

TONY CLINE LNS SENIOR PUBLISHED POET



So what are your plans after high school?

I'm going to attend The Indian American Institute of Arts. Cinematic Arts and Theater.

What are you going to do with that degree? Become an actor?

Yeah, try to become an actor. Become the new Wes Studi.

Would you say Teacher Mr. Riley Thuleen was your biggest influence here at Lummi Nation School?

He was definitely a big impact looking back on it retrospectively. I feel like he's a much bigger impact now because I've read a lot of poetry. I've read a couple Shakespearean sonnets and kind of like them and I know Mr. Thuleen was like in love with Shakespeare and Shakespearean sonnets. So I feel like he's definitely had a much bigger impact on me now that I've written poems. And he did say something along the lines of like, you may not feel like it now, but someday you will feel like a spark will be lit and you'll definitely be writing poetry all the time.

How did you get involved with Black Hawk Studios and reading off the morning announcements? Which are great, by the way!

I feel like I always kind of knew I had some kind of interest in media arts. So I had that class for like three years now, since sophomore year maybe, but at least definitely since junior year. And I don't know, I just feel very connected to media arts. And after doing a couple of practice interviews in the beginning of this year, Mr. Gripp and Mr. Kamkoff were like, you have a real knack for talking to people and making them feel comfortable, so you should do the announcement show that we're getting started up again.

Do you think that anything you learned from Mr. Gripp and Mr. Kamkoff will help you when you get to the next level?

Yeah, for sure. Because it's all very elementary, one-on-one, pretty basic stuff, but I feel like that's definitely the stuff, it's the fundamentals that you've got to return to, and understand the next level of art that you're doing, so I feel like it will definitely be important. Especially because I don't already have some of those fundamentals, so I'm really kind of doing my best to soak it in.

You know who else is one of your biggest fans? It's Mr. Gary Brandt. He talks very highly of you. He says you're a highly intelligent young man who's going to do things. How do you feel about Gary Brandt?

Gary Brandt, he's awesome. I feel like, I don't know, I feel like Gary is like a person you should strive to be like when you're old. It's just like, Mr. Brandt, I feel like part of it is his discipline in the military, but he's very active and lively. It's like he crawled out of a Dr. Seuss book or something. He's just lively and full of energy and funny. He's positive too.

Thank you for your time, Tony - Is there anything you'd like to add about your time at Lummi Nation School?

I'll look back on my beginning coming here at middle school and I still kind of feel a lot like Dances with Wolves. I have a lot in common, but, you know, I feel like I've kind of adapted my own sense of Indian being at the school for like five years now. So, the first couple (years) were definitely harder. but, you know, once I got into a groove, you know, it became pretty good.

Especially when I talk to my friends now and they're like, everybody loves you here. You walk into a room and everybody pays attention to you and waits for you to say something funny or play a song that everybody likes.

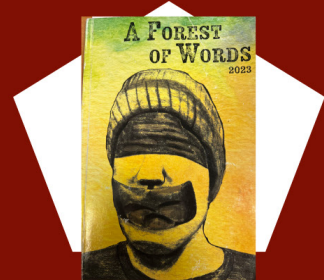
And I was like, huh? Because I never really realized it because I kind of just kind of accepted that this is how I like to express myself. So, I never really picked up on the fact that everybody's like, oh, Tony's in the room now.



TONY CLINE

ONE IN A MILLION

She stands out from the rest of them
Her beauty outshines them all
She is the most gorgeous girl I've ever seen
Her eyes are sparkling diamonds
I find myself entranced by her beauty
Impossible to look away
Yet I fear if I stare too long she'll disappear
She'll dissipate into the air never to know how much love I harbor in my heart for her
Her alluring black hair looks like it was cut from wavy silk
Her body moves so freely and beautifully as the songs she effortlessly sings
Her voice sounds like it was crafted by angels, beautiful and sweet
By God she's amazing
By God she's wonderful
By God
Lydia is one in a million
Forever and always beautiful
Forever and always
One in a million



A FOREST OF WORDS

"One in a Million"

You can find Tony's poem on page 86 of this collection of poems. Thank you Tony and we are excited to see where you go after LNS!!

