



## “REACH HIGHER!”

A Motivational Assembly and Workshop for all Ages with  
Singer, Actress  
**AKUA TAYLOR**

### **PRIMARY ART FORM / CORE CONTENT:**

Music, Voice, Band

### **OBJECTIVES:**

To encourage students to be their best.

To encourage students to reach above and beyond the status quo.

To inspire students to exceed their own expectations.

To inspire students to dream, to set goals and to achieve those goals.

To remind students that they do not have to succumb to pitfalls. (Anti-bullying)

To remind students that they can lead by example.

### **STANDARDS MET:**

#### *Skills and Techniques/Performance:*

- Sing to recognize fundamentals of tone production

#### *Creation:*

- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines

#### *Critical Analysis/Investigate:*

- Evaluating music and music performances

#### *Cultural and Historical Context:*

- Identify the influence of music on society and society's influence on music within a given time period.
- Analyze American and other genres of music in relation to its historical and cultural context.

### **GRADE LEVEL:**

Kindergarten - 12th, adaptable.

### **NUMBER OF STUDENTS:**

50- 500

### **LESSON PLAN / PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:**

#### **“REACH HIGHER!”**

The program begins with the hit song “REACH HIGHER,” from Akua’s current CD. Akua briefly tells the *story* of how the song came to be, and how she independently produced her own CD.

#### **Ancestors**

This segment is a brief historical journey through the names of the great Africans and African Americans. It is paying homage to those who came before us, the trailblazers of our history, who accomplished great deeds so that we may live better lives. These are examples of individuals who knew how to “REACH HIGHER!”

Hatshepsut – female Pharaoh

Queen Nzingha- kept the Portuguese from enslaving her people

Cinque- sailed slave ship back to Africa

Benjamin Banneker- designed Washington D.C

Louis Latimer- developed the light bulb filament

Kwame Nkrumah- Ghana’s first president

Paul Robeson- activist, athlete, singer

Luther Vandross- Singer

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

This segment features the song “L-A-D-Y” from Akua’s current CD. It is a catchy tune about the lost art of being ladylike. Akua will ask ladies and gentlemen to *come forward* to show how to be polite and courteous.

#### **Setting Goals**

This segment encourages the students to dream big, identify what they want in life and go for it. Akua asks the students a golden question, “*How will you REACH HIGHER ?*” Akua *picks volunteers* to share their goals and how they will accomplish those goals.

The importance of word power and the ability to speak things into existence is highlighted at this time.

**Believing in Self**

The last segment is geared towards self love. Students are at an age of insecurity and doubt. This is simply a reminder that first and foremost; before we can “REACH HIGHER,” we first must believe in ourselves.

**LENGTH:**

45 - 60 minutes, adjustable.

**FEE STRUCTURE:**

Negotiable.

Based on musician accompaniment, travel cost and artist experience.

	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Residency</b>
<b>Singer:</b>	\$300	\$600	\$1200
<b>Singer One Musician:</b>	\$600	\$1200	\$2400
<b>Singer Two Musicians:</b>	\$1200	\$2400	\$4800
<b>Singer Three Musicians:</b>	\$2400	\$4800	\$9600

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Power source, laptop, powerpoint program, screen, projector, microphone, PA system.

**CONTACT:**

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