

ALICIA ANABEL SANTOS
Author Biography

Alicia Anabel Santos is a Producer, Playwright, Speaker, Activist, Teaching Artist, Afrolatina Storyteller, Lesbian Writer and Priestess. She was born in Brooklyn and is a proud Dominican Writer. She is the 2018 recipient of the BRIO Award (Bronx Recognizes its Own) in fiction. Alicia is the Founder of the New York City Latina Writers Group which will be celebrating its twelfth year. For seventeen years she has created and nurtured safe spaces for emerging and established writers to nurture their creativity. She has been a guest speaker, traveling to more than thirty universities throughout the United States, lecturing on subjects which intersect identity, religion, sexuality, feminism and social justice. In 2011, she published her memoir, *Finding Your Force: A Journey to Love* and her one-woman show *I WAS BORN* was selected as part of the ONE Festival in New York. Anabel has been a guest on NPR's *Tell Me More* and her work has been seen in *LATINA Magazine*. Having worked for renowned magazines, such as *Glamour*, *Domino* and *BusinessWeek*, it was an article published in *Urban Latino Magazine*, "Two Cultures Marching to One Drum," that would change the direction of her life. In 2008 she joined Creador Pictures as Writer/Producer of its first documentary, *AfroLatinos: An Untaught History*. She attended New York University, has a historian scholar for a daughter and lives in the Bronx with her partner.

TEACHING ARTIST SUMMARY

I pride myself on creating safe spaces for writers of all levels, from emerging writers to those who don't know that they were born to write. I have developed gentle ways to teach writing and really support writers in uncovering things that they may never have been able to write before. As the Founder of the New York City Latina Writer's Group, I have provided a safe space for over 750 women writers to develop, write and share their stories--we just turned ten. I have facilitated writing workshops for writers of all ages from teens to elders seeking a space where they can find community. Five years ago I created the ***Writing from the Womb*** workshop with themes centering on, "The Art of Storytelling," and "Birthing the Story." I am known as "***The Writing Midwife!***"

I have had the privilege of working for Hunts Point Alliance for Children (HPAC), located in the Bronx, where I held the position of Writing Teacher for middle and high school students. I developed a year long writing program where the students developed four writing pieces (historical fiction, poetry, an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* and a personal narrative essay). The students had a wonderful opportunity to perform one of their pieces at an end of year showcase in front of guests, family and friends. With my high school students, the Mighty Quills, we put together an anthology, entitled, *The*

Superhero in Me: An Anthology in Prose and Poetry. The students created their very own superhero story. I took the writers through prompts that aided them in creating a superhero from the ground up. They created an origin story for their superhero along with the powers she/he possesses.

One of HPAC's initiatives was centered on the question, "how do we get more parents involved?" I designed a writing workshop with them in mind, "Parents as Storytellers". Oftentimes children do not know who their parents are, where they have been and what their personal legend is. The purpose was not only to share some of the writing techniques I use with the young scholars, but to help them develop and write their own stories using prompts and writing activities. The main intention of our workshop was to encourage and empower parents to know that they too have an important story to tell and with my guidance we would excavate and uncover the story that was aching to be told. The writing prompts I provided took them on a journey from who they are, their greatest life lessons, to what they would want their children/grandchildren to know. They were devastated that the program was only a few weeks long and wanted more. During that workshop one of my older parents (a grandmother) said that she wanted me to bring my workshop to her senior center. There is something beautiful and powerful about self expression and writing is a wonderful tool to help unleash creativity they may not know how to access.

Currently, I am an instructor for BookUp LGBTQ, part of the National Book Foundation's after school program and am sponsored by SUCASA, The Department of Aging and the Institute for Puerto Rican and Hispanic Elderly where I have been facilitating workshops at five senior centers in the Bronx. At each center we meet, read poetry or prose and discuss issues and themes that come up in the pieces/stories. Over the past few years I have held the role of Writing Teacher / Mentor, for organizations such as, the New York City Latina Writers Group, HPAC, Voices Unbroken, The Young Women's Leadership School--Girls INC. NYC, Girls Write Now and East Harlem Tutorial Program -- Summer Institute.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

SU CASA ARTIST IN RESIDENCY William Hodson Senior Center, Bronx, NY <i>Teaching Artist ~ A Story for the Ages Writing Workshop</i>	January 2018 - June 2018
INSTITUTE FOR THE PUERTO RICAN / HISPANIC ELDERLY (IPRHE) Writing Teacher	January 2017 - Present
NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION <i>Faculty, Program Instructor</i> BookUp LGBTQ Afterschool Program - HMI	November 2016 - Present
HETRICK MARTIN INSTITUTE Writing Teacher / Facilitator Womyn's Worth Sister Circle	September 2016 - Present
NYC LATINA WRITERS GROUP, New York, NY <i>Founder / Executive Director</i>	October 2006 - Present
SU CASA ARTIST IN RESIDENCY James Monroe Senior Center, Bronx, NY <i>Teaching Artist ~ A Story for the Ages Writing Workshop</i>	January 2017 - June 2017
EAST HARLEM TUTORIAL PROGRAM <i>Writing Teacher/Teaching Artist</i>	June 2016 - August 2016
HUNTS POINT ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN <i>Writing Teacher/Teaching Artist</i>	November 2015 - August 2016
GIRLS INC NYC <i>Program Specialist</i>	August 2014 - August 2015
CREADOR PICTURES, LLC, NY / Bogota, Colombia <i>Writer/Co-Producer – www.afrolatinos.tv</i> Conducted over 200 interviews. Wrote and edited scripts. Managed website. Produced segments for TV. Writer for documentary series Afrolatinos: The Untaught Story. Traveling to over fifteen countries throughout Latin America.	May 2008 – Present
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, McGraw-Hill	2010-2011

BUSINESSWEEK Magazine, New York, NY 2006 - 2008

DOMINO / GLAMOUR Magazine, New York, NY 2004 – 2004

CONDE NAST PUBLICATIONS, New York, NY 2002-2004

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS/ARTIST TALKS/PERFORMANCES

Speaker / Presentation: Black History Month, Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia, February, 2018

Speaker / Presentation: Dia Internacional de La Mujer Afrodescendiente / International Day for Women of African Descent, Valencia, Spain, July, 2017

Speaker / Presentation: International Decade for People of African Descent, Afrolatinos the Untaught Story, United Nations, New York, New York, February, 2017

Lecturer/Presentation: Beyond Hispanic Heritage Month, Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts, October, 2015

Lecturer/Presentation: Afrolatinos Film Screening, Afrolatino Week, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, October, 2015

Lecturer/Presentation: "Will the REAL Black Girl Please Stand Up?" dialogue on the Black/Brown divide--Deconstructing the Divide and Reconstructing the Reality of Race, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, April, 2014

Artist talk: Afrolatinas: Race, Gender, Militarization in the Americas, panel discussion with Charo Mina Rojas, Janvieve Williams Comrie, and Bruja, Da Urban Butterflies, Washington Heights, New York, March, 2014

Artist talk: Guest on NPR's Tell Me More radio show with Michel Martin, discussing the government shutdown and how it affects Latinos, the Dominican/Haitian debate on denationalization and Little Miss Delaware. New York, NY, October 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ongoing instructor of six week Writing from the Womb workshop, "The Art of Storytelling," and "Birthing the Story," Columbia University, New York, NY, October 2013 to Present

Workshop facilitator: "Latinegra: Transforming Pain into Power," Sisterhood Summit V, "When We Were Free: Black Women, Girls & Emotional Emancipation," Black Girl Project, Brooklyn, New York, October, 2015

Instructor of three week blog writing workshop, "Tu Vida Tu Voz," Havana and Santiago, Cuba, April-May, 2012

KEYNOTES

“Born in Two Cultures, Belonging to None: Black History Month, Bluefield State College, Bluefield, West Virginia, February, 2018

“Intersections of Privilege: The War on Women and Black Latinos,” Latino Heritage Month, Siena College, Albany, New York, September, 2015

Noche de la Mujer 17th Annual Dinner, “Week of Illumination.” SUNY New Paltz, April 2015

The Latina Leadership Summit, Una Mujer, A Woman’s Journey, University of Albany, March 2015

“The Next Big Dream,” Hofstra University, November, 2014

"Born of Several Cultures, Yet Belonging to None!" Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York, March, 2014

“A Woman’s Worth,” Lebanon Valley College, Women’s Leadership Symposium, Anville, Pennsylvania, September, 2013

“Without Limits: A Women’s Movement,” Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, March, 2012

THEATRE

Teaching Artist: The Young Women’s Leadership School, Students participated in Young Playwrights for Change, New York, February, 2015

Directorial debut of Brooklyn Quartet an ensemble performance, Written by Rock WILK, Medicine Show Theatre, New York, New York, February 2014

I Was Born, Writer, Director, staged reading and college tour 2010 through 2013

BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS

Sinister Wisdom Contributor and book review, "Adelina's Perfect Girl." Published, July 2015

Santos, Alicia A. "Commentary: Today I'm Embarrassed to Be Dominican." <http://www.latina.com/lifestyle/news/commentary-today-im-embarrassed-be-dominican>, Latinas Lifestyle, Entertainment, Beauty, Fashion, Celebrity News For Latinas. Latina Magazine, 4 Sept. 2013. Web. 28 May 2014

Santos, Alicia A. "Poetry Library." The Voices Project <http://www.thevoicesproject.org/poetry-library/virgin-love-by-alicia-anabel-santos>, 26 Feb. 2014. Web. 2 May 2018

"The Sanctity of Marriage." Latinas Lifestyle, Entertainment, Beauty, Fashion, Celebrity News For Latinas. Latina Magazine, 28 Mar. 2013

"The Best of Panic Anthology" Contributor, poetry published, December, 2010

"Two Cultures Marching to One Drum, Urban Latino Magazine." Article published, February 2008

RESIDENCIES AND COURSEWORK

Writing residency: "Tengo Sed Writers Retreat," Costa Rica, January, 2016

Afrolatina Writers Retreat Residency, Galveston, Texas, October, 2015

"Screenwriting Lab." FELT Fantastic Experimental Theater Workshop - Screenwriting and Filmmaking workshop John Romaine, New York, NY, 2013

Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA), Completed a one week Fiction Writing Workshop with Maza Mengiste, University California, Berkeley, CA, 2012

"The Shero's/Hero's Journey." Playwriting course: FELT Fantastic Experimental Theater Workshop, with Playwright Carmen Rivera, New York, NY, 2011

Writing for Television, Gotham Writers Workshop, New York, NY, 2011

Three-week playwriting course and reading: FELT Fantastic Experimental Theater Workshop, with Playwright Carmen Rivera, New York, NY, 2010

EDUCATION

New York University
Rhode Island College

2004 to 2006
1993 to 1996

References: Available upon request.