

BAM 2019 Winter/Spring Season

BAM hosts the 2019 Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan 21

Free community event features prominent civic leaders and a keynote address by ‘me too’ movement founder Tarana Burke

Music performances by The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir and Oddisee & Good Company

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams to serve as Master of Ceremony

Presented by BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Jan 21 at 10:30am

Free (tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 8am)

Dec 14, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—BAM will host the free annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 21 at 10:30am in the Howard Gilman Opera House (Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Ave). The celebration brings together artists and civic leaders to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King. The 33rd edition will feature activist and policy maker Tarana Burke as keynote speaker. Additional free film, art, and music events are also scheduled on the BAM campus over the weekend

“Amidst the division and cruelty that persist within our country, Dr. King’s convictions remain an indelible force for equality, dignity, and justice,” says BAM president Katy Clark. “In the face of these challenges, we gather together today to celebrate and reflect on Dr. King’s achievements, and renew our steadfast opposition to racism and discrimination.”

The keynote speaker this year is activist **Tarana Burke**. Founder of the ‘me too’ movement and currently the senior director for Girls for Gender Equity, Burke has dedicated her life to social justice work for those who experienced sexual trauma or harassment. By focusing on the survivors, she addresses issues of respect, dignity, and power dynamics in schools, workplaces and politics.

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The tribute features music performances by **Oddisee & Good Company** and **The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir**. Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams will serve as the master of ceremony. Additional participating civic leaders will be announced in January.

The day's events include a film screening of Peter Bratt's *Dolores*, and the annual community art exhibition, "Picture the Dream," featuring works by students from the New York City Housing Authority. The preceding weekend features performances by the acclaimed jazz fusion group, **The 4 Kornerers**.

All events are free. The tribute tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-seated basis starting at 8am in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House lobby. For further information, please call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org.

For media access to the event (including interview requests), please contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@BAM.org or 718.724.8027.

Additional Events

BAMcafé Live (30 Lafayette Ave, 2nd fl)

The 4 Kornerers

Jan 18 & 19 at 9pm

An original live instrumental music band, The 4 Kornerers play jazz fusion, though preferring to call their sounds "journey music." The ensemble is composed of **Clarence "T-lee" Hill** on keyboards, **James "JT" Thompson** on bass, **Isaac "Ike" Thompson** on guitar, and **Jerrod "J-rod" Sullivan** on drums.

Film: *Dolores*, directed by Peter Bratt, 2017 (BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave)

Jan 21 at 1pm

Raising 11 children while wrestling with gender bias, union defeat and victory, and nearly dying after a San Francisco Police beating, Dolores Huerta bucks 1950's gender conventions to co-found the country's first farmworkers' union.

Art exhibition in Diker Gallery (30 Lafayette Ave, 2nd fl)

Picture the Dream

For the 11th year in a row, BAM partners with NYCHA to offer free art workshops to children living in Brooklyn public housing residences. Students will create original artwork inspired by Dr. King's dream of freedom and equality.

About the speakers and artists

Tarana Burke is best known for founding the 'me too' movement and has dedicated her life to social justice and giving strength to those who experience sexual trauma or harassment. Burke was honored as one of the Silence Breakers named *Time* magazine's 2017 Person of the Year, and named to *Time*'s "100 Most Influential People of 2018." Years before 'me too' became a viral hashtag, Burke founded Just Be Inc., a non-profit that helps sexual trauma victims.

The simple yet courageous #metoo hashtag campaign has generated over 13 million Facebook posts and tweets, emerging as a rallying cry for people everywhere who have survived sexual assault and sexual harassment. Burke's powerful, poignant story as creator of what is now an international movement that supports survivors will move, uplift, and inspire you.

#metoo is not just an overnight hashtag sensation; Burke has dedicated more than 25 years of her life to social justice and to laying the groundwork for a movement that was initially created to help young women of color who survived sexual abuse and assault. The movement now inspires solidarity, amplifies the voices of thousands of victims of sexual abuse, and puts the focus back on survivors.

A sexual assault survivor herself, Burke works under the banner of the 'me too' movement which is housed at Brooklyn-based Girls for Gender Equity, where she serves as Senior Director. Burke provides insight into the current state of affairs and outpouring of sexual assault and harassment allegations, addresses pressing issues of respect, dignity, and power dynamics in schools, workplaces, and politics, and shines a light on the stories of survivors and voices that continue to be marginalized.

The son of Sudanese and American parents, Amir Mohamed (**Oddisee**) was born and raised in Washington, D.C., spending his summers in Khartoum learning Arabic and swimming in the Nile. Growing up amid the sounds of New York hip hop, his father playing Oud, Go-Go, and gospel, Mohamed took his first steps as an MC producer in the analog basement studio of his legendary neighbor, Garry Shider (Parliament Funkadelic).

Convincing his entrepreneurial father that he too had business acumen, Mohamed laid the check from his first commercial release on the kitchen table before his 21st birthday and never looked back. Oddisee has performed with The Roots, produced for Jazzy Jeff, Little Brother, and De La Soul, and formed the critically acclaimed group Diamond District with fellow Washingtonians X.O. and yU.

Oddisee's work has been featured on the Facebook series "Humans of New York," in countless films, and many television commercials. In 2017 he performed at more than 110 shows around the globe with his band Good Company in support of his album *The Iceberg*. He has been featured in numerous prominent publications including *Time* magazine, *USA Today*, *Pitchfork*, and *Rolling Stone*.

The Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir (BIC) is an ensemble committed to bringing people together through artistic expression. Members are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate the diverse cultures which make our world great. Founder Frank A. Haye, conductor, choral director, flutist, composer, and producer, says, "BIC is a group of performing ambassadors that will spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ through song in the tri-state area, as well as throughout the US and abroad." BIC records and ministers in different venues, including churches, temples, festivals, concert halls, convention centers, clubs, street fairs, and private functions. All members of BIC receive world-class musical training and opportunities for fellowship with artists from diverse ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds. Its motto is simple: "One Great City, One Great Choir to the Glory of God."

Contemporary and traditional songs are included in BIC's musical repertoire. Community outreach has included vocal performance, music theory, ear training, master classes, and private music lessons. BIC has sung for worship services, interfaith/peace gatherings, concerts, community events, yoga, ecology, and green festivals, philanthropic groups, fraternal associations, and artistic organizations such as Celebrate Brooklyn!, Mark Morris Dance Group, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. In addition, BIC performed on televised shows for CBS, NBC, TBN, and HBO. As members of the May 2016 cast of *Hope and A Future* at the BRIC Arts Media House, BIC appeared in a play about creating self-sufficient communities in Haiti. BIC was a featured artist in We Care for Humanity's Global Officials of Dignity Awards Gala at the

United Nations in August 2016, and in September 2016's Central Park Vigil for Peace and Ecology.

Credits

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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

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

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