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Teens Raise Their Voices this July at the 17th Annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam in Philadelphia

*This summer, Philadelphia hosts the world's largest, most diverse spoken word event
-Wednesday, July 16, 2014 to Saturday, July 19, 2014-*

PHILADELPHIA, PA- May XX, 2014- The voice of the 21st century resounds in Philadelphia, as the [17th Annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam](#) makes its way to the city, July 16-19, 2014. Five hundred young poets and spoken word artists, aged 13-19, will convene in Philadelphia, representing 50 parts of the country and 5 additional cities from across the globe. The subject of a hit [HBO series](#), Brave New Voices (BNV) will capture teenagers picking up the pen and taking hold of the microphone with passion, creativity and power.

At the heart of Brave New Voices is a multi-round poetry slam competition, shining a spotlight on young artists, educators, poets, and emerging leaders from around the world. From the quarter finals to the final showdown, this impassioned demonstration of free speech, artistic empowerment, and youth voice will foster a community of dialogue in celebration of "Possibility." In addition to the slam competition, BNV participants will have the opportunity to engage in world-class workshops with renowned poets and writers, complete various youth development programs, and discover and develop the skills to become America's next generation of leaders.

During the four-day festival, 54 events will take place on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, as well as at various community-based theaters, major performance venues, and public spaces across Philadelphia. The Festival schedule, subject to updates, is as follows:

Opening Ceremonies: July 16, 2014, 6-8pm

Location: University of Pennsylvania: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Zellerbach Theatre

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BNV National Youth Townhall: July 17, 2014, 10am-Noon

Location: University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Temple University

Writing Workshops: July 17, 2014, Noon-5pm

Location: TBA

Queeriosity: July 17, 2014, 7-9pm

Location: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Prince Theatre

BNV Poetry Slam Quarter Finals: July 18, 2014, 9-11am, Noon-2pm, and 3-5pm

Locations: (Three shows per venue)

- Asian Arts Initiative Theater, 2nd Floor
- Underground Arts Theatre
- Underground Arts Cafe
- Painted Bride Art Center
- Arden Theatre, Arcadia Stage
- Arden Theatre, Independence Studio
- FringeArts
- National Constitution Center

BNV Poetry Slam Semi Finals: July 18, 2014, 7-9pm

Location: TBA

Hard Stock/Life is Living: July 19, 2014, 10am-3pm

Location: Philly Urban Creators, North Philadelphia

BNV Grand Slam Finals: July 19, 2014- 6-10pm

Location: University of Pennsylvania: Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Zellerbach, Prince and Montgomery Theatres

Held in a different city each year, the festival will make its way to the City of Brotherly Love for the first time since its inception in 1998. Created by Youth Speaks after the inaugural Youth Speaks Youth Poetry Slam in San Francisco, BNV is the first youth-centric poetry slam in the nation's history. Since that time, BNV has grown to represent youth from across the United States, Canada, Africa, the Polynesian Islands, and Europe, making it the largest and most diverse ongoing spoken word event in the world.

Founded in 1996, [Youth Speaks](#) is the leading nonprofit presenter of Spoken Word performance, education, and youth development programs in the country. Youth Speaks first produced The Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam in 1997, and has since been an important cornerstone of Youth Speaks' annual programming.

The 2014 Brave New Voices Festival is made possible through the generous support of the Ford Foundation, The Surdna Foundation, The Panta Rhea Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, Philadelphia Foundation, The Will and Jada

Smith Family Foundation, and through the generosity of individuals who believe in the power of youth voice.

For more information on the 17th Annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam, visit <http://youthspeaks.org/bravenewvoices/>, follow @[bravenewvoices](#) on Twitter, and like “[Youth Speaks Brave New Voices](#)” on Facebook.

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