

KEVIN POWELL SPEAKING KIT



ABOUT KEVIN POWELL

Kevin Powell is widely considered one of America's most important voices in these early years of the 21st century. Legendary feminist Gloria Steinem asserts that "as a charismatic speaker, leader, and a very good writer, Kevin Powell has the courage...to be fully human, and this will bring the deepest revolution of all." Internationally acclaimed scholar and social critic Dr. Michael Eric Dyson has called Powell "a mighty wind of fresh air." And of Kevin Powell the writer asha bandele says "When you consider the intelligence and breadth of Kevin Powell's writing and activism, you come to the conclusion that there may be no better spokesperson and representative for a generation that has too long been counted out."

Kevin Powell is an activist, writer, public speaker, entrepreneur, and, most recently, a 2008 Democratic candidate for Congress in Brooklyn, New York. A product of extreme poverty, welfare, fatherlessness, and a single mother-led household, he is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey and was educated at New Jersey's Rutgers University. Kevin Powell is a longtime resident of Brooklyn, New York, and it is from his base in New York City that Powell has published ten books, including his new title, *Open Letters to America* (Soft Skull Press). This book is a collection of essays that examines American leadership, politics, and various social issues in the era of Barack Obama.

Next up for Kevin Powell is his long-awaited childhood memoir, *My Own Private Ghetto* (2011), and *The Kevin Powell Reader* (2012), which will gather the first twenty-five years of his writings and speeches. Indeed, Kevin has written numerous essays, articles, and reviews through the years for publications such as *Esquire*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *Essence*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Amsterdam News*, *huffingtonpost.com*, and *Vibe*, where he was a founding staff member and served as a senior writer, interviewing and profiling, among many others, General Colin Powell and the late Tupac Shakur. Most recently Powell has been a Writing Fellow for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, as well as a Phelps Stokes Fund Senior Fellow.

A gifted and highly sought after public speaker, Powell has lectured on multiculturalism, building corporate responsibility, American and Black American history, the life of Dr. King, civil rights, American politics and civic engagement, sexism from a male perspective, leadership, social activism, the state of hip-hop, redefining American manhood, and being Black and male in America, among other topics, at hundreds of colleges and universities, community centers, prisons, religious institutions, conferences, and festivals, as well as in corporate settings. Furthermore, Kevin Powell routinely offers his insights on a variety of matters, to TV, radio, newspaper, magazine, and internet outlets in America, and abroad.

A fixture on the pop culture landscape the past several years, Powell was a cast member on the first season of MTV's "The Real World"; hosted and produced programming for HBO and BET; written a screenplay; hosted and wrote an award-winning MTV documentary about post-riot Los Angeles; and was the Guest Curator of the Brooklyn Museum of Art's "Hip-Hop Nation: Roots, Rhymes, and Rage"—which originated at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, and of which Powell was the exhibition consultant—the first major exhibit in America on the history of hip-hop.

Of paramount importance to Kevin Powell, however, is his activism. He has been a leader in some form or fashion for over twenty years, dating back to his days as a teenager at Rutgers University. He was a participant in the student-led anti-apartheid movement, the drive to end racism in South Africa. He has been at the forefront of police brutality and racial bias cases. He has worked for years around voting rights. Powell is one of the most prominent voices in the hip-hop generation, and he has organized a number of concerts, mc battles, rallies, and forums that stress the use of hip-hop as a tool for social change. As a result of his own past personal struggles, contradictions, growth, and a commitment to therapy and healing, Kevin has become a very outspoken critic of violence against women and girls, of violence in general, and he has been at the forefront of the movement to redefine American manhood away from sexism and violence. Powell also plays a key role in the Black male development arena, having produced, the past few years, among other things, a 10-city State of Black Men Tour, numerous Black male think tank sessions, and Black and Male in America, a 3-Day national conference (www.blackandmaleinamerica.org). Powell has taught, mentored, and counseled in schools, camps, prisons, and on the streets of urban America. He produces an annual holiday party and clothing drive every December in New York City that benefits the needy. And Powell was a central figure in Gulf Coast disaster relief efforts, facilitating the delivery of goods and services to the affected regions, and being a cofounder of "Katrina on the Ground," an initiative that sent over 700 college students to work in the devastated region.

Of his life work Kevin Powell says, simply, "My life-calling is to be a servant for the people, period. Money, fame, status, personal achievements, and all that means very little to me when pain and suffering are still real on this planet. I am interested in the powerless becoming powerful."

KEVIN POWELL TECHNICAL RIDER

Kevin Powell thanks you very kindly for the opportunity to speak and present his views. As part of his services, he is respectfully requesting the following. PLEASE READ VERY CLOSELY:

- 1) One (1) roundtrip airline ticket to and from your location, if trip requires an air flight. An aisle seat is requested for Kevin Powell. IF the flight is two and a half (2.5) hours or longer, one (1) roundtrip first-class airline ticket is required.
- 2) One (1) roundtrip Amtrak ticket to and from your location, if trip is within Northeast corridor (New York to Washington, DC, or New York to Boston), and if Kevin Powell does not want to fly on that particular trip. It has to be a roundtrip first-class Acela ticket.
- 3) One-night hotel stay at one of the following hotels: Marriott, Sheraton, or Hyatt. One (1) non-smoking room, with king-size bed. Hotel must have a restaurant, room service, a gym, and internet access (either wireless or high-speed). If your city or town does not have one of these hotels, then the next option would be a local bed and breakfast close to a walking and running trail. PLEASE NOTE that Kevin Powell does not want to stay in a hotel where the room doors open into an outside area.
- 4) Ground transportation to and from all airports and or train stations must be paid for in advance of the speaking engagement. In New York City, Kevin Powell often uses C&R Car Service, based in Brooklyn, New York. They accept all forms of credit card payment, and can be reached at 718-858-7771. Kevin Powell also has a personal driver named Avto, and he can be reached at 718-690-4502. Avto has to be paid with a certified check in advance of the trip(s).
- 5) Kevin Powell should always be met at the baggage claim area of the airport, or the passenger waiting area of a train station. He needs two contact numbers for at least two members of the sponsoring group, including cell numbers and emails. Whoever is picking him up should have a big and legible sign with KEVIN POWELL written on it.
- 6) Kevin Powell has very strict dietary needs:
 - a. No meat, only fish, no fried foods, with rice and vegetables, if school dining is the option. Local Indian, Thai, vegetarian or organic restaurant if off campus or not a school event.
 - b. A green salad with tomatoes.
 - c. Absolutely no dairy, no soda, no sweets, no bread, no juices unless organic juices.
 - d. Two large bottles of water, apples, oranges, and raw and unsalted mixed nuts for hotel room, to be purchased before Kevin Powell arrives to your city or town.
- 7) Kevin Powell welcomes the opportunity to have dinner with the sponsoring group, either before his presentation or after the program. If before the presentation, we just respectfully request that there is enough down time for Kevin to prepare properly for his speech, and that a small private room or area be made available to Kevin Powell in the 15-30 minutes leading up to his speech.

- 8) For speech, podium with microphone either attached to podium, or on a mic stand. Hand held mic is okay but, please, no clip on mic or mic that attaches to the ear. Two bottled waters with cup right inside of or near the podium are also needed.
- 9) We respectfully request that copies of Kevin Powell's most recent books, OPEN LETTERS TO AMERICA (essays), THE BLACK MALE HANDBOOK (self-help), and NO SLEEP TILL BROOKLYN (poetry), be ordered by inviting group, via a campus bookstore (if a college or university) or local community-based bookstore or vendor. Books can be ordered as so:

For OPEN LETTERS and NO SLEEP
Kristy Bohnet
Counterpoint Press
510-704-0230, ext. 213
kristy.bohnet@counterpointpress.com

For THE BLACK MALE HANDBOOK (IF Black male attendance is expected)

Hilary Lowe
Sales Coordinator, Premium and Corporate Sales
Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
T (212)-698-2105
F (212)-698-2863
Hilary.Lowe@simonandschuster.com

A table should be set up for book vendor at back of space where event is taking place, so that Kevin Powell can sign copies immediately following program. Book vendor should always order books for one-fourth of audience expected. For example, if approx. 100 attendees are expected, 25 books should be ordered. If approx. 500, then 125 books should be ordered. If approx. 1000, 250 books should be ordered. And so on.

- 10) Kevin Powell does not mind his speeches being videotaped or audiotaped. However, we will need a letter of understanding, on your business letterhead, stating the following:

This video and or audio recording of Kevin Powell's lecture, made on such and such day, month, and year, is for educational or archival purposes only, and will never be sold, duplicated, broadcasted on television or radio, podcasted, webcasted, or sampled for musical productions without the written consent of Kevin Powell, or his multimedia company, or his estate. Furthermore, Kevin Powell's office will be mailed a clean and unedited master copy of the speech, on DV if videotaped, and on DAT if audiotaped, within one week of his presentation (7 business days). This package should be sent via overnight mail to

Kevin Powell
93 Montague Street

PMB 221
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-399-8149 (office)
718-399-8150 (fax)

The letter of understanding should be signed and faxed at least one week before Kevin Powell's presentation. If that is not possible, then it needs to be handed to Kevin Powell, in an envelope, BEFORE his presentation.

Kevin Powell does not mind if still photographs are taken before, during, and after his presentation.

11) The general format for Kevin Powell's presentation is as follows

Lecture...45 minutes to one (1) hour
Question and answer w/ audience...at least 30 minutes
Booksigning...at least 30 minutes

Kevin Powell does understand that audience Q&A may not happen if he is speaking at a luncheon, dinner, gala, banquet, or a conference with a very tight schedule. Please also note that Kevin Powell loves talking with and listening to people, so often the Q&A sessions and or booksignings will run long.

12) Kevin Powell does not do workshops or class visits (if at a college or university) before his presentation. He is open to such afterwards, at an additional fee separate of his honorarium.

13) Kevin Powell is more than willing to do local media to promote the program in the days leading to the event, and on the day of the event, as long as day of media requests do not interfere with his speech preparation and his interactions with the audience or community.

14) Kevin Powell respectfully requests that whoever introduces him NOT read his entire BIO. The BIO sent in advance should be used only as a guidepost for introductory remarks, for local media, for a press release. If requested, we can send a very short introduction to the inviting group.

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