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Jason Reynolds and Other Acclaimed Writers Celebrate Youth-Authored *Black Boys Dreaming*

WASHINGTON, DC – Shout Mouse Press and Beacon House will [celebrate the launch](#) of a new teen-authored book, *Black Boys Dreaming: Virtual Verse & Pandemic Prose*, online via Zoom on **Thursday, October 28th at 6:30 p.m.** The authors, Khalil Barnes, Chase Cooper, Kevin Crawford and Josiah Ouabo, penned this collection of stories during the pandemic through a collaboration between Shout Mouse Press and Beacon House, an education and youth development nonprofit organization based in Northeast DC’s Edgewood neighborhood. The launch event will celebrate the lives of Black men and boys as they continue to play, imagine, and dream in a world where they are so often stifled and weaponized.

Black Boys Dreaming is a collection of imaginative stories that share messages of resilience, self-expression, and staying true to your dreams. Over the past two life-changing years, these young authors met with Shout Mouse story coaches Drew (Droopy) Anderson, Bomani Armah, and Alexa Patrick to work on their projects, first in-person at Beacon House and then virtually throughout the pandemic.

“Every week we met with these brilliant boys and asked them to author their own universes,” says Shout Mouse program manager Alexa Patrick. “The result was a truly vibrant and imaginative book.”

The young authors will be joined at the launch by acclaimed writers and poets Rasheed Copeland, Tony Keith Jr., Julian Randall, as well as a founding member of the Shout Mouse Megaphone Board, Jason Reynolds. These four luminaries, in conversation with the authors, will share what *Black Boys Dreaming* means to them, particularly amidst the challenges of the past months.

Attendance is free for all. Ticket options will include options to pre-purchase the book as well as “pay it forward” options where attendees can also purchase books directly for young people.

Since 2014, Shout Mouse Press has facilitated writing workshops with students participating in Beacon House’s Education Program to produce books centering the lived experiences of Black youth. This partnership has previously produced a novel-in-stories, *Trinitoga* (2014), about the lives of young people living in a fictionalized DC neighborhood, as well as the award-winning *The Day Tajon Got Shot* (2017), a poignant view into the world of Black teens dealing with grief and rage in the wake of police violence.

Shout Mouse Press is a nonprofit writing and publishing program dedicated to centering and amplifying the voices of marginalized youth. Through writing workshops, publication, and public speaking opportunities, SMP provides a platform for young people to tell their own stories and, as published authors, to act as leaders and agents of change. Learn more at www.shoutmousepress.org.



Beacon House is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that provides afterschool education and youth development services to children and families in Northeast Washington, DC. Its mission is to provide children in the greater Edgewood community of Washington, DC's Ward 5 with a safe, nurturing, life-expanding community in which to increase their academic achievement, discover their talents, and to grow into healthy adults who achieve their greatest potential. Learn more at www.beaconhousedc.org.



Members of the media who would like to attend the launch or feature **Black Boys Dreaming** should contact Barrett Smith, at barrett@shoutmousepress.org.