

Rick Sanders aka Willis the Poet – host

Rick Sanders, aka Willis the Poet, is an established comedy stand-up poet based in the mighty West Midlands. He is a regular headliner and featured poet on the Birmingham circuit and is also active in the flourishing spoken word scene around the country, his sticky sausage-fingers in as many pies as he can.

“Willis the Poet is without a doubt one of the funniest poets it has been my pleasure to hear perform. His easy yet intensely witty interaction with his audience makes every performance a time of laughter, hilarity and sheer out and out fun!”

Jemima Hughes

Jemima Hughes is a multi-slam winning performance poet who will sweep you up and drag you through the “mindfield” of the unorthodox, swiftly spinning it into the ordinary. She brings you into the storm, pauses for breaks in the clouds, and sits with you in the aftermath to discuss how to rebuild. Jemima’s debut poetry collection ‘Unorthodox’, published with Verve Poetry Press in 2020, challenges perceptions of living with sexual trauma and mental health issues through sharing personal experiences. Her new 2023 collection ‘Into The Ordinary’ aims to change perspectives on how we can make the world a more accepting, understanding, and comfortable place for those living with these experiences.

Social media: jemima_unspoken

Website: jemimahughespoet.co.uk

Cheri Gillingham

Cheri Gillings is “momma bear” to one girl child and “nanny bear” to two grand babies. They are “her favourite beings on the whole earth.”

Cheri works with people for personal change. A counsellor and coach but really, she’s a creative.

A round thing fitting into squareness of life, always finding that creativity spills over the sides and seeps into everything, personal, professional, political.

It sounds like a cliché, but actually art and creativity has been the vehicle for recovery and healing.

Elysia Laidlaw

Elysia Laidlaw is a poet from Birmingham.

She thinks of poetry as an escape from reality. She gets to leave her troubles behind and get lost in the wonderful ideas of her creative mind.

She writes a lot about what people might be too afraid to say i.e. politics, women’s rights, racism etc. Poetry has become her life and she’s so excited to show everyone what is next from her.

