

Writing under the pen name Tré Ventour, Tré Griffiths defines himself as a Northamptonian writer, events coordinator, journalist and poet. Having co-written a play and written journalism articles on Black Briton Walter Tull, Tré is also invested in Black British history. Additionally, he is a current third-year student on BA Creative Writing. What all these different forms of writing have in common with the job role is the unification of BME topics, including representation, intersectional feminism and whitewashed history.

As the VP BME sabbatical officer, Tré wants to enhance the university experience for BME students. He wants to introduce different initiatives and events, including monthly book and film clubs (respectively), a fortnightly support group. Additionally, he wants to work with local community organisations to put on events he believes BME students will enjoy. e.g spoken word evenings, Windrush-themed nights and marking occasions like independence days (e.g. Jamaican independence) and festivals like Diwali.

In January 2018, he became the Northampton Ambassador for a Luton-born poetry company called Soul Food Poetry, a company that do spoken word music events in Bedfordshire, London, Northampton and Amsterdam. He is the point of call in Northamptonshire but supports all the locations, having been to Amsterdam twice in the name of performance art.

At the end of 2018, Tré founded ‘Can You Poet?’ - a spoken word poetry event operating in The Waterside Bar and Restaurant. It’s an event that prides itself on bringing sociopolitical issues to light through creative expression. In this case, it’s spoken word poetry.

Its maiden run in January was centred on human rights, even inviting Hope Centre CEO Robin Burgess to talk about poverty in Northampton. Our March event is themed on women, as it’s women’s history month. April is themed on the question ‘Where Are You From?’ Each event will have acts coming from all over the country, poets that Tré knows from his activities inside and outside the county, including London and Luton, and abroad, in The Netherlands.

Moreover, he organised a Black History Month-themed spoken word poetry event for Changemaker Hub in October 2018. Having organised a number of successful poetry events already on campus, he believes he could be an asset to the Student Union as the VP BME Sabbatical Officer.

SMART Objectives

• Introduce a support group where students can talk (without judgement) about being of colour and British in the 21st century.

• Liaise with local organisations to deliver events. Such organisations can include: NREC, NBHA, Changemaker Hub and Lemon Pop Workshops.

• Introduce a monthly book club, reading BME authors while discussing BME topics based on what’s being read.

• Introduce a monthly film club where films will be watched and discussed, in collaboration with Northampton Filmhouse. It’s about seeing yourself reflected.

• Take students on trips to events. e.g. a panel with Nikesh Shukla, or The Black Verse – a poetry night in London made by Black poets to promote Black poets.

Areas of Interest

• Promoting arts on campus

• Representation

• Community engagement