

# **John A. Akpata – Artist Profile**

johnakpata@storm.ca

John Akpata is a writer and poet who lives in Ottawa. He first learned to read and write at the age of three. He has written poetry his whole life. After graduating from Carleton University with a degree in English Literature, John Akpata began to live the life of a true poet. He focused all of his energy into writing and performing, and vowed to make a living off of his art.

In 2003 John Akpata was a member of Ottawa's first ever Slam Poetry team, and travelled to Chicago to compete in the National Poetry Slam. He became the Ottawa CBC Poetry Face Off Champion in 2004. Also in 2004, John Akpata placed second in the World Indie Finals at the Canadian Spokenwordlympics – Canada's inaugural international poetry competition. John Akpata is Ottawa's Capital Slam Poetry Champion for 2005, and competed with Ottawa's team at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word 2005 in Vancouver.

John Akpata is the host of 'Monday Night Scribes' on CHUO 89.1 FM. Since January of 2004, John has hosted writers, reciters, MCs, poets and storytellers, to perform their work live on the air. John mixes Hip hop, Reggae, Spoken Word and politics with his live guest. John was nominated for Ottawa's Golden Cherry Award for 'Best Radio Show' in 2005.

John Akpata is also a freelance writer. Since September 2004, John has written for Ottawa Xpress. 'House of Trouble' is John's weekly column which focuses on politics, current events, and social issues. John also writes news articles about Hip hop, entertainment, and politics. John Akpata was named Ottawa's best writer / poet by the Ottawa Xpress reader's poll for 2005.

John Akpata is also a member of the Marijuana Party of Canada. He ran in the June 2004 election for the riding of Ottawa South, and received 495 votes. John has accepted the party's nomination for the high profile riding of Ottawa Centre in the January 2006 election.

*KERHEB*, John Akpata's full length CD of spoken word, poetry and music was completed with assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts. It was released in October 2005. It contains John's most popular poetry and rhyming. John also plays djembe drum, and acoustic guitar. There are wicked Hip hop beats by DJ Geronimo, DJ Pho Rilla, and DJ D-Mass. Rob Pelletier accompanies John's words with didgeridoo. The CD is topped off by a speech by Malcolm X, and amazing poster size photography by Jamie Johnston. After several years of dedicated work, John Akpata's debut CD has already had a massive impact for Spoken Word in Canada. "I guarantee you that this CD will blow your mind, because it blew my mind when it came out of me."

*KERHEB* was produced and engineered by MudsharkAudio, and is available online at [www.vanorange.ca](http://www.vanorange.ca) or at any of John's live shows.