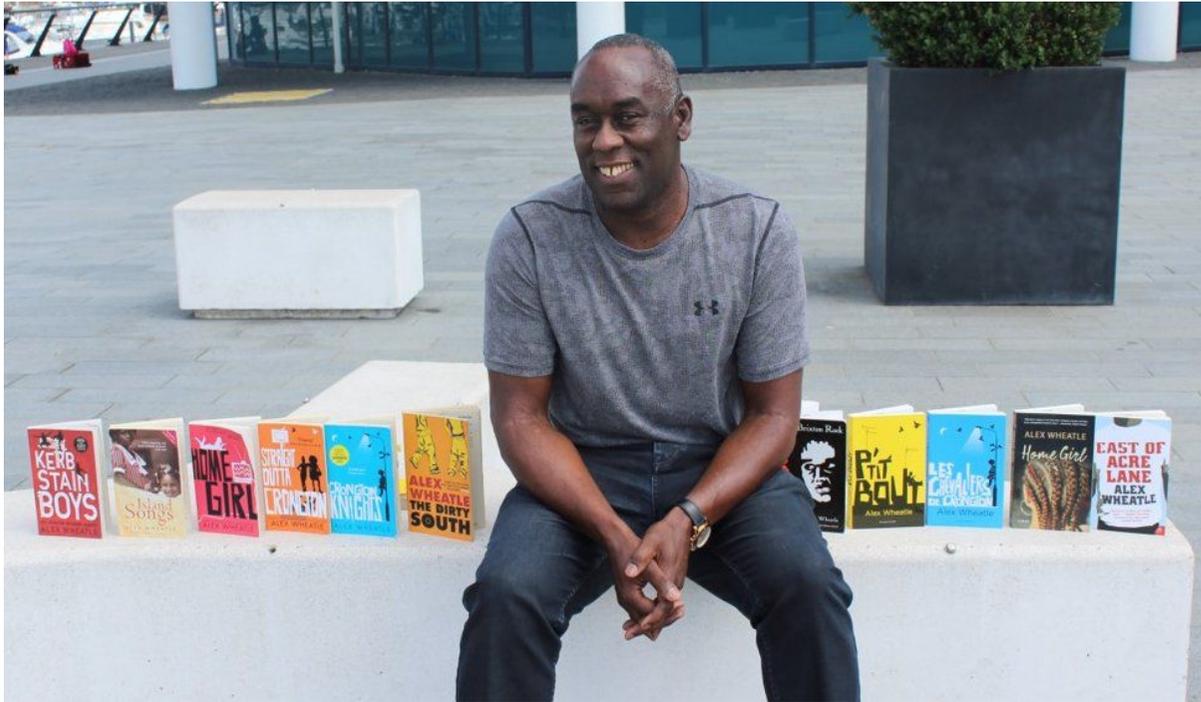


Alex Wheatle



Born in 1963 to Jamaican parents living in Brixton, Alex spent most of his childhood in a Surrey children's home. He returned to Brixton in 1977 where he founded the Crucial Rocker sound system and performed his own songs and lyrics under the name of Yardman Irie. He spent a short stint in prison following the Brixton uprising of 1981. Following his release from prison he continued to write poems and lyrics and became known as 'the Brixtonbard'.

Alex's first novel, *Brixton Rock*, was published to critical acclaim in 1999. Five more novels, *East of Acre Lane*, *The Seven Sisters*, *Island Songs*, *Checkers* and *The Dirty South* followed, all highly praised. His books are on school reading lists, Alex takes part in Black History Month every year, works with Booktrust and the Children's Discovery Centre to promote reading. He teaches in various places including Lambeth College, holds workshops in prisons and is frequently invited to schools to speak to students, inspiring in them with his own story a passion for literature.¹

¹ <https://thesusijnagency.com/alex-wheatle/>

