

Working Playground

Marcus Wright – Student, Poet, Recording Artist, Activist, NDHS Class of '07

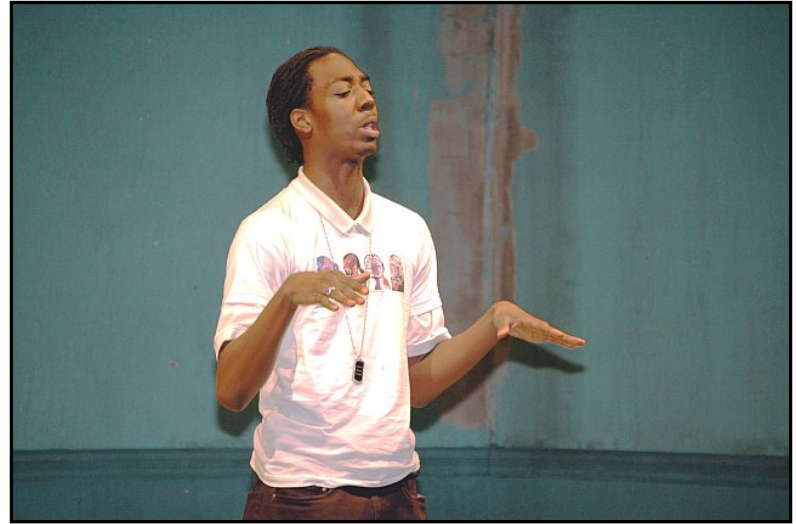
Marcus is a member of the inaugural graduating class of New Design High School, a new small school on the Lower East Side designed and co-founded by Working Playground in 2003.

Why I Write

By Marcus Wright

*I came out slow.
I didn't fight. They had to break the sack.
Now everyone's trying to unlock the hatch.
Trying to figure out what's wrong with me, why I act
the way I do.
Why I just don't follow the rules.
Always trying to compare me to the other 2.
I'm not like them. I'm so different, so unique.
I'm here to finish the legacy.
I'm here to write a new path.
I write because I want to make the world my stage.
I write because I've been given the power to write a
poem so hot that it could burn the page.
I write to make my voice heard.
I write because my fingers bleed ink.
I write because one night I was infected with a
poison called poetry - ever since then it has taken
over me.
I write because I want to send a message to make
the world see a vision unlike their own.*

*I write to guide confused souls back to their lost homes.
I write to be compared to the best.
I write because with words flowing out of my heart,
I can pump up my chest.
I write to put your thoughts on hold.
I write to recite my words unsaid, to make sure that the
words left by the dead don't go on unsaid.
I write because I want to turn pages into scriptures and
scriptures into scrolls.
I write to make luminous light so bright, even God is
forced
to blink.
I write to be remembered,
To be the epitome of excellence,
To be the Picasso of words,
To be the Babe Ruth of poetry,
I write so you all could understand me.
I write to make words and you all part of my poetic
family.*



Marcus Wright, Farewell Performance at Working Playground's
Spring 2007 Urban Arts Festival

Interview with Marcus, July 2007

How has arts integration shaped your learning experience at New Design High School?

To me, having the ability to have art as the foundation of all major subjects has made my learning experience at NDHS a lot more memorable. When I look back and think about all the work I've accomplished, I won't just be looking at test scores and grades, I'll be able to look back and see hard work through arts integration. By being able to visualize my progress not only as a student but as an artist as well, helps me understand my growth, and what steps I need to take for the future.

What do you think the biggest challenge facing high school students in NYC public high schools is?

The biggest challenge is the nervousness of what to expect, and where students fall into place. I feel a lot of students become stuck in what they see on TV and fall victim to stereotypes, and in that mind set go to school with a bias attitude which very well may hinder their educational experience.

Name one stand out Working Playground memory.

My stand out working WP Memory would have to be the 24hr plays. This memory impacts my life because to me I think it was the moment where I decided that my life really is in my control, that I do have the ability to exceed expectations far greater than any can imagine. Being on the Broadway stage and delivering the poem the way I did showed me that no matter how big or how small the crowd is, my voice if and when I release it will always be heard, and I think that's what WP has given me, the knowledge to understand that fact.

What are your college plans?

My college plans are to attend Lincoln University in Pennsylvania this fall. My plan is to go there and make a huge impact, do things people have never done, and make it so that when you here the name Lincoln University, you'll understand who and what's representing it.

How do you envision art informing your life's direction?

My art is poetry. As of now, I have an album coming out using my art skill to spread my voice to the world. With that said, art will allow me to always be heard, no matter what my future holds.

www.workingplayground.org