

Foremost Poets

IS THIS ONLY A TEST?

An EPK interview with
jOHNNYDANGEROUS
by Janna Jordan
(June 15, 2018)



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1. The first moment you can recall when music made you feel something? Not just want to dance, but made you feel something that you still draw from today in your work?

Answer. The first moment that music really moved me was the day I was sitting in the backseat of my father’s car. A song came on that I didn’t need to ask the name. The lyrics went “[I always love my mamma, she brought me in this world.](#)” It was the Intruders.

As a 4 year-old kid who loved anything Sesame Street, all music was supposed to have a message to me, because it was what made PBS shows worth watching. Here’s a song that was clearly too mature to be on Sesame Street. I was impressed and I was astonished. To me this was the REAL Sesame Street; Philadelphia International.

2. Favorite instrument to play or listen to?

Answer. I can’t play it, but I love the Cello. Before I learned to pray or meditate, I gained an even greater love for the Cello. As though it called me to sit still, instead of being such a restless child who had to try everything. The Cello helped me sit still.

3. There's more openness in what I hear from you today. What has driven this lyrical and sonic evolution in your work?

Answer. My openness is the result of not caring what anybody thinks. I’m writing wilder stories in the music. The story within the music is the thing that always moved me.



Whether it had lyrics or just an instrumental, I can still hear the story if the song is titled correctly. As I got older, I didn't just watch [School House Rock](#), I lived it.

4. Digital or Analog?

Answer. Both. They need each other. Computing has now become an artificial intelligence. Now, analog may seem to be a thing of the past; but without it, we wouldn't have the root of what produced & preserved the greatest artwork of the 20th Century. Analog authenticates your project - while digital preserves it.

5. As an artist, what to date do you personally feel is your best work?

Answer. I don't know. As much as I enjoy music, I feel I've outgrown the playpen. What toy is better than the other? That's how the question sounds, although you're totally innocent in asking. I don't believe that Prince could answer this question for the same reason I can't. I believe your favorite work keeps changing if you are sincere about making better work.

When you get a favorite, either you're still studying what you did so you can master it or you haven't caught up to it yet.



6. As an objective music pro, what to date do you feel is your best work?

Answer. I think my best work would be [MoonRaker](#). Unlike the song Problem #13 (I Beat That B*tch Witta Bat), Moonraker has over [130 Remixes \(Official and Unofficial\)](#), it is my most licensed song, as it has been sampled or used by every EDM DJ in the world within the last 20 years. It talks about things that no one dare put in a song. MoonRaker. This song gave birth to DJs.

7. What keeps you up at night?

Answer. I have a lot of things to fix. I understand now why my music journey was so hard. It was a job I was born to do. I stay up at night and can't sleep because while my journey was hard, it gave me my youth back. There are not enough hours in the day to do all the things I have to do. I barely sleep at all.

8. Favorite color?

Answer. I don't have one. I noticed that when I made dark music, I pulled to darker colors, and bright music pulled me to the brighter ones. Out of all of them, "Blue" seems to be endless to me. I don't know what it is. "Blue" lightens the dark and softens the bright. Blue is unparalleled.

9. Did you grow up in a music household? If yes, what kind of music was played the most?

Answer. I don't know. Music was around, but there were no musicians that I knew of right away. My father played in the drum & bugle corps part-time after his marine days. His Trumpet was in the closet. He took it out once in a while. I'd been to many rehearsal and stadium performances, but in those days I never thought about going in that direction. I wasn't thinking about music at the time.

10. How did you go from the school band to DJ-ing? (Sorry, but I can't get off the School Band - so cute!)

Answer. In High School, we wanted to play songs that were popular. Our teachers were mostly classical and jazz majors. They didn't take popular music seriously, and were purest with teaching us how to play. We just wanted a little bit of both. Keep in mind that quite a few Jazz artists were at the top of the charts at the time. [Herbie Hancock](#), [Grover Washington Jr.](#), [Donald Byrd](#), [Bill Withers](#), [Pieces of a Dream](#), [George Benson](#), [Rodney Franklin](#), [Carlos Santana](#), [Bob James](#) and plenty others. They were playing everything.

The East coast played what we called "Club Music" while

Chicago's name was correct because Club Music was too broad a term, and quite a lot of Club Music was Hip Hop, Freestyle & Punk-Rock at the time. So the term "House Music" specified parameters.

11. Best and worst part of DJ-ing?

Answer. The best part of DJing is knowing that you love the same things that others love and play it well. Even if you don't love it, you hope you'll understand why they do and can give others what they love. The worst part about DJing is how saturated the market is. There are so many DJs now. When you realize that you're pissing in a hurricane & your face is the only one wet, how can you get that time back?

By the time you catch on, you have to do new math by asking the question "If I never lost that time, what would I be doing now?" Then multiply it to the 100th power... and that's what you're supposed to be doing; then pick up the remaining pieces & get there. It could happen to anybody.

12. What advice or message would the man you are today give to you 10 years ago...20 yrs ago...at 10 yrs old?

Answer. I wouldn't. I would go back and have to learn from him again. Ask him questions about what his motivation is for doing this? Ask him what he likes and dislikes. I would check what he would like to "truly" do with his life. I have this suspicion that it's not music. As we get older, we wish that we could go back and do things over.

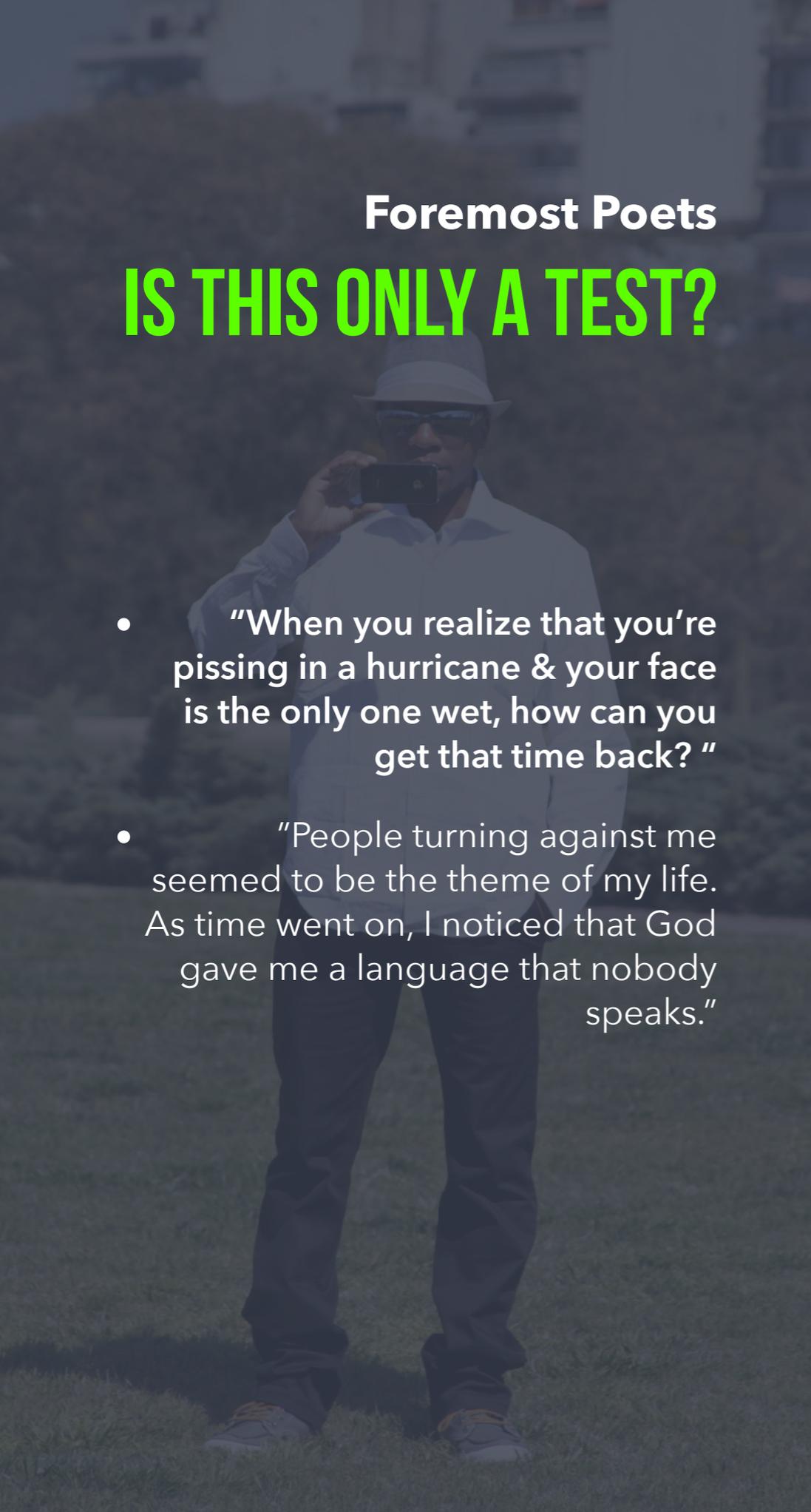
I believe the information we had at the time seals the heart. Even if we went back, the chances of convincing ourselves of anything are slim. We can only go back to be reminded that our dysfunction of the time is a significant part of our journey, and it is the thread of our tapestry. We wouldn't think about going back without it.

13. What is happiness to you?

Answer. Knowing your purpose. Learning your purpose takes the bumps & bruises we try to avoid. The destination or the journey?

I say both.



A man wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, a white hat, and sunglasses is standing outdoors. He is holding a smartphone up to his eye, appearing to take a photo or video. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

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- “When you realize that you’re pissing in a hurricane & your face is the only one wet, how can you get that time back? ”
- “People turning against me seemed to be the theme of my life. As time went on, I noticed that God gave me a language that nobody speaks.”

14. What do you want people to take away from listening to your work? (If it’s easier to not generalize, pick a song so you can be specific, that may help.)

Answer. I would like for people to see that no matter what they’re going through, healing is a journey worth taking.

15. You seem so serious...reserved. (Or are you low key shy?) However, there is great wit, humor and candor in your work. Is the music your way of cutting loose?

Answer. Not shy. I just had a hard time communicating with people over the years. For a while, people turning against me seemed to be the theme of my life. As time went on, I noticed that God gave me a language that nobody speaks. It took years to realize my words don’t have the same meaning as others. If you tell a person “I Love You”, you would hope they take it in the exact way you mean it. But that doesn’t happen with me. People have to ask me what I specifically mean? Unconditionally? Personally? Subjectively?

I don’t believe that I’m alone in this. My language is not common sense vernacular. Learning to translate it is no different than Marty Mcfly walking around in 1955. For that, I sincerely apologize to everybody who knew me & hears or reads me saying this now. I wish I could take it all back - but how can I fix what I don’t know?

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- “Dying for a cause would’ve been the only way I could serve humanity, because I would be faced with figuring out my communication issue alone.”
- “While Foremost Poets is the diplomat, jOHNNYDANGEROUS just doesn’t give a damn.”
- “When I realized art & business were two different languages, this healed all relationships for me. True businessmen speak asshole.”

16. In an alternate reality, what do you think you would be doing professionally? If not, what would you do in this one?

Answer: In an alternate reality, I would have probably martyred myself. Without guidance, I would not have the wits to figure out what my communication problem was with other people. Dying for a cause would’ve been the only way I could serve humanity, because I would be faced with figuring out my communication issue alone.

Music has been the safest thing I could do until the language peel could be pulled back. In an alternate reality, maybe I figured out the language barrier early, easily going straight to the top.

17. What is the difference between Johnny Dangerous and Foremost Poets?

Answer. While Foremost Poets is the diplomat, jOHNNYDANGEROUS just doesn’t give a damn.

18. What do you do for fun? (And you can't say make music! lol)

Answer. I try to make fun out of everything, but that’s not what you’re asking me. I don’t know. I’m not a skier or a basketball player. I’m not a chess master or a game player. Remember, I had a hard time communicating with people over the years. American pastime helps in short periods, but in long periods all I used to do is piss people off. That can cause you to stop talking altogether.

So I learned how to build an amusement park in my own solitude. Inside or out, I'm comfortable.

19. What was the last book you read?

Answer. I'm reading "To Be Loved" by Berry Gordy. I have fresher eyes now.

20. If you could ask yourself a question about you that no one ever asks you but wish someone would, what would it be? (Yes I'm curious.)

Answer. "Johnny, isn't it true that you're an asshole and a misfit & that nobody wanted to work with you for a while?" And my answer would be "Yes and No. Yes, I was a jerk, and No; it took working with a lot of great clients to figure it all out. Look, I call the shots now. When I wasn't calling the shots, I was giving off conflicting signals. I was in charge, but wouldn't take charge. So now that my signals are fixed, everybody wins. And if not, then I will win alone."

21. Happiest moment in your life?

Answer. Realizing art & business are two different languages healed all my relationships. True businessmen speak "Asshole". I guess I wasn't such a jerk after all.

22. Favorite Band/Duo or Group?

Answer. The [Pat Metheny Group](#). Not for their soulfulness, but for their methodology. Every one of their songs sounds like the title.

23. Favorite Movie?

Answer. [Peter Sellers - "Being There"](#). It reminds me that some things are not worth knowing. It's better to be a thing than just know a thing. "I am a very serious gardener."

24. Favorite Time of the day?

Answer. 8:17 am, 8:17pm.

25. Favorite song?

Answer. Too many. For now, I will say ["Little Twelve-Toes" by Bob Dorough](#), (School House Rock).

26. Favorite food?

Answer. I can't say.

27. Red pill or Blue pill?

Answer. The secret is - both pills are the same.

28. Ice or no ice?

Answer. No ice.

29. What was your favorite subject in school? (Middle or High school)

Answer: "History" seemed to flow like water compared to the others.

30. What is your favorite book?

Answer: "Quantum Leap" by Dan Peña.

31. Top 3 things you think people would be surprised to learn about you?

Answer:

- a. I can't rap.
- b. I don't like sports. (I watch it sometimes, but the politics ruins it for me).
- c. This is gonna be my last interview for a while (LOL!)

32. What kind of music do you listen to when you chill? (and you can't say anything of your own.)

Answer. Curtis Mayfield, Eddie Kendricks, Roy Ayers & Al Green.

33. What was the spark behind your forthcoming album?

Answer: "The Richard Long Theory" is my way to pay homage to a man I never got a chance to meet. [The Richard Long team](#) & [Tony Humphries](#) made my un-mastered song "Reasons To Be Dismal" spark the airwaves of New York City in 1990. I was only 20 years old. I owe that to them & myself.

34. "Exaltation" feels and sounds like a serious revelatory moment framed in music. What's behind it?

Answer: "Exaltation" is a song that took me time to mature into. This is not the first time I had a song that was ahead of me. "We become what we think about" ~ says Dale Carnegie. This song is me pulling a reality out of the cosmos that I choose to walk in. No more allowing circumstances to define my love walk. I call the shots now.

35. "Don't Shut Your Eyes" is heavy sound-wise. It has an intense live venue feel and it kicks hard! Big departure from what people got used to from you. How does it feel to be showcasing new sounds this way?



*Foremost Poets - **The Richard Long Theory***

Answer. Of course it's a great feeling to do something that sounds like a jam I would've played in school. I can't wait for this song to get popular. I would love to see its effect on others. Hopefully, they won't shut their eyes to what it does.

36. What makes you smile from deep inside your soul?

Answer. What makes me smile within is knowing that vagabond status pays the highest returns. I forgave myself where I fell short of the Glory of God (or Love) and my purpose being misunderstood. It was a training ground for teaching others. It sharpened the grooves of my key.

You asked before about the Red pill & the Blue pill? Did you find it interesting that "The Keymaker" gave Neo the wrong key? Never realizing that the true architect were the choices of Neo himself; isn't that what the story is really about? Never realizing that God is in the person of you? What did the Oracle say? "We're all here to do what we're all here to do." When Neo destroyed Agent Smith, Smith downloaded information above his pay-grade to rebel. It closed the equation in the world-machine of why humanity's nature rebelled in the first place, but fights to the bitter end to be free. Smith didn't get the memo.

37. You sing and do spoken word...what is the difference for you between the creative head-spaces for writing and performing song lyrics vs. poetry? If any difference that is.

Answer: Every word needs to match the song. When people think of the song Thriller, they think of Michael Jackson. I don't think you've ever heard anyone say "Thriller" by Vincent Price. But his laugh is evidently the last thing you hear on the song. Poetry is so overt, it's covert. Everything has to match; no matter how small the vocal part. The music is the stage. Singing vs spoken word is merely a Caricature.

38. When is your birthday?

Answer: I'm born on the same day as Marcus Garvey.

39. Best pick up line you have ever used?

Answer: "You don't need this."

40. Best pick up line ever used on you?

Answer. I don't remember or never paid attention.

41. Favorite Artist? Why? (Not music. Painter, Sculpture, Photographer, Performance, Artist, etc., I won't assume its Richard Long)

Answer. [George Benson](#). Without saying a word, this man taught me things too classified to put in a book. A Multi-Grammy winner that validated me as a master of what I do. His treatment of me tells on everyone I've ever met, but I thank him for his direction, regardless.

42. Left handed or Right handed, or Ambidextrous?

Answer: Left.

43. Apple or Orange?

Answer: Both.



44. What is your favorite sound?

Answer: A female [calling the Ahdan](#).

45. What is your favorite scent? (Food, flowers, something found in nature, if none of those I guess perfume or cologne will do.)

Answer: Almond.

46. Do you dream in color or black and white?

Answer: Both.

47. Are you a runner or a chaser?

Answer: I stand still.

48. How do you seamlessly flow between such varied creative approaches and create a cohesive sound that is uniquely yours?

Answer: Every part is a language. So much so, that I do each vocal arrangement on different days. Each language is a feeling, and that feeling needs to come from a deep place within - which can't happen if you haven't live the language. Backgrounds are Backgrounds; they have their own day. Put it all together & you got yourself a conversation the world can sing.

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- “What makes me smile within is knowing that vagabond status pays the highest returns.”
- “Selfish is what others call you when you won’t serve them. I’m not offended; I can see why they would feel this way. How can you help others if you don’t help yourself?”
- “The idea is to do both simultaneously.”

49. When you unpack it like that its complex. Would you say that in its complexity it truly represents all of you? And if so how does that make you feel?

Answer. It doesn’t represent me. It only represents the story I’m trying to translate. I’m in the world, but not of the world. I do not fit in this world’s view or vortex; but that does not mean I shouldn’t be able to communicate & get along with others just because my ideas are out there. Responsibility is not always about serving others; sometimes it’s about serving yourself. There’s no such thing as being selfish. Selfish is what others call you when you won’t serve them. I’m not offended; I can see why they would feel this way. How can you help others if you don’t help yourself? The idea is to do both simultaneously.

To serve others in the best manner possible; sounds like the heading of a resume. Thank you for asking.

Much love.

ForemostPoets.net/the-discog

AttributeRecords.com/mastering

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