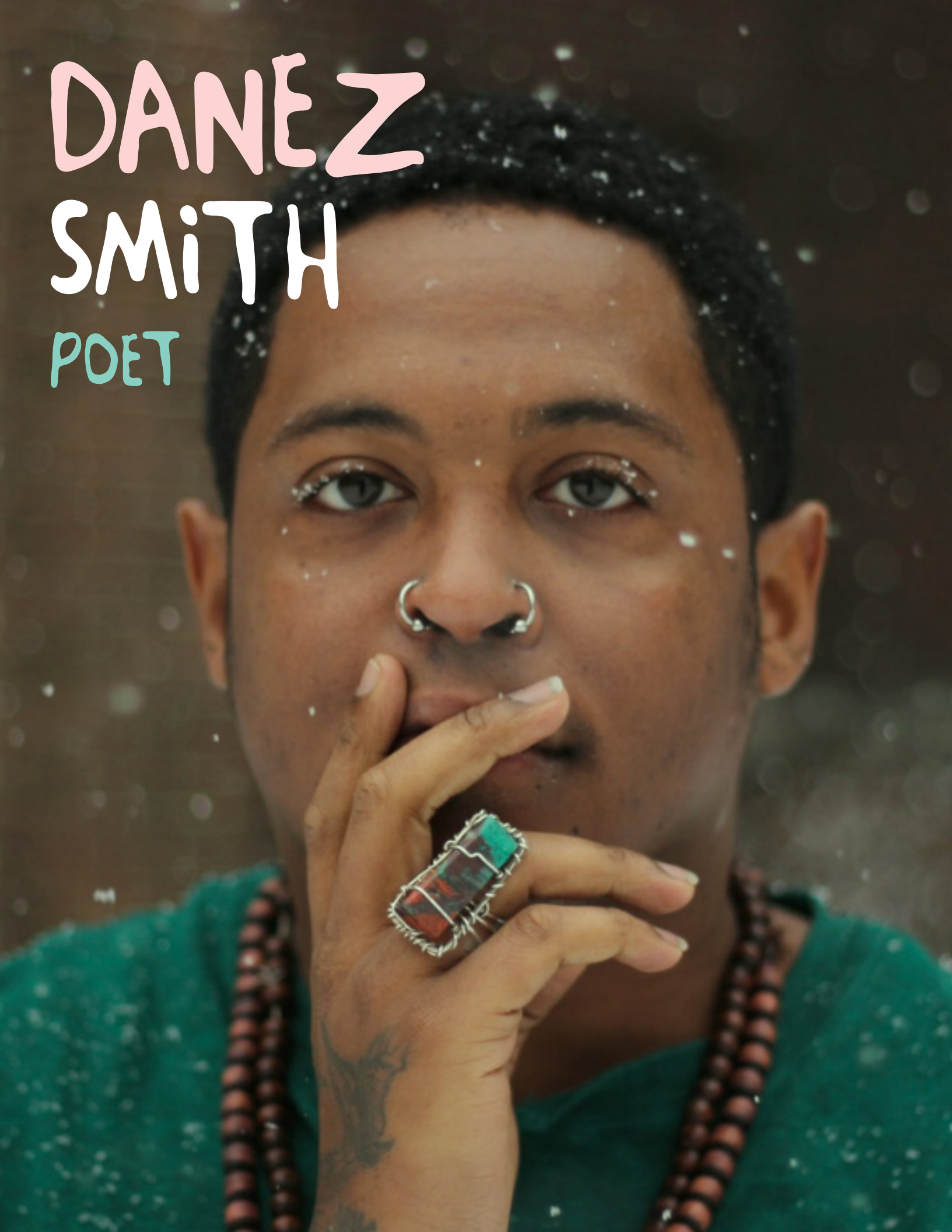


DANEZ

SMITH

POET





Danez Smith is the author of *[insert] boy* (2014, YesYes Books), winner of the 2014 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry and finalist for the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. His second collection, *Don't Call Us Dead*, will be published by Graywolf Press in 2017. He is also the author of two chapbooks, *hands on ya knees* and *black movie*, winner of the Button Poetry Prize. His work has been published and featured widely including in Poetry Magazine, Beloit Poetry Journal, BuzzFeed, Blavity, and Ploughshares. He is a 2014 Ruth Lilly & Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellow, a Cave Canem and VONA alum, and a recipient of a McKnight Foundation Fellowship. He is a two-time Individual World Poetry Slam finalist, placing second in 2014. He edits for The Offing and is a founding member of two collectives, Dark Noise and Sad Boy Supper Club. He lives in the midwest most of the time.

Danez was featured in American Academy of Poet's Emerging Writers Series by National Book Award Finalist, Patricia Smith. Like her, he bridges the poetics of the stage to that of the page. Danez's work transcends arbitrary boundaries to present work that is gripping, dismantling of oppression constructs, and striking on the human heart. Often centered around intersections of race, class, sexuality, faith, and social justice, Danez uses rhythm, fierce raw power, and image to re-imagine the world as he takes it apart in his work.



Danez Smith is the crown prince of innovation and ferocity, a stunningly original voice that chooses not to recognize or respect those vexing artistic boundaries. Here is forte unleashed, an elicited glimpse of poetry's yet-to-be-turned page, a reason to stomp and romp in your church shoes. Hallelujah is an understatement.

- Patricia Smith
National Book Award Finalist

PUBLICATIONS

HANDS ON YA KNEES

Penmanship Books, 2013

[INSERT] BOY

YesYes Books, 2014

BLACK MOVIE

Button Poetry, 2015

DONT CALL US DEAD

Graywolf Press, 2017

[INSERT] BOY
DANEZ SMITH



ACCOLADES

Ruth Lilly & Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship (2014)

McKnight Foundation Fellowship (2014)

Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry (for [insert] boy, 2014)

Paris American Reading Series Prize Winner (2014)

Second Place at Individual World Poetry Slam (2014)

Button Poetry Prize (for black movie, 2015)

Finalist for Norma Farber First Book Award (2015)

Finalist for Debutlitzer Prize (2015)

Listen to mic.com's inaugural Mic 50

First Poet with written work featured on Buzzfeed

PERFORMANCES

2011 Queer Contact Festival (Manchester, UK)

Featured Performer

Nuyorican Poets Cafe (2014)

Featured Poet

Split This Rock Festival 2014

Featured Poet

FAMU Younger Poets Series 2015

Featured Poet

Brave New Voices 2014

Featured Poet

These harrowing poems make montage, make mirrors, make elegiac biopic, make "dope ass trailer with a hundred black children / smiling into the camera & the last shot is the wide mouth of a pistol." That's no spoiler alert, but rather, Smith's way-saying and laying it beautifully bare. A way of desensitizing the reader from his own defenses each time this long, *Black Movie* repeats.

– Marcus Wicker, National Poetry Series Winner

[insert] boy is filled with lines of rage and sorrow and everything in between. It's filled with some of the most aching lines I've ever had the pleasure of reading.

– Probably Crying Review

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alternate names for black boys

1. smoke above the burning bush
2. nemesis of summer night
3. first son of soil
4. coal awaiting spark & wind
5. guilty until proven dead
6. oil heavy starlight
7. monster until proven ghost
8. gone
9. boy
10. phoenix who forgets to un-ash
11. god of shovels & black veils
12. what once passed for kindling
13. fireworks at dawn
14. brilliant, shadow colored coral
15. (I thought to leave this blank
but who am I to name us nothing?)
16. prayer who learned to bite & sprint
17. a mother's joy & clutched breath

“

Danez is a black man.
Danez is a gay man. Danez
is oppressed in more
ways than others, but the
innovative way he shapes
his understanding and place
in the world is what makes
everything about Danez
and his words so powerful
and full of life.

– H. Melt
Lambda Literary

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