

# BAM YOURS THEIRS OURS A SEASON FOR EVERYONE

MAR—JUN 2020

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

**BAM presents Kahlil Joseph's *BLKNWS*, a reaffirming view of Black excellence redefining how Black culture is experienced, viewed, and communicated, Mar 23—Jun 21**

**The mesmerizing artwork investigates and redistributes the power of mainstream information and news cycles through a remixing of music videos, internet memes, and human-interest stories in the form of an original newscast through a distinctly Black lens.**

**The installation presented through the duration of the new season—*Yours Theirs Ours*—will be on display in two spaces at BAM and at the historic Weeksville Heritage Center**

## ***BLKNWS***

Kahlil Joseph

Mar 23—Jun 21

Free and open to the public

**BAM Peter Jay Sharp Building** (Devitre Lounge, 30 Lafayette Ave)

On view daily from 12pm—10pm

**BAM Strong** (Campbell Lobby, 651 Fulton St)

On view one hour before shows in the Harvey Theater

**Weeksville Heritage Center** (158 Buffalo Ave, Brooklyn)

Tue & Thu, 10am—6pm; Wed, 10am—8pm; Fri, 10am—5pm; and Sat, 11am—5pm

“A bit like if BET merged with CNN and then merged with *Artforum* and *The New Yorker*.”

—*Artnet News*

“The creator of intellectually and emotionally dense short films showcasing Black excellence, strangeness, and history.” —*The New Yorker*

**Feb 18, 2020/Brooklyn, NY**—Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker Kahlil Joseph makes his BAM artistic debut with the groundbreaking exhibition *BLKNWS*—a mesmerizing news-creation machine that redefines the genre of the news broadcast. The public exhibition generates a plurality of editorial voices that approach reportage through a distinctly Black lens. Rejuvenating what news can be, *BLKNWS* combines appropriated news and social media with originally

produced, anchored segments to create a continuously updated broadcast that is as much a news service as it is a portal to an elevated state of awareness.

Joseph, who earned an Emmy nomination for co-directing Beyoncé's *Lemonade* HBO special, presented *BLKNWS* at the 2019 Venice Biennale and most recently at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival to rave reviews. The project consists of a continuously updated newscast in the form of a two-channel video that splices historical and contemporary found footage with newly shot scenes of newsroom and documentary reportage. Each broadcast is shown on two closely hung screens that play simultaneous footage meant to inflect and inform each other in a continuous dialog. Joseph's distinctive use of juxtaposition and montage produces a positively pitched news broadcast in the form of a visual art experience that delivers strangely truthful, original, and hyper-contemporary insights into the human condition.

*BLKNWS* will be on view in three distinct venues: BAM's Devitre Lounge, located in the Peter Jay Sharp Building; the BAM Strong Campbell Lobby, the newly renovated inner lobby adjacent to the Harvey Theater; and Weeksville Heritage Center, one of the first communities for free Black Americans in the US. Presenting *BLKNWS* at Weeksville allows the groundbreaking work to be seen in a non-theater space and by different audiences and communities and expands on BAM's long-established relationship with the historical institution. With new programming content simultaneously transmitted from the artist's studio over the duration of its BAM debut, *BLKNWS* is a constantly evolving artwork that expands over the course of its presentation. From history to popular culture to current events, the various subjects in *BLKNWS* are entertaining, informational, and educational.

*BLKNWS* is a part of *Yours Theirs Ours*—a new season of 16 engagements by dynamic artists across the artistic spectrum—with many making their BAM debuts. The season runs through June 2020 and will be presented in all of BAM's venues and off-site.

**Kahlil Joseph** is a Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker best known for his large-scale video installations and collaborations with Beyoncé, Kendrick Lamar, Arcade Fire, FKA twigs, and Shabazz Palaces. He wrote and directed the 2013 Sundance award-winning companion short film for Flying Lotus' *Until the Quiet Comes* album. His short, *Fly Paper*, an homage to Harlem and the late photographer Roy DeCarava, made its debut at the New Museum in New York in 2017. Joseph has participated in group and solo exhibitions at internationally-recognized institutions and museums, including the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University where *BLKNWS* was originally incubated; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Contemporary Arts Center; Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia. He currently serves as the artistic director of The Underground Museum, an independent art museum, exhibition space, and community hub in Los Angeles that he co-founded with his late brother, the visionary artist and curator Noah Davis.

**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 yearly during the spring and highlights groundbreaking, contemporary work in the performing arts with its Next Wave 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](http://BAM.org).

**Weeksville Heritage Center** is a historic house museum and cultural center in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. We use preservation, education, arts, and civic engagement to keep the history of one of the largest free Black communities in pre-Civil War America relevant to contemporary audiences. In 2020, Weeksville is the first cultural institution in over 20 years to become part of the NYC Cultural Institutions Group. [weeksvillesociety.org](http://weeksvillesociety.org)

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at [ctate@BAM.org](mailto: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. 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](http://BAM.org).

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