

## **SEGUN LEE-FRENCH**

Nigerian Mancunian Segun is a singer, poet, composer, playwright and film-maker. He believes that, given the desire and the opportunity, anybody can do anything. Segun's work is inspired by jazz, reggae, hiphop and the beat poets. Segun has lived and worked in France and Spain, and is fluent in French & Spanish.

Segun's debut solo show, "**Bro 9**" at **Contact Theatre**, opened to critical acclaim in April 2003 & won **Best Fringe Performer** & **Best Design** in the prestigious **Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards**. He has also had several commissions & broadcasts on **BBC Radio 3** & **Radio Manchester**. In 2006, **Bro 9** was produced as a critically acclaimed short film, starring Segun and directed by Juliet Ellis.

Segun is a founder member of Manchester's "**Speakeasy People**" poetry & music collective, which is one of UK's longest established Black arts collectives. In addition, he is one fifth of **Brothataalk**, a group of 5 Black male poets, who perform work around the experience of relationships and fatherhood. With Brothataalk, Segun has performed in venues, theatres, schools and libraries across the country.

In Autumn 2005, Segun was nominated for the **Arts Foundation Performance Poetry** award. In 2005, Segun was also commissioned by **Big Creative Ideas** to write "**Booty Call**", a play for young people, which toured the UK in autumn 2006, gaining rave reviews in **The Telegraph** & **The Stage**.

From 2003 to 2006, Segun worked as the **North West Regional Coordinator** for **Apples and Snakes**, the UK's long established poetry organisation, to develop spoken word activity across the North West region.

He is currently writing a new play for rural touring "**Palm Wine & Stout**" for the **Theatre Writing Partnership** and a musical, "**Venus & the Killer Bees**" commissioned by **Contact Theatre**, Manchester and **Eclipse Theatre**. Segun's first poetry collection, **Praise Songs for Aliens** was published by **Suitcase Press** in October 2009.

Black British theatre has found an appealingly quirky voice in Segun Lee-French...**Booty Call**... a comedy of modern urban manners  
**Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph**