

ESSEX

HEMPHILL

LARRY

DUCKETTE

**BROTHER TO BROTHER:
words from the Heart**

a tribute to Joseph Beam

presented by Essex Hemphill and Larry Duckette
April 6 - 8, 1989

This program is dedicated to the memory and work of Joseph Beam, editor of In the Life, a groundbreaking anthology of Black Gay writings.

Special thanks to Brenda Files, Gideon Ferebee and Christopher Prince for their vocal contributions to this production.

Special thanks to Ron Simmons for making the slide presentations a reality, and Sharon Farmer, Daniel Cima and Charles Steck for additional photographic assistance. Thanks to Jerry Thompson, Research Assistant, the National Archives - Photo Division, for his assistance with researching photos for "Civil Servant."

Portions of this program were made possible in part, by a grant from the D.C. Commission for the Arts.

Lighting.....John Figley and Ruth Yamamoto
Production Manager.....Ruth Yamamoto
Sound.....Terry Mallory

"Brother to Brother: words from the Heart" was written, produced and directed by Essex Hemphill, with research assistance for "Civil Servant" provided by Mahomet Fatimavi. The production is presented in collaboration with Larry Duckette.

For information regarding this performance contact:
BE BOP PRODUCTIONS
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ESSEX HEMPHILL is a poet, performance artist and publisher of Be Bop Books. His works in print include Earth Life and Conditions. His next collection of poetry, Soft Targets, is scheduled for release in 1989/90. In the interim, Be Bop Books will release a chapbook of his work entitled Heavy Breathing in June. Essex Hemphill's works in performance have been presented at Franklin Furnace, La Mama, Blues Alley, Folger Shakespeare Library, Henry Street Settlement, d.c. space, the Painted Bride, Yale, Hunter College, Lisner Auditorium, Sarah Lawrence College, SUSHI, LACE, Washington Project for the Arts, Oberlin and Lorton Prison (VA). Hemphill has also presented work in London during a four month 12-appearance tour. Currently, Hemphill is scheduled to appear at Hampshire College and the Gay Community Center (NY) in April, and the Schomberg Center for Black Culture and Research in May. Hemphill and his work are featured in the film Looking for Langston and he is currently working on his first video for Arlington Cable/53. He has been named editor to complete Brother to Brother, the anthology his beloved friend Joe Beam was compiling prior to his death.

LARRY DUCKETTE, studied acting at the Washington Theatre Club and piano with noted D.C. musician, the late William Goins, while performing with the D.C. based Music-Arts Studio Community Theatre. In Washington, D.C. he has collaborated with local artists and helped form the choral poetry group CINQUE. He has performed at such venues as The National Theater, the Georgetown Park Hotel, Blues Alley, d.c. space, Catholic University, Mt. Vernon College, University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, University of Baltimore, Villa-Julie College, the Washington Project for the Arts, the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, and the Painted Bride. He has provided artistic direction for several local productions, including a concert sponsored by the D.C. Commission for the Arts.

This presentation of Essex Hemphill and Larry Duckette is one of a national series of such programs which together constitute the National Performance Network (NPN), designed to foster touring by and exchange among non-traditional, experimental and minority artists in dance, music, theater, performance art and puppetry. The NPN is a project of New York's Dance Theater Workshop in cooperation with The Kitchen and similarly dedicated arts organizations in sixteen other cities across the country, all of which play an important and ongoing role in the nurturing of innovative work. The Network has been made possible with major national funding from the Ford Foundation and the Dance and Inter-Arts Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts.

GIDEON FEREBEE is a native of the Bronx who ran away from the big city to seek fame and fortune. Working again with Essex Hemphill (they and 5 other Black men founded STATION-TO-STATION, a performance poetry group in 1980 in Washington, D.C.) has been the lift he needed to start 1989.

BRENDA FILES performed with theatre companies in Atlanta before moving to D.C. in 1981. The foundation of her musical work is composed of blues, gospel and poetry. Files has performed at the National Theatre, the Painted Bride, the National Cathedral, Fort Dupont Park, d.c. space and Sisterfire. Her original poetry has been published in Essence magazine.

CHRISTOPHER PRINCE is a singer/songwriter and poet whose work has been published in Callaloo. He has served as Artistic Director of Station-to-Station and is currently singing with the Four of Us. He has performed at CAMPA, Kennedy Center, Franklin Furnace, d.c. space, the Painted Bride and on the streets of D.C. with the Everyman Street Theater Company. This is his fourth collaborative effort with Essex Hemphill.

SHARON FARMER is a Washington-based photographer who has worked for a wide range of clients and is currently Photo Complex Supervisor for the Lansburgh Cultural Arts Center and contributing photographer to the Washington Post. She has worked as the still photographer for the internationally acclaimed film but then, she's Betty Carter and her work has appeared in the Afro-American, Washington Informer, Black Arts Review and other publications. She has provided still images for several previous Essex Hemphill productions.

RON SIMMONS is a Brooklyn native residing in Washington, D.C. He has been a freelance photographer and media producer for over 15 years. He has served as a producer, director and writer for several television productions and slide/tape presentations. His most recent work was "NCBLG: The First Decade." a documentary on the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. Dr. Simmons is also an educator, journalist and researcher as well as a faculty member in the Department of Radio, TV and Film at Howard University.

BROTHER TO BROTHER

New Writings by Black Gay Men

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE: June 30, 1989

EDITOR: Essex Hemphill — 202/483-0741

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Barbara Smith

ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs. Dorothy Beam — 215/877-5070

PUBLISHER: Alyson Publications, Inc.

The deadline for submissions of poetry and prose manuscripts for *BROTHER TO BROTHER: New Writings by Black Gay Men* has been extended to June 30, 1989. Essex Hemphill, poet and publisher of Be Bop Books, Washington, D.C. will complete the editing of *Brother to Brother* which Joseph Beam was at work on at the time of his death. Barbara Smith, writer and publisher of Kitchen Table Press will assist in the reading of submitted materials.

Manuscripts by Black gay men about the Black gay male experience are being sought. Manuscripts may be submitted in the following forms:

Essays and short fiction (up to 5,000 words), poetry (no more than five poems), brief excerpts from plays and novels, letters, journal entries, performance pieces, narratives, and interviews. Among the experiences of interest are: coupling and intimate relationships, coming out, interactions with family (particularly fathers), interactions with the communities we live in, rural living, youth, substance abuse, spousal abuse, the military, incarcerations, the arts, gay activism, AIDS, oral histories regarding Black gay life in previous decades, how to create positive self-images, male bonding/brotherhood, aging and erotica.

All manuscripts must be typed and doubled-spaced (no exceptions) on 8½"x11" white paper with the contributor's name on each page. Please include a phone number. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate, with sufficient return postage to: BROTHER TO BROTHER, P.O. Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

P.O. BOX 30024 • PHILADELPHIA • PA • 19103

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