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## Keynote Speaker: Honorary Doctorate - Iyanla Vanzant

Prolific Author, Soulful Priestess, TV Personality and Star, and Healer of People

From welfare mother to New York Times' best-selling author, from the Brooklyn projects to four-time NAACP Image Award winner, from broken pieces to peace, Iyanla Vanzant is one of the country's most prolific writers, public speakers and among the most influential, socially engaged and acclaimed spiritual life coaches of our time. Executive Producer and Host of the breakout hit Iyanla: Fix My Life on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network, Iyanla Vanzant's focus on faith, empowerment and loving relationships has inspired millions around the world.

Now in its fifth season, Iyanla: Fix My Life has received critical acclaim. Columnist Nancy Colasurdo proclaimed it is "what reality television can be. It's what it should be. Reaching for our best selves. Focusing on what can make our lives meaningful." Critic Jon Caramanica proposes that Iyanla possesses "a mystical air but with a deeply grounded approach." According to Oprah Winfrey, Iyanla: Fix My Life "puts the real in reality."

The author of 19 books, including an astounding 6 New York Times' best sellers, Iyanla's work has been translated into 23 languages and has sold over 10 million copies. With her no-nonsense approach and underlying message of "live better by loving yourself," Iyanla has ignited the universal spark of self-discovery.



**Iyanla Vanzant**

A familiar face on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network, Iyanla is a frequent co-host on Oprah's LifeClass, the revolutionary self-help program that showcases lessons, revelations and aha moments striving to make lives better, happier and more fulfilling. Each episode features segments with guests from around the world, who connect through Skype, Facebook and Twitter.

Iyanla's latest NY Times best seller, the triumphant Peace from Broken Pieces, chronicles her extraordinary professional success against the backdrop of personal tragedy. As she dazzled as a regular guest expert on The Oprah Winfrey Show and then on her own daily talk show, Iyanla, her marriage was crumbling and, tragically, her daughter was losing her battle with cancer. Peace from Broken Pieces shares the spiritual lessons learned and the strength and wisdom gained.

As one of the nation's most sought after public speakers, Iyanla has an innate ability to intimately connect and engage her audiences, heightening their self-awareness and quest for fulfillment. According to Emerge Magazine, she is "one of the most dynamic speakers in the United States."

Iyanla is a shining example of her belief that "when we face our challenges with faith, prepared to learn, willing to make changes, and if necessary, to let go, we are demanding our power be turned on." She has received numerous awards and accolades for the sheer power and impact of her work. Ebony magazine says, "Iyanla's books, lectures and television appearances have made her a multimedia high priestess of healthy relationships."

A woman of passion, vision and purpose, in addition to her renowned work as a speaker and author, Iyanla is the Founder of Inner Visions Institute for Spiritual Development. With classes and workshops conducted throughout the United States, this multicultural global network of people seeks to facilitate healing, growth and spiritual development with the ultimate goal of experiencing peace, joy and love in every aspect of their lives.

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# Fifty-Third Annual Commencement



ST. CROIX  
Thursday, the Eleventh of May  
Two Thousand and Seventeen  
Half after One O'clock in the Afternoon  
Campus Grounds  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. THOMAS  
Friday, the Twelfth of May  
Two Thousand and Seventeen  
Half after One O'clock in the Afternoon  
Sports and Fitness Center  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

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