

Transcript of KMYR series on The Public Affair: Albuquerque Poets

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Albuquerque Museum, gift of Zane Blaney

This is a five-part series of original poems by Albuquerque poets: David Johnson, Karla Hall, Clay Thurmond, Gordene Olga MacKenzie, and students from Jefferson Junior High School.

Keywords and topics: poetry, poets, original works, spoken word

Note: The sound quality of this recording is poor. Much of the sound is muffled and difficult to understand. The transcript is not complete, but gives time stamps for the poets who are doing readings during the series.

ZANE BLANEY: Words are only like a window that has no light of its own but only shines forth out of the light that it emits. Beginning today on "The Public Affair", a series of original poetry by Albuquerque poets. With the introductions, poet Karla Hall.

KARLA HALL: David Johnson is currently teaching at the University of New Mexico two classes. One on poetry and the other mythology. He has had work published in several magazines including the *New Mexico Magazine* and *Stooge*. He'll be having a book coming out this Summer called "Pilgrim Country", published by the San Marcos Press. He's also working on a book on mythology and literature. The poems David's reading today are largely a result of a year spent living in Mexico and a journey he took two years ago through Europe. David says about himself, he writes to come to terms with his own experiences and to discover the meaning of them.

[00:59]

DAVID JOHNSON: I'm going to begin with a poem that says something about the process and activity of writing. It's called "Prefaces".

[poem readings]

[05:50]

BLANEY: Poet Karla Hall arrived in Albuquerque two weeks ago and continued writing poetry. She has traveled extensively in the States, Mexico and Europe. She is currently working on a volume of poetry and the beginnings of a novel.

HALL: [very muffled sound; unintelligible]

[music and poetry reading]

[10:33]

BLANEY: This week on “The Public Affair”, a cross-section of original poetry by Albuquerque poets. With today’s introduction, Karla Hall.

HALL: Clay Thurmond moved to Albuquerque from Texas several years ago to attend the University of New Mexico. He is presently finishing his studies and teaching a poetry class at Jefferson Junior High School. His interest in writing began as a reaction against his early military school education. He says the past year has been his most intense, creatively. The following reading represents some of his most recent work.

CLAY THURMOND: This first one is from a dream that I actually had. It’s probably one of the most important dreams of my life, if you consider dreams as important as I do. It’s titled “Dream”.

[11:28]

[Thurmond reads poems]

[very muffled sound]

[14:40]

BLANEY: Continuing “The Public Affair” series on Albuquerque poets, Karla Hall.

HALL: Gordene Olga MacKenzie is a native of Albuquerque. She is presently attending the University of New Mexico and her writing, which she calls origin poetry, she said she is searching for an [unintelligible] archetype going back to the women in her family. The unconscious is the greatest importance. The following work was five years in the making and it was written for a close friend who was killed in an automobile accident and also for her father.

GORDENE OLGA MACKENZIE: [poetry reading]

[music]

[19:53]

BLANEY: This past week we have presented the original works of Albuquerque poets. We would be interested in your comments concerning the series and the possibility of doing more of the same. Today the final segment with introduction by Karla Hall.

HALL: The following reading is being presented by students at Jefferson Junior High School involved in an experimental poetry program. This is an elective class taught by advanced reading students from the University of New Mexico. It involved seventh, eighth, and ninth graders who expressed special interest in the course and who received recommendations for involvement from their instructors. If this class succeeds at Jefferson, the program may be extended to other schools in the area. Students in reading order are Ethan Hay, Skye Olson, Peter Bockland, Reva Libbert, Eric Jackson, and Cindy Carr.

[students read poetry]

[music]

[23:41]

[end]