



## “Queen Nur” (Karen Abdul-Malik)



Karen Abdul-Mali (her artist name is Queen Nur) is an International Storyteller and Teaching Artist with Young Audiences of NJ and Creative Arts. She is the 14th President of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc, serving in the years 2015-2016 and current Co-Director of the National Adopt-A-Teller Program and grant writer. Ms. Abdul-Malike founded the Annual Willingboro Kwanzaa Festival in 1993.

Following the griotic tradition, her stories capture historical victories, celebrate folkloric traditions, and profoundly speak to the quintessence of humanity. Audiences may experience tears upon the soul; and, within the same breath of story, have a toe-tapping, hand-clapping good time.

For 29 years she has enthralled hundreds of thousands in over 36 states at such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.; The Opening of the Smithsonian National African American Museum of Culture and History; Tour of Cameroon for the US Embassy, PANAFEST in Ghana; Equitable Tower Theater on Broadway; NJN Television; Toronto Street Festival; National Storytelling Festival; Kravis Center, FL; The Dodge Poetry Festival; Tour of Schools in New Orleans, Penny Royal, KY, Wake County, NC, Western Montana and, extensively throughout NY and NJ. Queen was the Emcee of the 2019 and 2020 NEA Heritage Fellows Awards Concert.

Ms. Abdul-Malik is the recipient of the 2020 National Association of Black Storytellers' Zora Neale Hurston Award, 2018 Governor's Award in Arts Education and the 2018 Artist of the Year for Young Audiences of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. She is also featured in *Legendary Locals of Willingboro* by Josh Bernstein, *O Magazine*, February 2018 in an article on Storytelling and Healing and she is published in several anthologies.

She has a Masters in Cultural Sustainability from Goucher College. She founded In FACT: Innovative Solutions Through Folk Art, Culture and Tradition, a cultural sustainability organization that produces workshops and events designed to create opportunities for civic engagement through folklife traditions. Ms. Abdul-Malik is a winner of the MidAtlantic Artist-As-Catalyst Award; the NSN Brimstone Grant; and several leadership awards. Queen has two CDs, Parent's Choice Winner, "*Sweet Potato Pie and Such*", and "*Live and Storified*." Her favorite words to hear are "Ga-Ga" and "Grandma!" She is the mother of three and grandmother of five and continues to pass it on.

