

# Frank E. Dobson, Jr., PhD

## Fact Sheet

Current Residence: Nashville, TN and also Dayton, OH

Website: [www.frankedobsonjr.com](http://www.frankedobsonjr.com)

Contact Info:

Media: [media@frankedobsonjr.com](mailto:media@frankedobsonjr.com)

Speaking Engagements: Frank E. Dobson, Jr., PO Box 557, 230 Appleton Place, Nashville, TN 37203

### Professional Highlights:

Accomplished Author (selected works):

#### **Books:**

- o Rendered Invisible (Plain View Press), Historical Novella and short story collection, August, 2010
- o The Race is Not Given (Sterlinghouse Publisher), Novel, 1999

#### **Short Stories (fiction and non-fiction) and Articles:**

- o "Behold, Your Mother" – *Journal of Family Life*, 2009
- o "Beyond Black Men as Breeders: White Men and the Commodity of Blackness" – *AmeriQuests*, Vol. 6, No.1, 2008
- o "Outside the Box" - Gumbo for the Soul, 2007
- o "Junior Ain't" – Proverbs for the People: an Anthology of African American Fiction (Kensington Publishing Corp) 2003
- o "Beyond the Legend: The Life and Dreams of Dr. King," – *Impact Weekly*, Vol. 10, No. 3, 2003
- o "Beyond the Limits: Reflections of a Black Working Class Academic" - *Public Voices*, Spring, 2002
- o "Homeless M.F.," - *Warpland: A Journal of Black Literature and Ideas*, Vol. No. 1, 1995

#### **Other:**

Poetry, Book Reviews, Book Introductions, Encyclopedia articles

Effective speaker and communicator (Selected topics):

- o Speaking Engagements:
  - "Black Men Writing"
  - "Preserving Our Heritage"
  - "The Legacy of Malcolm X: Combating Invisibility"
  - "Living Color: or Not Living It"
  - "Tracing Yesterday Through Today"
- o Scholarly Presentations:
  - "Black Guy, White Body" – Far West Popular Culture & American Culture
  - "Zora Neale Hurston and the Dirty South: Black Rituals Revisited" – 12th Annual Central New York Conference on Language and Literature
  - "Issues in Conflict Resolution: Peace, Race and Culture" – National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center

## Teacher leader, Trusted advisor

- **Current:**
  - Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
    - Director, Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center at Vanderbilt University
    - Faculty Head of House in Residence for Gillette House, The Commons at Vanderbilt.
    - Instructor, Vanderbilt Visions course on the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Experience
    - Numerous University committees and initiatives including the Chancellor's Scholarship Advisory Council, co-chair of Martin Luther King, Jr., Lecture Series, Dean's Council, programming and community outreach efforts, on-campus diversity efforts, student leadership, and more.
  - Fisk University: Visiting Professor, Creative Writing
- **Previous:**
  - Wright State University
    - Director, Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center
    - Coordinator, STARS Program (Student Achievement in Research and Scholarship)
    - Campus Coordinator, Ohio Board of Regents mentoring program for "undergraduate minority students of high academic ability"
- **Other:**
  - Board Member: YMCA of Middle Tennessee, Youth Development Center, Antioch Writers Workshop; The Belcourt Theatre, Nashville
  - Advisory Board: Paul Laurence Dunbar House
  - Member: Ohioana Library Association, Pop Culture/American Culture Association, Association of Black Culture Centers
  - Prior teaching positions and campus leadership: Indiana University, UCLA, Clark State Community college, Shippensburg University, Penn State University, Lafayette College, Ohio University, Bowling Green State University

## Highly educated

- B.A., English, University of New York at Buffalo, NY
- M.A., English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Ph.D., English, Bowling Green State University, OH
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Ford Foundation Summer Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture

More...

## Emerging playwright

- *Young Messiahs Fly*, 2009
  - NY City: Frank Silvera Writer' Workshop, Harlem School of the Arts
  - Nashville, TN: AAPEX presentation, Scarritt-Bennett Center, Vanderbilt University
  - Toledo, OH: New York Writers' Series, Ground Level Coffee House
- *Black Messiahs Fly* - National Black Theatre Festival, Reader' Theatre, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 2007
- *Friday's Without Pay* - National Black Theatre Festival, Reader's Theatre, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 2005

## Honored:

- Finalist, Ohioana Fiction Award, *The Race is Not Given*, 2000
- Artist's Fellowship – Montgomery County Regional Arts and Cultural District, 1997
- Zora Neale Hurston/Bessie Head Fiction Writers Award (Chicago State University) 1994
- Ford Foundation Fellowship – (University of Pennsylvania) 1992

## Other Interesting Dobson Facts:

- Taught by James Baldwin while working on his PhD at Bowling Green
- Influenced by: Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, John Edgar Wideman, James Baldwin and Ernest Hemingway
- Personal goal: "Sharing light and showing grace"
- Doctoral dissertation on use of oral tradition in Black History and Culture.
- Changed his professional name from Frank Dobson to Frank E. Dobson, Jr. when he began rebuilding his relationship with his father in adulthood, prior to his father becoming ill with cancer.
- Raised in working class family, three sisters. Dad worked in steel factory. Parents stressed education. Mom worked as domestic as well as in other positions.
- Father of three, blended family. Married. Shares residence with wife in Ohio.