

## Alyea Lierce

Our YWG spotlight is Alyea Pierce is an author, poet, oratorical coach, and playwright, who is a "real nice cook up" of the West Indies. Pierce's work has been featured on the grand stages of the Apollo Theater and Broadway's New Amsterdam Theater, as well as, TEDxNewYorkInstituteofTechnology, and various colleges and universities across the country.

Her original essay "How do we exist? The creative and destructive bond of the Colonized and Colonizer" has also been

accepted into The Caribbean Writer-Volume 29 and she was chosen to speak at TEDxHunstville in Huntsville, Alabama this September 2015. She had the great opportunity of acting in and writing her original play, "Financial Slavery: The College Debt Sentence" which premiered in NYC at Stage Left Studios. Financial Slavery received raving reviews for bringing a voice to struggling college students entering the "real world."

Pierce lives her life as a testimony, educating youths in numerous organizations, including the New Jersey Orators, NAACP ACT-SO Program & National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. Xinos & Kudos on how to transform their creative ideas into professional voices. As a young woman of color, her primary focus is to show young women the power in their voice and to shine light on the unheard. Strictly motivated by positivism and optimism, she ultimatelybelieves that if we live our dreams enough, they have no option but to become a reality.

Alyea is the author of "Every Stranger Deserves a Poem" and co-producer of her extended play, "A Stranger's Voice EP". Alyea is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A in Communications and studied English and Latino & Hispanic, Caribbean history. She has returned to her alma mater to receive her Masters of Education in College Student Affairs.