



TAVIS SMILEY PRESENTS



The African American Imprint

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TAVIS SMILEY

Presenter, *America I AM: The African American Imprint*

From his celebrated conversations with world figures, to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, as a broadcaster, author, advocate, and philanthropist, Tavis Smiley continues to be an outstanding voice for change. He is the host of the late night television talk show, *Tavis Smiley* on PBS and *The Tavis Smiley Show* distributed by Public Radio International (PRI).

In 2007, Smiley made TV history as the moderator and executive producer of the *All-American Presidential Forums on PBS*, the first Democratic and Republican presidential debates broadcast live in prime time with a panel exclusively composed of journalists of color.

Smiley is the author of 14 books. His memoir, *What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*, became a *New York Times* bestseller, and the book he edited, *Covenant with Black America*, became the first nonfiction book by a Black-owned publisher to reach #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

His latest book, *Accountable: Making America As Good As its Promise*, examines hard-hitting truths about the issues our country faces, and how our political leaders, corporations, and American citizens can enforce accountability and effect change.

In 2009, *Time* magazine named Smiley one of "The World's 100 Most Influential People." The annual TIME 100 profiles persons whose power, talent, or moral example has made a significant difference in the world.

In the spring 2009, Smiley released *STAND*, his first documentary film, which he directed, wrote, and produced. *STAND*

relates the experiences of Smiley and 10 Black male friends on a road trip through Memphis and Nashville. The friends explore the impact of the civil rights movement and the role and relationships of Black men in America, against the backdrop of the 2008 presidential race and the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

Smiley is the presenter and creative force behind **America I AM: The African American Imprint**. This traveling museum exhibition, which debuted in February 2009, will tour the country for four years, celebrating the extraordinary impact of African American contributions to the world, as told through rare artifacts, memorabilia, and multimedia.

Smiley's most gratifying accomplishments are rooted in his passion to inspire the next generation of leaders. The nonprofit Tavis Smiley Foundation (TSF) provides leadership training and development for youth. More than 6,000 young people have attended TSF's Youth to Leaders training workshops and conferences.

His communications company, The Smiley Group, Inc., is dedicated to supporting human rights and related empowerment issues. It serves as the holding company for various enterprises: broadcast and print media, lectures, symposiums, and the Internet.

Smiley's achievements have earned him numerous awards and honorary doctorate degrees, including one from his alma mater, Indiana University, and the Du Bois Medal from Harvard University.

