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**Queens Author Angelica Harris Named as Presenting Artist at the Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival in Silver Spring, Md. April 23-25**

*Harris to read excerpts from "Excalibur Reclaims Her King" and lead workshop discussion*

**GLENDALE, N.Y. (March 30, 2010)** - Author [Angelica Harris](#) has been named as a presenting artist at the first-ever [Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival](#), April 23-25 in Silver Spring, Md. Harris, a children's advocate and survivor of an abusive childhood, will share a message of hope through the works of her fantasy novels including her latest release, "[Excalibur Reclaims Her King](#)." She also will be a part of the Violence Against Women Conference, a mini-conference to be held during the Festival.

"It is a great honor to be a part of any work of Amnesty International," said Harris, who uses the world of Merlin in her novels to provide a bit of escape for those who battle with demons in their lives. "The mystery, allure and adventures of Fantasy Fiction let people escape from reality, if only for a moment or two. I hope that my success story will provide some inspiration for those struggling to get out from underneath any type of violence or oppression."

Harris is one of more than 400 artists and performers presenting more than 200 arts/advocacy events at 40 venues during the Festival. She will be a part of the Violence Against Women Conference on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Place Theater 1; reading on Saturday at 2 p.m. at B&O Museum; presenting a workshop at 5 p.m. Saturday at PAC202; and reading again on Sunday at 1 p.m. at Bombay Gaylord. All events are free and open to the public.

As a child, Harris grew up learning to escape as much as possible. While she was her grandmother's caretaker, she was molested by her uncle. Her mother struggled with her own mental disorders and was extremely abusive to Harris as well, right up until Harris married at age 23. Through a high school teacher, she was introduced to the 6th Century and a land called Camelot. King Arthur and Merlin became her saviors. The Lady of the Lake became her surrogate mother. Now, a wife to a man with Tourette Syndrome, depression and a mood disorder, and the mother of two grown children, one with Tourette Syndrome and ADHD, Harris realized that if Arthur had to search for the Holy Grail, then she should pursue her own personal Holy Grail as well.

In addition to her novels, Harris runs a reading program, aptly named the Excalibur Reading Program, at Frankie's Playce in New York. She spends time each week with children of all ages reading to them, with them and encouraging thought and conversation. She gained the support of TD Bank, improving her program by incentivizing children to earn vouchers from the bank while reading for fun. Last spring, in partnership with Frankie Janello, owner of Frankie's Playce, and New York Life, Harris hosted a series of Child Safety Days at Frankie's Playce. Parents should be on the lookout for similar programs in the near future as well. Harris was also commissioned by

the Titanic Museum in Florida and Nova Scotia to further develop a short story/historical piece for display in the museums.

The Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival was conceived by Silver Spring artist and writer Tom Block, a leading proponent of inspiring social transformation through the arts. He is organizing the event in cooperation with Amnesty International, local and national civic leaders, local businesses and developers. Television producer, social activist and philanthropist Norman Lear, Executive Producer of the festival, has provided valuable support for the event. For the complete schedule of the festival, visit: [www.humanrightsfestival.com](http://www.humanrightsfestival.com).

"Excalibur Reclaims Her King" is available at Amazon.com or [www.writersoftheroundtable.com](http://www.writersoftheroundtable.com). To learn more about Angelica Harris, visit [www.angelicaharris.com](http://www.angelicaharris.com). For more information about the authors or to schedule an interview, contact Kim Jackson at [kim@writersoftheroundtable.com](mailto:kim@writersoftheroundtable.com) or 802.345.9730.

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