



Oxley College, New South Wales, 2016

The Disappearing with Lorin Elizabeth & Zohab Khan

Over two days in March, The Red Room Company brought renowned performance poets Lorin Elizabeth and Zohab Khan to Oxley College. More than 340 students from Years 7-11 wrote poems tracing memories rooted to time and place. With activities inspired by *The Disappearing* learning resource, students explored the lasting ties between home, memory, and disappearance.

Red Room Poetry Education inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run intensive writing workshops that awaken imaginations, support creative opportunities and curriculum outcomes.

The Red Room Company at Oxley College, NSW, 2016

redroomcompany.org/education/



Year 9

Wake Up By Zack G.B.

Silently watching eyes from above,
Judging your every move
The beauty of privacy and free speech
is being whipped from under your feet.
Governments restrict the way we browse,
the way we talk,
the way we think.
The net is a web of information,
Silently lurking government agencies
Seeing every letter,
Every password,
Every site
Every credit card number,
everything.

Without free speech, there is no free will.
You are a puppet and the
government is the puppeteer.
Wake up.
Everything you have access to
went through the government.
All our media,
all your news,
every product on the shelves,
the government controls the most private
aspects of your life.

Originality By Caelan B.

We are addicts,
not to drugs or alcohol but
to ideas. We feed off
them to become the
best, but in the end
there's only so many original
ideas we can come up with.
With every idea there becomes less
of it but it grabs us
and it screams
for us to find it.
And only a small percentage of us are
lucky enough to find it.
But when we do, it continues to
feed from us until
we can no longer
come up with it.

Anything and Everything By Adrian

If you can't think of everything
make sure you think of anything.
Nervous if you're not sure
what to write, people around you
put ideas on paper.
Putting hours in and look at what you get,
nothing you can hold
but everything that it is.
Now everything starts to flow
into a motion of fluid handwriting
and brain dumps which now announce
a 1 minute left of thoughts and
rhymes which make poetry,
poetry spoken, written however
you want to express.

Beards
By Ben C.

Beards
Slowly growing
Gone
Slowly growing
Gone
The life of a beard,
Until one day, it keeps growing
Like a tree with no leaves
That doesn't want to leave.

Untitled
By Bridget D.

Tick-tock, tick-tock.
Time ticks slowly by.
When I wake up, I age a bit.
Coz time ticks slowly by.
Every time I close my eyes I am
closer to the inevitable.
I open my eyes and I feel like
I've aged.

Untitled
By Jasmine I.

The man who shot someone
The lady whose children were killed
The place blown up for our safety
The hijack, the heist and the hunger
The threat for a home
The rumble of fighter jets
and the bang of ammunition.

Rain
By Tully M.

A clear drop falls.
Cohesion holding it together
Falling collecting carbon through the atmosphere
Less clear drop falls.
The surface of the drop smashes across the skin.
Cohesion has broken, releasing the nastiness.
A splatter of what remains.
A dirty drop falls,
dirtying the surface of the skin.

Freedom
By Finn O.

Many strive for and set out against the world for it
Like fist fighting an angry rock.
Winning is hard and most won't try.
Lack of freedom is forgotten, ever expected.

Those who achieve are set apart
individualist with an identity
others blurred
through society
until they all shared the same colour.

Untitled
By Sarah P.

Socks disappear like magic
As if they have run away
socks are single most of their lives
They may never find their match.

The Face
By Sienna K.

A nameless bunch of symmetry.
Symmetrical eyes, nose a mouth.
Ears. Chin. No label.
A blank place for judgement.
I can think what I want.
A mere second of dedicated thought.
Pushed away in my mind.
Going, going, going.
Gone.

Smoke
By Charlotte and Lucia

The curling, whirling, burling
of the grey mist
rising in this place we call life,
engulfing us in emotions
we wish would disappear.
Smoke is grey
Smoke is burling
Smoke is emotions

Light
By Georgia H.

The light is fading, seeping, disappearing.



Lorin Elizabeth is a spoken word poet and co-founder/host of the Enough Said poetry slam at Studio 19 in Wollongong. She has graduated from a journalism and creative writing double degree and now spends her time learning the lyrics to rap albums.

Lorin has performed feature sets at Bankstown Poetry Slam, Art Party, Word In Hand in Glebe, Mars Hill Slam in Parramatta and at Word Co-Op in Canberra. She was a finalist at the 2013 Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup and has shared the stage with acclaimed poets including Tug Dumbly, Candy Royale and Luka Lesson. In 2013 Lorin was a performer and program coordinator for the first Word Travels Festival in Sydney and also featured in the "2013: A Spoken Word Odyssey" at Marrickville Festival.

Lorin also works with young people as part of the Stand Tall Speak Out High School Poetry Slam in Bankstown and is currently running a series of special Poetry Object workshops with The Red Room Company.



Zohab Khan is the current Australian Poetry Slam Champion, didgeridoo player, harmonica beat-boxer and hip-hop artist. Zohab has toured Asia, the Middle East and Europe to sell-out crowds. In 2014, Zohab was a finalist in the International Poetry Slam in Madrid and was chosen to participate in an artistic residency in Dubai.

As an 4th generation Australian of Pakistani heritage and having grown up in rural NSW, Zohab has channelled his distinct life experiences into stories with the intent to educate. Zohab confronts a range of social justice issues from racism to gender inequality and socio-economic disparities. Zohab's high energy and powerful words have left countless inspired.

I Write (2015) is his first collection of poetry.

About Us

The Red Room Company creates unusual and useful poetry projects that transform expectations of, and experiences with, poetry. We aspire to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.