

# AKILA WORKSONGS **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

presents



**SHORT BIO:** As an author, educator, activist, and Certified Empowerment Facilitator, **JLove Calderon** has worked passionately on social justice, race, and gender issues for over 15 years. In settings that range from hip hop ciphers to the college classroom, JLove is widely respected for her advocacy of “truth, love, and freedom” for everyday people, especially young people, women and girls, and lovers of hip hop culture.

JLove has authored three books: *We Got Issues!*; *That White Girl*; and *Conscious Women Rock the Page! Using Hip-Hop Fiction to Incite Social Change*. Her articles on hip hop culture, white privilege, and social justice have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Self Magazine*, *The Source Magazine*, among other traditional and new media outlets. She has also contributed to two anthologies: *Who’s Your Mama? The Unsung Voices of Women and Mothers* (edited by Yvonne Bynoe), and *The Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature* (edited by Tarshia L. Stanley).

As an activist and personal life coach, JLove has helped create practical models for living that are designed to empower people of all backgrounds. Her knowledge is informed by her years of working as a counselor in teen shelters. She has also taught at El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice for over a decade. When she is not writing, JLove serves as the Project Director of **1+1+1=ONE**, an arts and social transformation not-for-profit where she focuses on two programs: the *We Got Issues! Leadership Institute for Young Women*, and the *Eradicating Racism* program.

For her consistent dedication, JLove has received numerous awards, including the *Union Square Award* for her activism, and *Self Magazine’s Self Starter of the Year Award*. Her work keeps her on the national lecture circuit where she speaks regularly at conferences and colleges, including Harvard, UCLA, Columbia, and many others. She has also shared the stage or worked with **KRS-One, Sway, Xzibit, DJ Kuttin’ Kandi, Rosa Clemente, Kevin Powell**, and many others.

JLove graduated Cum Laude from San Diego State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Africana Studies and received her Master’s Degree in Education from Long Island University. Currently, she lives in New York with her husband Hector Calderon and their two sons.

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## **SELECT LECTURE AND WORKSHOP TOPICS**

- **Race Relations; White Privilege** - *When White Became Wrong: White Privilege 101*
- **Youth and Popular Culture; Hip-Hop Culture; Youth Activism** - *White Like Me: A Closer Look at White Kids and Hip Hop Culture*
- **Gender Relations; Women and Leadership** - *Sexism and Misogyny: How It Hinders, How to Heal*
- **Self-Help** - *Empowered Mamas: A Transformative Workshop for Mothers*
- **Education** - *Conscious Women Rock the Page: How to Use Hip-Hop in the Classroom*
- **Creative Writing as a Tool for Change** - *I Finished My Book, Now What? Getting an Agent & Getting Published 101*

**For complete descriptions, the full bio, or to book JLove Calderon, contact Thysha M. Shabazz at AKILA WORKSONGS Speakers Bureau: [speakers@akilaworksongs.com](mailto:speakers@akilaworksongs.com) or 718.756.8501.**

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