



SOMETHING TO SAY: Eastern Cape born rapper and poet Iain 'Ewok' Robinson, right, with fan Mxolisi Vatsha at the launch of his collection of poems at Wordfest in Grahamstown yesterday.

Picture: DAVID MACGREGOR

'Homeboy' slam poet wows Wordfest

BY DAVID MACGREGOR
Port Alfred Bureau

HE MAY have been born in tiny Fort Beaufort but this has not stopped Creamy "Ewok" Baggends from becoming one of the top hip hop slam poets in the world.

Tackling socially relevant South African issues, 26-year-old Iain "Ewok" Robinson is setting the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown alight with his thought-provoking rap, slam poetry, street graffiti and DJ sessions.

Taking time off stage to launch his recently published 100-page collection of slam poetry at Wordfest yesterday, Robinson showed why he was voted one of the top

five poets on the international hip hop scene. Telling the large crowd how black and white words on a page turned to "colour in the mind", Robinson said he had specially designed the independently published collection to fit in a school blazer pocket.

"Hip hop tackles social issues and communicates with people from all walks of life. A lot of young people do not read, so I did the book so they could keep the words," he explained.

Taking his shows to schools when not travelling the world, Robinson said he hoped his book would help make a difference: "I hope to inspire others. Even if you turn on one person, that is enough."

The Durban-based son of university academics got used to life on the road and different cultures, as his parents moved from Fort Beaufort to Alice and then Zululand to teach music and acting.

"I was really young when I first heard hip hop ... I was hooked straight away."

With more than 500 works all over South Africa behind his name already, Robinson is not afraid to take on the establishment, and lays into everybody.

Zuma is just one of his targets, as the following verse shows:

Of course I don't wanna believe the rumour Mr Zuma!

I'm sorry they had to Shaik you awake Mr Zuma!