



*Standing-n-Truth*

**Empowerment**

# THE PROJECT

## **PURPOSE:**

To mobilize the community on issues related to sex, sexuality and HIV/AIDS, SNT encourages non-punitive discourse, facilitates discussions, and addresses evolutionary recourse of sexual practice, history, and experience in an effort to promote healthy life choices.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

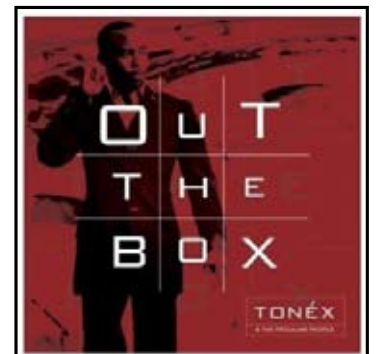
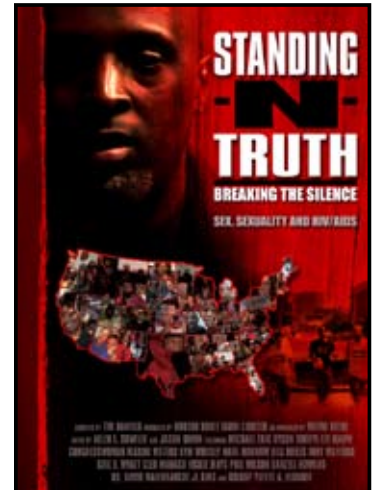
- To decrease stigma of marginalized communities.
- To create a community of sharing and ownership based on the reality of systemic issues that create at-risk behavior.
- To provide positive Prevention/Education/Support messages.
- To encourage routine testing, care and treatment for at-risk populations.
- To redress human sexuality

## **ACTIVITIES:**

- Social
- Light-meal and getting acquainted
- Introductions
- Screening of Film (60 mins.)
- HIV antibodies testing
- Pre-/Post Test Questionnaires
- Panel Discussion/Presentations
- Personal Stories
- Q & A
- Artist Performance
- Incentives
- Closing Remarks

## **FEATURED TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:**

- The role of silence concerning sexuality
- Stigma and the black church
- Empowering diversity
- Cultural mores of sexuality within the Black community
- Sex, Shame and Stigma
- Encouraging testing and treatment





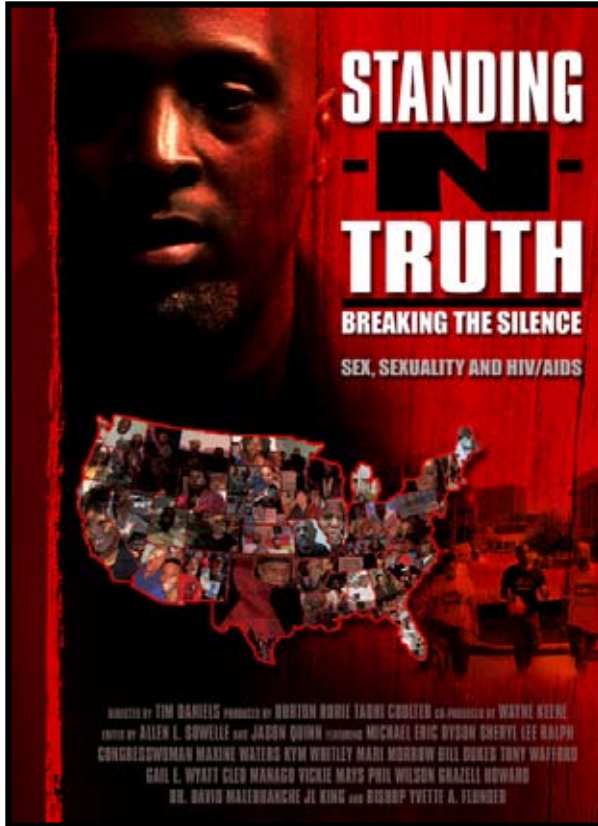
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In order to decrease the impact of HIV/AIDS in communities of color, discussions of sexuality must be addressed at an early age. In a study of liberal and conservative black families, three quarters of the respondents believed that these discussions should begin before a child has reached the first grade.<sup>1</sup> SNT engages and empowers the community toward healthier life choices.

<sup>1</sup> Constance A. Timberlake and Wayne D. Carpenter. *Family Relations*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Ja., 1990), p 90

## THE SYNOPSIS



A first of its kind documentary, *Standing-n-Truth: Breaking the Silence* weaves the personal narrative of African American men, women and children in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, transcending differences of sexuality, class, and gender. The voice of one man (Tim Daniels) allows others, who have been silenced, ostracized, and discouraged, to reflect on their own personal stories, while emphatically and empathetically

constructing and integrating strategies for reducing individual and collective stigma. An array of the following popular-opinion leaders share intimate experiences of stigma, shame, and silence: David Malebranche, MD, MPH, Beny J. Primm, MD, Gail E. Wyatt, PhD, Vickie M. Mays, PhD, MSPH, Kevin Fenton, MD, PhD, Michael Eric Dyson, PhD, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Bishop Yvette E. Flunder, Kym Whitley, Mari Marrow, Pamela Williams, and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

part of **THE CAST**



“When you got about 12 or 13 years old the boys were after you...they tried to get you to do it [to have sex] tells **Congresswoman Maxine Waters**.



**David Malebranche, MD, MPH**, Emory University Assistant Professor, speaks candidly about his childhood and sexual experiences during an SNT interview.



**Pamela Perkins**, Founder/CEO of Human Communication Institute, LLC., shares how the “words” that we use and attach to ourselves correlates with how we feel and see ourselves, suggesting a remedy to the increase of HIV/AIDS cases among African Americans., San Diego, CA.



In an emotional interview, **Roger Quinney, LCSW** reflects on a personal story about living with HIV/AIDS.



Jeffrey King, Founder and Exe. Director of *In The Mean Time Men's Group* and SNT interviewee, **Dr. Kevin Fenton**, Director of HIV, STD and TB Prevention for the CDC visit community leaders in honor of the National African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and encourages holistic approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention.



“In many places throughout the world, we forget that women have no power.” AIDS Activist/Actress/Singer **Sheryl Lee Ralph** speaks out against sexual oppression and violence which prevents women from taking ownership of their bodies against the spread of HIV/AIDS infection. XVI International World AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada in tears.



“How it [sex] was communicated to me was by watching television....Being the little boy that I was...we used to play with doll houses and dress up...I'd play the mother...and we would experiment that way. That's how I learned about it,” says **Ebony Lane**, a transgender male to female.



“My mother handed me a book...and I didn't even know how to read,” says Actress/Comedian **Kym Whitley (R)**. **Mari Morrow (L)** agrees with statement with a polite yet deliberate nod.

**THE ARTIST**

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# TONÉX



In a world of confusion jam-packed with negativity and immorality what is desperately needed is a breath of fresh air – a double dose of oxygen, something maybe like ... O2. Enter in Tonéx – music’s multi-genre, multi-talented breath of fresh air.

First introduced to the world on the avant-garde album ‘Pronounced Toe-Nay’, Tonéx created a fervor with his eclectic styles and secular flair that both pushed boundaries and opened doors. Prior to its release, however, Tonéx had to deal with potential career-ending issues, all before his first album hit the shelves.

“When it came time to finally release ‘Pronounced Toe-Nay’, I had all these different elements pulling me in crazy directions,” Tonéx said. “I felt like I had to prove something. Now, I feel much freer and happier ...it’s a much brighter time for me.”

With the drama behind him, Tonéx is set to release O2 on April 9, 2002. Whether representing two parts oxygen, or the second installment in Tonéx’s musical journey, or even the year of its release, O2, is much more than the 17 inspiring songs it contains. It is a new dawn for Tonéx.

From those early darker days, to the overall optimism that pervades Tonéx’s new music, O2, is a self-proclaimed “metamorphosis.” Unfettered by distractions that once saturated Tonéx’s career, O2, reveals focus and a deeper maturity both personally and professionally.

“I wanted to do an album that showed where I am today,” Tonéx said. “My last album had a darker vibe to it and this album is bright, happy – lots of dancing, singing and songs of love ...O2 is all about sun rises, not sun sets!”

Lyrical and vocally, Tonéx shines on this album. Having written all the songs on O2, Tonéx used this opportunity to concentrate on his singing and song writing artistry.

“O2 contains new ‘soundscapes’,” said Tonéx. “Most people don’t think of me as a vocalist, but you will really be able to hear me sing on this album.” It is clear on soaring ballads, such as “Seasons,” “You,” and “God Has Not 4got,” Tonéx unmistakably makes his mark as a true crooner.

On the stand out track, “Seasons,” Tonéx delivers an intense ballad, with his wife Yvette “Ms. Tonéx” Williams. Speaking to the natural transitions in life that everyone must go through, “Seasons” tells us that we can’t appreciate the good times without having lived through the bad times. “A change will come, and every season has its purpose,” said Tonéx of this powerful song. The vividly descriptive song brings forth as much a visual impact as an audible one.

The first single off the album, is the prodigious, boundless soon-to-be-church anthem “God Has Not 4got.” Having gleaned from difficult times early in his career, Tonéx wrote this song to help carry him through. “As I was writing it, it ministered to me ... even when I thought I’d never have an album out ... it was totally reassuring,” Tonéx said. “I



TONÉX *cont. from pg. 8*

think in these times especially since 9/11, we all need to hear reassurance ... to remember that God has not forgotten us.”

Inspiring the entire album is the flagship song “You,” a straight-up, heartfelt love song that was written for Tonéx’s wife, Yvette. “This optimism that I have is due largely in part to my marriage,” Tonéx explained. ““You” is something that I wrote about how much I love Yvette and how I fell in love.”

Of course Tonéx doesn’t give you just love songs and high strings, he balances the album with his signature, high-energy dance numbers. Out of the box is

the infectious head nodding, spirit-filled party song “Bout A Thang.” Truly undeniable, the song encourages and reminds us not to worry because God can handle anything. “With all the things going on today, we need a reminder to not walk in fear, to not let stress, people or whatever get us down ... there’s nothing too hard for God.”

Also heavy with a pop beat, is the banging title track “’02,” critical look at the music industry as a whole. With so many negative images that saturate our young people, Tonéx suggests a need for an alternative to the current state of music. Lyrically it’s an appeal to all artists: “Get high off of creativity ... Flaunt your craft not your sexuality ... Artists in this industry have a responsibility...to make songs that inspire human morality.”

Among his favorites, Tonéx identifies “Even You,” an amazing song of redemption, and a message that God reaches beyond our faults. Tonéx describes the song “the most heartfelt song,” he’s ever written. “It, more than anything else reveals the motive of my heart ... I believe it will win over millions of souls.”

Recently, Tonéx lost a dear family member, which prompted the inclusion of the emotional “See You Again” on the project. An absolutely heart-tugging song, it encourages those who’ve lost loved ones and that through mercy and faith, we will see them again soon.

Immediately following that track, Tonéx brings us a truly vibrant song about Heaven. Given to him in a dream, “The Beautiful Place,” is an expansive ballad with soaring strings that so colorfully describes God’s glorious kingdom. “The Lord gave me this song ... and it’s not like I wrote it, more like I painted it,” he said. “The song is so rich in texture both lyrically and musically ... we had live strings, and stacked vocals, three different languages (Swahili, Spanish and Japanese).”

“I want people to feel they’ve connected to the album in every way,” said Tonéx. “It was more than a labor of love, it’s truly a piece of me and it was worth the wait to get it right.”

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# OUR MISSION



Our mission is to educate members of diverse communities on the importance of respecting and valuing themselves; to empower them to make responsible choices concerning their well-being and ultimately to encourage them to lead by example in their respective communities despite adversity.



**TOP LEFT**  
Congresswoman Maxine Waters with Director Timothy Daniels and Co-Producer Rorie Burton, Los Angeles, CA; SNT interview, 2006

**TOP RIGHT**  
Dr. Gail Wyatt, PhD, Associate Director UCLA AIDS Institute; Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Los Angeles, CA; SNT interview, 2006

**MIDDLE LEFT**  
SNT supports Sheryl Lee Ralph's (HIV/AIDS activist/actress/singer) donation to *Women Alive*, Exe. Director Carrie Broadus, Los Angeles, CA, 2006

**MIDDLE RIGHT**  
Phil Wilson, Exe. Director, Black AIDS Institute, interviews for SNT, offering his support to Director Timothy Daniels and Co-Producer Rorie Burton, Los Angeles, CA 2006.



**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Co-Producer Tadhi Coulter with Micheal Eric Dyson who says that "we don't have to agree with each other...but we must come together in *functional solidarity* when addressing HIV/AIDS in the Black community." Los Angeles, CA, Eso Won bookstore, 2007.

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Actor/Producer/Director Bill Dukes and Exe Director Carrie Broadus congratulate and offer their support to Director Timothy Daniels, following screening of *Standing-N-Truth: Breaking the Silence; "Let's Get Fired Up!"*, Los Angeles Women's HIV/AIDS Treatment Summit, 2006.

## OUR PROJECTS



We believe the cycle of silence around sex, sexuality and HIV/AIDS can be broken through a cohesive strategy of education and services, and what better way to do so than through love and the boundless world of the internet and media.

### **Standing-n-Truth: Breaking The Silence** (the film)

Documentary that explores the fears and shame that many members of the Black community struggle with concerning sex, sexuality, and HIV/AIDS. Moving through debilitating emotions has given rise to voices ready to stand up and confront the silence! Standing-N-Truth is an exploration of both love of self and community. It is an exploration of freedom.

### **Sex In The Inner-City™ Workshop series**

Objective: To encourage non-punitive discourse, facilitate discussions, and to redress sexual practices, history, and experiences in an effort to promote healthy life choices.

### **Conversations**

Set in venues where the black community typically opens up to talk about sensitive subject matters, *Conversations* is a thought provoking series of “real life” and edgy scenarios which encourages critical thinking, self examination, and proactivity around HIV/AIDS at-risk behavior. Production funded by California AIDS Clearing House, Gay and Lesbian Center and the LA Office of AIDS.

### **Community Forums**

Sexuality and HIV/AIDS forums redress prejudice and discrimination toward marginalized communities. In so doing, we hope to improve access to care and treatment for at-risk groups who experience anxiety approaching and engaging the healthcare system.



(Top-Bottom) First billboard and cover page of SNT marketing campaign and film project *Standing-N-Truth: Breaking the Silence*, 2006.

SNT, with media credentials, captures Bill Gates addressing the crowd during the opening ceremony of the XVI World AIDS conference, Toronto, Canada, 2006.

Students at Occidental College (CA) share their experiences and attitudes about sex candidly during a HIV/AIDS post-test visit to the campus, Glendale, CA, 2006.

Social justice campaign and march of Black LGBT demanding equal rights and protection as they march from the MLK center to the state capitol, Atlanta Black Gay Pride's, In the Life, Atlanta, GA.

## OUR EVENTS



### **SongMaster 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BGL**

Cruise to capulco, Zihuatanejo, and Manzanillo Mexico  
Oct, 2008

### **The Fellowship Conference 2008**

“Youth Component”, in Dallas, TX  
June, 2008

### **Building Bridges between African-American Communities and Researchers**

A Partnership between Clergy, Community and  
Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR)  
Meharry Medical College  
April, 2008

### **Let's get fired up!**

Los Angeles Women's HIV/AIDS Treatment Summit 2008  
Hollywood, CA, Women Alive,  
April, 2008

### **EIP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

Long Beach, CA  
April, 2008

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Inland Empire HIV Conference**

“Connecting the Pieces ... Together in Collaboration”  
April, 2008

### **Nashville World AIDS Day Film Series**

Nashville, TN  
December, 2008

### **2007 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)**

National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)  
Palm Springs, CA  
November, 2007

### **SongMaster 10<sup>th</sup> Annual BGL**

Cruise Carnival Cruise to Panama,  
Costa Rica, and Costa Mesa.  
October, 2007

### **Healthy Heritage Wellness Conference**

An Interactive Afrocentric Health Conference  
Riverside, CA  
July, 2007

### **USC**

Center for Black Cultural & Student Affairs  
Los Angeles, CA,  
April, 2007

### **Black Women's Health Conference**

Pasadena, CA,  
March, 2007

### **It's All about: MEE!:**

It's All About M.E.E.! Sistahs Getting Real About HIV  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women,  
National Council of Negro Women  
Black AIDS Institute  
Los Angeles, CA  
February, 2007

### **African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

Office of AIDS,  
County of Los Angeles,  
February, 2007

### **Truth Workshop**

In The MeanTime Men's Group,  
Los Angeles, CA  
January, 2007

### **Oakland Dinner Club**

Oakland, CA  
December, 2006

### **World AIDS Day**

Los Angeles, CA,  
December, 2006

### **Let's get fired up!**

Los Angeles Women's HIV/AIDS Treatment Summit 2006  
Hollywood, CA, Women Alive,  
November, 2006

### **Black Exploration**

Occidental College, Glendale CA,  
November, 2006

### **In The Life Film Festival**

Atlanta GA  
August, 2006