

# ALITFEST 21

## ABUJA LITERARY + ARTS FESTIVAL

*August 2021*

### ABUJA LITERARY FESTIVAL 2021 POETRY GRAND SLAM COMPETITION

The **Abuja Literary and Arts Festival 2021** 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 a hybrid one, combining both online and physical events to allow for more flexibility and adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols still in place**. Although the slam last year was held virtually, we'll be returning this year's to its original physical format with limited attendance. The Slam is set to hold on **Friday, 1 October 2021**. Confirmed slam participants have to buy a paid ALITFEST21 ticket on [alitfest.com](http://alitfest.com).

#### 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 application. Poets will **fill an online form indicating interest to participate in the slam**. The shortlisted participants from the pool of applications will be notified on or before 30th September, 2021.

#### 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).

### **RULES FOR JUDGES**

1. There are 4 judges. 3 of them are technical judges chosen by the Slam organizers while the 1 judge is selected randomly from the crowd (no experience needed).
2. The judges are given score cards; and are each asked to leave their personal biases at home. PLS DO NOT VOLUNTEER AS A JUDGE IF YOU HAVE A CANDIDATE IN THE SLAM!!!
3. Judges are asked to rate 20% on performance (presentation), 30% on articulation AND 50% on content of the poem (was it well-written, did it make sense - doesn't matter if you agreed with the content).
4. Scores are from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest), using decimals to reduce the chance of ties
5. At the same time, judges hold up one score (i.e: 5.6, 8.7, 9.8, 10.0) when asked by the Slam Master.
6. The Slam Master then announces the poet's scores from each judge out loud. An average is arrived at by totaling the poet's score and dividing by 4.
7. Where there's a dispute at any time during the Slam, the Slam Master's ruling is final. No appeals, except to the Slam Master, are allowed.

### **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)

### **RULES FOR M.C. & TIME KEEPERS**

1. For the first round, M.C. uses ballots to decide order of presentation. In subsequent rounds, the worst performer from the last round presents first while the best performer presents last.
2. Time Keeper(s) deduct 0.1 point for every sec of exceeded time.
3. Time Keeper(s) announce, through the M.C., any exceeded time and the deduction after the judges have raised and announced their scores. The penalty is then deducted from the total score.
4. The lowest scores are eliminated in each round.

### **RULES FOR AUDIENCE**

1. Slam is fun, bear that in mind.
2. Applaud or boo any judge whose score you do not agree with.
3. Show your appreciation of the performance poetry – you are permitted to roll on the ground, jump to high heavens, scream your head off or cry bitterly (perhaps after hearing a brilliant poem you have been trying to write yourself for 10 years!) As you rejoice or weep, remember ALS will NOT be responsible for any destruction of venue property.
4. Volunteer to judge.
5. Where there's a dispute at any time during the Slam, the Slam Master's ruling is final. No appeals, except to the Slam Master, are allowed. That's why he is the Master of the Slam!
- 6.

## **VOTING**

This year, just like last year, there will be a special category for people's choice award allowing the audience to participate in a live poll to select their favourite 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. ALS reserves the right to publish videos of performances on ALS platforms for marketing and publicity 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.