



Volume 5 *Fall 2020*

2020

Creatives

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Recommended Citation

Kelly Hamilton, Dasha (2020) "Creatives," *Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal*: Vol. 5, Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ptoj/vol5/iss1/2>

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Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal

Vol. 5, Issue 1 (Fall 2020)

Creatives

Dasha Kelly Hamiltonⁱ

The fathers have been wrong
Neither wits nor years have
been wasted
Loosely spent, perhaps. Scattered
and prayed over
Rejoice the harvest

Turns out, the mothers
were right about rainy days, though
About positioning barrels under the sky
About dreams plummeting and evaporating
Curse the drought

Never mind the second cousins, supervisors
In-laws, pew mates, classmates, the warm-hearted ex
Unconvinced and unimpressed
Ever- concerned, under the breath
Condescension is a learned language, ill-fitted
for the expanse of their genuine affections
Cherish the village

Gather the creatives, muscles taut
from bending humanity into
open windows and carpet rides
Harness our wattage of will
Carrying narratives from the perimeter
into conversation centers
We vibrate with imagination
With abandon, reverence and
arduous hope

Honor our breath

ⁱ **Dasha Kelly Hamilton** is a writer, performance artist, curator, and facilitator. Ultimately, she's a creative change agent, leveraging the creative process toward human and social wellness. She has written for national, regional

and local magazines; produced three collections of poetry; recorded four spoken word CDs; published two novels; been included in several anthologies; and performed in the last season of HBO's Def Poetry Jam. Her nonprofit, Still Waters Collective, initiated literary arts programming for 20 years, creating platforms for thousands of voices to be honored and heard. Through the organization, she still partners on impact projects and manages a creative leadership fellowship.

Dasha served as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy to teach, perform, and facilitate community building initiatives in Botswana and the island of Mauritius. She was also an artist in residence in Beirut. Dasha has been an adjunct professor at Mount Mary University, Alverno College, Bryant & Stratton, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University and an MA in Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University.

A collection of her micro stories, *DashNettes: Life, in Short*, will release Fall 2020. Her stage production, *Makin' Cake*, will tour nationally beginning in 2021. A former Artist of the Year for the City of Milwaukee, Dasha is the city's 11th Poet Laureate.