

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton College Graduate's Book Tour for *Squircular!: An Actor's Tale Almost Underway*

New York Native, Miami Resident Writes About His Stockton Mentor

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Galloway Township, NJ- Summer Hill Seven's latest book, *Squircular!: An Actor's Tale*, the third in a trilogy, was published in November of 2010. On January 14, 2011, the author, a graduate of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, will launch a book tour.

Summer Hill Seven, born Raymond Bernard Larkins, is a writer, a director, an actor and one of the first authors to employ the new and innovative literary genre called poemedry, which creates a balanced blend between poetry and comedy. A poemedry is a seven line poem in which each line contains seven syllables. Seven calls himself the "founder of the poemedry movement."

Squircular is a poemedry memoir that incorporates essalogues, a combination of the traditional essay with a monologue, in addition to 49 sections of poemedry. Seven says that the word squircular is his "poetic response" to two paintings, a circle and a cube.

Karen Hunter, a *New York Times* bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, said, "Summer Hill Seven...is truly one of the most important voices of our time."

Seven's original approach and use of poemedries are the "heart of the book." Seven explained, "Poemedry recognizes that every syllable uttered by humans is in fact a poem."

Seven's first mentor in college was Dr. Harvey Kesselman, who is currently provost and executive vice president at Stockton. Seven met Kesselman at age 18 through Stockton's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), which Kesselman directed at the time. The EOF program at Stockton provides disadvantaged students opportunities to excel academically.

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Seven, known as Alim Akbar during his college years, wrote in *Squircular* that Kesselman “took notice of the fact that I was excelling in the rigorous [EOF] program while faithfully adhering to the requirements of the Islamic month of fasting. We became fast friends and spent many hundreds of hours over the course of my four years discussing politics and philosophy.”

Seven pointed out in *Squircular* that “Stockton taught me to see opportunities instead of obstacles.”

Seven currently resides in Miami, Florida, but he was born in born in Albany, New York and raised in Trenton, New Jersey. While studying political science and African-American studies at Stockton College, Seven served as the first African-American and first two-term president of the College's Student Senate. Before graduating with honors, he also founded the Pi Xi Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and served as a chairperson for the African-American History Month Committee of the Unified Black Students Society (UBSS).

“We intend to hold at least 11 *Squircular* book events in which we will record the readings ‘live’ and then release a recording of the audio book. The second reading will be in Trenton, NJ where I grew up,” said Seven.

During his book tour events, Seven will be reading and signing copies of *Squircular*. Each of the readings will feature a different chapter from the book, and eventually, the recordings will be released as an audio book.

Book Tour Dates:

- **January 14, 2011**, 7:00 p.m., Chapter 7
Sister's Uptown Bookstore and Cultural Center
1942 Amsterdam Avenue, Harlem, NY
- **January 15, 2011**, 2:00 p.m., Chapter 11
Classic Books
117 South Warren Street, Trenton, NJ
- **January 29, 2011**, 3:00 p.m., Chapter 3
Border's Miami International Airport
Miami, FL

As a poemedian, Seven has performed at New York's Lincoln Center, the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts, the Byron Carlyle Theatre (Miami Beach, FL), the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Asolo (Sarasota, FL), the National Black Theatre (Harlem, NY), Nuyorican Poetry Café, Bowery Poetry Club, Miami's Literary Café and the Afrikan Poetry Theatre.

Seven was the national director of community service for the National Black Law Students Association and a legal aid attorney for the Essex-Newark Legal Services of New Jersey. He is a distinguished alumnus of Sister Clara Muhammad School (Philadelphia, PA), The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (honors), Princeton University, New York University School of Law and the University of Delaware's Professional Theater Training Program.

For more information on Summer Hill Seven and *Squircular*, please visit <http://www.squircular.com>. To watch a video about *Squircular*, [click here](#). # # #