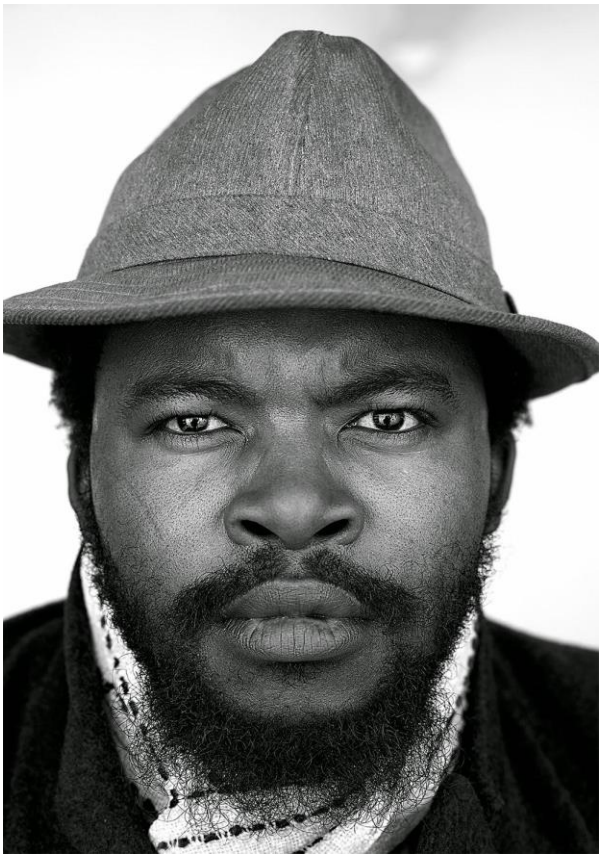
Mak Manaka's Short Biog



Maakomele R. Manaka is a Soweto born poet with a strong artistic heritage. He teaches creative writing in and around South Africa, and holds a Masters Degree in Creative Writing from Rhodes University. South African icon, Dr. Don Mattera says, "If genius can be genetically connected and if it flows from generation to generation, then Mak Manaka is the epitome of it. He comes from a dynasty of talented, creative and gifted people Nomsa and Matsemela". Mak, as he is widely known, has published four collections of poetry *If Only* (selfpublished, 2003. Edited by Don Mattera), *In Time* (Geko,2009. Edited by Andrew Miller) *Flowers Of A Broken Smile* (Inksword, 2016) and *Oncoming Traffic* (Botsotso, 2018. Edited by Allan Horwitz) two of which have been translated into Italian and German. His writings have appeared in literary journals and news papers globally and around the country; Mail & Gurdian, Aerodrome, New Coin, Botsotso, Kotaz, The Chronic, Poetry Potion, Best New African Poets and Illuminations. He also recorded a dub-poetry album titled, *Word Sound Power*. Manaka has been invited to perform his poetry at various literary festivals locally and abroad, from Soweto to Spain, Cuba, Jamaica, Lesotho, Botswana, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and at the inauguration of former president Mr. Thabo Mbeki, he also performed for the late Mr. Nelson Mandela. He received best art of the year at the age of 5 at the once celebrated Funda Art Centre, and was nominated for The Daimler Chrysler Poet Of the Year 2005 Award. He represented South Africa at the closing ceremony of the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany and performed at the Market Theatre in 2018 for a tribute show to South African icons titled The Living Legends.