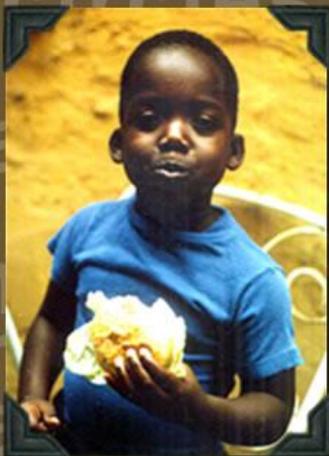


**Now Entering its Fifth Season!**

## sitting in circles with rich white girls



**"Fascinating...  
touching and  
troubling."  
-The Stranger**

**"Brilliant...  
Goller-Sojourner  
is both a  
heartbreaking and  
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-Seattle Weekly**

## memoirs of a bulimic black boy

a solo performance by Chad Goller-Sojourner

[www.sitting-in-circles.com](http://www.sitting-in-circles.com)

*"I'm sixteen years old and I spend two nights a week sitting in circles with rich white girls. Trust me I did not pray for this. So if you choose to remember anything, remember that my prayer was to have been born a rich white girl, not sit in circles with them."*

**Contact/ Booking:  
Chad Goller-Sojourner  
Color Your World Productions  
206-851-5933  
info@sitting-in-circles.com  
www.sitting-in-circles.com**

***"A critically lifesaving discourse about bodies, race, sexuality, gender & class, this is definitely an experience you don't want to miss."***

***Ian O'Brien, Humboldt State University '10***

### **PERFORMANCE:**

***Now Entering its Ninth Season – Sitting in Circles with Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy*** remains the groundbreaking and crushingly honest reclamation story of a fat, gay, bulimic, black boy raised by white parents and searching for identity, beauty, safe spaces and emergency landings.

**Contact Information**  
Color Your World Production  
3703 South Edmunds St #30  
Seattle, WA 98118

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At times funny, biting and somber, ***Sitting in Circles...*** takes audiences on an intense and insightful journey, through the performer's life-long affair with the scale and a ten plus year liaison with an eating disorder – along the way unpacking the mother lode of identity construction and self-preserving mechanisms. And yet, the performer's greatest gift remains the ability to find playfulness even in the midst of grief. Retold, these stories are funnier than they are tragic. Like the time he got busted by the high school janitor and guidance counselor, who instead of mopping floors and handing out college brochures, decided to play Cagney and Lacey and stake out the boys' bathroom during 5<sup>th</sup> period, hoping to catch the crafty girl they assumed must be sneaking in and throwing up.

Whether retracing the struggles and hilarities of being diagnosed during the mid-eighties with a "girl's" disease or exploring how the narrow categories we assign ourselves (and others) invariably fail to describe our whole selves, ***Sitting in Circles... continues to resonate with diverse audiences.*** Demonstrating how even the most painful of experiences can be healed, transformed, and accepted for what they are: the building blocks of our unique identities.

The production originally debuted in July 2008, under the directed of BROWNBOX African-American Theatre artistic director **Tyrone Brown.**, who explains, "Chad's writing is brilliant. He has this remarkable ability to transport the audience to a time and place showered in such vivid detail that you actually become a witness to his life. As a performer, Chad is so engaging that it's like you are the only other person in the room and he has personally invited you into his past to experience his life first hand."

## **ARTIST STATEMENT & BIO:**

Writing and performing continues to transport me to a place of depth and purpose— a place where everything about me fits and matters – a place where I feel distinctively beautiful.

My work explores the often complex and misunderstood world of identity construction and self-preserving mechanisms— specifically how growing up fat, black, gay, bulimic and raised by white parents affected and shaped both my development of and recovery from an eating disorder. Throughout this process my intention has been to draw from my own fractured history in the hopes of stitching together a unique, compelling, and entertaining body of work.

I am humbled and overjoyed that this work continues to resonate with such diverse audiences, particularly those who find themselves, or loved ones, in the bodies and voices presented onstage. I hold fast to the possibility that each person will take from the performance what they desire. If it is entertainment you seek, it's here; information, it's here; healing, it's here; reconciliation, it's here.

Of course, at the end of the day, *Sitting in Circles with Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy* remains the reclamation story of a once broken boy who spent fifteen years searching for identity, shelter, and temporal relief in spaces constructed of nothing more than cold ceramic tiles and graffiti-resistant stainless steel partitions.

**Chad Goller-Sojourner** is a Seattle-based writer, humorist, solo performer and recipient of a distinguished Washington State Arts Commission Performing Arts Fellowship. His work has been featured on NPR and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2010 he was appointed to the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) Diversity Task Force. In 2009, he launched a national college tour of his highly acclaimed solo show, *Sitting in Circles with Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy*, which continues to tour.

Additional works include: a Chapbook entitled *Born One Thousand Years Too Early: Fat, Dark-Skinned, Gay and Adopted by White Folks. A Fragmentary Journey Towards Alignment* received accolades from Maya Angelou and has been described as poignant, chilling and prophetic.

## **BOOKING/TECH & VENUE DETAILS:**

***Sitting in Circles...*** is a high impact, low tech solo performance running approximately 75 minutes, followed by a 20-30 minutes period for questions, comments, or issues that the audience may have about the work they just saw. **Performance & Discussion – \$2,500.00\***

\* Presenter is responsible for:

- Round trip travel (usually from Seattle) for performer.
- Standard hotel accommodations.
- Ground transportation to and from airport, accommodations, technical rehearsals, and performances.

### **Sound Requirements:**

- CD compatible PA system

### **Lighting Requirements:**

- Basic theatrical stage lighting setup

### **Pre-show Tech & Personnel Requirements:**

- One (1) knowledgeable "in-house" tech person capable of operating simple sound and lighting cues based on tech script, which will be provided.
- Minimum of two (2) hour scheduled tech run-through WITH available tech person to commence no less than 4 hours before show time.

### **Performance Space Requirements:\***

- "End stage theater" preferred with a minimum 18'x16' stage
- Performer will require one (1) music stand; two (2) adult sized armless non-folding chair (i.e. standard campus dining hall chair); two (2) flat surface stools or standard acting cubes

**\* We are pleased to and have adapted this performance to accommodate various venues, situations and settings.**

## **WORKSHOPS/CLASS DISCUSSIONS:**

Workshops can be a great addition to the performance and are easily tailored to fit a wide variety of participants, issues and situations. Fees range from \$300 to \$500 and depend on the number of participants and length of workshop, which generally run between ninety minutes and two and a half hours. See below for general descriptions. Time and scheduling permitting, performer is also available to participate in classroom visits/discussions (see attached letter).

**“My Body Is” Spoken Word/Poetry:** Originally created for the National Eating Disorder Association’s 2011 NEDAwareness Week, this groundbreaking poetry/writing workshop provides participants of all writing levels with a positive, supportive, life-affirming opportunity to explore and creatively express their “body” through a set of guided prompts\*. Whereas many “body image/awareness” workshops focus on weight/size acceptance, “My Body Is” chooses to define body as “all which exists from the crown of one’s head to the soul of one’s feet, including the often hidden and unseen i.e. chronic illness, depression, gender and various forms of trauma.

### **“My Body Is” Workshop Examples:**

My body is [Element in Weather] a rainstorm, warm, electric and wet.

My body is [Something Found on a Boat] an anchor, rusty, weighted, restrictive yet comforting

My body is [Historical Figure] Harriet Tubman, strong, black and bent towards liberation.

My body is [Something Found on a Car] a steering wheel, steady, rotating, almost perfectly round

**Spoken Word/Monologue:** This workshop focuses on creating and developing monologues and spoken word works that enliven political, social, and identity issues. Participants will explore the art of crafting and presenting stories that matter, inspire, and transform. This workshop is designed for students of all levels of experience, from those who have never explored this form of writing and performance to seasoned writers and performers. Students will leave with a broader and deeper understanding of the spoken word as a whole.

### **Creating A Solo Performance:**

This workshop will focus on how to develop and perform a solo show. Starting with what motivates you, we will then move into creating, crafting, and building upon your character/characters from both a written and physical point of view. Storytelling will figure heavily in the work as you begin to discover and structure your own solo performance material. Participants are asked to please come in with an idea. It can be anything—a poem, a prop, a gesture, a monologue, a word. Anything!

### **The Art Of Memoir Writing:**

Everybody has stories to tell. This workshop will focus on unearthing, harnessing, and crafting those stories into compelling memoirs. Covered topics include: finding your stories and honing your storytelling voice, exploring what moves you to tell them, writing memoir with the finesse of fiction, and giving yourself permission to say what needs to be said. We’ll also explore critical techniques such as character development, narrative arcs, and description. Come and explore the power of being your own witness.

### **Exploring Identities/ Beyond The Box:**

This exciting and informative workshop invites participants to challenge and explore their worldview, biases, and cultural socialization surrounding their current understanding of

identity formation and development. Topics covered include: exploring the relationship between leading and/or perceived identities and secondary and/or non-obvious identities, identity allegiance (such as Black/Gay vs. Gay/Black), shifting/transforming identities (such as Lesbian/Trans Male). In the end participants will leave with a broader and deeper understanding of their and others' identity stories.

# # #



**Apparel, Merchandising Design and Textiles Department**

**TO: Chad Goller-Sojourner**  
**DATE: 10/8/2009**  
**SUBJECT: Presentation in my class**

Dear Chad,

Your presentation at the CUB Auditorium last night was absolutely wonderful. The way you were able to describe your life at the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity and body image issues was masterful, especially in the way you were able to take painful moments and make them memorable with amusing anecdotes. Few people are willing to be so frank in discussions of how the body comes to represent societal issues, and you are to be lauded for doing that.

In addition, I so appreciate your willingness to come and discuss some of the same issues with my class today. AMT 417: Multicultural Perspectives on the Body and Dress is a course that examines how the body is mediated and controlled by societal norms, and how people strive to attain idealized images that are not only unrealistic, but harmful. Your willingness to openly discuss these issues in a way that helps students critically think about them is a true gift. After you left, the class and I had an excellent discussion about the serious issues you raised, and in doing so, you certainly raised their consciousness.

Again, thank you so much for coming to Pullman, and to my class, to provide a much needed lens through which to examine these serious societal issues.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Linda Boynton Arthur,**  
**Professor and Curator**  
**Department of Apparel Merchandising, Design and Textiles**

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

\_\_\_\_\_ Presents

**The Highly Acclaimed Solo Performance**

***Sitting in Circles with Rich White Girls: Memoirs of a Bulimic Black Boy***

**WHEN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TICKETS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDIA CONTACT:** For news stories and interviews contact \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESS PHOTOS:** <http://www.sitting-in-circles.com>

***"Brilliant... Goller-Sojourner is both a heartbreaking and hilarious storyteller."  
Seattle Weekly***

Award-winning and highly acclaimed solo performer, Chad Goller-Sojourner brings his hilarious and heartbreaking coming-of-age memoir to \_\_\_\_\_ (location) \_\_\_\_\_ for one night only, on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date and Time) \_\_\_\_\_.

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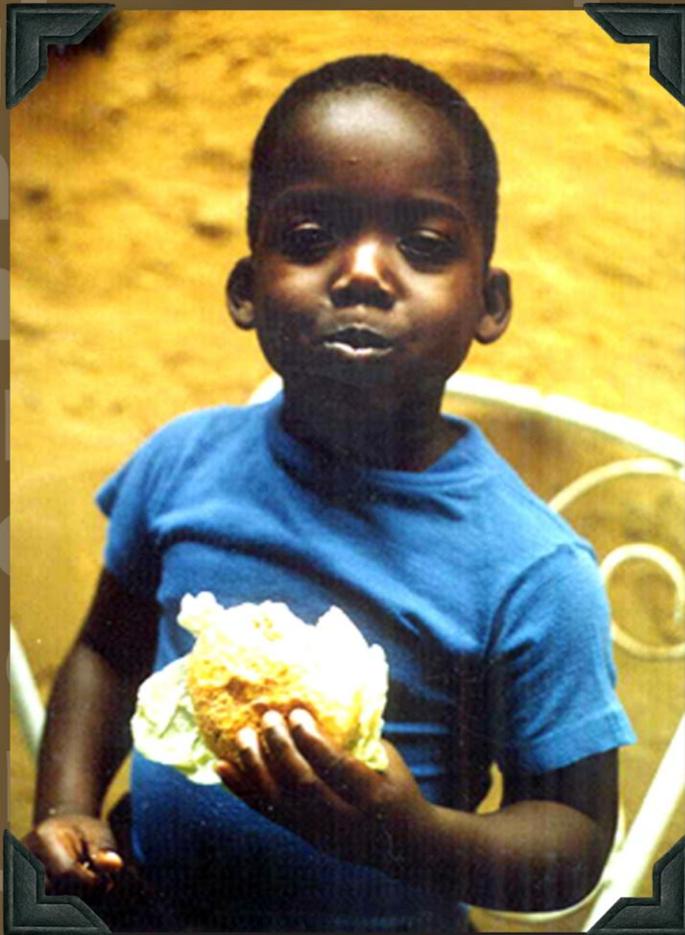
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Your School and Event Info Here

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