

Thursday, March 19th, 2015.

Spoken Word Poetry Workshop

The Fiji National University in its continued commitment to the development of Arts has organised a two-day workshop on Spoken Word Poetry at its UniStudio Campus in Raiwai. The workshop which will be held today and tomorrow (Thursday 19th and Friday 20th) has been made possible through a partnership with the US Embassy. FNU is also committed towards creating awareness and has extended invitations to students from the University of the South Pacific and interested people outside of the academic institutions to participate.

The Spoken Word movement is a growing art form and one that young people are very interested in, Spoken word takes poetry off the page and bring performance to this literary art form, storytelling is a core pacific value that we have used as maps to our past and our generations. We have a strong belief that poetry comes easy to Pacific islanders and much like storytelling, Spoken Word is an art form that uses storytelling to bring life to words and to engage with audiences through performance.

Local Spoken Word artist Peter Sipeli and FNU Senior Projects Manager, along with other local poets is going to be assisting Molly Williams, lead trainer through the two workshops. Ms Williams has been involved in Spoken Word companies, Slams and Poetry Collectives across the US, including her avid engagement with Busboys and Poets in Washington, DC, Elevated Open Mic in San Diego, CA and the Viejas Casino Bi-Weekly Showcase in Alpine, CA. In 2010, Molly worked as a coach with the DC Youth Slam Team, a youth program in DC that uses spoken word poetry to teach and empower teens to speak up about issues of social justice. There, she was part of a team that provided training and a platform for talented district youth to develop their poetry and public speaking skills.

The workshops seeks to engage 100 young people who have shown keen interest to be part of the workshop, these are one day workshops that we are staging and through this workshop we are hosting a poetry slam next week Thursday to show case the work being developed at this workshop space.

Another component of the workshop is the bringing into the Spoken Word space, music students from the FNU School of Music to collaborate with poets or to use begin to poem in the form of song and music.

The project is supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and Arts of the Ministry of Education, Heritage of Arts.

Venue: FNU Raiwai, School of Creative Arts Campus, Film and TV Studio

Dates: 19th Thursday & Friday 20th

Time: 4pm – 8.30pm

For more information please contact; **Peter Sipeli** on 9992103 or **Theresa Koro** on 9987150.