

Annie Rachele Lanzillotto is a poet, memoirist and performance-artist; author of the books: “Hard Candy: Caregiving, Mourning and Stage Light,” and “Pitch, Roll, Yaw” (Guernica World Editions), "L is for Lion: an italian bronx butch freedom memoir" (SUNY Press, Finalist for the Lambda Literary Foundation Award), and "Schistsong," (Bordighera Press). A pluralist by nature, Lanzillotto’s performance work is inspired by the demos, the cacophonous opera of pushcart peddler street cries, the roots of theater in the agora, the solo *cantastoria* in the *piazza*. Her riveting stories ignite interaction. She’s performed her works at The Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, City Lore, The Kitchen, The Guggenheim Museum, Dixon Place, Franklin Furnace, Bronx Museum of the Arts, and in Italy at: *Napoli Citta Libro—Napoli, Fondazione Sassi—Matera, Queer Film Fest—Palermo, Associazione Lette di Sera—Potenza*. Lanzillotto’s received New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in Non-Fiction Writing, and Multi-Disciplinary Performance.

Her solo performance works include: “Feed Time” (Dixon Place, City Lore), “A Stickball Memoir” (Smithsonian Folk Life Festival) “Confessions of a Bronx Tomboy: My Throwing Arm, This Useless Expertise” (Under One Roof, Manhattan Class Company), “*La Scarpetta*” (Guggenheim Museum *Works in Process* Series), “*a’Schapett!*” at The Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx, (*Dancing in the Streets* OnSite/NYC; Rockefeller Foundation MAP Fund) “The Flat Earth: Where’d daffhuck Did New York Go?” (Dixon Place Mondo Cane Commission), “How to Wake Up a Marine in a Foxhole” (The Kitchen,). Her plays include: “Pocketing Garlic” (Franklin Furnace), “The Hooking Place” (Theatre 68), “Lasagna Superstar” a musical (St. Ann’s Church).

Lanzillotto’s characters bring history into contemporary contexts for audiences and passers-by. Her barefoot pushcart peddler *Chimaroot* called street cries in The Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx and the neighboring streets, instigating spontaneous *lazzi*: arguments and scenarios. Her *Cantastoria* (sing the story) sat atop blue corner mailboxes in Manhattan, redefining mailboxes as “portals of New York stories” where she led audience and passers-by in spontaneous choral recitation of her poetry projected onto the exterior walls of buildings, and a *passeggiata letteraria* (literary walk) through the streets. As *Iceman* she spins and breaks a 200 pound block of ice in homage to her iceman father and grandfathers. She performed her “Ballad for Joe Zito” at Unite’s 100th Triangle Fire Memorial. She was a founding Board Member of *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition*, and conceived of the “146 Shirtwaist Kites” which grew into a coalition-wide community art project emblematic of the fallen sweatshop workers of 1911; an annual ephemeral street memorial.

She’s received fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts in Non-Fiction Writing, and Multi-Disciplinary Performance, and the Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership program. She’s received commissions and grants from *Dancing In the Streets*, Franklin Furnace, Dixon Place, Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund, and Puffin Foundation. Her poetry was awarded the Paolucci Award from the Italian American Writer’s Association, the Allen Ginsburg Award from The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College, and the Petracca Award from Philadelphia Poets. She’s

held writing residencies at Hedgebrook, Santa Fe Arts Institute, New Jersey City University, and The University of Vermont.

As a Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership Fellow she collaborated on the projects: “Mandela Freedom Gardens” in Newark and Kisumu, Kenya; and “Artists for Social Change.” She created “AHA: Activists Healing through the Arts,” offering healing sessions for activists working on peace in the Middle East, supported by a grant in Sustainable Activism from The Rockefeller Foundation's Next Generation Leadership Program. She organized a roundtable of Rockefeller Fellows with Palestinian artists in the exhibit: "Made in Palestine" at SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco.

With her distinctive raw Bronx roar, Lanzillotto podcasts original stories as "Annie's Story Cave," and hosts the talk show, “Tell Me A Story – with Annie Lanzillotto” a CityLore Salon. She narrated her audiobooks for Audible.com, and is singer/songwriter of the albums: “Never Argue With a Jackass,” “Swampjuice: Yankee With Southern Peasant Heart,” “Blue Pill” and “Carry My Coffee.” She holds a BA with honors from Brown University, and an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She is Artistic Director of *StreetCry*. Visit: www.annielanzillotto.com, www.StreetCryInc.org.