

JLove Calderon: *author • educator • activist*



"JLove is the human embodiment of 'truth, love, and freedom.' Her entire life/work, including her intellectual and creative writings, is passionately focused on social justice. An experience with JLove Calderon significantly improves one's understanding of how racism and sexism operate in the world...and what we can do to eradicate it."

- from AKILA WORKSONGS' *New Client Announcement*

As an author, educator, activist, and Certified Empowerment Facilitator, **JLove Calderon** has worked passionately on social justice, race, and gender issues for over 15 years. In settings that range from the hip hop ciphers to the college classroom, JLove is widely respected for her advocacy of "truth, love, and freedom" for everyday people, especially young people, women and girls, and lovers of hip hop culture.

JLove is the author of three books: *We Got Issues!*; *That White Girl*; and *Conscious Women Rock the Page! Using Hip-Hop Fiction to Incite Social Change*. As a writer, her cutting-edge articles on hip hop culture, white privilege, and social justice have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Self Magazine*, *The Source Magazine*, among other traditional and new media outlets. Her fourth book, *Till The White Day Is Done: White Privilege, Hip-Hop, and Social Change*, promises to be as provocative as her personal politics. Due in 2009, the anthology will feature contributions from **Sonia Sanchez**, **Tim Wise**, **Talib Kweli**, and other respected voices.

As an activist and personal life coach, JLove has helped create practical models for living that are designed to empower people of all backgrounds. Her knowledge is informed by her years of working as a counselor in teen shelters. She has also taught at El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice for over a decade. When she is not writing, JLove serves as the Project Director of **1+1+1=ONE**, an arts and social transformation not-for-profit where she focuses on two programs: the *We Got Issues! Leadership Institute for Young Women*, and the *Eradicating Racism* program.

When asked about her motivation for doing this work, JLove responds enthusiastically: "I am motivated by a deep sense of love, a desire for connectivity and liberation. I envision a world where the infinite potential of every human being is realized."

For her consistent dedication, JLove has received numerous awards, including the *Union Square Award* for her activism, and *Self Magazine's Self Starter of the Year Award*. Her work keeps her on the national lecture circuit where she speaks regularly at conferences and colleges, including Harvard, UCLA, Columbia, and many others. She has also shared the stage or worked with **KRS-One**, **Sway**, **Xzibit**, **DJ Kuttin' Kandi**, **Rosa Clemente**, **Kevin Powell**, and many others.

JLove graduated Cum Laude from San Diego State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Africana Studies and received her Master's Degree in Education from Long Island University. Currently, JLove she lives in New York with her husband Hector Calderon and their two sons.

For more information, please visit www.jlovecalderon.com
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praisesongs for JLove and “That White Girl”

“In this dark and dangerous era where America demands a new kind of voice, a new kind of leadership, into the arena steps JLove, writer, critical thinker, activist, leader. What makes her that important, that necessary, is that JLove is courageous, transparent, and, no doubt, fearless. Listen to her, read her, and you will hear what the world ought to be, not what it is.

- **Kevin Powell**, activist, writer

*“An honest look at a life worth reading. It was like reading a diary and wanting to reach out to the person writing the story to befriend them, so that they see that they are not alone.” - **M.C. Serch**, Hip-Hop Artist, Host of *Ego Trip's the White Rapper Show**

*“JLove has the heart, the skills, and the underdog love to tell this deeply moving coming-of-age story the way it had to be told.” - **Jeff Chang**, National Book Award author of *Can't Stop Won't Stop**

*“In JLove's masterful hands, Amber's story taps into the dramatic difficulties of simply trying to find one's unique place in a deeply fractured world. Here's a voice we've been waiting for.” - **Luis J. Rodriguez**, author of *Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in LA**

“That White Girl is more than just another hip hop roman-a-clef. Amidst Amber's search for community, J Love drops many truths about race in the U.S., the challenges of growing up female, and the power of this tribe called Hip Hop.”
- **Black Artemis**, author of *Explicit Content, Picture Me Rollin' and Burn*

*“JLove's story has less to do with her being white than it does with the powerful message she sends.....that in her quest for an identity, she discovers not only herself, but the cold hard reality that racism victimizes everyone, black and white alike. And maybe, just maybe, the hip hop culture and the brutal honesty that sustained her throughout her journey can become the healing vehicle for the inequities in which all of society labors....Bravo JLove.” -**Roland S. Jefferson**, author of *One Night Stand and Damaged Goods**



JLove Calderon: *frequent lecture topics*

Race Relations; White Privilege

- When White Became Wrong: *White Privilege 101*
 - *Inter-racial Relationships: A New Way of Relating for the 21st Century*
 - *White Like Me: A Closer Look at White Kids and Hip Hop Culture*
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Youth and Popular Culture; Hip-Hop Culture; Youth Activism

- Hip Hop Activism: *When Bling Just Isn't Enough*
 - A World View on the History of Hip-Hop
 - Women and Hip Hop: *Our Time to Rhyme*
 - *White Like Me: A Closer Look at White Kids and Hip Hop Culture*
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Gender Relations; Women and Leadership

- A Chat with Women: How to Recognize and Claim Your Dream
 - Raise Your Voice and Be Heard! *How Young Women Can Use Their Power*
 - Sexism and Misogyny: *How It Hinders, How to Heal*
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Self-Help

- No More Fear! *A Personal Empowerment Workshop for Men and Women*
 - Empowered Mamas: A Transformative Workshop for Mothers
 - A Chat with Women: How to Recognize and Claim Your Dream
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Education

- White Teachers, Brown Students: *Can White Teachers Effectively Educate Children of Color?*
 - Taking Aim at Racism: *Helping Young People Learn How to Fight for Their Rights In and Outside the Classroom*
 - Conscious Women Rock the Page: *How to Use Hip-Hop in the Classroom*
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Creative Writing as a Tool for Change

- The Power of *YOUR* Story: Memoir Writing 101
- I Finished My Book, Now What? Getting an Agent & Getting Published 101

