

Celebrate Wha'? is a book of many voices. It is a book of questions and answers. It is an anthology of poems about identity and race, curried goat 'n' rice. Dreadlock Alien, Sue Brown, Marcia Calame, Evoke, Martin Glynn, Michelle Hubbard, Kokumo, Roy McFarlane, Chester Morrison and Moqapi Selassie explore what it means to be black and British and from the Midlands. This is the English language in a Caribbean coat, Auden in a Creole accent, writing with a reggae rhythm. *Celebrate Wha'?* is poetry as Wordsworth said it should be – 'the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings'. Mixing dub, grime and performance poetry, anger and laughter, politics and music, these ten poets know what they want to say and know how to say it.



Eric Doumerc teaches English at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail in France. His books include *Caribbean Civilisation: The English-Speaking Caribbean since Independence* and *An Introduction to Poetry in English*.

Roy McFarlane was born in Birmingham of Jamaican parentage. He is a Mental Health Community Development Worker in Dudley and Walsall. His play *For the Love of Auset* was premiered at The Drum, Aston, in 2007. He is a former Starbucks poet in residence and a member of the New October Poets. He is currently Birmingham's Poet Laureate.



Cover image: *Fragments 3* by Vanley Burke
Design: James Cianciaruso

www.smokestack-books.co.uk

£7.95

ISBN 978-0-9568144-0-1



9 780956 814401

Celebrate Wha'?

Eric Doumerc and Roy McFarlane

Smokestack Books

Celebrate Wha'?

Ten Black British Poets from the West Midlands



Edited by Eric Doumerc and Roy McFarlane