

QBR
THE BLACK
BOOK REVIEW

2014

HARLEM BOOK FAIR



Introducing the 1st Annual

URBANARTS & LIT FESTIVAL

and HARLEM BOOK FAIR FICTION FESTIVAL

QBR
THE BLACK
BOOK REVIEW

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THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR
RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE
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PROGRAMS @ HBF 2014

THURSDAY, JULY 10

From Books to Screen – A Red Carpet Film Screening of Joe Young's *Diamond Ruff*

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

National Black Theater

2031 Fifth Avenue @ West 125th Street

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Orphan, con artist, crime boss and millionaire, Diamond Ruff has seen it all. In prison for a murder he did not commit, he meets the Reverend Trek Woods, who overwhelms him with kindness, character and faith in God. Falling in love with April, a young woman with a terminal illness, Ruff is again challenged to grow and change. Will he be redeemed? There are no easy answers. The full-length screening will be followed by a Talk Back session with the author and director and a screening after party.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

The First Annual Harlem Book Fair Fiction Festival

Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University School of Law Rooms 101/103
435 116th Street (between Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues)

10:00am – 4:00pm

“The Artists Struggle for Integrity”: James Baldwin and the Writer's Life: A Roundtable Conversation

Presented by the Harlem Book Fair as part of *The Year of James Baldwin*, a partnership of Harlem Stage, Columbia University School of the Arts, and New York Live Arts

Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University School of Law Rooms 101/103
10:00am – 12:00pm

Moderator: Barbara Webb

Participants: Pamela Sneed, *Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom Than Slavery*; **Rashida Ismaili**, *Cantata for Jimmy*; **Mendi Obadike**, *Armor and Flesh*

James Arthur Baldwin (August 2, 1924 – December 1, 1987) was an American novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, and social critic. Baldwin's essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), explore palpable yet unspoken intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in Western societies, most notably in mid-20th-century America, and their inevitable if unnamable tensions. Join his contemporaries, and women who knew Jimmy, in a discussion on how he impacted American life and culture.

LUNCH

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Coming from Far: Caribbean Writers on Home and Otherness (Readings and Discussion)

Presented by the NGC Bocas Literary Festival

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University School of Law Rooms 101/103

Moderator: Nicholas Laughlin, Program Director, NGC Bocas Lit Festival

Participants: A. Naomi Jackson, *Who Don't Hear Will Feel*; **Stephen Narain**, *Small Axe: A Platform for Caribbean Criticism*; **Tiphonie Yanique**, *Land of Love and Drowning*

The annual NCG Bocas Lit Festival brings together writers, readers, performers, and publishers for a five-day celebration of books and writing. At the heart of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest are a series of readings by **some of Trinidad and Tobago's and the Caribbean's finest writers of fiction and poetry** — from authors of books already considered contemporary classics to prizewinning newcomers. Join the celebration through these readings and discussion.

Inheritance: James Baldwin and His Literary Progeny A Roundtable Conversation

Presented by the Harlem Book Fair as part of *The Year of James Baldwin*, a partnership of Harlem Stage, Columbia University School of the Arts, and New York Live Arts

Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University School of Law Rooms 101/103
3:30pm – 5:30pm

Moderator: Aimee Meredith Cox

Participants: Kiese Laymon, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*; **Patricia Spears Jones**, *The Weather That Kill*; **Christopher Winks**, *Symbolic Cities in Caribbean Literature*

Baldwin's novels and plays fictionalize fundamental personal questions and dilemmas amid complex social and psychological pressures thwarting the equitable integration of not only blacks, but also of gay and bisexual men, while depicting some internalized obstacles to such individuals' quests for acceptance. These are writers who have been influenced by his work.

2014 Phillis Wheatley Awards

Reception and Program

Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University School of Law

Rooms 101/103

6:00pm – 8:00pm

"Where the Poet Can Sing, The People Can Live": Readings from the Book of Baldwin

Presented by the Harlem Book Fair as part of *The Year of James Baldwin*, a partnership of Harlem Stage, Columbia University School of the Arts, and New York Live Arts.

SATURDAY, JULY 12 – Harlem Book Fair

QBR/Harlem Book Fair Author Panels (CSPAN broadcast)

Schomburg Center for Research Black Culture

Langston Hughes Auditorium

515 Malcolm X Boulevard @ West 135th Street

11:30am – 7:00pm

Welcome

11:30a – 11:45a

Max Rodriguez, Founder, Harlem Book Fair/QBR The Black Book Review

Marcia Sells, Columbia University

Dr. Khalil Muhammad, Director, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The State of African American Literature

Langston Hughes Auditorium

11:45a – 12:15p

Introduction: Max Rodriguez, Founder, Harlem Book Fair

Presenter: Malaika Adero, VP, Atria Books/Simon&Schuster

While African American literature is well accepted, there are numerous views on its significance, traditions, and theories. To the genre's supporters, African American literature arose out of the experience of Blacks in the United States, especially with regards to historic racism and discrimination, and is an attempt to refute the dominant culture's literature and power. In addition, supporters see the literature existing both within and outside American literature and as helping to revitalize the country's writing. To critics, African-American literature is part of a fragmenting of American literature. In addition, there are some within the African American community who do not like how their own literature sometimes showcases Black people. Listen as senior publishing professional Malaika Adero shares her view from the top.

Abundantly Rich: Harvesting the Wealth in Multicultural Book Publishing

Langston Hughes Auditorium

12:30p – 1:45p

Introduction: TBA

Moderator: Wade Hudson, President/CEO, JustUs Books

Panelists: Brian Kenney, Director, White Plains Public Library; **Pat Cummings**, Author/Illustrator; **Mutiya Vision**, Publisher, Vision Works Publishing; **Hanna Erlich**, Director of Marketing, Lee&Low Books; **Vanesse Lloyd Sgambati**, Director, The Literary, **Veronica Creech**, Senior Director of Global Engagement, First Book.

The current interest in diversity within the children's book market reflects a long-standing (and oft-repeated) focus on publisher responsibility in ensuring a greater availability of multicultural books on store shelves and online. This panel of experts explores alternative and effective approaches – from library acquisitions and public programs to alternative book distribution; from book festivals to expanding the ideological interpretation of 'multicultural', and developing the educational book market – all with the intention of creating increased audience awareness and market demand.

One on One: A Conversation with Tracey D. Syphax, *From the Block to the Boardroom: A Memoir*

Langston Hughes Auditorium

1:55p – 2:55p

Introduction: Elizabeth Nunez, *Not for Everyday Use: A Memoir*

Tracey Syphax is an ex-offender who has spent his successful 19-year career in business as a strong advocate for ending mass incarceration by educating the community on proper re-entry tools and entrepreneurship. Join *QBR* host **Altura Salinardi** and this nationally-recognized and award-winning author in a candid discussion of a life of ill-timed choices, redemption, perseverance, dedication and love.

Achieving Our Nation: James Baldwin and American Morality

Langston Hughes Auditorium

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Introduction: Rich Blint

Moderator: Kendall Thomas, *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Founded the Movement*

Panelists: Jonathan Holloway, *Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory and Identity in*

*Black America since 1940; **Marcus Hunter**, *Black Citymakers: How The Philadelphia Negro Changed Urban America*; **Walter Mosley**, *Twelve Steps to Political Revelation*; **Imani Perry**, *More Beautiful and More Terrible: The Embrace and Transcendence of Racial Inequality in the United States*; **Claudia Roth Pierpont**, *Roth Unbound: The Writer and His Books**

"The day will come when you will trust you, more than you do now. When you will trust me, more than you do now. When we can trust each other. I really do believe in

the New Jerusalem. I really do believe that we can all become better than we are. I know we can. But the price is enormous, and people are not yet willing to pay it."

---James Baldwin

Achieving our Nation is being staged in the context of global economic insecurity, the obscenity of mass incarceration, a planet gripped by the ravages of war and climate change, ever-increasing gaps in wealth, a dramatically indebted student populace, as well as rampant fundamentalism—East and West. This roundtable conversation, featuring some of the nation's finest thinkers, is intended as an examination of our contemporary moral and political emergencies and presents an opportunity for us to re-consider the ethical utility of James Baldwin's expansive injunction to William Faulkner (and, in fact, to us all), "[t]hat any real change implies the breakup of the world as one has always known it, the loss of all that gave one an identity, the end of safety." As Baldwin tells it, our energized disavowal of the American illusion of safety and the national commitment to historical innocence will ultimately determine the extent of our transformation and represents the key to our future.

The New Urban Aesthetics: the Black Arts Movement, Revised

Langston Hughes Auditorium

5:10p – 6:15p

Introduction: Valerie Gray, Director, Celebration of Black Writing, Philadelphia

Moderator: Mark Anthony Neal (*Looking for Leroy: Illegible Black Masculinities*)

Panelists: June Archer, *Yes! Everyday Can Be A Good Day*; Mark Naison, *White Boy: A Memoir*; Anthony Whyte, *A Love to Die For*; Tramp Daly, *The Adventures of the Untouchables*; Imani Perry, *Prophets of the Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip Hop*

Started by writer and activist Amiri Baraka and known as the Black Aesthetic Movement, *Time* magazine describes the Black Arts Movement as

the "single most controversial moment in the history of African-American literature – possibly in American literature as a whole." This panel explores the trajectory, impact and influence of the Black Arts Movement as a precursor to today's urban-centered aesthetic.

Schomburg Center for Research Black Culture

American Negro Theater (ANT)

515 Malcolm X Boulevard @ West 135th Street

From Books to Screen – A Film Screening of Joe Young's *Diamond Ruff*

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Orphan, con artist, crime boss and millionaire, Diamond Ruff has seen it all. In prison for a murder he did not commit, he meets the Reverend Trek Woods, who overwhelms him with kindness, character and faith in God. Falling in love with April, a young woman with a terminal illness, Ruff is again challenged to grow and change. Will he be redeemed? There are no easy answers. The full-length screening will be followed by a Talk Back session with the author and director.

Abiodun Oyewole Book Release Party!

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Abiodun Oyewole is a poet, teacher, and founding member of the Last Poets, who laid the groundwork for the emergence of Hip-Hop. Join Abiodun and his invited special guests in celebrating his latest book, *Branches of the Tree of Life: The Collected Poems of Abiodun Oyewole, 1969 – 2013*.

From Books to Screen – A Film Screening of Joe Young's *Diamond Ruff*

(Repeat Showing)

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Orphan, con artist, crime boss and millionaire, Diamond Ruff has seen it all. In prison for a murder he did not commit, he meets the Reverend Trek Woods, who overwhelms him with kindness, character and faith in God. Falling in love with April, a young woman with a terminal illness, Ruff is again challenged to grow and change. Will he be redeemed? There are no

ART FILM LITERATURE MUSIC DANCE



HARLEM BOOK FAIR PRESENTS

URBANARTS & LIT FESTIVAL

easy answers. The full-length screening will be followed by a Talk Back session with the author and director.

HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival

Countee Cullen Library Auditorium

104 West 136th Street

Hotter Than the 4th of July! YA Authors Present Sizzling Summer Reads

11:30am – 12:45pm

Moderator: Shauntee Burns, President, New York Black Librarians' Caucus of the American Library Association

Panelists: Tonya Bolden, *Searching for Sarah Rector: the Richest Black Girl in America*; **Tracy Brown** *Flirting with Disaster*; **Jerry Craft**, *The Offenders: Saving the World, While Serving Detention!*; **Chris Myers**, *H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination*; **Jason Reynolds**, *When I was the Greatest*.

Wondering what books to pick up this Summer? Come meet the authors who have written this Summer's "must-reads" for young readers and adults alike! Nothing tops a great escape better than a book that you love to read...*again and again!*

One on One: A Conversation with Conscious, Clear, Lucid Natural, Simple

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

12:50pm – 1:20pm

Conscious – writer, on-air personality, artist, painter, and producer – is a quintessential multi-disciplinary creative artist. His first published ebook, *Clear, Lucid, Natural, Simple*, is a glimpse into his innovative view of the world. Refusing the waste a single gift, Conscious transforms "consciousness" and still manages to look really cool while doing it. In this chat, **Thysha Shabazz**, of Shabazz Communications and The Creative Collective, delves into the making of such a creative contributor.

Afro Futurism, Sci-Fi and Cultural Myths: A Dialogue Among Visionary Writers

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

1:25pm – 2:40pm

Dja Dja N Med-Jay Renpent, *N Eternity Reclaimed*; **Rasheedah Phillips**, *Recurrence Plot*; **Cerece Rennie Murphy**, *Order of the Seers*

As famous Mythologist Joseph once mused, "what can mythology tell us about contemporary life?" In this dialogue, writers of Afro-Futurism will explore the possibilities and cultural gems within our own "afro-mythology" juxtaposed to a sci-fi landscape and its ensuing cultural implications.

One on One: A Conversation with Myra Smith-Wright, *Flight of the Butterfly: THE LARVAE*

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

2:45pm – 3:15pm

From Maryland to Milan, superstar Kennedy Shaw travels the globe singing her way into the hearts of everyone who hears her voice. Known too many as the singing "heart break kid", Kennedy loves hard and leaves quick; but leaving men and women helplessly in love can become quite dangerous. Tormented by demons from her past, reinforcements will need to be called in to tame this star on the rise. Thyshaa Shabazz explores her work in this conversation.

Hip Hop Culture, Social Responsibility and Literacy

A HBF Urban Arts & Literary Festival Event

3:20pm – 4:30pm

Moderator: Coole High, Producer, Musician, Entrepreneur (Bondfire Radio)

Panelists: Manny Faces, Hip Hop Journalist, DJ, Producer, **Todd "Rahiem" Williams**, Entertainer, Hip Hop historian and Motivational Speaker (Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five); **L.A. Sunshine**, *A True Story, The Real Accounts* (The Treacherous Three), **AtLas'**, Hip Hop Performer/Entertainer

With the latest controversy surrounding Chuck D's battle with Hot 97 FM and Manny Faces' petition to take Hot 97 off the air, it seems apropos to discuss Hip Hop culture's role in social responsibility. It is clear that the literacy acumen of our communities, especially our youth, can be greatly impacted by various aspects of Hip Hop culture. This enlightening discussion will shed light on how Hip Hop culture's pioneers and supporters are committed to "showing up" in our communities and beyond.

Workshops @ Countee Cullen Library

Countee Cullen Library – Conference Room A

104 West 136th Street

Baby & Wee

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Facilitators: **Daseta Gray, MEd**, Certified Infant/Toddler Specialist; blogger; President, Sabree Education Services and **Reeshemah Brightley**, parent; blogger; VP, Sabree Education Services

This class is an interactive session for you and your little one. We share with parents how to work with their infants and toddlers to develop the cognitive, social and emotional skills before they start school. We will also give tips on activities they can do at home with their baby. This will not be your ordinary parenting class we use a progressive approach. We answer the "why" these activities are being done and which component, or domain of the brain, is being developed. Bring your baby zero to age 3.

First 2000 Days Campaign: Is it an Experience Gap or Achievement Gap?

Countee Cullen Library – Conference Room A

2pm – 3:30pm

Moderator: **Miguel Montes**, Co-creator Education Pledge

Panelists: **Dr. Liz Isakson**, Co-founder Docs for Tots; **Dr. Tirza Greer**, Pediatrician; **Ms. Daseta Gray**, Certified Infant Toddler Specialist & President of Sabree Education Services; **Amy Daniels**, Assistant Director for Public Health Research Autism Speaks; **Dr. Sayida Peprah**, Clinical Psychologist

People and statistics state that Black and Latino children have an achievement gap and organizations are looking for ways to close it. We will discuss the "experience gap". A lack of quality infant/toddler care experiences and learning produces inequality in ability. The problems that are manifested in the older children begin from birth thru five years old (the first 2000 days). When one understands how infants and toddlers develop, parents, childcare providers and healthcare practitioners can help close the gap. This session breaks down the science. The lack of these skills means that children are already behind. Information is the key to reversing the negative statistics. Even if you don't have an infant or toddler the information is helpful.

Georgette Miller: Living Debt Free: What Credit Score, Fear Mongers and Debt Peddlers Don't Want You To Know.

Countee Cullen Library – Conference Room A

3:45p – 5:00p

In her seminars around the country, attorney, financial advisor and radio personality **Georgette Miller** uses her personal experiences to guide consumers on the road to financial security. She says, "Don't let fear steal your dreams and, in turn, rob the world of the dreams that are in you. Run your life like a business. Use your head and try to keep your heart out of the business." Today she has five law offices under the banner of Georgette Miller and Associates, P.C. Not one to rest on her laurel, Georgette hosts the Georgette Miller Show on Wilde Media TV Network, is a radio host on WLIB-AM (New York), and has featured segments on WHUR-FM (Washington, DC), WPPZ-FM (Philadelphia), and WFAI-AM (Delaware).

Workshops @ Countee Cullen Library

Countee Cullen Library – 3rd Floor Conference Room

104 West 136th Street

Eden in Sumer on the Niger: Evidence of the West African Origin Of Mankind

Countee Cullen Library – Conference Room B

11:00p – 12:30p

Presenter: Dr. Sidney Davis, *Eden in Sumer on The Niger*

This presentation provides evidence of the actual geographical location in West Africa of the Garden of Eden, Atlantis and the original homeland of the Sumerian people before their migration to the "Middle East". By translating hitherto unknown pre-cuneiform inscriptions of the Sumerians, Catherine Acholonu and Sidney Davis have uncovered thousands of years of Africa's lost pre-history and evidences of the West African origins of the earliest Pharaohs and Kings of Egypt and Sumer. This book provides answers to all lingering questions about the African Cavemen (Igbo, Esh, Adamas, Adites) original guardians of the human races, who gave their genes for the creation of Homo Sapiens (Adam) and were the teachers in the First Age of the world.

Christian Influences on the Health and Wellness of America Presented by Christian Authors On Tour

Countee Cullen Library – 3rd Floor Conference Room

12:40p – 2:00p

The United States has a rich history of Christian influences that have helped

to shape this country at its core. This panel discussion offers a historical overview (good and bad) of the Christian influences on the health and wellness of urban communities. The panel includes a five-part focus: (1) spirit; (2) mind; (3) emotions; (4) body; and (5) soul. Five authors will address these areas while sharing practical ways of applying biblical insight to maintain/sustain good spiritual health in the midst of our very busy and sometimes dysfunctional American lives.

Moderator: Ms. Lynn Pinder, *Psalms of the Daughter*; **Chief Visionary Officer, Christian Authors on Tour**

Panelists: Dr. Steven Haymon, *The War Within: Combating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder With the Help of God*; **Ms. Myrlande E. Sauveur**, *Daily Spiritual Vitamins and Minerals for Your Soul*; **Mitzi Lane**, *In Jesus Name, Please Don't Touch Me There*; **Mr. Vincent Adams**, *Imitating The Fatherhood of God: A Single Dad's Guide To Spiritual Parenting*

The Next Chapter: Black Geeks, Heroes, Heroines & Bullies in Middle Grade & Young Adult Books

Countee Cullen Library – 3rd Floor Conference Room

2:10p – 3:15p

Moderator: Nina Angela Mercer, *Gutta Beautiful, Gypsy & The Bully Door*

Panelists: Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, *8th Grade Superzero*, **Zetta Elliot**, *The Deep, Bird*, **Jerry Craft** *The Offenders, Mama's Boyz*; **DuEwa Frazier**, *Deanne in the Middle, Ten Marbles*

Today's young adult and middle grade market is saturated with stories of vampires, girl cliques, coming of age stories, and teenage redemption. But how do these stories include diverse characters written by authors of color who present themes for "alternate" groups of young readers, ie. Geeks, punks, nerds, sci-fi fans and the like? These diverse, award-winning authors write on a variety of themes which speak to the interests and backgrounds of today's young readers. The authors will discuss issues in diversity within the children's book market, how to reach struggling readers, including boy readers, and ways in which librarians and educators can develop programs of high interests for teen readers.

One on One: A Conversation with Author Kwan Foye, *Animal III*

Countee Cullen Library – 3rd Floor Conference Room

3:30p – 4:45p

Moderator: Max Rodriguez, Founder, Harlem Book Fair

K'wan is a multiple literary award winner and bestselling author of over a dozen titles which include *Gangsta*, *Road Dawgz*, *Street Dreams*, *Hoodlum*, *Eve*, *Hood Rat*, *Blow*, *Still Hood*, *Gutter*, *Section 8*, *From Harlem with Love*, *The Leak*, *Welfare Wifeys*, *Eviction Notice*, *Love & Gunplay*, *Animal*, *Purple Reign*, *The 1st & 15th*, *Ghetto Bastard*, *Animal II* and *Animal III*. K'wan has been featured in: *Vibe*, *Pages*, *King*, *The Library Journal*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Press*, and *Time Magazine*, to name a few. K'wan was also the recipient of the 2012 and 13 Street Lit Book Award Medals (SLBAM) in adult fiction for *Eviction Notice* and *Animal*. His credits also include featured commentary in the award winning Documentary *Iceberg Slim: Portrait of a Pimp* (produced by Ice-T) as well as a reoccurring role as an analyst on TV-One's *Celebrity Crime Files*.



QBR Text Talks at the YMCA

YMCA

180 West 135th Street

Modeled after the acclaimed TED talks, QBR's Text Talks asks authors to discuss and explore the idea *behind* their book with an audience. The listener is asked to engage the writer in the usability of his/her idea; the author engages the listener into an idea that stretches, confronts, or *moves you* to another point of view. No reading from books here...TEXT TALKS will enlighten, engage and radicalize your perspective on issues that change your life.

Introduction to Text Talks:

Max Rodriguez, Founder, Harlem Book Fair, *QBR The Black Book Review* and QBR Text Talks

The Idea: *There Is No Giving; There Is No Receiving*

12:30p – 1:00p

The Idea: *Yes! Every Day Can Be a Good Day*

June Archer, Author

Yes! Every Day Can Be a Good Day

1:00p – 2:00p

The Idea: *The Price of Power*

Junius Williams, Author

Unfinished Agenda: Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power

2:15p – 3:00p

The Idea: *Love Like You Have Never Been Hurt*

Dr. Cari Jackson, Author

Love Like You Have Never Been Hurt

3:15p – 4:15p

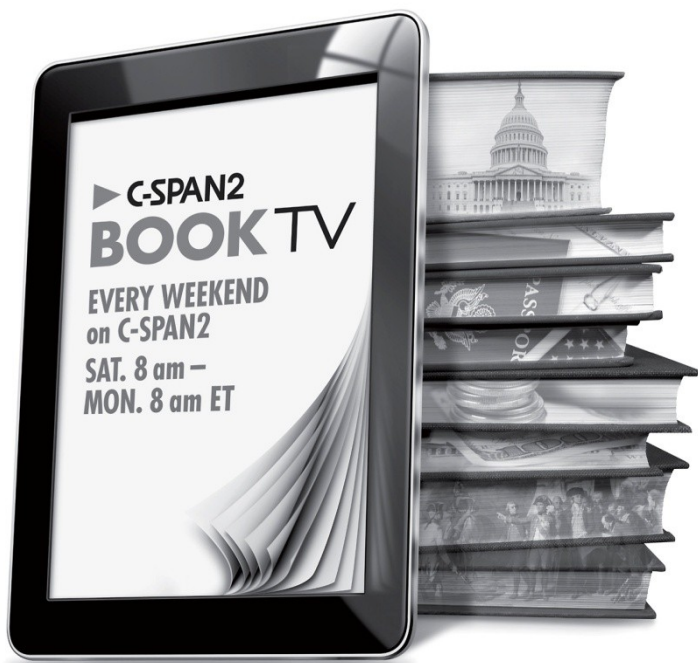
The Idea: *What Is Black?*

Daniel Black, Author

Dismantling Black Manhood; A Perfect Peace

4:30p – 5:15p

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