

BAM and the National Book Foundation present Eat, Drink & Be Literary, March 10—June 9

The 16th season of intimate evenings with renowned authors features Ilya Kaminsky, Luis Alberto Urrea, Sigrid Nunez, and Tayari Jones

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Jan 31, 2020/Brooklyn, NY—BAM’s popular Eat, Drink & Be Literary series, presented in partnership with the National Book Foundation, will host four acclaimed writers from March 10 through June 9. The distinguished group includes Ilya Kaminsky, Luis Alberto Urrea, Sigrid Nunez, and Tayari Jones.

The authors will read from their work and share creative processes, inspirations, and anecdotes with the audience over dinner at BAMcafé. These evenings offer literary devotees—writers and readers alike—the opportunity to socialize in an informal setting that also encourages in-depth discussion and moments of discovery.

Doors open at 6pm and dinner begins at 6:30pm. The meal—featuring a seasonal menu from 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, dessert, and wine. Tickets go on sale to BAM members on February 6 and to the general public on February 13.

To purchase tickets, please call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org. Tickets also may be purchased in person at the BAM box office, Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue, from 12-6pm Monday through Saturday; and 12-4pm on Sundays.

Ilya Kaminsky, March 10 – moderated by John Freeman

“Evident throughout is a profound imagination, matched only by the poet’s ability to create a republic of conscience that is ultimately ours, too, and utterly his own” —*The New Yorker* on *Deaf Republic*

Ilya Kaminsky is the author of the acclaimed poetry collection *Deaf Republic*, which was called a work of “profound imagination” by *The New Yorker* and was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award in Poetry. He is also the author of *Dancing in Odessa* and *Musica Humana*. His poems have been translated into numerous languages and his books have been published in Turkey, Holland, Russia, France, Mexico, Macedonia, Romania, Spain, and China. Kaminsky lost most of his hearing at age four after a misdiagnosis of mumps as a cold. In the late 1990s Kaminsky co-founded Poets For Peace, an organization that sponsors poetry readings in the US and

abroad. He currently holds the Bourne Chair in Poetry and is Director of Poetry@Tech at Georgia Tech.

Luis Alberto Urrea, March 24 – moderated by Deborah Treisman

“a kind of literary badass who still believes in love...He is a master storyteller with a rock-and-roll heart” —NPR

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his landmark work of nonfiction, *The Devil's Highway*, Luis Alberto Urrea is also the bestselling author of the novels *The House of Broken Angels*, *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, *Into the Beautiful North*, and *Queen of America*, as well as the story collection *The Water Museum*—a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist. He has won the Lannan Literary Award, an Edgar Award, a 2017 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, and was a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow, among many other honors. Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, he lives outside of Chicago and teaches at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Sigrid Nunez, April 14 – moderated by Parul Sehgal

“one of the most dizzyingly accomplished of our writers” —Gary Shteyngart

Sigrid Nunez has published seven novels, including *A Feather on the Breath of God*, *The Last of Her Kind*, *Salvation City* and, most recently, *The Friend*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the 2018 National Book Award. Nunez's other honors and awards include four Pushcart Prizes, a Whiting Award, a Berlin Prize Fellowship, and the Rome Prize in Literature. Her work has appeared in several anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories 2019* and four anthologies of Asian-American literature. Nunez is also the author of *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*. Her eighth novel, *What Are You Going Through*, will be published by Riverhead Books in September. Nunez lives in New York City.

Tayari Jones, June 9 – moderated by Deborah Treisman

“one of the most important voices of her generation” —*Essence*

Tayari Jones is the author of *An American Marriage*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller, an Oprah's Book Club pick, and was selected by Barack Obama for his summer reading list. She is a native of Atlanta, which serves as the setting for *An American Marriage* as well as her other novels *Leaving Atlanta*, *The Untelling*, *Silver Sparrow*, and the forthcoming *Old Fourth Ward*. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*; *The Washington Post*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *Time*; *Tin House*; and *The Believer*, among other publications. Jones is currently a Charles Howard Candler Professor at Emory University and an A.D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University.

About the moderators

Deborah Treisman 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 2019 Deborah Pease Prize from A Public Space.

John Freeman is the editor of *Freeman's*, a literary annual of new writing, and executive editor of Literary Hub. His books include *How to Read a Novelist* and *Dictionary of the Undoing*, as well as *Tales of Two Americas*, an anthology about income inequality in America, and *Tales of Two Cities*, an anthology of new writing about inequality in New York City. He is also the author of two collections of poems, *Maps* and *The Park*. His work is translated into more than 20 languages, and has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The New York Times*. The former editor of *Granta*, he teaches writing at New York University.

Parul Sehgal is a book critic at *The New York Times*. She was previously a columnist and senior editor at *The New York Times Book Review*. Her work has appeared in *the Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Bookforum*, *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, and *The Literary Review*, among other publications. She is the recipient of the Nona Balakian Award from the National Book Critics Circle for her criticism and teaches at New York University.

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

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the season sponsor

Crimson Wine is the Official Wine of the 2020 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. Harvey Theater at BAM Strong 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, 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. 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.