

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **"The Calabash Explosion: *blending our stories*"**

**IKWUNGA Live in ATLANTA @ APACHE CAFÉ  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 2005**

(Atlanta, GA – December 9, 2005) **THE FIRST AFROBEAT POET: IKWUNGA**  
**Ikwunga**, an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland and the son of a famous West African poet and tribal Chief, is unarguably the first Afrobeat poet and the original creator of this unique addition to the Afrobeat pantheon and to the burgeoning spoken word genre. Ikwunga developed a beat-poetry style that was significantly influenced by the traditional poetic styles of **Okogbule Wonodi & Christopher Okigbo**, by the dub-poets **Linton Kwesi Johnson [LKJ]** and **Mutabaruka**, and the beat-poets **Gil Scott-Heron**, and **Allen Ginsberg**. In a quest to further translate his influences and to make them even more relevant to the environment and culture in which he was immersed, he drew on another influence, **Fela Anikulapo-Kuti** and Afrobeat. Ikwunga did this and subsequently became a regular opening act for **Femi Kuti** at the Afrika Shrine night-club in Lagos, Nigeria. His first album "**Calabash Vol.1, Afrobeat-Poems by Ikwunga**", brings together a superb collection of his poetry married with funkadelic Afrobeat rhythms. Produced by **Dele Sosimi** (former keyboardist of Afrobeat creator, Fela Kuti's Egypt 80 Band, and musical director of Femi Kuti's Positive Force Band), **Calabash Vol.1**, is a fresh, urgent and lyrical voice in African poetry and Afrobeat. The symbolic "Calabash" serves several roles in various cultures. Calabash as food, as drinking gourds, as musical instruments, as vessels for African spiritual rituals, as caucuses in the African Union, as decorative art, and...yes, as a collection of Afrobeat poems that redefine a genre, and extend the legend of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti's socio-cultural activism. An excellent combination, which repays repeated listening, **Calabash Vol. 1** leaves us eagerly awaiting **Vol.2**.

Join us for this ground-breaking event **The Calabash Explosion – blending our stories"** with **IKWUNGA** performing from his new album featuring **The Afromotive, a 10 piece Afrobeat ensemble from Asheville, NC**, at one of Atlanta's hottest live urban music spots!. **Tenisio** spinning Afrobeat grooves all night with special guest **The Arkivz** and **Sultry Soul Queen Milele**.

For more information about Ikwunga visit [www.sonicbids.com/ikwunga](http://www.sonicbids.com/ikwunga)