

## Wambui Bahati Bio

Wambui Bahati is a speaker, author, entertainer and **holistic mental health** and '**empowerment over domestic violence**' advocate.

She began her formal theatrical studies at New York University School of the Arts and made her professional theatrical debut in *Godspell* at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. She went on to perform in the Broadway productions of *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Wambui's regional and touring credits include starring roles in *The Magic Show*, Joseph Papp's rock version of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Little Ham*, *Nunsense*, *Don't Bother Me*, *I Can't Cope*, *Gone With the Wind* –the musical, *The Wiz* and *Crowns*.

Wambui wrote, produced and stars in the one-woman musicals *Balancing Act* and *I Am Domestic Violence*. Both of these award-winning shows have received national acclaim for the unique way that they provide outstanding entertainment while dealing with important issues in our communities. She has also written and performed custom presentations for organizations such as NOW (National Organization for Women), Habitat for Humanity, and the Carter Center.

Some of her awards include a Woman of Achievement Award from the Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women, a Belle Ringer Image Award from Bennett College, the Lionel Aldridge Award (a national honor recognizing individuals who provide extraordinary service and courage on behalf of people with mental illnesses), the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, North Carolina's President's Award, and a proclamation from the mayor of the city of Toledo, Ohio.

Wambui shares a powerful, personal and important story about mental illness, self-esteem, self-love and courage in her tell-all, autobiographical empowerment book, *You Don't Know Crazy - My Life Before, During, After, Above and Beyond Mental Illness*.

She was born and raised in the segregated south during the 1950s and 1960s and has sprinkled the narrative with significant national historical events, and how they personally effected her life. She invites the reader in for a behind the scenes look at her years as an actress on Broadway and in national touring shows.

Named John Ann Washington at birth, Wambui Bahati is her new legal name taken on during the "reinvention of herself." In Swahili Wambui means "singer of songs," Bahati means, "my fortune is good." The native North Carolinian lives in New York City and is the proud mother of two adult daughters.

Her passion: "Reminding YOU of YOUR Magnificence."