Charles Gamkong

ENG 212

Dr. Bruce Magee

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**Julie Kane’s biography**

Julie Kane was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1952 and lived the early years of her life in the Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey vicinity before moving to New Orleans where she lived for over three decades. Her father Edwin Julian kane was a radio and TV news caster and her mother Nanette Spillane Kane was a teacher at grade school with accomplished publication of articles and short stories in journals like the ‘Christian Science Monitor’ and ‘Redbook’. She is a modern American poet, Professor of English and Creative writing, scholar and editor. Above all, she is the current Louisiana Poet Laureate for the 2011 – 2012 term. It is worth mentioning that she was appointed to this position by current Louisiana State Governor Bobby Jindal.

In 1974, she graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in English where she studied creative writing under Robert Morgan, A.R. Ammons, and William Matthews. Moreover upon graduation at Cornell, she also won the first prize for the ‘Mademoiselle magazine’ college poetry competition. After her studies at Cornell, she enrolled at Boston University earning an M.A. in creative writing in 1975. At Boston University, she happened to be one of the Anne Sexton’s graduate poetry students coincidentally around the time of Sexton’s suicide. Again, Julie Kane was the first woman to hold the George Bennett Fellowship in Writing at Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

Subsequently Kane moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1976 where she juxtaposed her creativity in writing with the culture and landscape of the Louisiana area into her poetry. As a technical writer in New Orleans, she became associated with the ‘Maple Leaf’ group of poets who patronized and attended regularly the weekly literary reading series held at the ‘Maple Leaf Bar’. As she persistently wrote and published poems in small magazines, behold one glorious day in 1982 she had one of her poems “Two Into One” with Ruth Adatia published in Great Britain (Only Poetry Press, 1982) and eventually her chapbook “The Bartender Poems (Greville Press, 1991). She was honored by Harold Pinter at the Southbank Centre in London. Her first full-length poetry collection, “Body and Soul” came out of Pirogue Publishing in 1987.

Julie kane was enlightened by her success and returned to graduate school into a PhD program at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge in 1991. During her studies in LSU, she won the Academy of American Poets prize judged by Louise Gluck, and the Lewis P. Simpson Award for her dissertation on the “Villanelle” under poet Dave Smith. Furthermore, she co-authored a literary nonfiction Vietnam memoir (Counterpart: A South Vietnamese Naval officer’s War, with kiem Do) which was published by the Naval Institute Press in 1998 and selected as a History Book Club alternate.

In 1999, Kane received her PhD in English and accepted a teaching position at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana where she is currently Professor of English and Creative Writing. In 2002, she was a selected Fulbright Scholar in creative writing at Vilnius Pedagogical University. Also she has been a two-time visiting writer-in-residence at Tulane University in New Orleans. Kane’s second book length collection “Rhythm and Booze” (University of Illinois Press, 2003) was a winner in the National Poetry Series and one of the finalists for Poets Prize. Kane also serves as associate editor for 20th century poetry of the Longman Anthology of Southern Literature “Voices of the American South”. Most of Kane’s poetry has surfaced in “The Southern Review”, “Feminist Studies”, “The Formalist” and “London Magazine”. More so, her scholarly articles have appeared in “Twentieth Century Literature”, “Journal of Consciousness Studies”, “Modern Language Quarterly”, and “Literature/Film Quarterly”. Two of Kane’s poems’ have been set to music by composer Libby Larsen, and recorded on CDs by the “American Boychoir” and by mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer. Her most widely recognized and famous books and poems are: Jazz funeral, Rhythm & Booze, The mermaid story, The Bartender Poems, Body and Soul, Rosetta, Learning Curve(What they taught me), Ruth Adatia, and From “Sex Appeal of the Presidents”.

**Works Cited**

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