

April R. Silver: *social entrepreneur • activist • writer*

SHORT BIO: April R. Silver is a social entrepreneur, activist, and writer. She heads AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. (AW), a communications agency that services the unique needs of progressive artists, activists, advocates, and organizations. Since 1993, AW has provided a variety of premium services to a diverse roster, ranging from emerging poets to hip hop artist/actor Mos Def to The Ford Foundation. The company is also known for creating Put On BLAST!™, a widely trusted email marketing service that houses over 32,000 subscribers nationwide.



Ms. Silver is also editor of the anthology *Be A Father to Your Child: Real Talk from Black Men on Family, Love, and Fatherhood* (Soft Skull/Counterpoint, 2008). In 2006, she was a TV talk show host on BETJ's *My Two Cents* (first two seasons).

Silver graduated from Howard University where she made national and international news as co-leader of the historic student protest of 1989. She was later elected as student body president (then, the second woman to hold that position). It was during her term that she co-founded and provided over the country's first hip hop conference - an annual gathering that birthed the now thriving hip hop education movement.

For her opinions and 20+ years of what she calls "arts+activism" work, Silver has received many honors. *Time*, *Ms.*, *Jet*, *ESSENCE*, *Ebony*, *Newsweek*, *CNN*, *The Washington Post*, and many other outlets have quoted, profiled, or featured Ms. Silver. She is also a commentator on WBAI Radio's weekly media roundtable on *Wake Up Call*.

As a writer, April's essays on popular culture, gender politics, personal development, and current events have been published in the *NY Daily News* and throughout the blogosphere. By June 2010, her writings are scheduled to appear in no less than six new anthologies, academic journals, and syndicated blogs. Her own blog is at www.aprilsilver.com.

As a result of her work, Silver is regularly sought after to speak and has done so at hundreds of colleges, conferences, and public schools across the country. She has shared the podium with luminaries such as **Amiri Baraka**, **Sonia Sanchez**, **Sister Souljah**, **Kevin Powell**, **Bill Cosby**, **Rev. Al Sharpton**, and many others.

A native New Yorker (with roots in Los Angeles and Washington, DC), April currently lives in Brooklyn, NY.

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For more information, please visit www.aprilsilver.com

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