



# NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc.

*Until we find a cure everyday is World AIDS day.*  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **AIDS Benefit Rocks Bowery Poetry Club In Sold Out Show**

*April 6, 2004, New York, NY:* The student produced **Revolution Poetics: Voices Against AIDS** sold out New York City's Bowery Poetry Club Friday night, grossing more than \$2,000 for the fight against the AIDS pandemic. Slam poets, singers, emcees and musicians from across the nation came before a crowd of nearly 200 people to take a stand against AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

The benefit featured over 18 artists, all of whom donated their talents in the spirit of the cause. The evening included performances by national R&B soul sensation Maya Azucena, Washington D.C. based hip-hop group the Poem-Cees, 2003 Nuyorican Slam Team poets Julian C. Curry and Carlos Gomez and host Celena Glenn.

The words of the performers, intermingled with testimonials of people living with AIDS abroad, video clips and statistics served to fuse art with activism. Two black and red signs on stage bearing the words "Fight Apathy" served as a powerful visual reminder of the night's purpose. "It was more than just a show," poet Carlos Gomez said, "It was the start of a movement to rally the community around issues of AIDS relief. The night empowered people to take action."

The benefit was a production of NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc., a student-run nonprofit that seeks to educate and generate funds for AIDS relief in the developing world.

All proceeds from **Revolution Poetics** benefited Africa Directions, a nonprofit youth center in the M'Tendere Township of Lusaka, Zambia, where 90 percent of adults 18-45 are HIV positive. In the past, NYC SIA Inc. has contributed over \$20,000 to the struggle against global HIV/AIDS.

### ABOUT NYC SIA, INC.

*The New York City Student Initiative for AIDS was founded by NYU students in June 2002. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization has hosted AIDS benefit concerts in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., Maine, South Africa and Zambia. NYC SIA Inc. also operates a discount card program sponsored by local merchants across Manhattan.*

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