

## NIKKI GIOVANNI

*World-Renowned Poet, Writer, Commentator, Activist, & Educator*



Nikki Giovanni remains as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and equality. Always insisting on presenting the truth as she sees it, she has maintained a prominent place as a strong voice of the black community. Her focus is on the individual— specifically, the power one has to make a difference in oneself and in the lives of others.

Giovanni has written more than two dozen books, including volumes of poetry, illustrated children’s books, and three collections of essays. Her book *Racism 101* includes bold, controversial essays about the situation of Americans on all sides of various race issues.

She has received 21 honorary doctorates and a host of other awards, including Woman of the Year titles from three different magazines and the Governors’ Awards in the Arts from both Tennessee and Virginia. *Rosa*, her biography of legendary civil rights activist Rosa Parks, won Caldecott Honors and the Coretta Scott King Medal for best illustrated book. Other books include the collection of adult poetry *Acolytes* and the novel *On My Journey Now: Looking at African American History Through the Spirituals*. Three of her volumes of poetry— *Love Poems*, *Blues: For All the Changes*, and *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*—were winners of the NAACP Image Award in 1998, 2000, and 2003. Her newly released collection, *Bicycles: Love Poems*, has been called one of her “most powerful offerings to date” by *Essence* magazine.

Since 1987, Nikki Giovanni has taught writing and literature at Virginia Tech, where she is a distinguished professor. As a devoted and passionate writer, teacher, and speaker, she inspires not only her students but also readers and audiences nationwide. Her album *Truth Is on Its Way*, in which she reads her poetry against a background of gospel music, was a top 100 album and was named Best Spoken Word Album by the National Association of Radio and Television Announcers. The *Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*, a spoken-word CD, was a finalist for the 2003 Grammy Award in the category of spoken word.