MY NAME IS SALAMISHAH TILLETT. I AM A RAPE SURVIVOR. I AM TELLING MY STORY BECAUSE I NO LONGER WANT TO RUN. I WANT TO WASH AWAY THE SHOWER OF SHAME AND IMPOTENCY THAT I WAS FORCED TO FEEL. I WANT THE WORLD TO UNDERSTAND THAT MEN AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BEING RAPE AND MOLESTED EVERYDAY. I AM TELLING MY STORY SO SOMEONE CAN USE MY WORDS TO SPEAK WHAT THEY DEEM UNSPEAKABLE, UNCONQUERABLE, AND UNNAMEABLE. I AM TELLING MY STORY BECAUSE I HAVE STARTED TO HEAL AND PUT THE PIECES OF INSANITY AND CHAOS TOGETHER. I AM SHARING MY STORY BECAUSE SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS DYING TO TELL HIS OR HER PARENTS, FRIENDS, LOVERS, AND PERPETRATORS. BECAUSE SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS TRYING TO FIND THAT MAGIC SPELL, THAT SECRET THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO DEAL WITH THIS PROPERLY AND COMPLETELY. BECAUSE SOMEONE SOMEWHERE NEEDS TO KNOW THAT WE ARE STILL INNOCENT, STILL HUMAN, AND STILL SANE. BECAUSE I NEED TO TELL THE WORLD THAT I AM HEALING, FEELING, AND LIVING WITH THESE MEMORIES. BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH SURVIVORS FIND THEIR VOICES AND NO LONGER CRY ALONE. —SALAMISHAH TILLETT, PH.D.
OUR MISSION

Founded in 2003, A Long Walk Home is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that uses art therapy and the visual and performing arts to end sexual violence. ALWH features the testimonies, poetry, music, dance, photography, and video by survivors and their allies in order to provide safe and entertaining forums through which the public can learn about healing from and preventing sexual violence.

All people have the right to a safe community, free of sexual violence. A Long Walk Home, Inc. works with survivors of sexual violence as well as students, administrators, and community leaders to develop strong and diverse sexual assault programs. Through SOARS programs, the Story of a Rape Survivor multimedia performance; comprehensive public lectures; in-person workshops and trainings; and a growing online resource library and network of survivors of sexual violence, ALWH has worked with thousands of students and advocates to end sexual violence in their communities.
In 1997, in the fall semester of her sophomore year in college, Scheherazade Tillet learned that her older sister, Salamishah, was a rape survivor. In response, Scheherazade began photodocumenting the impact of sexual assault in Salamishah's life. The Tillet sisters created A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH), the only African-American women's organization that uses art therapy and the visual and performing arts to address sexual violence, to educate the public about sexual assault recovery and prevention. Since 2003, ALWH has helped thousands of survivors and their allies heal from sexual violence. In 2010, the Tillet sisters were finalists for Glamour Magazine's “Women of the Year” Award for their work to end gender violence.
SOARS (Story of A Rape Survivor) differs from traditional sexual assault prevention programs in its incorporation of entertainment, cultural diversity, and audience participation to promote progressive programs on sexual violence, consent, and recovery. Featuring the music of Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, and Maxwell, SOARS tells one woman’s story of reclaiming her body, sexuality, and self-esteem after being sexually assaulted in college. SOARS is a cutting-edge theatrical experience that stars a diverse cast of women, combining photographs, video projection, dance, drama, and music as a way to educate the public about healing from sexual violence.

The ultimate aim is to show that the shame, guilt, and self-blame that rape victims too often experience can be eased; that the stories of rape survivors can be one of triumph and hope. Since 2003, SOARS Multimedia Performance has been performed for thousands of survivors, allies, and advocates throughout the country and has become one of the most successful programs on sexual assault awareness among college audiences, sexual assault prevention state coalitions, and educators.

SOARS Performance fee: $3000 (does not include travel and lodging expenses)
Scheherazade Tillet is the co-founder of A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH). Since 1998, she has been committed to creating a national platform that speaks out against sexual violence against women and girls. In 1998, under the tutelage of social documentary photographer, Steve Hart, she began Story of a Rape Survivor (SOARS) as a mini social documentary/art therapy project in which she intimately examined her sister’s recovery from sexual assault. In 2003, she co-founded and became the Executive Director of the national non-profit organization, A Long Walk Home, Inc. For her work to end gender violence, Glamour Magazine nominated her for Woman of the Year: Reader’s Choice Award in 2010.

Scheherazade is also the artistic director of the award-winning multi-media performance, SOARS, and the coordinator of the summer program, Girl/Friends. She is currently the coordinator and rape crisis counselor/art therapist at YWCA Metropolitan of Chicago in the Lawndale area.

Through the use of art, she counsels adolescent girls, women and men who have experienced adult and/or childhood sexual assault. In addition to being a therapist, she is currently the sexual health coordinator at North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School (NLCP) where she leads a comprehensive holistic sexuality education program. She received her B.A. from Tufts University and earned her Masters in Art Therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Scheherazade initiates creative and innovative ways to provide psychological health services and counseling to underserved populations and communities of color.

As one of the foremost feminist advocates of her generation, Scheherazade received the prestigious Moxie Award for Excellence and Creativity from Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) in 2007 and was a finalist for Founders’ Award for Young Advocate from Chicago Foundation for Women in 2006. She is also the recipient of the Rape Victim Advocates 2010 Visionary Award. Her photographs have been featured in Cambridge Documentary’s Rape Is, Aishah Shahidah Simmon’s documentary NO!, John L. Jackson’s books, Harlemworld and Real Black. She is currently working on a social documentary project on gentrification and the Cabrini Green public housing development in Chicago.
Salamishah Tillet, Ph.D., is the co-founder of A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH). Presently, she is the writer and producer of the award-winning multi-media performance, Story of a Rape Survivor (SOARS), and an educator in Girl/Friends, a sexual assault prevention and sexual health education summer institute for underserved adolescent girls. For her work to end gender violence, Glamour Magazine nominated her for the Woman of the Year: Reader's Choice Award in 2010.

Her poem “Do You Know What Rape Feels Like?” is performed alongside her testimony, in the award-winning Cambridge Documentary Film “Rape Is...”. In 2006, Salamishah appeared in and was the associate producer of Aishah Shahidah Simmons’s groundbreaking documentary NO!: The Rape Documentary. Salamishah is a regular contributor for the online magazine, TheRoot.com. In 2006, Ebony named her one of America’s top 30 Black leaders under 30.

In fall 2007, she joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as an Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies. In 2010, she served as a Woodrow Wilson Foundation fellow at the Center of African American Studies at Princeton University. Salamishah is the author of Peculiar Citizenship: Slavery and the Post-Civil Rights Imagination (Duke University Press). She is currently working on a book on the civil rights icon, Nina Simone.

Salamishah received her Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University and her Masters in the Art of Teaching from Brown University. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania where she received her B.A. in English and African-American Studies.
## Arts. Activism. Advocacy.

This lecture discusses how sexual assault activism and victim rights advocacy can serve as key components of sexual assault recovery, focusing on how survivor art, activism, and advocacy can be used to empower survivors and contribute to social change in the community.

**Workshop fee / $1000**

## College Leaders: Working With College Students to End Campus Sexual Violence

The Young Leaders training supports and provides additional resources to college anti-violence organizations. By emphasizing the need for diversity and popular culture literacy in anti-violence programs, we work with administrators and students to devise training, recruitment strategies, community outreach, and campus education programs.

**Workshop fee / $1000**

## Safety Abroad: Addressing Sexual Assault on Study Abroad Programs

When students study abroad, they often travel without training in personal safety and an understanding of cross-cultural attitudes towards sexuality and sexual assault. This training helps administrators and students develop comprehensive study-abroad sexual assault resources, insuring that students are aware of university.

**Workshop fee / $1200**

## Sexual Assault in the 21st Century: The Digital and Media Arts

The Internet has not only vastly changed the way we communicate, becoming the virtual pathways for processing information of all sorts and socializing, but it has increasingly become the hunting ground for sexual predators as well. Using new methods in art therapy and the digital arts, such as photography, projection, video, twitter, and facebook, and live feed, this talk discusses how state-of-the-art technology can empower communities and individuals to prevent and heal from sexual violence.

**Workshop fee / $1200**

## Drum Majors: Training Youth Activists to End Sexual Violence

This is a youth-led workshop that organizes high school students to end sexual assault and sexual harassment in their schools. This interactive, multi-media workshop trains high school students to design anti-violence curriculums (such as the Clothesline project), educate their peers, and advocate for sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention programs in their neighborhood as well as schools.

**Workshop fee / $1200**
The Audacity to Heal: A Public Conversation about Surviving Sexual Assault

The Audacity to Heal includes rare and never-before-seen photos and video footage from the award-winning multi-media performance, Story of a Rape Survivor (SOARS). SOARS’s creators, Scheherazade and Salamishah Tillet, discuss the role of the arts can play in ending sexual violence, the specific challenges that victims face when they want to break silence around sexual violence, and how secondary victims of sexual violence, such as family members, friends, and intimate partners, can become allies to sexual assault survivors.

lecture fee / $1500

Our Kind of Girls: Sexual Violence and Adolescent Girls

This conversation discusses Girl/Friends, the collaborative sexual-assault prevention program between adult and adolescent girls. By sharing the results from Girl/Friends, Our Kind of Girls works with adult allies and school administrators to address the sexual violence experienced by their students by helping them develop a youth-led sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention curricula.

lecture fee / $1500

Change Agents: Friends, Family Members and Partners of Survivors

This is a lecture for partners, family members, and friends to help them deal with the anger, guilt, and hurt they feel when they learn that their loved one has been sexually assaulted.

lecture fee / $1500

Rape, Popular Culture and Post-Racial America

What is the relationship between race and sexual violence in our post-racial era? By looking at recent high-profile cases, pop music videos, film, feminist and legal scholarship, this lecture discusses how old racial stereotypes continue to shape public perceptions of sexual assault victims and assailants.

lecture fee / $1500
PAST SOARS PERFORMANCE AND WORKSHOPS LOCATIONS

2010

SOARS Performance, College of NJ, Ewing, NJ
SOARS Performance, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
SOARS Performance, Carleton College, Northfield, MI
Young Leaders: Working With Students to End Campus Sexual Violence, Carleton College, Northfield, MI
SOARS Performance, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL
The Audacity to Heal: A Public Conversation about Surviving Sexual Assault, Brown University, Providence, RI
Young Leaders: Working With Students to End Campus Sexual Violence, Carleton College, Northfield, MI
SOARS Performance, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL

2009

SOARS Performance, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL
SOARS Performance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
SOARS Performance, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
SOARS Performance, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2008

SOARS Performance, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL
SOARS Performance, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture, Utah Art Center, Salt Lake City, UT
Arts. Activism. Advocacy Lecture, Utah Art Center, Salt Lake City, UT
SOARS Keynote Speaker, 3rd Annual Domestic Violence and Rape Awareness Banquet: Out of the Silence, Finding Our Voices Union College, Schenectady, NY
SOARS Keynote Speaker, Burlington, VT
SOARS Performance, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

2007

SOARS Performance, College of NJ, Ewing, NJ
SOARS Performance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
SOARS Performance, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
SOARS Performance, Cumberland County College Fine and Performing Arts Center, Cumberland, NJ
SOARS Performance, Byrn Maur College, Bryn Maur, PA
SOARS Performance, Smith College, Northampton, MA
SOARS Performance, Art Therapy: The Alchemy of the Imagination Conference Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, WI
SOARS Performance, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA
SOARS Performance, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI
Art Therapy with Adolescent and Child Sexual Assault Survivors, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Springfield, IL
SOARS Performance, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA
SOARS Performance, CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, Columbus, OH
2006
SOARS Performance, North Lawndale College Prep, Art Therapy Violence Prevention Workshop, Chicago, IL (2006)
SOARS Photography Installation, Generation: School of Art Institute of Chicago, South Shore Cultural Art Center, Chicago, IL
SOARS Performance, Northwestern University Law School, Chicago, IL, Sponsored by Community Counseling Centers of Chicago
SOARS Performance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
SOARS Performance, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI
SOARS Performance, North Lawndale College Prep High School, Chicago, IL
Sexuality and Sexual Violence Lecture, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

2005
SOARS Performance, Oak Park and River Forest
SOARS Performance, Barnard College / Columbia University, New York, NY
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture, Barnard College / Columbia University, New York, NY
SOARS Keynote, Lesley College, Cambridge, MA
SOARS Performance, Bard College, Annandale Hudson, NY
SOARS Performance, Tufts University, Medford, MA
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture-Kobe Bryant Discussion, Bloomberg University, Bloomburg, PA
SOARS Performance, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture-Kobe Bryant Discussion, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture, Kansas Coalition of Sexual Assault, Topeka, KS
Change Agents: Friends, Family Members, and Partners of Survivors Lecture, PCAR: National Sexual Assault Conference, Pittsburg, PA
Using Dance Movement and Art Therapy to Heal from Negative Images Workshop, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Springfield, IL
SOARS Performance, Chicago Foundation for Women, Chicago, IL

Art Therapy Violence Prevention Workshop, North Lawndale College Prep, Chicago, IL
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture, PCAR: National Sexual Assault Conference, Pittsburg, PA
Change Agents: Friends, Family Members, and Partners of Survivors Lecture, PCAR: National Sexual Assault Conference, Pittsburg, PA

2004
SOARS Performance, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS
Change Agents: Friends, Family Members, and Partners of Survivors Lecture, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
SOARS Performance, Tufts University, Medford, MA
Beyond Black and White: Race, Rape, and in Post-Racial America Lecture-Kobe Bryant Discussion, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Mini SOARS Performance, Long Beach, CA
SOARS Performance, 3rd National Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, Los Angles, CA
SOARS Performance, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME
SOARS Performance, Michigan Anti-Rape Network, Detroit, MI
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mini-Multimedia Performance, CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MI&lt;br&gt;Study Abroad Lecture, CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MI&lt;br&gt;Mini-Multimedia Performance, YWCA West Suburban, Glen Ellyn, IL&lt;br&gt;SOARS Performance, Michigan Anti-Rape Network, Detroit, MI&lt;br&gt;Mini-Multimedia Performance, CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MI&lt;br&gt;Study Abroad Lecture, CALCASA Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MI&lt;br&gt;Mini-Multimedia Performance, YWCA West Suburban, Glen Ellyn, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>SOARS Performance, Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH&lt;br&gt;SOARS Performance, Tufts University, Medford, MA&lt;br&gt;Mini SOARS Performance, Radical Women of Color Conference, Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>SOARS Performance, Tufts University, Medford, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>SOARS Performance, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA&lt;br&gt;SOARS Keynote Speaker, Northeastern University, Boston, MA&lt;br&gt;SOARS Performance, Tufts University, Medford, MA&lt;br&gt;SOARS Photography Installation, Black Creativity, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL&lt;br&gt;SOARS Photography Installation, and mini SOARS Performance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

A Long Walk Home has received a number of awards over the years for exceptional dedication, service and guidance.

Glamour's Magazine Women of the Year: Reader's Choice Award (2010 / finalist)

Co-Founder, recipient of Community Renewal Society 35 / under Award 2007

Co-Founder 2006, named one of America's top 30 Black leaders under 30 by Ebony Magazine

2010 Visionary Award from the Rape Victim's Advocates

Founders' Award for Young Advocate from Chicago Foundation for Women 2006 (finalist)
1 in 3 women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.

1 in 4 college women are either survivors of rape or survivors of attempted rape.

60% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.

82% of rape survivors say the rape permanently changed them.

Rape is the most common violent crime on American college campuses today.
OUR SURVEY RESULTS AFTER ATTENDING A SOARS PERFORMANCE LECTURE OR WORKSHOP

79%

stated that they were now more aware of their local counseling services and victim advocacy organizations.

78%

surveyed audience members learned something new about sexual violence.

64%

were more likely to seek counseling to recover from violence.

75%

stated that they were more likely to recommend therapy to someone they know was a victim of violence.
SOARS provides a creative model for increasing male allies to end violence against women. On average, 30% of the SOARS audience are men and 50% of this group are men of color. Also, on average, 78% of the SOARS audience are people of color.
Régine Michelle Jean-Charles

Régine Michelle Jean-Charles is an assistant professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and African and African American Studies at Boston College. Régine has starred in the groundbreaking plays VENUS and For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Isn’t Enuf.” She is author of “Conflict Bodies: The Politics of Rape Representation in the Francophone Imaginary. Régine has been performing with SOARS since 2001, and is also a board member for A Long Walk Home, Inc., she performs the poem Do You Know What Rape Feels Like? and I Was Born and Died on the Same Day for SOARS.

Ugochi

Ugochi is singer/songwriter from Chicago and Nigeria. Critics described her debut album, “African Butterfly,” as “lively, energetic music that makes your feet move and heart think. She recently released her second album, A.S.E. (Afro Soul Effect), a riveting blend of Afrobeat, hip hop, R&B, and classic soul. She has shared the stage with established artists such as Common, Eric Benet, John Legend, and Femi Kuti. Joining A Long Walk Home, Inc. in 2003, she performs Strange Fruit and her own “African Butterfly” for SOARS.

Nia Austin-Edwards

Nia Austin-Edwards began her dance training in Atlanta, GA at Total Dance/Dancical Productions, Inc. She majored in dance at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. She is a member of ASE Dance Theater Collective under the direction of Adia Whitaker and Jamal Jackson Dance Company. Joining A Long Walk Home, Inc. in 2009, Nia performs to Nina Simone’s Four Women and Aretha Franklin’s Spirit in the Dark in SOARS.
SOARS PERFORMANCE CAST

Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart

Na Tanyá Daviná Stewart is a cultural worker, writer, and performer from Gary, Indiana. She is an Artistic Associate at the South Shore Centre for the Arts in Gary, IN where she teaches creative writing and performance poetry. She is a member of the Central District Organizing Project, which organizes Gary residents to mobilize and take action on the issues they face. Joining A Long Walk Home, Inc. in 2004, Daviná performs the poem “Do You Know What Rape Feels Like?” and “I Was Born and Died on the Same Day” for SOARS.

Hetti Barnhill

Hetti Barnhill performs for the Tony Award winning Broadway Musical FELA! as well as for her Company, The Just Movement Collective. She received her degree in Dance from Columbia College in Chicago and has received several dance scholarships, including the Young Artist Scholarship (American Dance Festival); The Wiesman Grant for her choreographic piece (Homegrown). Joining A Long Walk Home, Inc. in 2007, Hetti performs to Nina Simone’s “Four Women” and Aretha Franklin’s “Spirit in the Dark” in SOARS.

Logan Vaughn

Logan Vaughn is a Chicago based casting director and director. Currently the Casting Associate at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, Logan has worked with several companies including Lookingglass Theatre, Court Theatre, Second City Theatre, The Cardinal Stage and Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. Logan received her degree in Film from Columbia College Chicago and in 2008 was awarded the Goodman Theatre’s prestigious Joyce Arts Fellowship in Casting. Joining A Long Walk Home, Inc. in 2004, Logan performs her self-choreographed dance to Nina Simone’s “Four Women” in SOARS.
Contact Information

Email: info@alongwalkhome.org
Phone + Fax: 1-877-571-1751
Scheherazade Tillet
sher@alongwalkhome.org
www.alongwalkhome.org