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**July 20th 2013: Special Encore Presentation: The Freedom Writers ~ An interview with educator, Erin Gruwell, the inspiration behind the movie, and Tiffany Jacobs, one of the original students**

Who saw two-time Oscar Winner, Hillary Swank, portray Erin Gruwell in the Freedom Writers? It was a remarkable movie and this week Marianna will be interviewing the real-life teacher who inspired it—Erin Gruwell—as well as one of her students from the original classroom, Tiffany Jacobs. By fostering an educational philosophy that valued and promoted diversity, Erin Gruwell transformed her students' lives. She encouraged them to re-think rigid beliefs about themselves and others, reconsider daily decisions, and ultimately re-chart their futures. With Erin's support, they chose to forego teenag

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### Featured Guests



#### Erin Gruwell

Erin Gruwell is a teacher, an author, and the founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation. By fostering an educational philosophy that values and promotes diversity, Erin transformed her students' lives. She encouraged them to re-think rigid beliefs about themselves and others, reconsider daily decisions, and ultimately re-chart their futures. Erin and her students captured their collective journey in The Freedom Writers Diary. Erin founded the Freedom Writers Foundation where she currently teaches educators around the world how to implement her innovative lesson plans into their own classrooms. She created the Freedom Writers Methodology, a progressive teaching philosophy and curricula

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#### Tiffany Jacobs

Tiffany Jacobs' home was chaotic growing up with her parents physically abusing each other and their children. Between the ages of 9 and 13, she bounced back and forth between California and Louisiana, moving from apartments to hotels, motels, and homeless shelters. In her sophomore year, Tiffany found herself in Ms. Gruwell's English class and part of the Freedom Writers. It was a relief to be there and also have friends and peers to talk to. This is where she found the strength and determination to have a successful future. Tiffany graduated from Wilson High School in 1998 and earned a Bachelor's Degree from California State University, Long Beach in 2007. She works closely with the Fre

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