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Big Men and Women on Campus

Meet the nation's top LGBT campus speakers — from Mara Keisling to Jamie Washington — and find out what they're trying to impart to America's restless youth.

By Neal Broverman

Kimberly Dark:
Doing Her Duty

"So, I was on **Campus Pride's** last '25 best of the best list,' which includes speakers and performers. I'm actually both of those things at the same time. I think a lot of entertainment dumbs people down, when actually, a pleasurable entertainment experience can be thought-provoking, emotional, and funny all at once.



"This is what my shows and lectures work for: I use humor and intimacy to reveal the contours of privilege and oppression in our daily lives. Through storytelling and audience interaction, I help people talk about things they think they don't want to discuss — things like sexism, homophobia, racism, etc.

"There are a few messages I give to college audiences pretty consistently. First, never forget that you are creating the world, even as it creates you. Yes, we are born into a certain social context — a certain way of doing things, and times will change whether or not you participate. You have a duty to impart your brilliance — especially as a marginalized person. Second, media messages about queer people, women, people of color — any group that is under-represented — those messages will mess you up! There is so much pressure on us to conform. And that's not only stupid, it's dangerous." More at kimberlydark.com.

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