



NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc.

www.fightapathy.org

Because Until We Find a Cure Everyday is World AIDS day.

110 E. 14th Street – Suite 806A
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World-Renown Poets Converge in Harlem Raising more than \$3000 for HIV/AIDS relief

New York, NY, September 22, 2003 – NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc. proudly announced today that more than \$3000 in HIV/AIDS relief was raised at a Spoken Word benefit held last Friday, September 19th at Harlem Live. The star-studded lineup featured emcees from the famed Lyricist Lounge, and an array of poets, representing the “Mecca of Spoken Word” Nuyorican Poets Café and Russell Simmons’ HBO hit series Def Poetry Jam.

There were 13 artists performing and more than 285 guests, including a film crew from Black Entertainment Television (BET). The event raised \$3195 through the sale of tickets, books, posters and discount cards. Among the headliners were Regie Cabio (1993 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champ), Wiseguy & Gaston (Lyricist Lounge), Marty McConnell (Def Poetry), Kahlil Almustafa (2002 Nuyorican Grand Slam Champ), and the 2003 Nuyorican National Slam Team. All artists, most of whom perform professionally around the world, performed for free in support of the cause.

NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, which hosted the event, will donate 100% of all proceeds to support AIDS relief in developing countries. This year, money will go to the organization “Africa Directions” which runs a grassroots AIDS program in Zambia’s capital city.

The event is part of the “Beyond Words: International Tour 2003,” which has traveled through North America and Africa raising more than \$29,000 to fund the global fight against HIV/AIDS in the past 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.”

ABOUT NYC SIA, INC.

The New York City Student Initiative for AIDS was founded in Manhattan by several NYU students in June 2002, in order to raise funds for AIDS relief in Sub-Saharan Africa. The student-run non-profit organization hosts AIDS benefits and operates a discount card program sponsored by local merchants spread throughout Manhattan. Our purpose is to raise both awareness and funds to fight the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Please visit our website at www.fightapathy.org to learn more about us.

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