

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

PRESENTS

MARLON JAMES

The Books That Made Me Write Books

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL

MARCH 29, 2016 | 8 P.M.



MARLON JAMES

Marlon James' first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was rejected 78 times before being accepted for publication and ultimately becoming a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and Commonwealth Writers Prize, as well as a New York Times Editor's Choice. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, about a slave woman's revolt on a Jamaican plantation in the early 19th century, won the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and Minnesota Book Award, and was a finalist for the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction. In 2015 James became the first Jamaican author awarded the Man Booker Prize for Fiction—one of the most prestigious awards for English-language literature—for his most recent novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*.

Drawing on influences ranging from Greek tragedy, William Faulkner, and Shakespeare to modern crime novels and comic book superheroes, James combines masterful storytelling with a brilliant skill at characterization in *Brief History*. A sweeping and epic exploration of Jamaican history, culture, and politics, narrated by a cast of complex and vivid characters, the novel also won the American Book Award, Anisfield-Wolf Book Prize, and OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

James' short fiction and nonfiction have been anthologized in *Bronx Noir* and *The Book of Men: Eighty Writers on How to Be a Man*, and have appeared in *Esquire*, *Granta*, *Harper's*, *The Caribbean Review of Books*, and other publications. His widely read essay, "From Jamaica to Minnesota to Myself," appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, James graduated from The University of the West Indies in 1991 with a degree in language and literature. In 2006 he earned his master's degree in creative writing from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. He joined the faculty at Macalester College in 2007, where he teaches creative writing, postcolonial and southern literature, Latin American fiction and criticism.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 29, 8 p.m.
University of Puget Sound
Schneebeck Concert Hall

Introduction

Ronald R. Thomas
President

The Books That Made Me Write Books

Marlon James

Questions and Answers

Reception following the lecture at Pierce Atrium in Wyatt Hall.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No photo or recording devices allowed.



The Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs and the Arts series was named in honor of Susan Resneck Pierce, University of Puget Sound president from 1992 to 2003, in recognition of her years of outstanding service to the university. The lecture series annually brings to the University of Puget Sound campus and the wider community public intellectuals, writers, and artists of significant prominence.

**2016—The Honorable Eric H. Holder Jr.
in conversation with Michael Reiss, J.D.**

Principled Leadership: The Courage
to Face Challenge

2015—Edwidge Danticat

Create Dangerously

2014—Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Genealogy and Genetics

2014—E.J. Dionne

Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle
for the American Idea in an
Age of Discontent

2013—Junot Díaz

An Evening with Pulitzer Prize and *New York
Times* Bestselling Author

2013—Wole Soyinka

Writing for Freedom

2012—Robert Reich

The Global Economy and the Future
of Everything National

2012—Carlos Fuentes

From Law to Literature: A Personal Journey

2011—Kay Redfield Jamison

Minds on Fire: Mood Disorders
and Creativity

2011—Spike Lee

America Through My Lens

2009—Sherman Alexie

Without Reservations: An Urban
Indian's Comic, Poetic, and Highly
Irreverent Look at the World

2009—Suzan-Lori Parks

An Evening with Suzan-Lori Parks

2008—Twyla Tharp

The Creative Habit

2008—Cory Booker

An Evening with Cory Booker

2007—David Brooks

How Does Being American Shape Us?

2007—Philip Glass

An Evening with Philip Glass

2006—Cornel West

Democracy Matters

2006—Edward Albee

Improvisation and the Creative Mind

2005—Fareed Zakaria

The Future of Freedom

2005—Nina Totenberg

The Supreme Court and Its Impact
on You

2004—Robert Pinsky

Poetry in the World

2004—Terry Tempest Williams

The Open Space of Democracy

2003—David Halberstam

The Children: The Unique Courage
and Faith of Ordinary Citizens to
Change America

2003—Anna Deavere Smith

Snapshots: Glimpses of America
in Change

2002—Thomas Friedman

Global Economy and American
Foreign Policy