

# JAMAR NICHOLAS

## Jamar Nicholas Cartoonist | Author | Educator



*[Photo credit - WHYY/Newsworks]*

Jamar Nicholas is a Philadelphia-based artist and educator. He has dedicated his career to educating young people, helping them realize the power of visual narrative.

He has taught and lectured on the topic of comics creation at numerous institutions, dedicating his career to empowering young people to create their own cartoons and comics.

Jamar aims to bring awareness to anti-bullying, healing, positive images of people of color, the idea that everyone can be a hero, channeled through images and art of the every-person archetype.

Join the award-winning educator as he shares his experiences as a professional cartoonist and illustrator via some of his group workshops, which can be catered to your specific audience's dynamic:

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (45 mins - 2 hours)**

Jamar will present an interactive digital slideshow on his career as a cartoonist, or focus on specific projects or themes.

**CHALK TALK (45 mins - 1 hour)**

Through a "chalk talk" (Talking while drawing) presentation, Jamar will discuss important issues from bullying awareness, healing (learning from past mistakes, and experiences; ex: Baltimore riots), being a hero (in your community, for your family and friends, and to yourself), positive images of people of color and the every-person archetype (representing the common man and woman). Must provide surface for drawing, such as a stable whiteboard, or easel with pad / removable sheets of paper

**KIDS INTERACTIVE WARM-UP AND WORKSHOP (45 mins - 1 hr)**

***Imagination Aquarium with Jamar Nicholas***

*Ever find yourself stuck for cartoon ideas? Put on your wetsuit and dive into the IMAGINATION AQUARIUM, where cartoonist Jamar Nicholas will help you catch ideas in your net and create awesome cartoons!*

Beginning with art 'warm-up' drawing exercises, Jamar instructs kids on overcoming creative 'artist block' by creating fun and funny idea mashups! Interactive instruction and drawing fun for the whole family. Must provide drawing materials for session: pencils and paper

**RESIDENCIES/WORKSHOPS (One day to one week, continual)**

These long-form programs will instruct a group on the basics of comic-making, ending with the students creating their own worlds, characters and short-form stories. Week-long residencies can result in the class publishing their work via photo-copied 'mini-comics'.

**PRESENTATION SCALES**

Single Presentation Visit: One 45-60 min session. Additional travel rates/fees may apply to longer programs.

Half-Day Visit: Two 45-60 min sessions or 3-hour workshop.

Full Day Visit: Up to Four 45-60 min sessions between groups or 6-hour workshop.

Full Day Visit With Overnight: In the event that your location's driving time is in excess of two hours, or if the scheduled start time is an early morning event, overnight lodging may be necessary.

Multi-Day to one-week Residency: Must include lodging or travel reimbursement. Please inquire at least three months in advance of program dates.

PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT ALL RATES.

Interested in having me visit your location? Feel free to email me at [Jamar@jamarnicholas.com](mailto:Jamar@jamarnicholas.com)

What educators and artists are saying:

*“What an honor and delight to have Mr. Nicholas talk to our aspiring young artists and designers about his illustrated work on Geoffrey Canada’s book *Fist Stick Knife Gun*. Our students remained thoroughly engaged throughout the entire program.*”

*In the autumn of 2014 the Charter High School for Architecture + Design proudly hosted well-known illustrator Jamar Nicholas to talk to a group of our ninth grade students about his illustrated work on Geoffrey Canada’s book *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun*. Mr. Nicholas not only openly talked about the path that lead to his career but also shared stories about his childhood, his neighborhood, and those who influenced him along the way. His warm and open nature made for a refreshing and delightful visit.”*

**- Lisa Morein, M. Ed., MLIS, Library Media Specialist  
Charter HS for Architecture + Design, Philadelphia, PA**

*High school students are often hard to engage but Mr. Nicholas did it with ease. His adaptation of Mr. Canada's work is accessible to even the most reluctant of readers. His presentation was equal parts educational and entertaining, serious and funny. His encouragement to the students to make a life where they can do what they love AND be successful and financially secure was inspiring. I was happy to have him and hope that he returns to inspire more students in the future.*

**- Miss Peg O'Neill  
9th grade Teacher  
Charter High School for Architecture + Design**

*“Jamar Nicholas is a master of his craft—his drawings are full of life and truly stunning.”*

**- Bryan Lee O'Malley, creator of *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World***

*“Our neighbor and friend Jamar Nicholas never fails to deliver the goods! He engages the children every time he visits the library because he so enjoys drawing and enjoys sharing his love of art with others. I’m especially thrilled that his programs attract young boys, often a tough audience in a public library setting. Thank you, Jamar, for your consistent grace and humor. We love LEON!”*

**-Deborah, Ahrens, Librarian  
Free Library of Philadelphia**



## **FULL BIO:**

**JAMAR NICHOLAS** is an award-winning, Philadelphia-based artist and educator. He has taught and lectured on the topic of comics creation at numerous institutions, dedicating his career to empowering young people to create their own cartoons and comics, helping them realize the power of visual narrative.

Some of his works include adapting and illustrating Geoffrey Canada's *Fist Stick Knife Gun*; full-color comic strip, *Detective Boogaloo: Hip-Hop Cop*, that was serialized in the US Metro newspapers (Philadelphia, NYC and Boston), and his upcoming original graphic novel *Leon: Protector of the Playground*.

He is also a writer and columnist for *DRAW! Magazine*, the How-To source for comic book and animation professionals, and was a host of the *COMIC BOOK DINER* podcast, focusing on the business of comics.



*(photo credit: Pedro Leal)*

## **Recent Reviews, Interviews, and Podcasts**

### **Black Nerd Girls Baltimore Comic Con Review BGN at Baltimore Comic Con 2017**

No Strangers Here by Guest Blogger (E.Angel) - October 3, 2017

<https://blackgirlnerds.com/bgn-baltimore-comic-con-2017/>

*“What I liked most about the graphic novel was that it didn’t feel like a public service announcement for/against good behavior, but more of a normal pre-teen angst of a young man who is starting to come into his own. Although the graphic novel has only been out a few months, I was not alone in my zeal for this title, as the t-shirt were flying off the shelf and even more impressive was coming across one youngster, who actually cosplayed Leon.”*



### **Graphic Novelism Podcast Episode #26**

“Hey Kids, COMICS! (Ft. Jamar Nicholas)” - November 14, 2017

<http://www.graphicnovelism.com/2017/11/24-hey-kidscomics-ft-jamar-nicholas.html>

## **'Leon: Protector of the Playground' by Jamar Nicholas**

Review by Nancy Basile - December 5, 2017

<http://mediamedusa.com/leon-protector-playground-jamar-nicholas/>

*"Although Nicholas portrays the negatives of being a kid, he does it with so much humor that the final picture is a softer, sweeter version... I'd also like to point out that, unlike a lot of entertainment for kids, Leon: Protector of the Playground doesn't turn the grown-ups into either tyrants or idiots. Too often the parents in a comic book, or on a TV show for kids, are completely clueless about their child's activities. That, or they turn out to be the enemy. The grown-ups in Nicholas' book are responsible, caring and thoughtful. They are the true heroes in Leon's life.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed Leon: Protector of the Playground, even though it's targeted at kids. All of us, I'd wager, keep our childhood selves just under our skin, so it's not difficult to relate to Leon and his friends."*

### **Amalgam Comics and Coffeehouse, Inc.**

Book Signing Event: Meet and Greet with Jamar Nicholas

Saturday, December 9, 2017

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/nrcv7s7c2vnhguw/IMG\\_9268.MOV?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/nrcv7s7c2vnhguw/IMG_9268.MOV?dl=0)

### **Schomburg's 6th Annual Black Comic Book Festival - January 12-13, 2018**

Friday, January 12, 2018

10:15am-12:30pm Langston Huges Auditorium

Youth Program: Heroes of Color & Super Kids!

Part 2 10:45am-12:30pm

#### **Super Kids! Panel Presentation**

Presenters: Jamar Nicholas (Leon), Jamal Igle (Molly Danger), Micheline Hess (Malice and Ovenland), David Miller (Khalil's Way), and Jerry Craft (Mama's Boyz)

<https://www.facebook.com/SchomburgCenter/videos/vb.13406870078/10155084205965079/?type=2&theater>

51:45 - 1:03:30 (Jamar Nicholas)

