



**DENISE STOKES**  
**MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER**  
**SPOKEN WORD ARTIST**



**EDUCATING TODAY —**  
**FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW**

*PRESENTATION & MEDIA PACKET*

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***"Educating Today for a Healthy Tomorrow"***

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

DENISE STOKES is a Motivational Speaker and AIDS Activist. By building upon her life experience (which includes living with HIV for 25 years) she shares her story in venues around the world. As a result of advocating at a very young age, Denise helped to put a face on heterosexual HIV infection in the 80's. Now 38 years old, she presents to many professional and educational groups across the country. Whether addressing the NFL, Morehouse School of Medicine or speaking on the main stage at Prince's Paisley Park, Denise keeps her message fresh and relevant to the audience she is addressing.

Ms. Stokes served as an advisor to President Clinton as a member of the HIV/AIDS Advisory Council from 1995 to 2000 and remains politically active. She has spoken at two Democratic National Conventions including the 2004 Democratic National Convention on behalf of John Kerry. She is an active member of several boards of directors for community-based groups and the spokesperson for BET's Rap-It-Up Campaign.

Denise is an emerging writer with work contributed to James Adler's *Memento Mori – An AIDS Requiem*, and is completing a powerful autobiography. She also recently released an exciting spoken word project entitled "**Elevation**".

Although her career is one embellished by major achievements and constant media appearances, Denise keeps her focus and stays grounded. She actively mentors other HIV peers and makes volunteer commitments on a regular basis.

With an endless amount of enthusiasm, Denise continues to eloquently speak for the rights of people disenfranchised by HIV, addiction, homophobia and racism – as well as carry a passionate message of prevention and awareness to the world.

# RESUME

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## Professional Experience

July 2002 - Present

- Denise Stokes, Inc., (AIDS Education/Prevention & Motivational Speaker)
- Spoken word Artist and Author.
- Chairman of Board of Directors, Making A Way Housing, Inc.
- BET Rap It Up Spokesperson

April 1992 – June 2002

- Denise Stokes, Inc., (AIDS Education/Prevention & Motivational Speaker)
- Spoken word Artist and Author.
- Co-Chairman of The Board of Directors, Outreach Inc.

June 1995 – July 2001

- Member of President Clinton's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council.

July 1991 - April 1993:

OUTREACH, INC As a full -time Lead Peer Counselor of the region's first HIV agency based in the African-American community. Was skilled at providing culturally sensitive education, incorporating messages about addiction and recovery, and effective at advocating the prevention of HIV and conducting HIV prevention workshops. Primary duties included counseling and assisting HIV positive clients in understanding their illness and complying with prescribed medical treatments. Also facilitated support groups, accompanied clients to 12-Step addiction recovery self-help groups as needed.

June 1988 - Feb. 1990

Bay Communication, Inc., a radio station, as the Air Talent, co-hosted the talk show, *Tell Me Something Good*, dealing with community issues such as AIDS & substance abuse. Served as liaison between community groups, entertainers and radio station. Conducted live remote broadcasts for such entities as Georgia Counsel on Child Abuse.

## Volunteer Experience

Present

Volunteer counselor, educator and speaker for many community-based organizations, churches and local groups.

Sept 1991 - Nov 1992

OUTREACH, INC. Volunteer member of the Street AIDS Prevention Outreach team. Accompanied the street team into targeted neighborhoods to distribute HIV prevention information and materials, and to intervene with individuals interested in drug treatment or HIV testing.

Feb. 1988 - Feb. 1990

The F.O.R.D. Group, Inc. As Co-founder and Executive Secretary of a non-profit group geared toward helping drug abusers seek treatment. Wrote the organization's mission statement, developed grant proposals, and negotiated with the board of directors. Assisted clients in finding and joining 12-Step programs, and conducted community education about substance abuse. Conducted teen drug awareness programs.

## **Training and Education**

- Course on Sexually Transmitted Diseases, a certificate course offered by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health.
- HIV Frontline Forum, an intensive workshop for caregivers of persons with AIDS developed by Burroughs Wellcome Company.
- ADAPT Street Outreach Training, presented by New York Department of public Health's AIDS outreach street team, and sponsored by the Georgia Department of Human Resources for state-funded AIDS outreach workers.
- Regular reports and updates from the leading experts on AIDS such as The CDC, The National Office of AIDS Research, The National Institute of Health and The Office of National AIDS Policy.

## **Career Accomplishments**

- Board of Directors for Outreach Incorporated, a community-based AIDS organization.
- Board of Directors of Covenant Community, a men's recovery center.
- 1995 Miss Black World International Beauty & Modeling Pageant as an openly HIV-positive contestant.
- Poet whose prose was included in "Memento Mori - an AIDS Requiem", a work that was directed by the renowned director David Adler and premiered at Atlanta, Georgia and New York City Spring, 2000.
- Feature subject of the award winning training video for African-American Men, "When Men Talk About AIDS."
- Spoke at 2004 Democratic National Convention on behalf of John Kerry.
- Spoke at Prince's Paisley Park Recording Studios.
- Featured speaker for African-American Women on Tour
- Featured speaker for the National Football League's Rookie Symposium.



## Television Appearances



**The Rolonda Show**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Appearance)

**Sonva Live**



**BET Life Tracks**  
2002



**BET Tonight With Tavis Smiley**



**The Rolonda Show**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Appearance)

**Ricky Lake Show**



## Training & Educational Videos



**When Men Talk About AIDS**  
AWARD WINNING  
Educational video for men



**Women and AIDS**  
Educational video for women