



Press Release

February 5, 2013

Contact: Preston Richardson, Communications Specialist, West Virginia Library Commission, (304) 558-3978, extension 2010; e-mail preston.i.richardson@wv.gov.

Poet Crystal Good Headlines the West Virginia Center for the Book's African American Literary Celebration

Charleston, WV. Join poet Crystal Good at the Culture Center Theater on February 22, 2013, 6:00-7:30 PM, for a multimedia poetry event in celebration of Black History Month sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book.

Jeff Biggers of the "Huffington Post" wrote that "Valley Girl," Good's debut collection of poetry, "marks the entry of...an astonishing new voice into the national poetry circuit." He adds that the book "is a beguiling read, at once bold, disarming, plucky and feisty."

Good writes "through the lens of her experiences" as an Appalachian African-American woman and more. The former model and West Virginia native has worn many hats: poet, mother of three sons, and the current director of brand experience for Mythology LLC, a Charleston marketing firm.

Good is an *Affrilachian* poet, a term coined by Frank X. Walker to describe Appalachians of African descent. "I'm bi-racial, like President Barack Obama," she said. "I bring that experience to my work as well."

Fellow *Affrilachian* poet Norman Jordan will join Good at the event. "Jordan will be there to support me," Good said. "That's something we do in the African-American community. We support each other." Good and Jordan will sell their books at a post-event reception in the West Virginia Library Commission's James D. Waggoner Reading Room.

Good invites people to "bring the poet that's hiding in you" to the multimedia event, which will be much more than a poetry reading. "I like my readings to be interactive, like traditional African American call and response." Multimedia technology will enhance Good's presentation as well.

The event is sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. It is hosted by the West Virginia Library Commission in

partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council. The West Virginia Center for the Book brings the national Center's message of the importance of books and reading to audiences statewide. The center actively works within West Virginia to highlight the unique literary heritage that abounds from the earliest storytellers to modern novelists and poets.

This project is supported with funds from the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the West Virginia Library Commission.

###