

A portrait of a man with a goatee, wearing a light blue and white checkered button-down shirt and a blue and white striped bow tie. He is standing in front of a colorful background with large geometric shapes in shades of green, pink, and blue. The text 'DASAN AHANU' is overlaid on the image in large, bold, black and white letters.

# DASAN AHANU

EMCEE, PERFORMANCE ARTIST,  
WRITER, POET, PLAYWRIGHT,  
LECTURER, EDUCATOR



# **CHRIS MASSENBURG IS DASAN AHANU.**

**POET, EMCEE, WRITER,  
PLAYWRIGHT,  
PERFORMANCE  
ARTIST, LECTURER,  
EDUCATOR**

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# INTRODUCTION

Christopher Massenborg, better known as Dasan Ahanu, is a public speaker, community organizer, workshop facilitator, poet, spoken word artist, educator, songwriter, author, emcee, and loyal Hip Hop head born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In addition to performing, Dasan has hosted many poetry, jazz, Hip Hop, and cultural arts events across the state. He is one of the founders of Black Poetry Theatre (BPT) where he has been a writer, director, producer, and cast member for their productions. As an active participant in a poetry slam, Dasan has competed regionally and nationally as a founding member and coach of Durham, NC's own Bull City Slam Team. He is also the founder and coordinator of the Jambalaya Soul Slam, a monthly poetry slam series in Durham, NC.



# CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Dasan has developed poetry and spoken word programming for youth and adults and worked to grow the Triangle's arts community. In 2004 he was awarded an Indy Arts Award by Independent Weekly Magazine for his work in arts and activism. Then in 2015, he was awarded the honor again, the first time in the award's history that has happened.

Dasan has experience writing about Hip Hop as a contributor to a variety of independent publications and websites. He was also a contributor to the St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture published in 2018. Dasan was awarded a 2015-2016 Nasir Jones Fellowship with the Hip Hop Archive at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research. In 2007 he released his first Hip Hop album as part of the group The Jim Crow Jackson Experiment. Since then, Dasan has been a featured artist on a number of North Carolina Hip Hop recordings. In addition, has released music as part of the collective the HeavyLight Experience and currently tours as part of the poetry, soul, and Hip Hop live band project, The Originals.



His work has been featured on National Public Radio (NPR) where he has is noted for his appearances on "News and Notes with Ed Gordon" and "State of Things with Frank Stasio." His writing is featured online and in print publications. He has been showcased on NBC 17, featured on the third season of Lexus Verses and Flow aired on TV One, and in a documentary entitled, "Poet Son" that aired on WUNC-TV as a part of the North Carolina Visions film series. Dasan has released three full-length books of poetry. He has taken the stage across the country sharing work from his last two spoken word CDs.

*READ MORE ON [DASANAHANU.COM](http://DASANAHANU.COM)*





# BOOKING AND CONTACT



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