

ABUJA LITERARY FESTIVAL 2020 POETRY GRAND SLAM COMPETITION

The **Abuja Literary and Arts Festival 2020** being organized by the **Abuja Literary Society** will feature a series of events, seminars, presentations, exhibitions and the popular **POETRY SLAM competition**. This year, the **festival will be hosted online due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions**, abiding by all safety guidelines. The **slam will also be hosted online and take on a slightly different approach in line with the “new normal”**.

Considering the challenges associated with online events, we seek to minimise breaks in transmissions and time lags during performances.

ELIGIBILITY

Only poets who have emerged as finalists in a slam anywhere in the world are eligible for this competition. Applicants will be required to provide verifiable proof (video/article links, etc.) to demonstrate this during submission.

THE SLAM - PERFORMANCES

1. Poets will **fill an online form indicating interest to participate in the slam.**
2. As part of the online interest form, a submission of one poem is required for selection purposes
3. The shortlisted participants from the pool of applications will be notified by **2nd August, 2020**
4. In order to minimise the impact of network connection issues, the **participants are required to send pre-recorded videos of their performances which will be played at each round.**
5. The **final round will feature live performances, with back up pre-recorded videos.** In the event of a break in transmission, the pre-recorded video will be played.

RULES FOR SLAM POETS

1. The ALS Slam consists of 3 rounds.
2. Contestants must prepare 3 poems in case they advance to the 2nd and 3rd rounds.
3. Poems can be on any subject and in any style.
4. Each poem must be an original piece written and performed by the author.
5. Performances are timed and should not exceed:
 - a. (a) 1 minute for the First Round;
 - b. (b) 2 minutes for the Second Round; and
 - c. (c) 3 minutes for the Third Round.
6. No props are allowed.
7. No costumes are allowed.

8. No musical instruments (leave the drum set out) or pre-recorded music are allowed.
9. Each poem may only be used ONCE during the competition.
10. Speak up and clearly (we want to hear you and know what you are saying).

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF VIDEOS

1. Each participant must submit 3 videos each:
 - a. A video not exceeding 1 minute for the First round
 - b. A video not exceeding 2 minutes for the Second round
 - c. A video not exceeding 3 minutes for the Third round
2. Clearly name your video in the format "POEM TITLE - POET NAME" (You can also edit your video to include this but not required.)
3. Create a word/PDF contact document (to be submitted with your 3-video entry) listing:
 - a. Title of the poems indicating which poem is for which round.
 - b. Your full name, email address, and telephone number.
 - c. Your stage name
 - d. Evidence of eligibility (link to videos or articles that clearly identifies you as a finalist in a previous slam).
4. Each submission must include a duly executed video release consent form giving ALS the right to use and publish submitted videos, or excerpts therefrom, on all its platforms for marketing and promotion purposes.
5. For submission, create a google drive folder and name it in the format "ALITFEST SLAM 2020 - POET NAME". Upload your videos, contact document and duly executed consent form to this google drive folder and share a link to the folder with (email address).
6. Each video should be recorded using a mobile phone or a digital camera.
7. Each video must consist only of you reading or performing a single poem.
8. Ensure your videos are of good quality (i.e, clearly show your face, and capture any movements necessary to your performance), but they do not need to be of professional quality. However, it is particularly important that the audio is clear and distinct.
9. Videos must not be edited to include any sort of soundtrack(s), illustrative image(s), cut-aways, fade-ins or fade-outs or any sort of transitions designed to cover up or smoothen over errors in performance, or to otherwise enhance the performance. We want to see the unedited performance. This does not mean you must send your first-take. You can send your final-take, after as many trials as you want. But the final-take must show the unedited performance, without interruption, from start to finish, and without any digital enhancements.
10. It is a single performer contest. Each poem must be performed by a single person.
11. The videos must not infringe on any third-party intellectual property rights. You must perform your original work and where you involve other people to help with the recording, they must know you intend to enter the video into the ALITFEST SLAM, and you must have their permission to do so. Except in cases where you have contracted

them to do the recording, in which case you must ensure, in entering your videos for the ALITFEST SLAM, that you comply with the terms of your contract with them.

12. Videos that have been previously published elsewhere are eligible, so long as they are consistent with all the ALITFEST SLAM guidelines for video submissions.

TIPS FOR MAKING A GREAT VIDEO:

1. You don't need to hire a professional or need great video editing skills to make great videos.. **A homemade quality video can work great.** But plan ahead and shoot several takes to get it right.
2. **Keep to Time.** Points will be deducted if your video exceeds the allotted time, 0.1 points for every second over time.
3. Higher resolution equals higher quality. Record in the 4:3 standard format or 16:9 widescreen format. If you can record your video in high definition (1280x720 pixels), do it. **Also, aim for good audio sound quality.** Capture the best you can with the equipment you have.
4. **Use sufficient lighting.** People need to see you and what you are doing/talking about. The more light, the better. Also, having more than one light source will help alleviate any kind of shadows.
5. Try to **have as much of a personality on camera as possible** to come across well.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Content (Cohesiveness of ideas conveyed i.e does the poem make sense, and communicate clear and cohesive ideas or images?)
2. Articulation (Appropriate pronunciation of words, Fluency, and Audibility)
3. Performance (Body/facial expression, Voice modulation, communication of emotion)

VOTING

1. There will be a panel of 4 judges, who will judge each round and score participants on a scale of 1 - 10.
2. This year, there will be a special category for people's choice award allowing the audience to participate in a live poll to select their favorite poem of the night.

PRIZE

First Prize - N200,000

Second Prize - N100,000

Third Prize - N50,000

People's Choice Award - N20,000

TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

1. Participants retain full rights to their videos, however, ALS reserves the right to publish videos on ALS platforms for marketing and promotion purposes.
2. CAVEAT: In line with data protection regulations, participants will however be given the option to sign an **online** consent form to grant ALS rights to publish videos and to opt out as preferred.