



## BIO

Khristian E. Kay is a storyteller; a teacher/poet. Generally considered to be controversial in subject matter because he pursues knowledge as the end all of existence. Khristian's work often stretches the limits of complacency digging into the cracks as it were of what constitutes idealism. While his work appears political and often satirical he utilizes the words as metaphorical rubber bullets: painful and bruising and only lethal at close range.

Although a native of Milwaukee, WI and a systematic product of the inappropriately named "MidWest" Khristian has lived in many western states and tends to feel a homesickness for the Pacific Northwest. A vocal advocate of education versus schooling, the nobility of educators versus "teaching", Kay continues within the K-12 and post secondary classrooms teaching everything from English, Science, Multi-Media and Film, the Humanities, IS&T, math, art and just about everything in between. He has performed and lectured all over the country. Kay received a Foundation for the Arts Grant in 1997 to produce a rap version of Othello as written and performed by his adjudicated students at the state run boy's school.

Kay has edited and produced many small press periodicals and journals, and currently oversees the non-profit organization "KnowB4No.org" An organization dedicated to expanding the education and knowledge base of people concerning the risks of children and the transmission, prevention of AIDS, HIV, and STDs. He has written several books for teachers on teaching diverse student populations, including "The 3 'Tells" and is also the author of several books and cds of original poetry and spoken word.

## MISSION STATEMENT

I am a Teacher. This is what defines me. This is: My chosen vocation. My calling. My mission. I teach. I am not driven by some inner mindspring of duty or dedication nor am I driven by some "higher" divinity. I teach because it is what I do. I did not become a teacher. I have always been one. Teaching has been an integral part of my existence throughout all of my endeavors, all of my "past" lives, all of my vocations. What I have become is recognized, licensed, categorized and regulated.

Despite this I still am a teacher.

As a teacher it is my role to guide you, to assist you in your learning. I will not solve problems, rather I will set you on course when you have strayed too far. It is my philosophy that you will appreciate only those things you have learned. And those things whatever they may come to be are not necessarily those things which are taught. I will not enable you to lose or quit. That is by your choosing. If you think learning is too hard then it is too hard. I cannot change what you think. If you give up, then I will move on because you have already chosen not to learn. But if you try, if you desire, if you attempt ... I will assist you in your education. We all should have maxims to live by. I recognize some of my maxims through my father – not by what he said but by his actions – what he had done. It is this ideal: by doing, by acting upon. I have summed into one:

What can you do today to make the world a better place?



## INTRODUCTION CUE CARD

Our featured reader tonight measures his life as mired in integrity. Khristian E. Kay is a prolific writer with numerous books, chapbooks, and other forms of expression. He is a strong advocate for the truth, whatever that may be, as he often demonstrates that truth is a manifestation of social conformity. He teaches in K-12 and College and is both encouraged and dismayed for what passes as "educated" in our society. Please help me welcome an advocate for the *under-anything*, the self-appointed *vanguard for free expression*, and the guy who states that if you only walk away with only one thing tonight let it be this: "*Question Everything.*"

... Khristian E. Kay...