

Poetry Off the Page Podcast

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Marie Krebs



TRANSCRIPT

Extract: Benjamin Zephaniah's *Dis Poetry*

You just listened to the voice of the amazing Benjamin Zephaniah. His piece *Dis Poetry*, for me, perfectly epitomizes what's so beautiful about spoken word poetry: the voice, the liveness, the funny moments, the more serious moments, and so, so much more. If you enjoyed this extract and would like to know more about this art form and how we study it, this podcast might just be for you!

Hello poets, wordsmiths, spoken word artists, performers, and fellow poetry lovers far and wide.

My name is Marie Krebs, member of the Poetry Off the Page team and fellow poetry enthusiast, and I'm here to tell you about the 'Poetry Off the Page Podcast', your dose of spoken words on spoken word. This trailer will give you all the necessary information about who we are, what we do, and what you can expect from us in the near future.

So, who are we, the people behind this podcast? We're Poetry Off the Page, a research project based at the University of Vienna, Austria, funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF and the European Research Council. PoP is also supported by a number of very special organisations and individuals, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of them now. You can find the full list of our collaborators on our project website. That would be 'www.poetryoffthepage.net', but you can also find the link in the show notes and podcast description.

And what is Poetry Off the Page all about? We are a team of researchers here to investigate spoken word poetry in the UK and Ireland and examine how vital this art form has been to literary history. For this purpose, our team members have been travelling the UK and Ireland far and wide, interviewing poets and organisers, watching shows, and conducting research in performance archives from as far back as the 1960s. We have researchers working on spoken word theatre in the UK, spoken word in Ireland, Black British spoken word, dub poetry, poetry slam, intersections of spoken word poetry with various other literary and performance practices, spoken word as a vehicle for life narratives, and more.

Why the podcast, then? An important thing about our research is to make sure that it's available outside of conference presentations, monographs, and journal articles to engage with spoken word poetry lovers beyond academia. The podcast is a space for our researchers

to share their expertise and, ideally, to make people as excited about spoken word poetry as we are. We have some super-interesting episodes in the pipeline (or PoP-line?) – in the first episode, PhD researcher Shefali Banerji talks about spoken word theatre and one-person shows; Claire Palzer, another doctoral researcher, provides her perspective on Irish spoken word in the next one.

If this is something you're interested in, tune in again on 15 February 2024, when Shefali's episode goes live! More is soon to follow. In the meantime, if this project has piqued your interest, you can follow 'Poetry Off the Page' on our socials – we use Instagram, Facebook, and X (fka Twitter); you can find the handles in the show notes and the description. We also have a project website and newsletter that you can sign up for, all of which can be found on www.poetryoffthepage.net.

That's all from me for now - this is Marie Krebs for the Poetry Off the Page team; thank you for lending me your ear!

For the audio recording, see www.poetryoffthepage.net.