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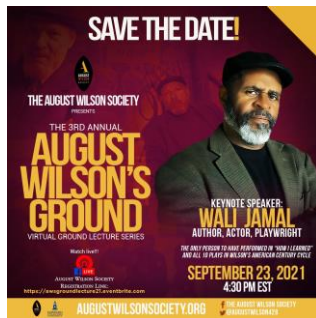
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August Wilson Society's 3rd Annual August Wilson's Ground Lecture Series



Washington DC – The August Wilson Society (AWS) is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for its 3rd Annual August Wilson's Ground Lecture Series scheduled for September 23, 2021: Wali Jamal, Pittsburgh-based author, actor, playwright and the first and only actor to have performed in all eleven of Wilson's produced plays.

Now in 2021 African Americans face levels of blatant discrimination, physical assaults and roll backs in constitutional rights not seen since the pre-Civil Rights era of Jim Crow. With this in mind, planners for this year's August Wilson's Ground Lecture Series are unanimous in selecting the focus of the 3rd annual lecture: a critical look at how Wilson's body of work advocates for justice for the oppressed, for the marginalized, or for the misunderstood and wrongfully accused. We are particularly interested in how Wilson's characters resist and, in some instances, change these social injustices, unfair laws and public policies--all while insisting upon their dignity.

The theme of the 2021 August Wilson's Ground Lecture is in direct response to a combination of these forces that impede progress among African Americans. In his much-anticipated talk, Wali Jamal will decipher Wilson's strategies for negotiating social (in)justice, unjust laws and public policies, and other state-sanctioned violence and discriminatory practices that emerge in Wilson's American Century plays. Affectionately dubbed a Wilsonian Warrior, the veteran performer Jamal knew Wilson personally and, as an insider, has a wealth of knowledge about his American Century Cycle plays.

This increasingly popular forum provides a space to examine Wilson's American Century Cycle plays through various interdisciplinary lenses to raise awareness and to find solutions to issues that impact the lives of African Americans. In addition, these well attended gatherings identify areas of much needed scholarship and ultimately raise the bar for August Wilson Studies.

Due to heightened concerns surrounding the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 August Wilson's Ground lecture will be a virtual event that can be accessed by registered attendees on either StreamYard or YouTube platforms. The lecture will be delivered on September 23, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. EDT.

To register for the 3rd Annual August Wilson's Ground lecture, click on the following Eventbrite link: <https://awsgroundlecture21.eventbrite.com> or visit the AWS website at www.augustwilsonsociety.org. For more information, contact August Wilson Society President, Sandra G. Shannon, PhD at info@augustwilsonsociety.org.

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Ticket prices Registration for this event is free for current August Wilson Society members. Become a member today by clicking on <https://www.augustwilsonsociety.org/membership>. Reduced rates are available for graduate and undergraduate students and FREE admission for high school students.

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The August Wilson Society is a multidisciplinary community of educators, visual and performing artists and practitioners, students, and theatre lovers who remain dedicated to commemorating August Wilson's legacy by promoting the studying, teaching, researching, performing, and ultimately the safeguarding of the rich narrative of the African American past that Wilson has bequeathed to us in the form of 10 plays that chronicle the stories of African Americans from 1904 to 1997.

Howard University Founded in 1867, Howard University is a private, research university comprised of 14 schools and colleges. Students pursue more than 140 programs of study leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. The University operates with a commitment to Excellence in Truth and Service and has produced one Schwarzman Scholar, three Marshall Scholars, four Rhodes Scholars, 12 Truman Scholars, 25 Pickering Fellows and more than 165 Fulbright recipients. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States.