

HANNAH L. DRAKE



“No one is in control of your art, your gift, or your narrative except you. Tell your story.”

Selected in the inaugural class of Hadley Creatives, Hannah Drake offers a powerful, inspirational message. Hannah has had the distinguished privilege of sharing the stage with political and social justice activist, Angela Davis, National Book Award Winner and poet, Nikky Finney, author and motivational speaker, Iyanla Vanzant. Hannah's work has been featured in Cosmopolitan. Hannah has served as a presenter at Ideas Festival as a presenter and panelist with CNN chief national correspondent, John King. In April 2017 & 2018, Hannah had the honor of curating an evening of performance artists for the Festival of Faiths featuring dance, poetry and music. In November 2017, Hannah's poem Spaces was selected by the National Academy of Medicine to be featured in a national art exhibit that speaks to visualizing health equity. Hannah was honored to be selected as 2017 Hadley Creatives, a partnership between the Community Foundation of Louisville

and Creative Capital to help local artists build their professional practice. In December 2017 Hannah was honored for her work by the Kentucky Alliance of Against Racist and Political Repression. Recently, Hannah partnered with the Louisville Ballet for their Choreographer's Showcase combining poetry and ballet to speak about injustice. In June 2018, Hannah's visual art and poetry installation, "Finding Me" was displayed at KMAC and 1619 Flux. In July of 2017, Hannah Drake was featured on the Tom Joyner Morning Show with Jacque Reid to discuss her movement, "Do Not Move Off The Sidewalk." In February 2019, Hannah was selected by the Muhammad Ali Center to be a Daughter of Greatness which features prominent women engaged in social philanthropy, activism, and pursuits of justice.

“That is the power of art. It can be used to speak to a variety of issues to impact change.”

In 2014, Hannah joined Roots and Wings, a dynamic group of artists that seek to bring social change to their community. In 2015 and 2016, Hannah Drake, along with the members of Roots and Wings were able to perform their written plays, The West End Poetry Opera and The Blood Always Returns, written after their trip to Dakar, Senegal, at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

“Always leave crumbs & footprints detailing your greatness for those that are coming behind you.”

In 2016, Hannah's poem Formation poem went viral being shared over 20,000 times around the world. In 2018, the Youth Violence Prevention commercial featuring Formation won the "Culturally Legit" award from the American Advertising Federation. A lover of writing and social justice, Hannah's [blog](#) offers commentary on current events and has been viewed around the world. Hannah's work is filled with passion and truth, believing that communication is indeed the beginning of change. Hannah is the author of several works of poetry, Hannah's Plea-Poetry for the Soul, Anticipation, Life Lived In Color, In Spite of My Chains, For Such A Time As This and So Many Things I Want to Tell You-Life Lessons for the Journey. Her debut novel Views from the

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www.hannahldrake.com

Back Pew was received with stellar reviews and was performed on stage to a sold-out audience. Her follow-up novel, *Fragile Destiny* has been hailed as life-changing. Currently, Hannah completed a collection of commentaries on race and feminism entitled, *Dear America, I'm Still Rooting For You*. Her powerful, honest delivery has garnered her the nickname, "Brimstone." Hannah promises that her message will be thought-provoking and at times challenging but she believes it is in the uncomfortable spaces that change can take place. "My sole purpose in speaking and writing is not that I entertain you. I am writing to shake a nation."

Hannah is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BA in Communications and is the proud parent of one daughter, Brianna Alysse.