



NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc.

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Because Until We Find a Cure, Every Day is World AIDS Day.

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World-Renowned Poets to Converge in Harlem to Fight HIV/AIDS

A diverse range of poets and hip hop artists known across the globe will be converging in Harlem on Friday, September 19th at New York's own Harlem Live to share their words and help in the fight against the international HIV/AIDS pandemic. The star-studded lineup of features, which includes rap artists from the famed Lyricist Lounge and underground hip hop scene and a plethora of poets, representing the "Mecca of spoken word's" Nuyorican Poets Café and Russell Simmons' HBO hit series *Def Poetry Jam*, will include such poets and emcees as Wordsworth, Regie Cabico (1993 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champ), Wiseguy & Gaston (*Lyricist Lounge*), Roger Bonair-Agard (1999 National Individual Slam Champion & *Def Poetry*), Bryonn Bain (2000 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champ & featured on CBS' *60 Minutes*), Marty McConnell (*Def Poetry*), Kahlil Almustafa (2002 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champ), and the 2003 Nuyorican National Slam Team.

All of the artists, most of which perform professionally and have appeared across the world for, often times, tens of thousands of dollars per show, will be performing for free to help a recently incorporated non-profit, NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc., raise money for a grassroots HIV/AIDS organization located in southern Zambia called Africa Directions. The organization, which is situated outside of Zambia's capital city of Lusaka in M'Tendere Township, works in a township whose adult population 18-45 has an HIV infection rate of 90 percent.

This show, which represents one stop on an international fundraising campaign called the *Beyond Words: International Tour 2003*, has traveled throughout North America and Africa and raised over \$20,000 for the global fight against HIV/AIDS in less than two years. Eric Cioe, President and Founder of NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc., said, "I can't think of a more powerful way to fight HIV/AIDS – getting inspiring, generous, world-renowned artists to give one night out of their busy schedules to bring attention to the global HIV/AIDS crisis doing what they do best and love."

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