

damali ayo

- artist & author
- dynamic speaker
- a fresh dialogue on diversity



At your organization, company, school or conference, **damali ayo offers a dynamic presentation to aid an audience in the process of "seeing race."** This fresh outlook is critical to establishing effective relationships within communities, educational environments, customers and teams. This idea moves far beyond usual conversations about diversity that can leave participants frustrated or timid. **damali helps people feel inspired.**

damali has a special gift for working with people. Her straightforward and engaging style **opens minds** from those alive with activism, to those frozen by fear. Each member of your audience will be given **a window into their own skills and strengths** with regards to race and difference. After hearing damali speak, people emerge ready to engage these issues in a positive way.

damali accomplishes this with one-of-a-kind audio, creative visuals, and **heartfelt stories that offer insight** into the trials and successes of racial interactions. In addition, damali is well known for her generous question/answer sessions that shows her dedication to coaching groups through their issues. damali's presentation is **a needed and refreshing shift from stale discussions on diversity.**

Overall damali's presentation is entertaining, catalyzing and provocative. **damali generates dialogue.** Her presentation, like her art and writing, is playful, challenging, and rooted in a deep understanding of human relationships.

damali's work has been featured in: *Harpers Magazine, The Nation, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, The Independent UK, The Tavis Smiley Radio Show, Public Radio International, The O'Reilly Factor, ABCNews.com, MSNBC.com Nerve.com, and Salon.com.*

"damali ayo was the best speaker that [our school] has ever had. She was bold, smart, and dared to speak the truth about the issues going on within our society and within our school community. If we want to, we can eradicate racism. Why not start now-- it's long overdue."
- Student, The Chadwick School

"damali ayo is an extraordinary speaker who brings a creative force that is exhilarating, fresh and dynamic... There is never a dull moment during her presentations. She's fearless! You are in for a treat."
- Dr. G. Rasheeda Ayanru, Le Moyne College

"damali is a highly intelligent and creative thinker... The humorous, theatrical aspects of her work place it close to comedians Dave Chapelle and Ali G as well as artists William Pope.L and David Hammond."
- Stephanie Snyder, Reed College

"[ayo] makes a devastating point about the racial insularity of many people's lives."
- Tony Norman, syndicated columnist

Conceptual artist damali ayo burst on the scene in 2003 with her controversial satirical Web site "rent-a-negro.com" The Web site expertly entices viewers into a service that allows them to rent a pleasing and friendly African American for social and business occasions. The project is a biting exploration of race relations and the commodification of racial difference.

In 2005 ayo's book, *How to Rent a Negro* expanded this much needed dialogue on race. Acclaimed as **"one of the most trenchant and amusing commentaries on contemporary race relations,"** *How to Rent a Negro* is framed as a handy guidebook that gives much-needed advice and tips on techniques of racial interaction. The result is a hilarious satirical look at race relations that reframes actual stories, techniques, requests, and responses gathered from the author's 30-odd years of experience as a "professional black person." Punctuated by quotes from former renters, *How to Rent a Negro* shocks and amuses, presenting a strikingly stark mirror of human relationships.



race-tag by damali ayo,
audience participatory performance



To bring damali ayo to your organization please contact:

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