

## **An interactive poetry experience**

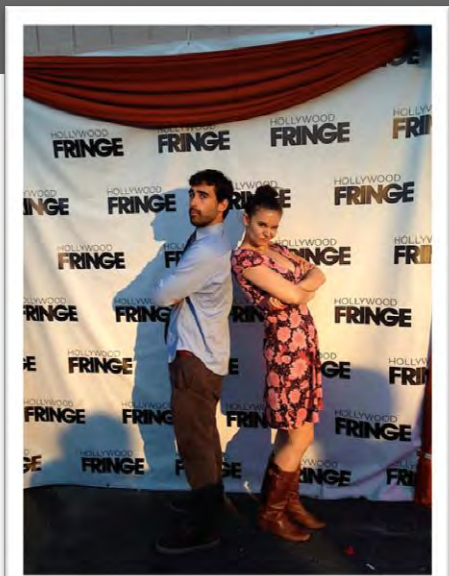
**Represented by: Knudsen Productions**

**(510) 549-1777/Craig@knudsenproductions.com**

## **About MPB**

**The Melrose Poetry Bureau is the brainchild of poet/writers Nayeli Adorador-Knudsen and Bobby Gordon. Working as either a solo artist, a duo, or enlisting the services of additional poet/writer/educators, MPB offers a wealth of performance and educational opportunities including but not limited to performance of original spoken word pieces, public writing installations (i.e. the Transient TypeWriters Project), writing workshop residencies, and coordination of poetry slams.**

**Nayeli and Bobby share impressive individual credits: Nayeli - HBO's Def Jam Poetry, title role in the film "Opal", Youth Speaks Grand Slam Finalist, MA-University of Washington. Bobby - Writer/Solo Performer in critically acclaimed "Debby Does My Dad", Director/Lecturer/Founder "Performing Sexual Health: The UCLA Sex Squad", MA in Applied Theater Arts, USC.**



**MPB Co-Founders Bobby Gordon & Nayeli Knudsen at the 2014 Hollywood Fringe Festival**

# The Transient Typewriter Project

A featured project of the Melrose Poetry Bureau is the Transient TypeWriters Project. The Transient TypeWriters (TT) is a moving, interactive, public poetry installation that travels throughout an event and/or functions as an installation in a single location, responding to and dialoguing with patrons. 2-8 poets travel around with six manual typewriters and create poetry on the spot for event attendees and/or passersby (depending on the situation), celebrating direct human interaction and dialogue around art that does not involve any electrical cords, internet, or social media. Patrons will present the poets with some basic information about themselves (i.e., favorite color, favorite season, a fantasy, a goal, a dream, etc.), and poets then compose original poems and present the finished poem (typed on the manual typewriter) to the patron. Additionally, each poet's thematic focus will be identified on a sign sitting in front of that poet. Samples of possible themes are "regrets", "lies", "dreams", "death", "love", "earth", "conservation", "laughter", etc.



Past MPB Venues  
Include:

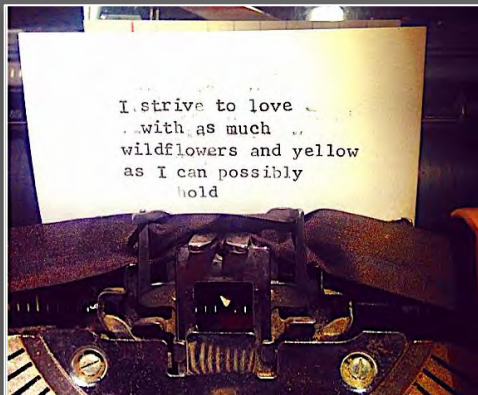
Arts Restore LA:  
Westwood (2013)

Hollywood Fringe  
Festival- (2014)

Residency at WriteClub  
LA: Bootleg Theatre  
(2014-)

UCLA Center for the Art  
of Performance  
(2013/2014)

LA Grand Performances  
(2015)



"Another fantastic night at  
Bootleg Theatre...personalized  
poems typed out by Melrose  
Poetry Bureau was the best  
surprise treat!"

- MPB Patron @ Bootleg Theatre , July 2014  
via Instagram

## Core Members of MPB



**Bobby Gordon** is a Los Angeles based poet, participatory arts practitioner, lecturer, and performance artist.

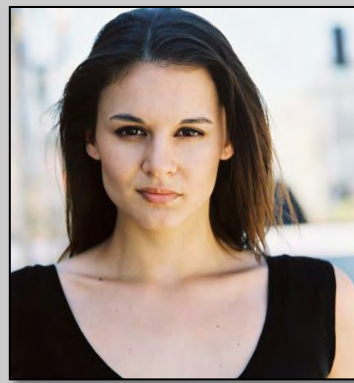
In 2013-14 Gordon guest lectured at Kennesaw State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Duke University on how to use humor and theater in health education and reproductive justice activism. He has presented workshops at the 2013 International Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference and the 2013 Imagining America Conference on the same topic. Gordon has led various other writing and performance workshops around the U.S.,

in Mexico, India, and South Africa about everything from image theater techniques to performance poetry strategies.

Gordon is the director of the UCLA Sex Squad, an undergraduate theater troupe that uses humor, theater, and personal narrative to open up transformative dialogues about sexual health with local teens. Through this role, Gordon directed two films *Bringing Safe Sexy Back* (2013) and *When the Situation Gets Slippery* (2011) both of which are currently being used by

the Los Angeles Unified School District as part of their health education strategy. He also is a co-producer of *Through Positive Eyes*, an international photography project to combat HIV stigma.

His original one-man show *Debbie Does My Dad* tells the humorous and poignant true story of growing up as the son of a former adult film star. *Debbie* was featured for a 23-night run at the Bedlam Theater at the 2011 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and also had runs at Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica and the Drama For Life Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa. Fringe Review gave *Debbie* four stars and called it a "Highly Recommended Show."



**Nayeli Adorador-Knudsen** is a Los Angeles based poet and educator with an M.Ed in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from the University of

Washington (2013). Through her studies, Nayeli published a study entitled, "*Poetic License: Constructing Literary Performing Arts Curriculum Within a High-Stakes Educational Environment*", which focused on the presence of spoken word poetry in urban high school classrooms.

Nayeli has appeared on Season 5 of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, NPR, & KPFA broadcasts. Additionally, she has been featured alongside such notable artists/writers as Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. In 2007, Nayeli became a member of the Brave New Voices College Tour where her work was featured at various colleges throughout the country.

Nayeli played the principal role in the critically acclaimed film *Opal* (2011) – winner of the Directors Circle Award at Cannes Film Festival and the Robin Eickman Screenwriting Award. She was additionally featured in the Magic Mirror Theater's Production of *Marry, F\*\*\*, or Kill* (2012) in which she received acclaim from critics as one of the "best performances to hit the Los Angeles theater scene in 2012".

Nayeli has also played a critical role behind the scenes as a freelance writing workshop facilitator throughout Seattle, Bay Area, and Los Angeles school sites. Her work with adolescents has played an integral role in the development of youth voice and continues to be the impetus behind her work as not only an educator but an artist as well.



# Contact Us

For booking inquiries or for more information regarding MPB  
please contact:



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