The success of these artists and the potency of their message and material was (and still is) **inspirational**, and allowed many others to recognize the potential of the oral traditions as a valid and effective means of communicating ideas, and raising and exploring issues that are relevant to their communities. Importantly, much of LKJ's work sought to document significant events in the Black calendar, from a particular Black standpoint. But furthermore, these new voices also had the ability to **tear down** inaccurate and inappropriate definitions of ourselves created by others, and more importantly - the ability to **build, shape and model** our own definitions as suits and benefits us.

The Poetry Theatre will provide space for writers more familiar to the community and for those who are less well known. The primary aim is **communication** and the continued development of the oral tradition, in the same way that other areas of Black creativity and expression are striding forward today.

We intend, that the OBAALA Poetry Theatre will be **innovative** in it's presentations and that audiences will be entertained, inspired, educated and emotionally moved by the skill, dynamism, relevance and honesty of those cultural communicators who perform at the venue. **Welcome.**

NO ONE WAY BUSINESS - AUDIENCE MUST PLAY AN ACTIVE PART 'GIVE AN RECEIVE'

## FORTHCOMING ARTISTS

Frederick Williams, Pepsi Poet, Last Poets, Grace Nicholls, Anum Iyapo, Jayne Cortez, African Dawn, John Agard, Valerie Bloom, Benjamin Zephaniah, Levi Tafari, Munirah, Shakka Dedi & Afrikan Hartbeet Ensemble, Oku Onuora, Maud Salter, Pitika Ntuli, Roi Kwabene, Michael Arch Angel, Martin Glynn, Amyrl Johnson, Markus Jahn, Iyamide Hazeley, David Daybdean, Frederick D'Augier, Emmanuel Jegede, Junior Douglas, Andrew Campbell, Imruh Caesar, Turbo Black Arts, Marsha Prescod, Brother Resistance, Jahwiattica Blacksheep, Louis Bennett ..... and many others.

## OBAALA

OBAALA, Organisation for Black Arts Advancement & Leisure Activities, was founded in 1981 to assist in the dynamic development, presentation and documentation of Afrikan Arts in Britain. (For more details - write to: 225 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 2DA)

## OBAALA POETRY THEATRE

|               |                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Admission:    | 1.50 Members & Unwaged                                             |
| At Door:      | 2.00 Non-Members                                                   |
| Membership:   | 6.00 ( 6 months/ Plus Mailing )<br>10.00 (12 months/Plus Mailing ) |
| Mailing List: | 2.00 (12 months/All events)                                        |

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

|                                                                                                                |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NAME:                                                                                                          | .....                   |
| ADDRESS:                                                                                                       | .....<br>.....<br>..... |
| DATE:                                                                                                          | .....                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (6 months) <input type="checkbox"/> (12 months) Mailing List <input type="checkbox"/> |                         |
| Cheques/P.O. payable to: OBAALA Poetry Theatre                                                                 |                         |