



***Unbound*, a book launch series co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore, presents Anna Deavere Smith on the release of *Notes from the Field*—May 21**

***Unbound: Anna Deavere Smith* in conversation with Dr. Carla Shedd**
Launch of *Notes from the Field*
Co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore

BAM Fisher (Fishman Space, 321 Ashland Pl)
May 21 at 7pm
\$20 (event only); \$30 (with book)
Tickets on sale Apr 4 (Mar 28 for BAM Members and Patrons)

March 25, 2019/Brooklyn, NY— *Unbound*, a book launch series with BAM and Greenlight Bookstore presents Anna Deavere Smith, playwright, and actress, for the release of her book *Notes from the Field*. Smith will discuss her powerful new work with Dr. Carla Shedd, associate professor of sociology and urban education at CUNY Graduate Center. Smith's extraordinary form of documentary theater shines a light on injustices by portraying the real-life people who have experienced them. *Notes from the Field* is the text of the play, and it includes a host of figures who have lived and fought the system that pushes students of color out of the classroom and into prisons. Using their own words, culled from interviews and speeches, Smith includes the voices of Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Rev. Jamal Harrison Bryant, who eulogized Freddie Gray; Niya Kenny, a high school student who confronted a violent police deputy; activist Bree Newsome, who took the Confederate flag down from the South Carolina State House grounds; and many others. Shining a light on the school-to-prison pipeline, *Notes from the Field* is an urgent work of drama, in book form, that brings together voices from the African-American community—students and teachers, counselors and congressmen, preachers and prisoners.

Anna Deavere Smith is an actress, teacher, playwright, and the creator of the acclaimed *On the Road* series of one-woman plays, which are based on her interviews with diverse voices from communities in crisis. A recipient of the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama and two Obie Awards, her work has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and two Tony Awards. Onscreen, she has appeared in many films and television shows, including *Philadelphia*, *The West Wing*, *Black-ish*, and *Nurse Jackie*. She is a university professor in the Department of Art and Public Policy at NYU, where she also directs the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue.

Dr. Carla Shedd is the associate professor of sociology and urban education at CUNY Graduate Center whose research and teaching focuses on education, criminalization and criminal justice, race and ethnicity, law, social inequality, and urban policy. She is the award-winning author of *Unequal City: Race, Schools, and Perceptions of Injustice*, which examines the symbiosis between public school systems and the criminal justice system in Chicago. Her current book project, *When Protection and Punishment Collide: America's Juvenile Court System and the Carceral Continuum*, explores the links between schools, neighborhoods, and juvenile justice courts in New York City.

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.

Founded in October 2009, **Greenlight Bookstore** is a general independent bookstore with two store locations in Brooklyn, as well as kiosks at BAM theaters. Through knowledgeable staff, curated book selection, community partnerships, and a robust e-commerce website as well as beautiful bookstore spaces on Fulton Street and Flatbush Avenue, Greenlight combines the best traditions of the neighborhood bookstore with a forward-looking sensibility. Greenlight has garnered local, national, and international press coverage for its innovative startup model and its continuing success. In addition to partnering with BAM on the *Unbound* series, Greenlight hosts literary events in its stores several nights a week. More information and details can be found at greenlightbookstore.com.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@BAM.org or 718.724.8022.

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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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