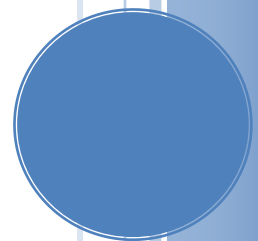


ANGELA BENSON

Author Appearance Kit

5/7/2007



ANGELA BENSON

Author Appearance Kit

Thank you for your interest in having Angela Benson participate in your upcoming event. In order to make the request process easy for you, we have prepared this kit with the following documents:

- Author Appearance Request
- Tips for a Successful Appearance
- Author Bio
- Book List
- Awards & Honors
- Interviews
- Frequently Asked Questions

Complete the Author Appearance Request form and fax it to (866) 353-5549 or return as an e-mail attachment to books@angelabenson.com. Please allow 24 – 48 hours for a response.

If Angela is able to accept the request, a contract will be forwarded via e-mail to the contact person listed on the request form. Please double-check that a correct contact name, e-mail address and phone number are provided on the completed form.

In some instances, a 50% deposit may be required to confirm the event. You will be contacted immediately if a deposit is needed.

While Angela would like to accept each invitation she receives, this is not possible due to the number of requests. If her schedule prevents her from accepting your invitation, she wishes you much success with your event and looks forward to working with you in the future.

AUTHOR APPEARANCE REQUEST

In requesting Angela Benson for an appearance, it is understood that you, the host, will pay all travel costs and expenses incurred during the event unless other arrangements are made in writing. Typically, these costs and expenses include round-trip tickets to the event, ground transportation between airport, hotels and venues for the duration of the event, and a one-two night hotel stay. Author may waive travel expense if she is travelling to the area for other reasons and/or event is located within 2-hours driving distance of her home in Alabama.

Please send a completed copy of this form via fax to (866) 353-5549 or as an email attachment to books@angelabenson.com. You should also keep a copy for your records.

LOGISTICS

Available budget for Honorarium: _____ Expenses: _____

Dates and times of appearance(s): _____

Alternate date and time: _____

Location of appearance: _____

Closest airport: _____

PROGRAM and AUDIENCE

Type of presentation: _____

Length of presentation: _____

Estimated number of attendees: _____

Books sales will be handled by: ____ host, ____ bookstore, ____ author*, ____ not offered

*Author does not typically travel with books for sale. Host must specify number of books author should provide. If host guarantees sales of 25 or more books, host will receive 40% of sales proceeds.

CONTACT PERSON

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPEARANCE

Audience Preparation

Publicize the event in advance of the appearance with displays, flyers and newspaper ads. Make books and book excerpts available in advance so that audience will be familiar with author's work. You can download a high resolution press photo of author, copies of book covers, and book excerpts from www.angelabenson.com (select Author Appearance Kit).

Accommodations

If overnight stay is required, please be aware that as a policy the author stays in a hotel and not a private residence or shared space. Please keep in mind the timing of the appearance(s) when planning arrival and departure times. If the appearance is scheduled to begin in the morning, the best arrival time is the day prior to the appearance. Author prefers to stay in Hilton, Sheraton, Marriott and Wyndham properties. Author is delighted to participate in dinners and other events. There are no dietary restrictions.

Airport Pick-Up

It is best to have someone meet Author and escort her to the event venue(s). This courtesy is especially appreciated after a long flight! Please have the escort bring a copy of one of the author's books to use as a recognizable sign when meeting Author at the airport.

Payment Due Date

Payment is due on the date of the event. If this is not possible, please notify the author ahead of time so a payment schedule can be arranged.

Hotel and Travel Expenses

Unless you request otherwise for accounting purposes, Author will make flight reservations and e-mail the itinerary to the host along with an estimate of costs. Please e-mail a copy of the hotel confirmation to books@angelabenson.com or fax to (866) 353-5549.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Angela Benson has an unusual background for a writer: She majored in mathematics at Spelman College and Industrial Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and worked for fifteen years as an engineer in the telecommunications industry. She received two Masters degrees, not in the liberal arts, but in operations research and human resources development. She recently completed a doctorate in instructional technology at the University of Georgia and now works as an associate professor at a major state university.

Since her first book was published in 1994, Angela has published nine novels, one novella, and a nonfiction writing book. Her books have appeared on regional and local bestseller lists, and she has won several writing awards, including Best Multicultural Romance from Romantic Times magazine, and Best Contemporary Ethnic Romance from *Affaire de Coeur* magazine. She was a finalist for the 2000 Romantic Times Lifetime Achievement Award in Multicultural Romance.

Awakening Mercy, the first book in her Genesis House series from Tyndale House Publishers, represented a change in career direction for Angela. "This book is close to my heart," Angela says. "First, because I consider it an honor to write for the Christian market. Second, in many ways, CeCe's story—about living with the consequences of our bad choices, and finding forgiveness—is my story, too." *Awakening Mercy* was a finalist for the RITA Award given by Romance Writers of America (RWA) and the Christy Award given to authors of Christian fiction.

The second book in the Genesis House series, *Abiding Hope*, was published in September 2001. *Abiding Hope* was awarded the 2002 Emma Award presented by the Romance Slam Jam. The third book, *Enduring Love*, is not yet scheduled. BET Books, now Harlequin's Kimani Press, purchased the mass market rights to *Awakening Mercy* and *Abiding Hope* in 2000 and released mass market editions of the titles in June 2002 and June 2003, respectively.

Angela's first hardcover title, *The Amen Sisters*, was released in September 2005 by Walk Worthy Press. The Essence bestselling title is now in its third printing. In addition to being named a main selection in the Black Expressions Book Club, *The Amen Sisters* was awarded the 2005 Emma Award for Favorite Inspirational Romance.

Angela's next book, *Up Pops the Devil*, will be published by HarperCollins in Fall 2008.

Web sites:

<http://www.angelabenson.com>

<http://www.shoutlife.com/angelabenson>

BOOK LIST

Christian Fiction and Christian Romance

The Amen Sisters

Hardcover, Walk Worthy Press/Warner Books, 2005

Black Expressions Main Selection, 2005

Audio Book, Recorded Books, 2006

Trade Paper, Walk Worthy Press/Grand Central Publishing, 11/2007

Abiding Hope

Trade Paper, Tyndale House Publishers, 2001

Crossing Book Club, 2001

Black Expressions Book Club, 2001

Mass Market, BET Books, 2003

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 2007

Awakening Mercy

Trade Paper, Tyndale House Publishers, 2000

Crossing Book Club, 2000

Black Expressions Book Club, 2000

Mass Market, BET Books, 2002

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 2006

Non-Fiction

Telling the Tale: The African-American Fiction Writer's Guide

Trade Book, Berkley Trade, 2000

Romance

Sweet Passion (3-in-1)

Bands of Gold (1994), For All Time (1995), Between the Lines (1994) re-issues

Trade Paper, BET Books (Harlequin/Kimani Press), 2006

Second Chance Dad

Mass Market, Silhouette Special Edition, 1997

Mass Market (re-issue), Silhouette Books 2005

A Family Wedding

Mass Market, Silhouette Special Edition, 1997

Mass Market (re-issue), Silhouette Books, 2006

The Nicest Guy in America

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1997

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 1998

The Way Home

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1997

Between the Lines

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1996

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 2007

Holiday Cheer (anthology)

“Friend and Lover” novella

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1995

For All Time

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1995

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 2007

Bands of Gold

Mass Market, Pinnacle Arabesque (Kensington Publishing), 1994

Large Print, Thorndike Press, 2006

AWARDS AND HONORS

Angela Benson

Finalist, Romantic Times Lifetime Achievement Award, Multicultural Romance, 1996-97

The Amen Sisters (2005)

Winner, Emma Award, Best Inspirational Romance

Essence List of Bestselling Fiction, February 2006

Karibu Books (Bowie) Fiction Bestseller List, multiple weeks, 2005-6

Black Images (Dallas) Fiction Bestseller List (also listed in Dallas Morning News, October 16, 2005)

Abiding Hope (2001)

Winner, Emma Award, Best Inspirational Romance

Winner, Romance in Color Reviewer's Choice Award, Best Inspirational Romance

Winner, Shades of Romance Magazine Best Inspirational Book of the Year

Awakening Mercy (2000)

Finalist, Romance Writers of American RITA Award

Finalist, Christy Award for Excellence in Christian Fiction

Finalist, Black Writers Alliance Gold Pen Award

Finalist, Affaire de Coeur Readers Choice Award

The Way Home (1997)

Finalist, Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award, Best Multicultural Romance

Finalist, Holt Medallion, Southern Theme category

The Way Home, Romancing the Web Readers Choice Award, Best Multicultural Novel

For All Time (1996)

Finalist, Affaire de Coeur Readers Choice Award, Best Contemporary Ethnic Romance

Finalist, Published Maggie Award, Single Title Contemporary

INTERVIEWS

Print

Booking Matters Magazine (Atlanta, GA), feature interview, October 2005

Radio

Powernomics Radio Network, "Tom Pope Show" (national, syndicated)
The Voice of America – "Hip Hop Connection Show" (national, syndicated)
WALR-FM Kiss 104.1 (Atlanta), "Business in the Black w/ Twanda Black"
Colette's Coffee House, (Atlanta), "All About Books"
WGVE-FM, (Chicago), "The Communicator Show with Wali Muhammad"
KBMS 1480 (Washington), "Angela Jenkins Sunday Morning Show"

Internet

Kevin Dawson's A Story to Tell on Global Talk Radio, December 19, 2005
<http://www.globaltalkradio.com/shows/astorytotell/>

LaShaunda Hoffman's Shades of Romance
<http://sormag.blogspot.com/2006/03/featured-author-angela-benson.html>

Dee Stewart's Christian Fiction Blog
<http://christianfiction.blogspot.com/2005/11/halo-tip9-angela-talks-amen.html>

Urban-Reviews
<http://www.urban-reviews.com/insideout-angelabenson.html>

Good Girl Magazine
<http://www.goodgirlbookclubonline.com/magazine/interviews/content/abenson.html>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You have written several romance novels over the years. What made you want to branch off into Christian fiction?

I wanted to write stories in which my characters had a faith life because I think that's the reality of the lives we live each day. Faith, church and religion have long played a pivotal role in the African-American community. Writing stories void of those elements is writing stories that are not truly reflective of our lives.

What books or authors have most influenced your life and why?

I read so much and so widely that's it difficult to answer that question. Sharon Ewell Foster's *Passing by Samaria* touched me deeply. The story, which had racism as one of its themes, showed me how powerful Christian fiction can be in helping us see ourselves and our hypocrisies.

What do you say to readers who are reluctant to pick up a Christian-based novel for fear of it being "too preachy?"

Pick up a copy of *The Amen Sisters* and give Christian fiction a try. In *The Amen Sisters* you'll find real people facing real problems. The difference with Christian fiction is that the characters look beyond themselves for answers to their problems. Rather than characterizing Christian fiction stories as preachy, I'd characterize them as realistic stories that show the consequences of our actions played out on a canvas painted in God's love.

Do you feel more people are reading Christian fiction now than in the past? Why or why not?

With the things going on in the world today—Iraq, Katrina and other natural disasters, poverty, all these social ills—people are looking for hope. Christian fiction provides this hope by painting a picture of a God who is fully involved in our lives, even when we can't feel Him or see Him because of the turmoil around us. I think, too, that African-American readers find themselves on the pages of Christian fiction stories more frequently these days. I think readers appreciate seeing realistic portrayals of what African-American people of faith encounter each day.

How did your family and/or friends feel about you becoming a writer?

My mom's waiting for call from Oprah and my eight-year-old niece told her teacher that I was famous, so I guess they're happy for me. When I first started writing my mom was concerned that I'd give up a lucrative engineering career for much less economically-stable writing career. I'm still working my day job (as a university professor, not an engineer) so my mom's okay.

Have any of the up-and-coming authors grabbed your attention?

Sure they have, but I hate to list them because I'm sure I'll forget somebody. Judy Candis, Tiffany Warren, Cheri Paris Edwards, Xenia Ruiz, Kendra Norman-Bellamy, Tia McCollors, Mary Griffith, Claudia Burney, all come to mind as authors to watch.

What's next for you?

HarperCollins is publishing my next novel in fall 2008. This is a special story that I pray will bless you and entertain you.