PANEL OUTLINE

EVENT TITLE: For Colored Girls' Fam, Friends, Fans: A Celebration of Ntozake Shange

EVENT DESCRIPTION: This panel is a tribute to poet, playwright, novelist, Ntozake Shange, and her play, for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf.

EVENT ORGANIZER & MODERATOR:

Tamara J. Madison is an author, poet, editor and instructor. Her critical and creative works have been published in Linden Avenue, Poetry International, Web del Sol Review of Books and Tidal Basin Review. Her poetry collection, Threed, This Road Not Damascus is published by Trio House Press (May 2019) and was previously short-listed under the title Breast Poems in the 2015 Willow Books Literature Award.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

Remica L. Bingham-Risher – Remica L. Bingham-Risher is a Cave Canem fellow and an Affrilachian Poet. She has published three books of poems, Conversion (Lotus, 2006), What We Ask of Flesh (Etruscan, 2013) and Starlight & Error (Diode, 2017). She is Director of Quality Enhancement Plan Initiatives at Old Dominion University.

JP Howard - JP Howard's debut collection Say/Mirror was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. JP was awarded the 2016 Judith Markowitz Emerging Writers Award from Lambda Literary Foundation. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem, Lambda and VONA/Voices. JP curates Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon.

Amanda Johnston - Amanda Johnston is the author of Another Way to Say Enter. She is an Affrilachian poet, a Cave Canem graduate fellow, a cofounder of Black Poets Speak Out, and founder of Torch Literary Arts. She teaches in the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

Gabrielle Lawrence-Cormier - Gabrielle Lawrence is a freelance writer and editor from Southern California. Her writing can be found in Another Chicago Magazine, Rising Phoenix Review, The Squawk Back, Gravel Magazine, Sundog Lit, and others. Follow her on Twitter @gabrielle__l or visit gabrielle-lawrence.com for more info.
OPENING REMARKS & HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS: The moderator will cover the following in opening remarks:

- AWP Housekeeping & Requirements of Panel Location/Attendees
- Thank you to the audience
- Purpose of the panel
- Thank you to the participating panelists
- Brief biography of Ntozake Shange
- Brief description of *for colored girls...* and its publication and production world-wide

PANEL READING: As opening remarks, each participant will read a short monologue from the designated characters of the featured work/choreopoem:

- **Remica L. Bingham-Risher** – lady in brown – *dark phrases*
- **JP Howard** – lady in red – *no assistance*
- **Tamara J. Madison** – lady in orange – *no more love poems #1*
- **Gabrielle Lawrence-Cormier** – lady in yellow – *no more love poems #*
- **Amanda Johnston** – lady in green – *somebody almost walked off wid all my stuff*
- **Ensemble Closing**

Q&A:

1) Describe your first encounter with *for colored girls...* and how it affected you personally as a young woman of color.
2) How did this work affect you personally as a developing poet and writer?
3) Why do you think this particular work of Ntozake Shange is still affecting readers and audiences after 45 years?
4) How can the work be used to enhance contemporary curriculum, classrooms and/or writers’ workshops?

CLOSING TRIBUTE: In closing, each woman will read her own individual and original poetic tribute to Ntozake Shange.

Q&A: Questions and comments from the audience will be allowed as time permits.