

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Conney Williams: Three Poems

Conney Williams · Thursday, March 30th, 2017

Conney Williams is a poet, actor, community activist, and performance artist. He has two collections of poetry, *Leaves of Spilled Spirit from an Untamed Poet* (2002) and *Blues Red Soul Falsetto* (2012). In 2015, he released two critically acclaimed CDs of his poetry accompanied by music titled *River&Moan* and *Unsettled Water*. He is the Artistic Director at the World Stage and Coordinator for the Anansi Writers Workshop.

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zona colonial

El Malecon heaves
 like a lost European explorer
 who dispenses disease
 with each conquest
 she heaves
 at curb and cobblestone
 until African and native bone
 rise middle of the calle
 and protrude from
 the stone and mortar
 there is no memory here
 of chains or rape
 and monuments are
 no place for blood
 to return home
 sharp left turns
 narrow one-ways
 these caminos
 weren't made for
 a '57 Chevy BelAir, or
 such a reticent revolution
 here the sunset dresses

in her best orange
ancient architecture
transform into ballerinas
dancing off sugar sky
with soft new skin

cuban shower

the spigot laughs
from the wall above my head
not even my nakedness
warms her
nothing makes her hot
her open mouth
shocks
brain and skin
brace my body
like a conquistador
crossing the Atlantic
for the first time

I am not afraid of you

I have seen you
inside the folded edges
of poorly developed photographs
pieces torn from self-portraits;
I have seen you across the room
at parties neither of us wanted to attend
the look up on your face
always tells the whole story of you
how do you hide you so well
between scar of unintentional lovers
and the soft sedative of tears
filling your safe deposit box
I know where you hide it
from everyone you have ever known

(Author photo by Alexis Rhone Fancher)

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