CALL FOR PROPOSALS
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2021

CONFIRMED PRESENTERS
Dr. Molefi Kete Asante
Temple University
Conceptualizer
Theory of Afrocentricity

Dr. Daryl Cumber Dance
U of Richmond & VCU
Folklorist • Professor of English Emerita

Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems
U of Missouri-Columbia
Preeminent Emmett Till Scholar & Progenitor
Theory of Africana Womanism

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Cal State University, Long Beach
Creator of Kwanzaa &
Founder of Kawaida Philosophy

Mrs. Val Gray Ward
Baldwin Contemporary
BAM Dramatist & Founder
Kuumba Theatre, Chicago

Dr. Joanne Gabbin
James Madison University
Founding Executive Director
Furious Flower Poetry Center

Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti
Chicago State University
Professor Emeritus
BAM Poet (Don L. Lee) & Founder
Third World Press

CONVENOR
Dr. Pamela D. Reed
Associate Professor Languages & Literature
Preed@vsu.edu

THE JAMES ARTHUR BALDWIN (JAB) SYMPOSIUM

Few American authors have written and spoken as unreservedly, presciently – and prophetically, even – about race in America, as did the incomparable James Arthur Baldwin. The celebrated, yet controversial, artist – born in Harlem in 1924 – routinely held up a mirror to American society, and never bowed, despite untold dangers, until the time of his 1987 passing, in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France, at age 63. His body of work stands out in the literary canon as one of the most sublime, prolific, and imposing of the 20th Century. Not bound by genre, Baldwin wore numerous literary hats: novelist, essayist, poet, and playwright. To this day, his works and words are closely examined to pinpoint recurring themes and motifs that, even now, more than three decades since his passing, continue to resonate with – and inspire – generations of thinkers to study and build upon his ideas. As such, his oeuvre has become a mainstay in the canons of both American and World Literatures. The late Black Arts Movement (BAM) Poet Laureate Amiri Baraka, in his funerary tribute at Baldwin’s Harlem Homegoing, called him “God’s Black Revolutionary Mouth,” declaring that Black people MUST celebrate Ancestor Jimmy Baldwin, “if we are ever truly to be self-determining.” And, celebrate him, we shall!!
THEME
The Essential James Baldwin:
The 21st Century and Beyond, At Home & Abroad

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The Office of Academic Affairs, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, and Honors Program at Virginia State University – a storied HBCU – are seeking proposals for The Inaugural James Arthur Baldwin Symposium.

No later than 1 September 2021, abstracts of no more than 250 words and condensed CVs (1-2 pages), as well as any inquiries, should be emailed to:

The JAB Symposium Selection Committee
jabsymposium.vsu@gmail.com

Those selected for inclusion will be notified and given specific guidelines for full-paper submission, no later than 15 September 2021. Multidisciplinary perspectives are sought. Student entries are encouraged.

TOPICS
The Richard Wright Influence :: Baldwin’s Realism
Teaching Activist Baldwin :: Forefather of the Black Lives Matter Movement
Baldwin :: Son of Harlem & Citizen of the World
James Arthur Baldwin :: Same-Gender-Loving Black Man
The Genre-Defying Poetry, Plays, & Prose of James Baldwin
From Disillusioned Boy Preacher to Race Man :: Baldwin & Christianity

MEDIA
Papers • Panel Proposals • Posters • Short Films/Documentaries
Poetry • Music Videos • Digital Art