

# TAVIS SMILEY

From his celebrated conversations with world figures to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, Tavis Smiley — broadcaster, author, publisher, advocate, and philanthropist — has emerged as an outstanding voice for change. Smiley is currently the host of the late-night television talk show *Tavis Smiley* on PBS, as well as *The Tavis Smiley Show* from Public Radio International (PRI).

Smiley has written 19 books. His memoir, *What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*, became a *New York Times* Bestseller, and the book he edited, *Covenant with Black America*, became the first nonfiction book by a Black-owned publisher to reach #1 on *The New York Times* Bestseller's list.

In the *New York Times* Bestseller, *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto*, Smiley and his co-author Dr. Cornel West challenge all Americans to re-examine their assumptions about poverty in America — what it really is and how to eradicate it.

His most recent text is *My Journey with Maya*, a remarkable story of friendship, love and courage. In this book, Smiley shares personal memories of his twenty-eight year friendship with Maya Angelou, one of history's most fascinating women.

*My Journey With Maya* is being adapted as a stage play by Tony-winning director Kenny Leon, and Smiley's 2014 *New York Times* Bestseller, *Death of a King: The Real Story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Final Year*, is being produced as a television series special by Emmy-winner J.J. Abrams in partnership with Warner Brothers.

The nonprofit Tavis Smiley Foundation is in the midst of a \$3 million four-year campaign called **ENDING POVERTY: America's Silent Spaces** to alleviate endemic poverty in America.

*TIME* magazine has cited Smiley as one of "The World's 100 Most Influential People," and Mr. Smiley has been honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.