WONESTHESIA PICTURES · DAARAC · LOS ANGELES

AJ WONE

He turns oral tradition into structure, and structure back into voice.

wone@ajwone.com
ajwone.com
IMDb
LinkedIn
Los Angeles · PDX · New York

EXECUTIVE RESUME · INSTITUTION BUILDER

SYSTEMS FOR CULTURE

Systems engineer and institution builder with thirty years of creative practice behind every structure he designs. A proven fundraiser and public speaker who builds companies, archives and curricula that carry oral tradition into durable form: an ed-tech literacy company, a 2,000-film Black cinema archive, a public-school drum-language curriculum, and a production banner for film, music and stage.

2,000+ 20th-century Afro-American films under archival stewardship	**600K** Black Film History followers on Facebook; 58K on YouTube	**200** IP titles seated across film, music, stage and print	**20 yrs** Teaching film, writing and AI across L.A. and Portland

MAJOR ATTRIBUTES

ATTRIBUTE 01

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Raises money for culture, the way he builds it: from the crowd, from patrons, and from institutions.

- Funded the 2012 DiaTribe stage production through Kickstarter.
- Leads the public campaign for I'll Make Me A World, the 42-album Guinness World Records attempt.
- Builds recurring revenue through Patreon members, paid courses on Maven and Skool, and the Wone More Thing store.
- Development work across nonprofits and foundations: DAARAC, the African Heritage Foundation, the Obo Addy Legacy Project and World Arts Foundation.
- `add grants won, sponsors, totals raised`

ATTRIBUTE 02

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Thirty years on stages, in classrooms and at civic tables. Speaks with a poet's command and an engineer's clarity.

- Performed before Nelson Mandela on the City Hall steps.
- Presents the DAARAC archive at screenings and symposiums.
- Twenty years leading workshops and classes in L.A., Portland and online.
- Speaks for the community through the Empowerment Congress and the PDX Coalition of Black Men.
- `add keynotes, panels, conferences, festival Q&As`

PORTFOLIO

COMPANY · ED-TECH

MARALITY CORP.

Literacy and oral-skills platform. Read it. Speak it. Own it.

NONPROFIT · ARCHIVE

DAARAC

501(c)(3). Black film 1900–1989, 40,000+ images.

FOUNDATION

AFRICAN HERITAGE FDN.

Executive VP and Poet Laureate.

STUDIO

WONESTHESIA PICTURES

In-house banner for film, music and stage.

COMMERCE

WONE MORE THING

Wearable-art store, incl. the Kyaju imprint.

SCHOOL

WORLDSKOOL

The Wone Method. 25 Unlanguages register.

LEGACY PROJECT

OBO ADDY LEGACY

Creative Director for the master drummer's living legacy.

FOUNDATION · ARCHIVE

WORLD ARTS FDN.

Digital Archivist, World Arts Foundation Inc.

COMMUNITY MEDIA

OPEN SIGNAL PDX

Videography + editing instructor.

LEADERSHIP

Year – Present

Structural Coordinator & Systems Engineer · Marality Corporation

Architects the operating structure of an ed-tech literacy and oral-skills company doing business in California, positioned as the "Amazon of Education."

- Designs program systems for ages 3–15 and adult learners, where children write and voice their own books and family histories.
- Builds an arts-, music- and hip-hop-based method in place of test-driven instruction.
- Sets the ten-year growth framework toward a $10B valuation.

SYSTEMS DESIGN | CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE | STRATEGY

2019 – Present

Co-founder & Curator of Collections · DAARAC

Department of Afro-American Research, Arts, and Culture, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Named the organization and grew it from a blaxploitation soundtrack collection into what it describes as the most comprehensive online database of Black film, 1900–1989.

- Leads preservation of the digital archive: 2,000+ films and 40,000+ images.
- Directs educational program design, LLM development and immersive curriculum production.
- Carries the archive public through Black Film History channels, screenings and symposiums: ~600K Facebook followers, 58K YouTube subscribers.

ARCHIVING | AI & LLMS | AUDIENCE BUILDING

Year – Present

Executive Vice President & Poet Laureate · African Heritage Foundation

Dual executive and artistic seat: `add 1–2 lines on scope and results`

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP | CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Year – Present

Creative Director · Obo Addy Legacy Project

Leads the creative direction of the legacy of Obo Addy, the Ghanaian master drummer and NEA National Heritage Fellow whose last major stage performance of record was in Wone's DiaTribe. `add scope and results`

CREATIVE DIRECTION | LEGACY STEWARDSHIP

Year

Digital Archivist · World Arts Foundation Inc.

Digital preservation and cataloging of the foundation's arts collection.

add collection size or scope

ARCHIVING · DIGITAL PRESERVATION

Year – Present

Founder · Wonesthesia Pictures

Production banner holding film, music and stage work in-house. Manages a slate of 200 seated IP titles and negotiates independently across literary, music, theatrical and screen rights.

IP STRATEGY · DEAL-MAKING

Year

Curriculum Architect · Sunnyside Environmental, Portland Public Schools

Built the DRUM Language curriculum, an arts-integrated literacy program delivered inside a public school.

CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE · ARTS-INTEGRATED LITERACY

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20 years

Educator · L.A. & Portland; Maven, Skool, Patreon

Workshops in filmmaking, editing, creative writing, videography and AI. Runs the WorldSkool and Wone Method, a 25-skill "Unlanguages" register taught over 20+ years.

TEACHING · AI

Year – Present

Founder · Wone More Thing

Apparel and wearable-art e-commerce on Shopify, including the Kyaju imprint and phrase merchandise from the poetry catalog.

COMMERCE · BRAND EXTENSION

TOOLKIT

AI

Early adopter of every new AI platform and service as it ships. Applies them to curriculum, archive and LLM development, and production.

- **Language & research:** Anthropic Claude, OpenAI ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Perplexity, Microsoft Copilot, NotebookLM
- **Image:** Midjourney, Adobe Firefly, Stable Diffusion, Flux, Leonardo AI, Ideogram, Krea
- **Video:** Runway, Higgsfield, OpenAI Sora, Google Veo, Kling, Luma Dream Machine, Pika
- **Voice, avatar & music:** ElevenLabs, Suno, Udio, HeyGen, Synthesia, Hedra
- **Editing & enhancement:** Descript, Topaz Video AI, Adobe Premiere Pro (Generative Extend), DaVinci Resolve Neural Engine, CapCut, Opus Clip, Captions, VEED, Adobe Podcast Enhance, iZotope RX, Auphonic, LALAL.AI, Magnific AI

Executive

Full executive software stack: documents, spreadsheets, presentations, project and operations management, e-commerce, and course platforms (Shopify, Maven, Skool, Patreon).

Creative

The complete Adobe Creative Cloud suite, plus professional videography and editing software.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY

Portland

Role · **PDX Coalition of Black Men**

Los Angeles

Role · **Empowerment Congress**

Los Angeles County civic organization that educates, engages and empowers residents through leadership development, voter education, public forums, and youth and job-readiness programs.

Portland

Videography + Editing Instructor · Open Signal PDX

CONNECTED WORK

daarac.ngo ↗ | daaracarchive.org ↗ | Black Film History · YouTube ↗

African Heritage Foundation ↗ | Wonesthesia Pictures ↗ | Wone More Thing ↗

Maven courses ↗ | Skool ↗ | LinkedIn ↗

EDUCATION

Portland, OR

Business Administration, Finance · Portland State University

Oregon City, OR

Digital Media Communication · Clackamas Community College

BOOKING & REPRESENTATION

THE STAGE STANDS NEXT.

For representation, bookings, commissions and partnerships, write directly.

LITERARY

Bay Boy Blue, Winston the Walrus, the poetry archive

TALENT / PERFORMANCE

Four From Wone, keynotes, hosting, spoken word

MUSIC PUBLISHING & SYNC

I'll Make Me A World, 42 albums

THEATRICAL / BROADWAY

Life In The Key Of Black, DiaTribe on stage

PRESS & MEDIA BOOKING

Interviews, panels, features

FULL-SERVICE PACKAGING

Film, series, stage and record, packaged together

wone@ajwone.com