



**Vy Higginsen**, noted author, playwright, radio and TV personality, has garnered an excellent reputation and won many awards for providing high quality products and services to African-American audiences. After a decade of being behind the microphone and on major New York stations (WBLS-FM, WWRL-AM, WRKS-FM), Vy published and edited *Unique NY*, a lifestyles magazine designed for African-Americans and tourists. In 1983, Vy co-wrote, produced and directed the classic black Gospel

musical *Mama I Want To Sing!*, which ran for eight years and 2,200 performances at the *Off-Broadway* Heckscher Theater in East Harlem. In March 1986, *Mama* began a national tour of the USA, playing two consecutive years throughout major cities such as Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles/San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington. International tours include Austria, Japan, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. *Mama* also played for six months on the West End of London. In March 1988, Vy co-produced *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson on Broadway. In 2002, Vy was ordained as an Interfaith Minister. Led by her passion for the sounds and music she grew up hearing, Vy conceived and created *Alive!* which documents the sounds, music, and stories of our black American musical landscape. Vy continues to write and produce original work as the Executive Director of the Emmy Award-winning Mama Foundation for the Arts in Harlem, New York.



**Ken Wydro** is a published author, a produced playwright and lyricist, an experienced stage director, an active Broadway, off-Broadway and London producer, workshop and seminar leader, dream analyst and community leader in Harlem. He is the co-creator, director and producer of the acclaimed musical, *Mama, I Want to Sing*, and continues his writing, directing, and producing partnership with his wife, Vy Higginson, at Mama Foundation for the Arts.



**Ahmaya Knoelle Higginson** grew up backstage and on tour across the USA, Japan and Europe with *Mama, I Want to Sing*. At seven years old, she performed in *Sing: Mama 2* with Shirley Caesar at Madison Square Garden. Higginson attended the Professional Children's School, Professional Performing Arts High School, Manhattan School of Music, and the American Dramatic and Music Academy (AMDA). She has performed internationally and is featured on recordings for numerous productions including the next generation of *Mama, I Want to Sing*, in which she starred as Doris Winter. At Mama Foundation for the Arts, she resides as Program Director of the Gospel for Teens program, as Music Master for workshops and private lessons, and as Music Director of The Sing Harlem Choir.