

A YEAR OF CREATIVE WRITERS

PUBLIC EVENTS

CRAFT TALK

WED | APR 7

4:30 P.M.

*Poetry's Musical Bloodline:
A Sociohistorical Soundtrack*

ZOOM EVENT

POETRY READING

THURS | APR 8

7:00 P.M.

ZOOM EVENT

For Zoom details, visit
go.illinois.edu/jess

FREE AND OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

A limited number of signed
books will be available from
the Illini Union Bookstore.

Supported by the Presidential
Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of
the Arts and the Humanities.

Presented by the Humanities
Research Institute (HRI) and
the Creative Writing Program/
Department of English.

Co-sponsored by the Institute for
the Humanities (UIC), UIC Program
for Writers, UIS Creative Writing,
the Champaign Public Library, the
Urbana Free Library, Illinois Public
Media, the Illini Union Bookstore, and
the Beckman Institute for Advanced
Science & Technology.

go.illinois.edu/YOCW



Poet in Residence

TYEHIMBA JESS

Tyehimba Jess is the rare poet who bridges slam and academic poetry. His first collection, *leadbelly* (2005), an exploration of the blues musician Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter’s life, was chosen for the National Poetry Series by Brigit Pegeen Kelly, and was voted one of the top three poetry books of the year by *Black Issues Book Review*. A reviewer for *Publishers Weekly* noted that “the collection’s strength lies in its contradictory forms; from biography to lyric to hard-driving prose poem, boast to song, all are soaked in the rhythm and dialect of Southern blues and the demands of honoring one’s talent.” Jess’s second book *Olio* (2016) received the Pulitzer Prize. Born in Detroit, Jess earned his BA from the University of Chicago and his MFA from New York University.

His honors include a Pulitzer Prize, a Whiting Writers’ Award, a *Chicago Sun-Times* Poetry Award, and a Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Poetry Award. A former artist-in-residence with Cave Canem, Jess has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, and the Fine Arts Work Center at Provincetown, as well as a Lannan Writing Residency. Jess has taught at the Juilliard School, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and at the College of Staten Island in New York City.

During his residency, Tyehimba Jess will also be speaking at an **Inside Scoop lunch for undergraduates** at **noon on Wednesday, April 7** as part of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center’s **Food for the Soul** series.