

# TAHIRA

PRODUCTIONS, INC.



## BIOGRAPHY

TAHIRA is a storyteller, poet, vocalist and percussionist with a bachelor's degree from Temple University's School of Communication and Theatre. Whether performing her original works or her vast repertoire of stories from the African oral tradition, she brings to her audience messages of courage, hope and spiritual strength. An advocate of using the arts to bring about social change, TAHIRA says: "My mission is to shed light in dark places to reveal the brilliance of human spirit."

Blending, song, poetry and story, TAHIRA's high-energy performances delight listeners of all ages. She has performed in more than 100 cities throughout the country since becoming a full-time performing artist in 1996, appearing at schools, libraries, national conferences, performing arts centers, colleges, and community and senior centers.

TAHIRA is the recipient of a Delaware Division of the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship and has been a featured teller at National Association of Black Storytelling Festival and Conference.

## EARLY START

TAHIRA has been writing since she was old enough to hold a pencil. Her passion as a child was poetry. TAHIRA's mother praised the poet within her; taking every opportunity to encourage her by displaying TAHIRA's poems. TAHIRA's father challenged the artist within her; reading her the likes of Langston Hughes and Paul Laurence Dunbar; and asking TAHIRA to interpret what was written.

As TAHIRA aged she came to realize that words are how she metabolizes her life. In college, she studied Communication & Theatre and found myriad of ways to use her love for writings: songwriting, journalism, poetry.

After marriage and the birth of her only child, TAHIRA saw nationally-renowned storyteller, Charlotte Blake Alston perform. TAHIRA watched Charlotte and was captivated and in that moment. TAHIRA discovered that storytelling could be yet another avenue to use my love of words. Charlotte, who later became TAHIRA's mentor and friend, invited her to join a recently formed organization called Keeper Of The Culture (KOTC) in Philadelphia, which was an affiliate organization of the National Association of Black Storytelling (NABS).

In 1996, a year and half after joining KOTC and NABS, TAHIRA quit her corporate job to become a full-time storyteller. Since then, TAHIRA has travelled to hundreds of cities, served as President of KOTC and the Board of Directors of NABS. TAHIRA formed her own productions company, TAHIRA Productions, Inc. with a mission to use story to empower others to think critically, choose wisely and believe fervently in their ability to succeed.

