



BAM and the National Book Foundation present Eat, Drink & Be Literary, Feb 5—May 1

The 15th season welcomes authors Robert A. Caro, John Edgar Wideman, Sloane Crosley, and Min Jin Lee

Jan 15, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—BAM's popular Eat, Drink & Be Literary series, presented in partnership with the National Book Foundation, will host four award-winning writers from Feb 5 through May 1 in the BAMcafé. The distinguished group includes Robert A. Caro, John Edgar Wideman, Sloane Crosley, and Min Jin Lee. The authors will read from their work and share inspirations, creative processes, and anecdotes with the audience over dinner in BAMcafé. These evenings offer literary devotees—writers and readers alike—the opportunity to socialize in an informal setting that also encourages in-depth discussion.

Doors open at 6pm and dinner begins at 6:30pm. The meal—featuring a seasonal menu devised by Great Performances—includes dessert, wine, and live music. The evening continues with a reading by the author, a moderated discussion, a Q&A with the audience, and a book signing. The Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosk provides books for purchase. Tickets for Eat, Drink & Be Literary are \$70, which includes admission to the reading, dinner, wine, and tax.

To purchase tickets, contact BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org. Tickets also may be purchased in person (except for subscription tickets) at the BAM Box Office, Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue from 12pm-6pm Tuesday through Saturday; and on Sundays (performance days only) from 12pm-4pm.

February 5: Robert A. Caro, moderated by Lisa Lucas

Robert A. Caro defines his writing as “an attempt to examine and explain political power: how it is created, how it works, how it can be used—for good and for ill.” The author of *The Power Broker* and *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, Caro is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Biography, three-time winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, as well as winner of the National Book Award, the Gold Medal in Biography from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Francis Parkman Prize. Caro graduated from Princeton University and later became a Nieman Fellow at Harvard. In 2010, he received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama. He lives in New York City with his wife, Ina, a historian and writer.

“Making ordinary politics and policymaking riveting and revealing is what makes Caro a genius. Combined with his penetrating insight and fanatical research, Caro’s Churchill-like prose elevates the life of a fairly influential president to stuff worthy of Shakespeare.” —*Boston Globe*

March 20: John Edgar Wideman, moderated by Deborah Treisman

John Edgar Wideman’s books include *American Histories*, *Writing to Save a Life*, *Philadelphia Fire*, *Brothers and Keepers*, *Fatheralong*, *Hoop Roots*, and *Sent for You Yesterday*. A MacArthur Fellow and two-time PEN/Faulkner Award winner, he has been a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award twice. *The New York Times* writes that Wideman “spins tales both true and untrue that overlap and accumulate, like 3-D printing, into tangible landscapes and characters.” His work, often autobiographical, speaks powerfully to questions and conversations of the moment, with a particular focus on the experience of black men in America. For several decades, he has worked to produce a distinguished and influential body of work that will resonate for years to come. “The drama of Wideman’s personal history can seem almost mythical, refracting so many aspects of the larger black experience in America, an experience defined less by its consistencies, perhaps, than by its many contradictions—the stunning and ongoing plurality of victories and defeats.” —*The New York Times*

April 9: Sloane Crosley, moderated by Deborah Treisman

Humor writer **Sloane Crosley** is not merely funny—David Sedaris called her “perfectly, relentlessly funny.” Crosley has taken up the gauntlets thrown by her predecessors—Dorothy Parker, Nora Ephron, Sedaris—and crafted something rare, affecting, and true. She is the author of *The New York Times*–bestselling essay collections, *I Was Told There’d Be Cake*, a finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor, and *How Did You Get This Number*, plus the bestselling novel, *The Clasp*. Her most recent book of essays is *Look Alive Out There*. Her work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Guardian*, *New York Magazine*, *The Believer*, and on National Public Radio. Crosley is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*. “As a writer, Crosley invites empathy into her essays...The essays are notable not just for their ability to scrutinize a very micro or abstract aspect of life, but for being genuinely funny—not clever, not cute, not playful, funny. This combination of literariness and comedy makes Crosley one of the few living essayists to be designated as a humor writer.” —*Vulture*

May 1: Min Jin Lee, moderated by Deborah Treisman

Author **Min Jin Lee** creates “radical empathy through art” with a sharp focus on diaspora, human rights, and telling the stories that often don’t get told. Her novel *Pachinko*, the product of nearly 30 years of research, was a finalist for the National Book Award, a Top 10 Book of the Year for *The New York Times*, and a joint book club selection of PBS NewsHour and *The New York Times*. Lee’s debut novel, *Free Food for Millionaires*, was a Top 10 Book of the Year for *The Times of London*, NPR’s *Fresh Air*, and *USA Today*. Her writings have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vogue*, and *Wall Street*

Journal. Her work is a powerful meditation on the challenges of migration, immigration, assimilation, and discrimination. She is a Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellow for 2018–19. “Lee suggests that behind the facades of wildly different people lie countless private desires, hopes and miseries, if we have the patience and compassion to look and listen.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

Lisa Lucas (moderator) is the executive director of the National Book Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, she served as the publisher of *Guernica* magazine and the director of education at the Tribeca Film Institute.

Deborah Treisman (moderator) is the fiction editor at *The New Yorker*. She is the host of that publication’s award-winning fiction podcast, the editor of the anthology *20 Under 40: Stories from The New Yorker*, and the recipient of the 2012 Maxwell Perkins Award for Distinguished Contribution to Fiction.

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 Film features new, independent film releases and a curated, daily repertory film program. In 2012, BAM added 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. Visit BAM.org.

The mission of the **National Book Foundation**, presenter of the **National Book Awards**, is to celebrate the best literature in America, expand its audience, and ensure that books have a prominent place in American culture. The Foundation approaches this work from three programmatic angles: Awards & Honors, recognizing exceptional authors, literature, and literary programs; Education & Access initiatives, helping young and adult readers develop a lifelong passion for books; and Public Programs, bringing acclaimed authors to communities nationwide to engage in conversations about books and the power of literature as a tool for understanding our world, cultivating meaningful discourse around the issues of our age. Information on all of the Foundation’s programs can be found online at nationalbook.org.

For press information contact Sandy Sawotka, ssawotka@BAM.org or 718.636.4190

Credits

Crimson Wine is the Official Wine of the 2019 Eat, Drink & Be Literary Series

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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 (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

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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