The 33rd Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
January 21, 2019 at 10:30am

Master of ceremonies
Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

Keynote speaker
Tarana Burke

Performers
Oddisee
Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir

The tribute will be followed by a screening of Dolores in BAM Rose Cinemas.

2019 Winter/Spring is programmed by Joseph V. Melillo.

Season Sponsor:
Bloomberg Philanthropies

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Leadership support for the planning of BAM Education and BAM Community Engagement provided by The Hearst Foundation, Inc.

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TARANA BURKE

Tarana Burke is best known for founding the “me too” movement and has dedicated her life to social justice work and giving strength to those who experienced sexual trauma or harassment. Burke was honored as one of the Silence Breakers named Time’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 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, 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. On stage, 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.

ODDISEE

Oddisee has released two studio albums; several EPs, mixtapes, and instrumental albums; and has well more than 60 million plays on Spotify alone. He has been profiled by NPR, Time magazine, and The Washington Post; praised by Pitchfork and Stereogum; and has performed on NPR’s Tiny Desk, Colors, and at numerous prolific festivals including Glastonbury, Sasquatch, and Roskilde. His 2015 full-length The Good Fight was a Top 10 album on the iTunes hip-hop/rap chart and he won the iTunes Music award for Best Hip-Hop Album of 2012. The album has been met with raves from Time magazine, NPR, Stereogum, a powerful NPR Weekend Edition segment, a song premiere on Ebro’s Beats 1 radio show, opened the 2017 First Fridays season at the LA Natural History Museum, and much more. The Iceberg received raves: “He deftly uses his own experiences to reflect on the greater state of humanity, in all its beauty and flaws” (New York magazine, Vulture). “Snaking narratives and deft lyricism...a wonderful case of art imitating life, Oddisee is bursting with stories, concerns, and lengthy lessons” (MTV). “A shrewd lyricist and observer, Oddisee has always been steadfast in his quest to expose uncomfortable truths” (NPR Music). Oddisee.co
THE BROOKLYN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHOIR (BIC)

“We believe the power of music transcends our cultural, political, financial, and religious differences to expose that which we truly share: faith, hope, and love,” says Frank A. Haye, BIC’s founder, artistic director, and conductor. With that thought in mind, Haye and BIC venture out to places of worship, interfaith/peace gatherings, concert halls, rock, jazz, and blues venues, clubs, music festivals, educational institutions, municipal agencies, hospitals, shelters, transit hubs, live movie screenings, fashions shows, expos, conventions, street fairs, disaster relief benefits, and community/private events. From the stages of Carnegie Hall, BAM, and the bandshells in Prospect Park and Central Park, BIC has uplifted audiences with gospel, inspirational, classical, popular, and world music, working with the New York Philharmonic, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Wordless Music Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Group, and the High Line’s Mile-Long Opera. Members of BIC are encouraged to celebrate the diverse cultures which make our world great. Haye—a composer, producer, and flutist—states, “BIC is a group of performing ambassadors who spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the US and the world.” BIC’s global journeys have included Italy, Egypt, and China; Haiti is currently on the calendar. At home or abroad, BIC is committed to bring people together through artistic expression.

ERIC L. ADAMS, BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

For the past three decades, Eric L. Adams has served the residents of the city of his birth as a police officer, state senator, and coalition builder. In November of 2013, he was elected to represent all of Brooklyn as borough president. Born in Brownsville and educated in the City’s public school system, Adams is committed to ensuring Brooklyn’s bright future by helping each and every Brooklynnite reach his or her full potential. Throughout his career, Adams has been an effective advocate for Brooklyn, bringing people and communities together to create progressive change, and working with both the private and public sectors to invigorate the borough’s economy by encouraging job growth and investment in every neighborhood. Whether his beat was on the street or in the halls of government, Adams has always looked out for Brooklyn’s working families and sought to protect our most vulnerable residents. He believes that government works best when everyone has a chance to be heard, and he has resolved to use his office to provide an opportunity for diverse groups to work together for the common good. Since the beginning of his first term as the highest-ranking elected official in America’s fourth-largest city, Adams has worked to make the popularity of Brooklyn’s brand translate into prosperity for the more than 2.6 million Brooklynnites that call the borough home. He is a big believer in the power of connections, of bringing together people in need of services with resources that have long existed but have been underutilized. Adams has opened Brooklyn Borough Hall in ways that it never has been before, allowing thousands of people to connect for the first time with government and civic life. His agenda cannot be defined by a short list of issues: he is committed to addressing the wide range of concerns facing Brooklynnites. In his career as a police officer with NYC Transit and the NYPD, Adams made the kind of life-and-death decisions that reflect his insight, expertise, and poise under fire, resulting not just in his promotion to captain, but earning him the reputation for going above and beyond the call of duty. In 1995, he co-founded 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, an initiative that not only improved NYPD/community relations, but raised funds for worthy causes throughout the city. From 2006 until his election to borough president in 2013, Adams represented the 20th Senate District—which includes Borough Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Windsor Terrace, working tirelessly to address a broad range of issues affecting constituents, from civil rights and public safety to transparency in government and quality of life. He organized support against the NYPD’s controversial “stop and frisk” policy, and led efforts on behalf of gun control. As a legislator, Adams’ record in the New York State Senate was one that underscores his strong commitment to the rights of those from every walk of life, including protecting the right to...
privacy, supporting marriage equality, defending a woman’s right to choose, as well as fighting for students’ rights, workers’ rights, and animal rights. His work involved efforts to prevent racial profiling, gender discrimination, domestic violence, and elder abuse. He also proposed legislation to reform campaign financing, address inequities in sentencing depending on the crime, restrict outsourcing, and improve the availability of quality health care and affordable housing. Throughout his legislative career, Adams championed community and economic development in his district and borough-wide. Adams has also served on the board of the Eastern District Counseling Service, an organization assisting former substance abusers to live productive lives without dependency on drugs or alcohol. Adams maintains residences in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Prospect Heights, where he has resided for over 20 years. He enjoys riding the streets of Brooklyn on his bicycle, meditation, and exploring new cultures and places.

DR. RUDOLPH F. CREW is President of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY. A lifelong educator and author, Dr. Crew’s career has spanned from the classroom to the chancellorship of the nation’s largest school district, New York City Public Schools. In 2012, Dr. Crew was selected to serve as Oregon’s first Chief Education Officer. Dr. Crew is a renowned leader and reformer who has made it a mission to improve student achievement, especially for poor and minority students. The Chancellor’s District, the Parent Academy, and the School Improvement Zone are among Dr. Crew’s innovations that are considered national models for reform. These successful strategies have engaged parents, business and political leaders, and the community, ensuring students achieve higher levels of success and are prepared for the global challenges ahead. Dr. Crew has served on numerous boards, including Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Communities in Schools, Al Shanker Institute, and the Public Education Network. He is the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Educational Leadership Award, the Arthur Ashe Leadership Award, and the AASA National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Crew’s acclaimed book, *Only Connect: The Way to Save Our Schools*, continues to guide a vital public discussion.

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE was founded as a result of collaborative efforts by community leaders, elected officials, the chancellor, and the board of trustees of the City University of New York. The college, named for the late civil rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers (1925—1963), was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the central Brooklyn community. The college is committed to the fulfillment of this mandate, and to the belief that education has the power to positively transform the lives of individuals and is the right of all individuals in the pursuit of self-actualization. Consequently, the college’s mission is to develop and maintain high-quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education. The College’s four research and advocacy centers specifically support this mission: the Center for Black Literature; the Caribbean Research Center; the DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy; and the Center for Law and Social Justice. In addition, the School for Professional and Community Development (SPCD) provides a range of adult and youth programs and services. Medgar Evers College is a senior college of the City University of New York, the nation’s leading urban university comprising 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine, with degree-credit students and adult and continuing education students enrolled from throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York. Information is available on the CUNY website (cuny.edu) and the Medgar Evers College website (mec.cuny.edu).

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC (BAM) is recognized internationally for its innovative programming of dance, music, theater, music-theater, and opera. In addition to presenting leading national and international artists, BAM identifies and supports the work of groundbreaking contemporary artists in the performing arts with its Next Wave Festival, founded in 1983, one of the world’s most important
cultural festivals. America’s oldest performing arts center in continuous operation, BAM has presented performances since 1861 and has three stages—the Howard Gilman Opera House, the Harvey Theater, and the Fishman Space—in addition to the four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcafé. BAM also serves New York City’s diverse population through a wide variety of educational and community programs and unique partnerships. BAM collaborates every year with the RestorationART and the Weeksville Heritage Center for its annual DanceAfrica festival, providing a curriculum on the culture of the visiting company available to hundreds of young people and offering the opportunity for students from Restoration to perform with the visiting company. BAM Education also creates space for young people to develop their vision, voice, and power, through after-school programs for students from under-resourced schools. There programs provided experiences for young artists in theater (Arts & Justice), dance and choreography (Dancing Into the Future), and college and career (Brooklyn Internship for Arts and Culture). Teknopolis features digital artists in a multi-floor takeover of the Fisher, where interactive installations appeal to audiences young and old. BAM annually presents FilmAfrica, the best of the African Film Festival, during DanceAfrica. This February, BAM presents Race, Sex & Film: The World of Marlon Riggs (Feb 6—14), a complete retrospective of Riggs’ work timed to the 25th anniversary of his death and the 30th anniversary of his film Tongues Untied. BAM is led by President Katy Clark, who joined the institution in 2015, and Artistic Director David Binder.
Related Events

MUSIC
Jan 18 & 19 at 9pm, Lepercq Space

BAMcafé Live: The 4 Korners
An original live instrumental music band, The 4 Korners 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.

ART
On view Jan 21—Feb 12 (when the Lepercq Space is open)

Picture the Dream: Che Baraka (Lepercq Space, 30 Lafayette Avenue)
For the 11th year in a row, BAM partners with NYCHA to offer free art workshops to children living in Brooklyn public housing residences. This year, students from the Atlantic Terminal Community Center will participate.

FILM
Jan 21 at 1pm, FREE, BAM Rose Cinemas
Seating is first come, first served

Dolores, 2017
Directed by Peter Bratt
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.