

Book Review Feature - Dr. Joanne Kilgour Dowdy

The introduction to this pictorial journey details the childhood of an aspiring artist in war-torn Trinidad and Tobago where political and social upheaval temporarily reigned. Joanne Kilgour Dowdy, however had an element of prestige acquired in her formative years at a top of the line Roman Catholic school for girls, where appearances and accomplishments meant everything. Her photographic compilation shows the years when her sensational art endeavors were first beginning. Joanne learned to utilize the constraints of the turmoil her country faced before she let it restrict her own visions. She used her early career broadcasting local news at the age of 16, to urge independence, freedom and identity while maintaining her own very distinctive persona. Ms. Dowdy also received a scholarship from the British Theater Association. Joanne Dowdy made her way to the United States on a scholarship that allowed her to first attend Boston Conservatory of Music before moving on to Juilliard School in New York.

In the Public Eye chronicles over 40 years spent: in choreography, a variety of dance, theatrical performances including many notorious musicals such as "The Wiz" and "Fame", broadcasted news, at art festivals, television workshops, her one-woman autobiographical show, a television drama series and more. "People need models and they need to find a community where they can learn and develop the abilities to be a success", she voiced after one of her first publications. Joanne is recognized and critically acclaimed not only in her homeland, but nationally and internationally by critics everywhere. One of the highest achievers in a multitude of the arts Joanne serves as an encouraging example of all that can be achieved by anyone anywhere with the right determination and outlook.

In more recent years, after conquering the art of the pen, Joanne has found a home in our very own Kent State University, here in Ohio as Professor of Adolescent/Adult



Literacy. Dr. Dowdy has spent the last several years exploring the power of language through text, and has been published several times. Some of these titles include but are not limited to **The Skin that We Speak: Thoughts on Language and Culture in the Classroom**, **GED Stories: Black Women & Their Struggle for Equality**. No stranger to awards, last year, Ms. Dowdy was the recipient of the American Educational Research Association Narrative and Research Special Interest Group's Outstanding Book Award for Ph.D. Stories: Conversations With My Sisters. Her nomination for the highly prestigious national award came as a surprise to Dr. Dowdy.

Her book In the Public Eye, lends thanks to the community and people who made it possible for her to achieve all her dreams. This story stands as a salute to this multi-talented black Trinidadians woman who withstood a lifetime of competition and a lifetime achievement of teaching through example. Dr. Dowdy is the author of seven books and the eight copy of is available for sale April 2010.

By: Christina Wairegi - AALM Editorial Team