



KIJANA WISEMAN M.ED.

c/o 2601 Arbor • Houston, Texas 77004 • 713 521-0900 • Fax: 713 524-7599
kijana@kijana.com • www.kijana.com , www.moshows.com • www.wisemancompany.com

Biography

Kijana Wiseman is a master degreed creative director and performer of theatrical and communicative arts. A lyric coloratura soprano with a 3.5 octave range, Kijana began performing at the age of four--professionally since the age of nine. She sang lead in musicals and plays, as a child actress under the tutelage of Marietta Goss and Nina Vance. Her BFA in Theatre comes from the University of Houston where she studied under Sidney Berger and Cecil Pickett; and her Masters of Education, specializing in African Theatre, is as a result of joint studies at Texas Southern University, the University of Liberia in West Africa and as assistant director of the National Liberian Cultural Center in Kendeja, Liberia and drama instructor at the American Co-operative School. She has performed in over a dozen countries on the American, African and European continents.

Kijana lived and worked in West Africa for six years. She arrived in Liberia via Peace Corps, liked it and stayed . The Ministry of Cultural Affairs' National Liberian Cultural Center--a government sponsored village of writers, singers, dancers, actors and musicians--asked her to continue her work. While there, she served also as assistant principal of the Cultural Arts High School and worked as the speech and drama instructor of the American Cooperative School in Monrovia, Liberia . She also hosted two national talk and entertainment shows: "Bargain Fair" and "Under the Palm Tree " on Liberia's ELBC-TV; and shot commercials in Germany as the Merz Skin Care Products line's international ad campaign model.

Returning to America, Kijana has done independent solo work, written and performed jingles for hundreds of advertising agency/PR clients and provided back-up vocals for recording artists whose styles range from jazz to the classics.

Kijana Wiseman has performed in 20 countries and tours colleges with informative lectures that often combines audience participation, poetry, on-stage costume changes, characterization, narrative storytelling and song to take audiences on musical journeys that spans genres from traditional African music to the classics--encompassing spirituals, musicals, opera, vaudeville and jazz. She also does relationship & motivational speaking engagements.

Kijana has taken her popular one woman show, "**The Griot**" to nearly 1,000 grade schools and colleges nationwide. Readily adaptable to different performance venues, her romantic music program: "**GeminiLove Songs**," and motivational lecture: "**So What R U Doin' 'Bout th Rest of YR Life?**" and relationship lecture "**Rebate a Date**" have been well received. She also offers original stories, creative dramatics and motivational workshops for young audiences.

Kijana has been a featured soloist / performer with the Workshop Chorus, Sudan Arts Southwest, SSSteamMoga, Implosion, and has performed with the Conrad Johnson Big Band, The Houston Symphony Chorus, Greater Houston Chorus and Houston Oratorio Society's Masterworks Chorus. She has been a member of the African Overseas Union, Liberian Studies Association, the Society of Children's Book Writers and APCA & NACA college booking associations and is past VP of the Houston Association of Black Journalists. Kijana has studied voice with operatic soloist, David Brewer (*who later coached Beyoncé Knowles*).

She is the eldest daughter of master-degreed educator Mary Helen Wiseman and the late entrepreneur El'Ray Wiseman and is happily married to Aundra Sebastian Fusilier.

RECENT AWARDS:

1993-2005: Kijana has written and directed 11 plays for teen Jack & Jill Teen competitions. During that time period, her productions have won **ten 1st place awards** for the five-state southwest region. Plays "**Cognocenti**" and "**The Millennium Game**" have seen more than one award. "**The Millennium Game**" also won 1st Place for the state of Texas in the St. Peter Claver teen competition.

1997: Kijana won **1st place in the City of Houston Talent Competition**.

1998: Kijana's one woman show "**The Griot**," was awarded inclusion by Texas Commission on the Arts as one of its 148 touring artist programs, making it eligible for local, state and national performance arts grants.

2002: Kijana voted the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activity (APCA) "**Best Performing Artist of the Year**"

2001 & 2002: APCA students popularly voted "The Griot" as the **Best College Diversity Program of the Year**"

2004 - 2006: Kijana was one of the 4 finalists for APCA's "**Best Performing Artist of the Year**"

1992 - 2009 15 1st Place Wins for writing & directing original plays for teens in a 5 state region Jack & Jill Competition



KIJANA WISEMAN M.Ed.

c/o 2601 Arbor • Houston, Texas 77004 • 713 521-0900 • Fax: 713 524-7599
kijana@kijana.com • www.kijana.com , www.moshows.com • www.wisemancompany.com

Resume'

Born May 28, 1950 to El'Ray and Mary Helen Wiseman, M.Ed, in Laredo, Texas. Happily married to Aundra Sebastian Fusilier

EDUCATION:

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 1962 | Rosa Lee Easter Elementary School , Houston Texas | | |
| 1967 | Rice University Program for Gifted High School Students, Houston | Certificate of Completion | |
| 1968 | Kashmere High School, Houston Texas | Top 10% of class & Honor Student | Diploma |
| | | <i>Interscholastic League Awards, National Science Foundation Award & \$4,000 Scholarship</i> | |
| 1968 | Houston Computer Science Institute | Certificate of Completion | |
| 1968-1971 | Houston Baptist College | <i>Freshman Composition Award; Theatre/Pre-Med/ Credits 3rd place Intn't Poetry Contest</i> | |
| 1973 | University of Houston | BFA | Drama /English |
| 1977 | Texas Southern University & University of Liberia | M.Ed. | English/African Theatre |

RECENT AWARDS

1997 1st Place: City of Houston Talent Competition.
 2001 National College Performing Artist of the Year 2001 - 2002 National Best College Diversity Program of the Year
 1992 - 2009 15 First Place Winsfor writing and directing original plays for teens in a 5 state region for Jack & Jill Competition

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1979-Present Sole Proprietor, The Wiseman Company. A creative production firm.
Construct and direct event ad campaigns, plays and commercials, online video, graphic and web design for clients.

1985-Present Sole Proprietor, MoShows.com. An artist booking agency.
Perform on stage and television, tour average 18-28 cities/year, Book other fine artists on the college circuit

1996-2001 Consultant to City of Houston Mayor Pro-Tem, Jew Don Boney, Jr.
Public Relations, represent elected official at events, graphic/web design, direct TV show.

1982-1999 Houston Symphony Chorus, Houston Chorale, Workshop Chorus, Ensemble Theatre...
Community Performance Volunteer. Soubrette Coloratura Soprano and Actor, Toured Europe and Mexico with HSC.

1982-1984 Information Manager, with Access Houston (now Houston MediaSource)
Teach weekly class on programming, direct PSAs, maintain media contacts, write press releases, design, etc.

1979-1980 Staff Supervisor with Norrell Temporary Services. Did payroll and supervise assignments of temps.

1976-1979 Drama Instructor, American Co-operative School, Congotown, Monrovia, Liberia
International multi-level school. Taught 13 classes of drama a week; directed 9 plays for television/ year.

1975-1979 ELTV's "UNDER THE PALM TREE with Kijana", & "Bargain Fair," Monrovia Liberia
Hosted and performed on a weekly TV show with visiting dignitaries and international stars as guests.

1975-1976 Vice Principal, The National Liberian Cultural Center School, Ministry of Information & Cultural Affairs
Taught and worked as an administrator under the Liberian Government. Took the middle school to a highschool level.

1974-1975 Performing artist with SSSSteamMoga, soloist and backup singer with Hugh Masakela, Mariam Makeba, etc
Performed professionally on stage, television, tour and recording sessions as a solo and with various aritsts.

1973-1975 Peace Corps Volunteer to Liberia. Assigned to the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism
Worked with Peter Ballah, Bia T. Moore, et al, to polish the the dancers and singers at the National Liberian Cultural Center in Kendeja, Liberia, teach language arts, theatre, stage presentation in an effort to prepare them for FESTAC.

1972-1973 Volunteers in Service to America, (VISTA VOLUNTEER) Houston Texas.
Worked with teens at risk in Houston's Fifth Ward area. Coached sports team and advised teen club.

1970-1973 Performing Poet with Sudan Arts Southwest. Thomas Meloncon, Margie Walker, Bill Milligan, etc.
Performed socio-political plays with fellow Houston artists, to bring about changes in segregated mindsets.

1968-1970 Playcare, Houston Texas
While a college student, worked as a Drama Instructor for After School Day Care in Houston's Sharpstown Center area.

1955-1963 Child Actor with Theatre Inc. & The Alley Theatre Young Artist Programs, Houston, Texas
Leads: was Pinnochio in "Pinnochio," Wendy in "Peter Pan" etc: Integrated stages in both houses.