



BAM 2018 Winter/Spring Season

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

## **BAM announces *The Great Experiment: Questioning Democracy, a Seminar Series with BAM and Think Olio*, beginning Feb 8**

**A monthly series of four seminars, featuring intimate lectures and discussions, will examine the nature of democracy in its historical and current state**

**Dec 11, 2017/Brooklyn, NY**—BAM announces a new seminar series with Think Olio comprising intimate lectures and discussions on one of the thorniest issues of our time—the nature and execution of democracy. The series includes close examination of vital historical texts on democracy and discussions of their contemporary relevancy led by scholars in the field.

At a moment when there is renewed concern of the fracturing and challenges posed to our democracy, this series aims to examine the tensions that have been inherent since its inception and deconstruct the two ideas at its foundation—the Greek *demos* (“people”) and *kratos* (“power”)—and the relationship between the two. **The Great Experiment: Questioning Democracy, a Seminar Series with BAM and Think Olio** includes four seminars; each contains three 15-minute lectures, followed by a 20-minute discussion and text analysis by lecturers and participants.

The series starts with **Democracy Without Truth** on Feb 8 with Manuel Rodeiro of Baruch College. Does “truth” exist independently in the Realm of the Forms, as Plato argued, or is it “what our peers will, *ceteris paribus*, let us get away with saying,” as American philosopher Richard Rorty suggested? This is an issue many of us have grappled with on a daily basis. This seminar will explore how we navigate a middle path between Plato’s complete reliance on expertise at the expense of democratic decision-making, and allowing public opinions to dictate our policies.

The second seminar is **Radical Prescription for Democracy** with BMCC-CUNY Assistant Professor Jamie Warren on Mar 15. Democracy contains a paradox: in order for everyone in a society to obtain freedom, each individual must consent to give up certain rights. But what exactly does it mean to consent to be governed? Which kind of human has such capacity? Michel Foucault grappled with this question in his lectures “Society Must Be Defended” and in an interview just before his death. This seminar examines his radical prescription for democracy rooted in an aesthetical commitment to pleasure and care of the self. What if, Foucault seductively suggests, instead of rights, we build a democracy to secure our most basic pleasures?

The third is **Democracy By Whom? For Whom?** on Apr 19. Throughout American history, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness have never been inalienable rights available to all. From the discovery of

“The New World” to the Trail of Tears, the internment of Japanese Americans, and the current Black Lives Matter movement, American democracy has constantly failed a large percentage of the population. Makeba Lavan of Lehman College will lead this seminar in exploring moments in our history in order to analyze American citizenship and the ways in which the borders change over time.

The last one is **Democracy Reinvented?** on May 17 which focuses on one of the architects of the great democratic experiment in America, Thomas Jefferson, whose love for this nation as a nascent beacon of enlightenment and ingenuity drove his passion to imagine a future that was met with great resistance and criticism. Patricia Kim of Baruch College examines whom our decidedly American version of democracy was intended for, and how this has affected human relations in our nation. The seminar also explores Jefferson's shockingly radical view of democracy and discusses the implications for the future of democracy in our nation.

Each seminar starts at 7:30pm in the BAM Fisher Hillman Studio (321 Ashland Pl). The capacity is limited to 25 people to facilitate an intimate discussion. Tickets are priced at \$25 for each seminar. For ticket information please go to [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

### About BAM

Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, opera, and film. Its mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas. BAM presents leading national and international artists and companies in its annual Winter/Spring Season and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival each fall. Founded in 1983, the Next Wave is one of the world's most important festivals of contemporary performing arts. BAM Rose Cinemas features new, independent film releases and BAMcinématek—a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added a third venue, the Richard B. Fisher Building, to its campus, providing an intimate and flexible 250-seat performance venue—the Fishman Space—as well as the Hillman Studio, a rehearsal and performance space. BAM serves New York City's diverse population through community events, literary series, and a wide variety of educational and family programs. BAM, America's oldest performing arts center, has presented performances since 1861, and attracts an audience of more than 750,000 people each year. The institution is led by President Katy Clark and Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo. Visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

### About Think Olio

Think Olio is an organization that believes learning should be an ongoing, lifelong endeavor. Founded by two former CUNY students, it has held over 400 pop-up classes with college professors in bars, movie theaters, art galleries, cafes, and bookstores since 2015. Think Olio exists as a conduit for fruitful discussions, a dissent from the regurgitation of facts, and an embrace of new perspectives. It's about getting together with other people and expanding our worldview. It's about nurturing our appreciation for the humanities and enhancing our awareness of humanity. More at [Thinkolio.org](http://Thinkolio.org) // @whatisolio

For press information, contact David Hsieh at [dhsieh@BAM.org](mailto:dhsieh@BAM.org) or 718.724.8027.

### Credits

Major support for Discounted Ticket Initiatives provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

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#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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