

## Master Storyteller Oba William King reigns supreme

Written by Sharon Brooks

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Imagine this.

A man who wins a fight with a monkey and then make shoes out of him, a crippled woman who escapes her punctual PCA worker so that she can drink "the magic juice" she bought from a psychic for a whopping \$30, and picture if you can a man who is not really a nature lover but drives around with a bear on the roof of his car that he pushes off when he has had enough. These were the tales of Master Storyteller Oba William King (1st place), Sharon Brooks (2nd place) and Lorin Niemi (3rd place); winners of this year's 21st Annual Storytelling Contest (Liars Contest), adult division.

Held, at the end of September at the Elks Lodge, 1614 Plymouth Ave. N, the judges, Master Storyteller Queen Nur, KMOJ radio personality Kimuel Haley, Dr. Yvette Pye, Edwin Clarke and Asada Brown also had their hands full with stories from the children too. First place winner, Seakh Meerheer, had the audience on edge listening to his version of his mother's bread being eaten while he pretended to be a cat. The 1st & 2nd place winners in the children division, Curtis Adams and Miss Autumn, held our attention as well as they told colorful stories of make-believe.

The peaceful evening was made even more magical with the extremely timely (and funny) stories from the host Master Storyteller Mitch Capel, better known as Gran'Daddy June Bug, who kept us all laughing and half believing his tales all night. The event was emceed by master of ceremony, Vusumuzi Zulu, along with his wife, director of the Black Storytellers Alliance, Nothando Zulu.

The 21st Annual BlackMaster Story Tellers Festival, a three-day event, was sponsored by the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), MacAlester Community Action and several others.

*Sharon Brooks is a freelance writer and 2nd place winner, Annual Black Master Storytellers Festival, 2009, 2012.*