



Hanif Abdurraqib takes part in *Unbound* on March 31 as part of his *A Little Devil in America* book tour

Abdurraqib's stirring meditation on Black performance in America invokes race, history, culture, and entertainment

The conversation is part of the *Unbound* series celebrating new book releases co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore

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Hanif Abdurraqib in conversation with a special guest

Launch of *A Little Devil in America*

Co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore

Virtual live event: www.bam.org

March 31, 7pm

Free with RSVP

Event includes closed captioning

“Staggeringly intimate . . . Abdurraqib shines a light on how Black artists have shaped—and been shaped by—American culture . . . and his prose is reliably razor-sharp. Filled with nuance and lyricism, Abdurraqib’s luminous survey is stunning.”—*Publishers Weekly*

Feb 22, 2021/Brooklyn, NY— Writer and BAM Guest Curator at Large Hanif Abdurraqib joins a special guest in a conversation about Black performance to celebrate his new book, *A Little Devil in America* (March 30, 2021, Random House). This event is part of *Unbound*, a series celebrating new book releases co-presented by BAM and Greenlight Bookstore.

Hanif Abdurraqib has written a profound and lasting reflection on how Black performance is inextricably woven into the fabric of American culture. Each moment in every performance he examines—whether it’s the twenty-seven seconds in “Gimme Shelter” in which Merry Clayton wails the words “rape, murder,” a schoolyard fistfight, a dance marathon, or the instant in a game of spades right after the cards are dealt—has layers of resonance in Black and white cultures, the politics of American empire, and Abdurraqib’s own personal history of love, grief, and performance.

A Little Devil in America brims with jubilation and pain, and is infused with the lyricism and rhythm of the musicians he loves. With care and generosity, he explains the poignancy of performances big and small, each one feeling intensely familiar and vital, both timeless and desperately urgent. Filled with sharp insight, humor, and heart, *A Little Devil in America* exalts the Black performance that unfolds in specific moments in time and space.

Until April 7, Greenlight Bookstore is offering 15% off *A Little Devil in America* with coupon code HANIF15.

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. He is a Callaloo Creative Writing Fellow, a poetry editor at *Muzzle Magazine*, and a member of the poetry collective Echo Hotel with poet/essayist Eve L. Ewing. His podcast, *Object of Sound* recently launched on Sonos. He was named BAM's guest curator at large in January 2021.

His poetry has been published in *Vinyl*, *PEN American*, and various other journals. His essays and music criticism have been published in *The FADER*, *Pitchfork*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. His first full-length poetry collection, *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, was released in June 2016 from Button Poetry. It was named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Prize, and was nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. With Big Lucks, he released a limited edition chapbook, *Vintage Sadness*, in summer 2017. His first collection of essays, *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, was released in winter 2017 by Two Dollar Radio and was named a book of the year by *Buzzfeed*, *Esquire*, NPR, *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Paste*, CBC, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Pitchfork*, and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others. He released *Go Ahead In The Rain: Notes To A Tribe Called Quest* with University of Texas press in February 2019. The book became a *The New York Times* Bestseller, was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and was longlisted for the National Book Award. His second collection of poems, *A Fortune For Your Disaster*, was released in 2019 by Tin House, and won the 2020 Lenore Marshall Prize. He also wrote and performed the current season of KCRW's acclaimed podcast *Lost Notes: 1980*.

BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) is a multi-arts center located in Brooklyn, New York. For more than 150 years, BAM has been the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas—engaging both global and local communities. With world-renowned programming in theater, dance, music, opera, film, and much more, BAM showcases the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters.

Founded in 2009 by Rebecca Fitting and Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, Greenlight Bookstores are general independent bookstores in Brooklyn, New York. Through knowledgeable staff, curated book selection, community partnerships, and a robust e-commerce website, Greenlight combines the best traditions of the neighborhood bookstore with a forward-looking sensibility. Greenlight has grown from its original store in historic Fort Greene to encompass two spaces, a sister stationery store, kiosks at partner cultural institutions, and pop-up locations at events throughout the city. Its carefully curated, community-minded events have earned Greenlight a reputation as a literary destination. Greenlight has been inspired by the movements for racial justice across the country to engage in the work of becoming a more anti-racist company.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Greenlight continues to serve its communities with virtual events, increased ecommerce and pickup options, and modified shopping hours.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey: sgarvey@bam.org.

Credits

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