



MEDIA ALERT

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**Award-Winning Journalist ESTHER ARMAH To Receive
2nd Annual Founder's Award. AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc.
Honors WBAI Radio Host & Playwright For "Arts & Activism"**

WHO: Award-winning journalist, playwright, WBAI Radio Host **ESTHER ARMAH** (honoree); performance poet **MO BEASLEY**; vocalist, musician **MARITRI**; founder and president of AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. **APRIL R. SILVER** (host); local elected officials and other special guests.

WHAT: Reception featuring live performances and special remarks to (1) celebrate the 16th anniversary of AKILA WORKSONGS and (2) pay tribute to Esther Armah with the 2nd Annual Founder's Award for achievement in "Arts & Activism."

WHEN: **Sunday, May 3, 2009 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

WHERE: **"Tavern On Nostrand" Restaurant** located at 813 Nostrand Avenue in the Crown Height section of Brooklyn, NY (between Union and President Streets). Directions by subway: Take #3 Train to Nostrand or #2 Train to President and walk one block on Nostrand Avenue to the address.

NOTES: Reception is open to adults. Special anniversary ticket price: \$16 (includes live performances, food). Cash bar. Advance tickets available at www.akilaworksongs.com/calendar.html.

INFO: AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc., established in 1993, is the "Essential Communications Agency for the Development of ExtraOrdinary Visions." In 2008, the agency established an annual anniversary celebration. The program includes performances, special remarks, and a award ceremony. The Founder's Award was established to honor individuals who epitomize "arts & activism." The first honoree was performance artist, author, and activist NANA CAMILLE YARBROUGH. The event was held at Joe's Pub to a sold out audience. In 2009, the honoree will be Esther Armah.

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SHORT BIO: Esther Armah

Esther Armah is an award-winning international journalist, playwright, author, and radio host. For more than a decade, she has worked in print, radio, and television in the United Kingdom, United States, and Africa, including the countries of South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho. Currently, Ms. Armah hosts *Wake Up Call* and *Off The Page* on WBAI 99.5 FM Radio based in New York and broadcast to approximately 20 million listeners.

Ms. Armah has written for *The Guardian Newspaper* in London, *ESSENCE Magazine* in the US, and *West Africa Magazine* in several African countries. On radio in London, she worked with the BBC as an investigative reporter, a documentary-maker, and a radio host across BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5Live, and BBC World Service. On television in London, she has worked in front of and behind the camera for the BBC and Sky TV. On television in New York she has appeared on BET's *Hip Hop vs. America Part II*, MNN's *Ancestor House* with Nana Camille Yarbrough, BETJ's *My Two Cents*, and *GritTV* with Laura Flanders (which she has also hosted). Ms. Armah has also appeared in the online short-documentary *Barack & Curtis* by award-winning filmmaker Byron Hurt (for The Masculinity Project).

As a playwright, Ms. Armah has written three plays: *Can I Be Me?*, *Forgive Me?*, and *Entitled*. As an author, she has published *Can I Be Me?* Her audio book *The "F" Word* is scheduled for a 2009 debut.

Ms. Armah also heads Centric Productions, a multi-media and creative marketing production company based in London and New York.

She is being awarded the 2nd Annual Founder's Award by AKILA WORKSONGS, Inc. for her career-long commitment to the field of "arts and activism" and for being of good character in her service to the local, national, and global community.