

AKILA WORKSONGS **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

presents



SHORT BIO (Full version available upon request): April R. Silver is a social entrepreneur, activist, and writer. She heads AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. (AW), a communications agency that services the unique needs of progressive artists, activists, advocates, and organizations. Since 1993, AW has provided a variety of premium services to a diverse roster, ranging from emerging poets to hip hop artist/actor **Mos Def** to The Ford Foundation. The company is also known for its widely trusted email marketing service which houses over 32,000 subscribers nationwide (Put On BLAST!™).

In 2006, Ms. Silver was a TV talk show host on BETJ's *My Two Cents* (first two seasons). In 2008, she edited what AOL **Black Voices** called a "powerful and groundbreaking anthology" - *Be A Father to Your Child: Real Talk from Black Men on Family, Love, and Fatherhood* (Soft Skull/Counterpoint).

Foreward Magazine claims that "*Editor April R. Silver has turned her first book into a must-read for anyone involved in the black community.*"

Silver graduated from Howard University where she made national and international news as co-leader of the historic student protest of 1989. She was later elected as student body president (then, the second woman to hold that position). It was during her term that she co-founded and co-produced the country's first hip hop conference - an annual gathering that birthed the now thriving hip hop education movement.

For her opinions and 20+ years of what she calls "arts+activism" work, Silver has received many honors. *Time*, *Ms.*, *Jet*, *ESSENCE*, *Ebony*, *Newsweek*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, and many other outlets have all either quoted, profiled, or featured Ms. Silver. She also serves as a commentator on WBAI Radio's media roundtable on *Wake Up Call*, addressing over 19 million listeners in the NY-Metro area every Tuesday morning.

As a writer, April's essays on popular culture, hip hop, gender politics, personal development, and current events have been published in the *NY Daily News* and throughout the blogosphere (including allhiphop.com, daveyd.com, and thedailyvoice.com). By June 2010, her writings are scheduled to appear in no less than six new anthologies, academic journals, and syndicated blogs. Her own blog is at www.aprilsilver.com.

As a result of her work, passion, and integrity, and as a testament to her reputation for straight talk, Silver is asked to speak publicly on a regular basis (and has done so at 200+ colleges, conferences, and community events nationwide). She has shared the platform with luminaries such as **Amiri Baraka**, **Sonia Sanchez**, **Nana Camille Yarbrough**, **Sister Souljah**, **Kevin Powell**, **Ras Baraka**, **Rev. Al Sharpton**, and many others.

A native New Yorker (with roots in Los Angeles and Washington, DC), April currently lives in Brooklyn.

SELECT LECTURE TOPICS

- *Throw Your Wallet Over the Fence (And Other Bold Moves for New Entrepreneurs)*
- *What Makes You So Special? The Essence of Communicating Your Message to the World*
- *Arts+Activism 101*
- *Life-At-A-Premium (Or...How to Re-Establish What's Essential in Life - Based on Daily News Article)*
- *The Life, Leadership, and Spirituality of Harriet Tubman*
- *What Sexism Looks Like on an Ordinary Day (And How to Counter It)*
- *Be a Father to Your Child: The Untold Story*
- *Culture vs. Commerce: The Non-Phenomena of Hip Hop*
- *The Science & Spirit of the N-Word*

Please inquire about Silver's work in the field of education (as a former English teacher in New York City's public school system). Her presentations can be tailored for corporate, collegiate, public school, professional, or community groups. She is available for keynotes, book-signings, book readings, workshop facilitation, panel moderation, and panel discussions.

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Learn more at www.aprilsilver.com

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