

Operator Isaac Miller Draws Poetic Inspiration from Passengers

By DANIELLE GROSSMAN

(Jan. 2, 2003) Arthur Winston Division 5 Bus Operator Isaac Miller was given the name Sundiata, meaning storyteller, while on a trip to Africa.

The name stuck, and Sundiata now appears on KFPK Radio 90.7 FM as a resident poet for the show, *Afrodisia*, every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

"To me, poetry is the outer expression of inner emotions and observations," Miller says.

Inspiration for Miller's poems often comes from listening to people talk to each other on the bus.

"Some of the things they say, they don't even know how profound they are," Miller says.

Miller likes writing poetry, because he believes it is easier for people to hear and accept political statements in artistic form rather than in lecture form.

"I don't really write things for art's sake," Miller says. "I think I have an obligation to be a voice for a lot of things that people think and may not say."

Currently, Miller is working on his second CD, a collaboration of poetry set to a background of music. His first CD is a collection of his poems as read on *Afrodisia*.

Miller's poems have been published in *African Voices* magazine. He is also working on a children's book of African fairytales, or "spidertales" as they're called in Africa.

PHOTO BY RICH MORALLO



Metro Bus Operator Isaac Miller is resident poet at local public radio station.

[Read: Time is the Master](#)
... a poem by Isaac Miller

Time is the Master

My hair has turned colors that can't be duplicated
My eyes see recycled things, perceived as new
by minds that haven't collected as much data.

I don't see different things than other people,
I see the same things differently.
My mouth has become a vessel for the truths that
are unspoken due to fear
unheard due to ignorance
and unpopular due to hate.

My face is a map of the rough side of the mountain
revealing the truths of areas only partially
surveyed and rarely understood.

My rationality has taught me that excess is not good

and enough is as good as a feast.

My spirituality has shown me that if the heart never
heals the scars always show.

And

My personality has come to a place of the importance
of credibility.

Age is not merely an affirmation of wisdom
but an example of perseverance –
It's not only that you're still here
but how self-determination brought you
to the fulfillment of your expectations through the challenges of life.

Age is the shedding of trivial things for the
adoption of the importance of things
that look or seem to be trivial, becoming
a living breath testimony for the beliefs and ideals
that are supportive and liberating.

Endurance is nobility
Time is the master
Love is unconditional
Age is the bonding of those things and more,
while confirming your truth and your reality;
without the affirmation or approval of others.

Age is never a sense of self-importance,
nor can it be of self-reliance;
selfishness is a disease of the young,
and a disdain to the elders.
For it is the elders that bless the bounty
brought to the table of communal Love.
It is the elders that teach the lessons
that were the lessons experienced.

Jim Crow and Apartheid are both the same pollution.

Their eyes have seen the memory of things Past –
the beauty of things Present –
and the wonder of things yet to come.

So... We give thanks for each elder that graces
our presence with the earth beneath their
feet and not covering them.

We give thanks for each one is a pearl to be
treasured in their own uniqueness –
They are the wingless angels of the earth;
and the offerings they bring are priceless.
So... when you look deep deep, deep down into the
eyes of an elder; know that their medical expressions are
affirmations of prayers and manifestations of
things yet to come.
Know that where you stand was possible because their
faith was based on evidence of things not yet seen;
And if you look long enough and
deep enough you may examine your soul and you'll
know that time is the master.
-- Isaac Miller

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