## HEATH

## www.ayospeaks.com

## **BIOGRAPHY**



**M. Ayodele Heath** is author of Brick Road Poetry Press's latest collection, *Otherness*.

Creative Loafing describes this native Atlantan performance poet as "a lanky African-American man with arms that stretch and reach as his stories unfold." Ayodele has been featured at such venues as the National Black Arts Festival, the Nuyorican Poets Café, the Turner Trumpet Awards, and TurnerSouth's MySouth Speaks television campaign.

Ayodele's awards include:

- Atlanta Bureau for Cultural Affairs Emerging Artist grant
- Pushcart Prize nominee
- McEver Visiting Chair in Writing at Georgia Tech
- Fellowship to the Caversham Centre for Artists, South Africa
- 2-time Southeastern Regional Slam Champion
- Top-10 finisher at the National Poetry Slam

His poetry has appeared in Callaloo, the New York Quarterly, Crab Orchard Review, Mississippi Review, India's International Gallerie, and the anthology Poetry Slam: the Comptitive Art of Performance Poetry.

## What others are saying about *OTHERNESS*

"M. Ayodele Heath is a poet so fierce, so tender, so (rightly) angry, so generous of heart and spirit that I am 1) grateful, and 2) reminded again and again why I love poetry, why I have REASON to love poetry: because it can be like this!"

-Thomas Lux, Guggenheim Fellow & author of 12 volumes of poetry, including Split Horizon

"In this electrifying first collection of poems, Ayodele Heath explores "otherness" — Black otherness, Southern otherness, African otherness, his otherness which becomes our otherness and everyone's otherness—with such heat and such heart and such precision and magic that the words fairly fly off the page. This is language swooning and falling in love with itself..."

— Cecilia Woloch, director of the Paris Poetry Workshop and author of 5 volumes of poetry, including *Carpathia*