

Miami Book Fair International

presented and produced by The Center for Literature and Theatre @ Miami Dade College

A program of
MDCulture
Miami Dade College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Miami Book Fair International Honors James Baldwin on the 90th Anniversary of His Birth

Miami, Oct. 30, 2014 – On Saturday, Nov. 22, the 31st Miami Book Fair International (MBFI), produced by The Center for Writing and Literature @ Miami Dade College (MDC), will host a very special event exploring the work of James Baldwin. The Fire This Time: Miami Book Fair Honors James Baldwin will take place at 3:30 p.m. at the Wolfson Campus Chapman Conference Center, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Room 2106 (Bldg. 2, 1st floor). This program is made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, as part of its commitment to the voices of social justice.

A giant in American letters, James Baldwin was born in Harlem and endured a crushingly difficult childhood. He developed into one of our country's most sensitive writers, as well as one of the sharpest observers of our society and culture. He was also one of America's keenest critics, holding a mirror to third rail topics of race and sexuality in ways that forced readers to see the world—and themselves—in a new light.

The Fire This Time will commemorate Baldwin's work and life. Acclaimed poets **Elizabeth Alexander** and **Claudia Rankine** will moderate a panel conversation among prominent writers on Baldwin's oeuvre, and discuss his continued relevance and impact. Alexander, a professor at Yale University, may be best known for reciting her poem, "Praise Song for a Day," at the first inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009. Rankine, who teaches at Pomona College, is the author of five books of poetry. Robert Creeley called her poems "master work in every sense, and altogether her own."

On the panel will be scholars **Jeff Chang**, Executive Director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University, and **Jennifer Devere Brody**, Professor in Theater & Performance Studies at Stanford; novelist and MacArthur fellow **Edwidge Danticat**; and poet **Charles Hancock Rux**.

Miami Book Fair International 2014 will take place from November 16 - 23 at the Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami and promises to be another exceptional literary event!

For regular updates on the Miami Book Fair, please visit www.miamibookfair.com, call 305-237-3528 or email wbookfair@mdc.edu. Find the Fair on social media at
<https://twitter.com/miamibookfair>
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Miami Book Fair International and The Center For Literature And Theatre @ Miami Dade College

Miami Book Fair International, widely considered the largest and finest literary event in the U.S., is the premier event of The Center for Literature and Theatre @ Miami Dade College, a part of MDCulture, the Cultural Affairs Department of the College. The Center promotes reading, writing and theater at locations throughout South Florida by consistently presenting activities open to all. Its Generation Genius programs for children and teens

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promote literacy and learning. Its creative writing program has national appeal, and courses are taught by local and visiting authors. It is also home to Prometeo Theatre, the nation's leading Spanish language, conservatory-style program offering training for actors, and featuring performances throughout the year. In 2012, the Center celebrated its tenth year with a renewed commitment to the advancement of literary and theater arts.

Miami Book Fair International is made possible through the generous support of the State of Florida and the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of Miami; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; Miami-Dade County Public Schools; the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau; the Miami Downtown Development; and the Friends of the Fair; as well as many corporate partners.

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This and other MDC releases are available on the web at www.mdc.edu.

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