Thank you for joining the Griot Institute as we engage scholars and artists in conversations that reflect on the intersections between African-American activism, the creative process, and questions of aesthetics, particularly in light of the crises of the contemporary moment. Artistic workshops open to the community.
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2016

Sponsored by
The Griot Institute for Africana Studies

Conference Director
Carmen Gillespie
Director of the Griot Institute and Professor of English

Welcome to the
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART: ACTIVISM AND AESTHETICS
CONFERENCE AT BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

4 p.m.
Dancing the Words: Intersections between Movement, Writing, and Activism in the Creative Process with Nate Hunt and Indigo Moor
Willard Smith Library, Vaughan Literature Building

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

12 – 1:30 p.m.
Conversation, Workshop, and Lunch with Indigo Moor • Walls Lounge, Elaine Langone Center (ELC)

6 – 9 p.m.
Registration; book display and vendors • Tustin Building

6:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Opening Remarks by Associate Provost Robert Midkiff • Tustin Building

6:30 – 7 p.m.
Poetry Reading by Indigo Moor, poet, author of Through the Stonecutter’s Window, and Tap-Root • Tustin Building

7 – 7:30 p.m.
Dance Performance by Nate Hunt, dancer, Ailey II, Ballet Hispanico. Co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre & Dance • Tustin Building

7:45 – 9 p.m.
Musical Performance by the Bucknell Jazz Quartet • Tustin Building

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.
Panel Session I • Center Room, ELC

10 – 11:15 a.m.
Panel Session II • Center Room, ELC

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Panel Session III • Center Room, ELC

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.
Lunch (on own)

2 – 3:15 p.m.
Roundtable Conversation: African American Arts: Activism and Aesthetics • Forum, ELC

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.
Panel Session IV • Center Room, ELC

5 – 5:05 p.m.
Introduction by Professor Christiane Andersson, Art & Art History • Walls Lounge, ELC

5:05 – 6:15 p.m.
Keynote Address and Q & A with Carrie Mae Weems • Walls Lounge, ELC

6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Conference Dinner • Walls Lounge, ELC

7:30 p.m.
Jazz Performance by Jimmy Greene, saxophonist, “Love in Action” featuring Rene Rosnes, Ben Williams, and Jeff “Tain” Watts. Co-sponsored by Jazz@Bucknell and the Department of Music • Bucknell Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

10 – 11:15 a.m.
Panel Session V • Center Room, ELC

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Panel Session VI • Center Room, ELC

1 – 2:15 p.m.
Conference Lunch with Introductory Remarks by Provost Barbara Altmann, followed by a Reading and Musical Interpretation by Ntozake Shange, author of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf and award-winning musician and composer Jimmy Greene • Carnegie Building

2:30 – 4 p.m.
Why Hamilton, the Musical Matters: A Workshop and Conversation • Center Room, ELC

Conference Adjourns
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND CONFERENCE PANELS

**Program subject to change**

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

<table>
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<td>Conversation, workshop, and lunch with poet, playwright, fiction writer, playwright, screenwriter, and engineer, Indigo Moor, in conjunction with the African American Arts: Aesthetics and Activism Conference. The workshop will explore the past, present, real (and invented) cultures as they present in the writing process. During this workshop we will examine seven elements of history and culture and their relationship to creating strong poetry, fiction, and scripts. Co-sponsored by the Stadler Center for Poetry • Walls Lounge, Elaine Lanagone Center.</td>
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<td>6 – 9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Panel Session I • Center Room – Elaine Langone Center (ELC) Session Chair: Carol White, Professor of Religion, Bucknell University Paulo Freire’s “Dialogue Action” in Octavia Butler’s Parable Series Nora Bonner, Georgia State University Performing “New Nationalism”: Josefina Báez’s “Living Culture” in Dominicanish Florencia V. Cornet, Ph.D., University of South Carolina, Columbia Crowdsourcing Resistance: Labor, Love, and Genre Fiction Maria Velazquez, Bucknell University</td>
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<td>10 – 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Panel Session II • Center Room (ELC) Session Chair: Cymone Fourshey, Professor of History and International Relations, Bucknell University Transnational Activism on the Operatic Stage: Black Women Sing Aida Lucy Caplan, Yale University From Baldwin to Beyonce: Exploring the Responsibility of the Artist in Society — Re-envisioning the Black Female Sonic Artist as Citizen Abby Dobson, African American Policy Forum, Artist-in-Residence “New Perspectives in Black Art” from an Oakland Class of ’68 Jo-Ann Morgan, Western Illinois University</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel Session III • Center Room (ELC) Session Chair: Carmen Gillespie, Professor of English, Bucknell University Contrarians of the World Unite! Taking the Ballad of Pauline Kael to the Streets of Detroit Daniel McNeil, Carleton University Performing Ghana: Hiplife Music, Cultural Identity and Politics Samuel Elkern Kern Nyanuame, Birmingham University</td>
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Saturdays, October 1

Panel Session V • Center Room, ELC
Session Chair: James Peterson, Professor of African Studies, Lehigh University
*Arthur Mitchell, What Can You Do?*: Creating a Space for Blackness in Ballet
Lauren Angel, George Washington University
Pearl Primus’ Choreo-Activism: 1943 – 1949
Doria Charleston, Brown University

Panel Session VI • Center Room, ELC
Session Chair: Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, Professor of Theatre and Dance, Bucknell University
“I Am Basquiat” – Jean-Michael Basquiat's Alterity and Activism in Paint and Performance
Genevieve Hyacinthe, Purchase College, State University of New York
Theatre of Common Sense: Ernie McClintock and Black Aesthetic(s)
Ibby Cizmar, Bucknell University
Black Acting Methods and Activism
Sharrell Luckett, Mohlenberg College

Conference Lunch with Introductory Remarks by Bucknell Provost, Barbara Altmann and Reading and Musical Interpretation by Nozake Shange, author of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf and award-winning musician and composer Jimmy Greene • Carnegie Building

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Conference Adjourns

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PERFORMERS (in alphabetical order)

JIMMY GREENE

Jimmy Greene’s debut recording for Mack Avenue, Beautiful Life, is a celebration of the life of his 6-year-old daughter, Ana Márquez-Greene, whose life was tragically taken, along with 19 other children and educators, on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The album garnered two Grammy® nominations: one for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and the other for Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals for Greene’s arrangement of his composition “When I Come Home,” featuring vocalist Javier Colon.

“I want to give a sense of how Ana lived,” Greene says. He fulfills that mandate with an intense, cohesive, genre-spanning program, juxtaposing the hardcore instrumental jazz for which he is best known with traditional spirituals, contemporary Christian music, standard ballads, and three original songs framing his own lyrics. Animated in the repertoire is a gold-standard rhythm section (Renee Rosnes, piano; Christian McBride, bass; Lewis Nash, drums), augmented at various points by guitarists Pat Metheny and Jonathan DuBose; pianists Kenny Barron and Cyrus Chestnut; vocalists Colon, Kurt Elling and Latanya Farrell; spoken word from Tony® Award-winning actress Anika Noni Rose; a 13-piece string ensemble from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra; as well as an accomplished children’s choir. He composed or arranged every selection and plays tenor and soprano saxophones and flute with customary authority, melodic focus and abiding soulfulness.

A native of Hartford, CT, Greene is considered one of the most respected saxophonists of his generation since his graduation from the Hartt School of Music in 1997. His previous solo releases, Live at Smalls (Smallslive), Mission Statement (RazDaz/Sunnyside), The Overcomers Suite (NuJazz), Gifts and Givers (Crisis Cross), True Life Stories (Crisis Cross), Forever (Crisis Cross), Brand New World (RCA Victor), Live at Birdland (RCA Victor) and Introducing Jimmy Greene (Crisis Cross) have been met with much critical acclaim. In fact, Tony Hall of Jazzwise Magazine (UK) calls Greene “ ...without doubt one of the most striking young tenors of recent years.”

The Jimmy Greene Quartet performs regularly in jazz venues, festivals and clubs worldwide, including the Village Vanguard (New York), Le Club (Moscow), Casa del Jazz (Rome), Sunside Jazz Club (Paris), Red Sea Jazz Festival (Israel), Lapataia Jazz Festival (Uruguay) and Amazonas Jazz Festival (Brazil). In one such appearance, Jim Macnie of the Jazzwise Magazine (UK) calls Greene “ ...without doubt one of the most striking young tenors of recent years.”

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In addition to his recordings and appearances as a leader, Greene appears on 75 albums as a sideman, and has toured and/or recorded with Horace Silver, Tom Harrell, Freddie Hubbard, Harry Connick, Jr., Avishai Cohen, Kenny Barron, Lewis Nash, Steve Turre, the New Jazz Composers Octet and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, among many others. As a member of Harrell’s quintet, Greene was featured on CBS’s benchmark news magazine, 60 Minutes. As a member of Harry Connick Jr’s Big Band, Greene is a featured soloist on two DVD releases, Harry for the Holidays, and Only You. He was featured as a soloist on Connick’s 2003 holiday special aired on NBC, in addition to NBC’s Today Show, and BBC’s Parkinson Show.

As a composer, Greene was awarded the prestigious 2005 ASCAP / JAJE Commission in honor of Ornette Coleman, the 2013 State of Connecticut Governor’s Arts Award in Music, the City of Hartford’s Innovator Award in Music. Greene was named a 2004 Winner of Chamber Music America’s New Works: Creation and Presentation grant for jazz composition, awarded a 2005 Artist Fellowship in Music Composition by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, and awarded a 2009 Individual Artist Grant by the Greater Hartford Arts Council. 40 of Greene’s original compositions and arrangements have been recorded on the RCA Victor, Smallslive, Crisis Cross, NuJazz and RazDaz / Sunnyside labels. In addition, Greene’s performance of his composition “Mr. McLean” was aired throughout the US and Canada on ABC-TV during a NASCAR pre-race broadcast in September 2007.
NATHANIEL HUNT

Nathaniel Hunt began his dance training at Glen Burnie High School under the direction of Dianne Rosso. While in high school, his passion for dance performance and choreography was strongly cultivated and supported by Ms. Rosso and her Dance for the Athletes Program. Her encouragement led him to study at Design In Motion Dance Studio in Gambriils, MD (under the guidance of Colette Cross), and Spotlight Studio of Dance in Millersville, MD (directed by Wynette McGovern.) Post high school graduation, Mr. Hunt ventured to New York to continue his artistic and educational studies. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.F.A. in Dance from Long Island University, Brooklyn (under the direction of Dana Hash-Campbell.)

Mr. Hunt studied as a scholarship student at the Ailey School. Earl Mosley’s Institute for the Arts, and the Joffrey Ballet School. He also attended The School at Jacob’s Pillow Contemporary Program and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet’s 360° program. He has worked with choreographers Ronald K. Brown, Alexandina Damiani, Manuel Vignoulle, and Larry Keigwin. Mr. Hunt is a recipient of a Maryland Distinguished Scholar of the Arts Award, the Alvin Ailey Scholarship Award, and the Award for Excellence in the Arts Program from the National Society of Arts and Letters (in association with The Kennedy Center). Mr. Hunt has performed works by Bill T. Jones, Robert Battle, Dwight Rhoden, and Alvin Ailey. He has performed with Earl Mosley’s Diversity of Dance, Maria Bauman’s MBdance, and has been a rehearsal director/assistant for Hope Boykin Dance.

As an educator and creator, Mr. Hunt has taught and choreographed at numerous dance centers including dance studios, high schools, and collegiate institutions within the United States. His choreography was selected to be performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. at the National College Dance Festival in 2012. He has had the esteemed honor in working closely with the current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s rehearsal director and guest artist, Matthew Rushing. While working with Mr. Rushing on copious projects, Mr. Hunt has helped in setting choreography on the students of the Ailey School as well as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Recently, Mr. Hunt was a member of Ailey II, the second company to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

INDIGO MOOR

Indigo Moor is a poet, playwright, and author currently residing in Sacramento, CA. His second book of poetry, Through the Stonecutter’s Window, won Northwestern University Press’s Cave Canem prize. His first book, Tap-Roof, was published as part of Main Street Rag’s Editor’s Select Poetry Series.

Three of his short plays, Harvest, Shuffling, and the Red and Yellow Quartet, debuted at the 60 Million Plus Theatre’s Spring Playwright’s festival. His stage play Live! at the Excelsior was a finalist for the Images Theatre Playwright Award and is being made into a full length film.

A graduate of the Stonecoast MFA Program — where he studies poetry, fiction, and scriptwriting — Indigo is also a graduate of the Artist’s Residency Institute for Teaching Artists and former vice president of the Sacramento Poetry Center. Winner of the 2005 Vasile Fenstermaker Prize for Emerging Writers, a 2009 Pushcart Prize nominee, and 2008 Jack Kerouac Poetry Contest, Indigo’s other honors include finalist finishes for the T.S. Eliot Prize, Crab Orchard First Book Prize, Saturnalia First Book Award, Naomi Long Madgett Book Award, and WordWorks Prize.

Indigo teaches workshops throughout the Bay area and the greater Sacramento Valley region.

JAMES PETERSON

Dr. James Peterson is the Director of Africana Studies and Associate Professor of English at Lehig University and a Media Contributor. A graduate of Duke University and the University of Pennsylvania, he is also the founder of Hip Hop Scholars, Inc., an association of hip hop generational scholars dedicated to researching and developing the cultural and educational potential of hip hop, urban, and youth cultures.

NTOZAKE SHANGE

Ntozake Shange is one of America’s greatest living writers — an acknowledged master in the genres of drama, fiction, memoir, and poetry. Shange was raised mainly in Trenton, NJ, and St. Louis, MO. In her childhood, she was affected deeply by the Civil Rights Movement and forced school busing. Later, attending Barnard College in the late 1960’s, she came under the influence of a wide variety of radical movements, including the May 1968 student protests in France, the anti-war movement, feminism, the black arts and black liberation movements, the Puerto Rican liberation movement, and the Sixties sexual revolution. She later became a voice for all these social justice movements, but above all she spoke for, and in fact embodied, the ongoing struggle of black women for equality, dignity, and respect for their enormous contribution to human culture. Her theatre piece For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When the Rainbow Is Enuf (dubbed a “choreopoem” for its highly original combination of music, poetry, and dance) was a stunning success on Broadway in 1976–77. Considered a landmark not just in American theatre but also in theatre worldwide, it won an Obie while still off-Broadway at the Public Theater. For Colored Girls... has been performed continuously since, both in the United States and abroad, has remained in print since its publication in 1974 and was made into a movie by Tyler Perry in 2010. For Colored Girls... stands as one of only two unquestioned Broadway hit productions by African American women in the history of the New York theater — the other being the incomparable Lorraine Hansberry’s A Raisin in the Sun from 1959. Shange won a second Obie in 1981 for her adaptation of Bertolt Brecht’s Mother Courage and Her Children at the Public Theater, and she has won a veritable mountain of other awards, including an Outer Critics Circle Award, an
AUDELCO award, a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund annual writer’s award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for poetry, the Paul Robeson Achievement Award, the National Black Theatre Festival’s Living Legend Award, a New Federal Theatre lifetime achievement award, and the Medal of Excellence from Columbia University. She has also been nominated for Tony, Grammy, and Emmy awards.

In a hugely prolific career, Shange has written 15 plays, 19 poetry collections, six novels, five children’s books, three collections of essays, and a partial memoir called Lost in Language & Sound. Among her more notable novels are Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo; Betsey Brown (about her childhood and the Civil Rights movement in St. Louis), and Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter, a highly innovative fiction incorporating the methods of psychoanalysis in a semi-autobiographical novel — a prose work that, like many other pieces of her fiction and poetry, she has also adapted for the stage. Among her other notable plays are A Photograph: Lovers in Motion; Spell # 7; and From Okra to Greens. She also collaborated with some of the most notable black photographers of her era in the highly-praised photo-and-poetry collection The Sweet Breath of Life.

CARRIE MAE WEEMS

Considered one of the most influential contemporary American artists, Carrie Mae Weems has investigated family relationships, cultural identity, sexism, class, political systems and the consequences of power. Determined as ever to enter the picture — both literally and metaphorically — Weems has sustained an on-going dialogue within contemporary discourse for over thirty years. During this time Carrie Mae Weems has developed a complex body of art employing photographs, text, fabric, audio, digital images, installation, and video.

In a recent review of her retrospective in the New York Times, Holland Cotter wrote, “Ms. Weems is what she has always been, a superb image maker and a moral force, focused and irrepressible.” Weems has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at major national and international museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Frist Center for Visual Art, Solomon Guggenheim Museum in New York, and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo in Seville, Spain.

Weems has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships including the prestigious Prix de Roma, The National Endowment of the Arts, the Alpert, the Anonymous was a Woman and the Tiffany Awards. In 2012, Weems was presented with one of the first U.S. Department of State’s Medals of Arts in recognition for her commitment to the State Department’s Art in Embassies program.

In 2013 Weems received the MacArthur “Genius” grant as well as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Since she has also received the BET Honors Visual Artist award, the Lucie Award for Fine Art photography, the ICP Spotlights Award from the International Center of Photography, the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal from Harvard University, the Distinguished Feminist Award from the College Arts Association, and the National Artist Award from Anderson Ranch.

Ever invested in social causes, Weems also serves on the board of several institutions including People for the American Way, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Art21, the Everson Museum of Art, and the Gifford Foundation.

She is represented in public and private collections around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Modern Art, NY and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Weems has been represented by Jack Shainman Gallery since 2008.