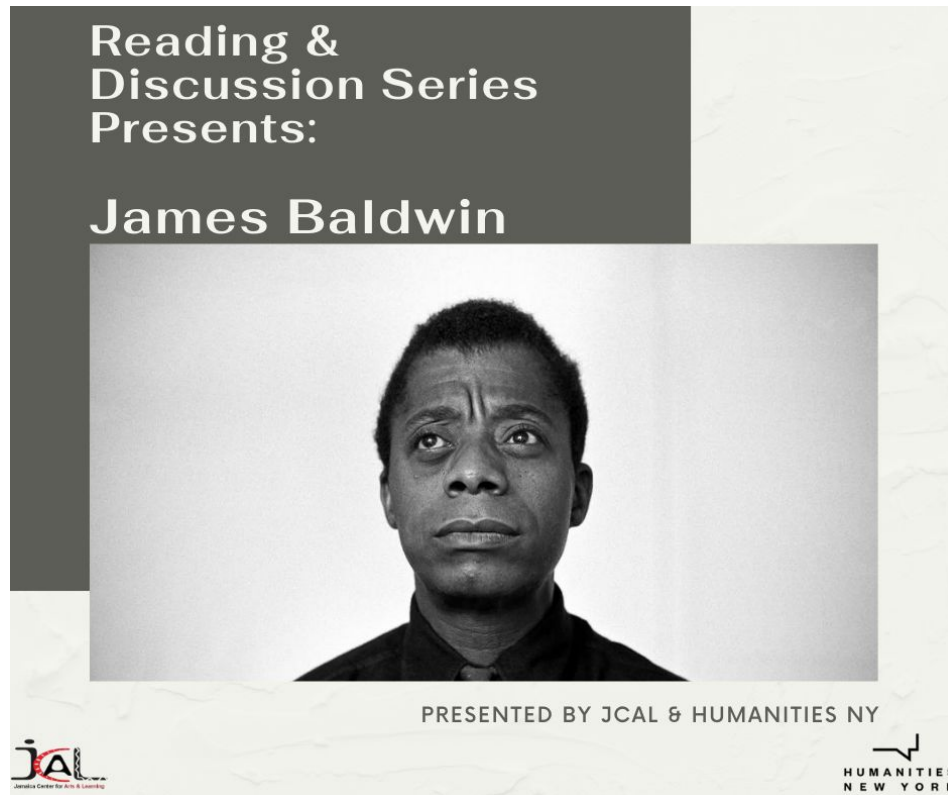


***Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning
to host James Baldwin focused
Reading & Discussion Series***



September 2nd (New York) -- In a continued effort to provide accessible and relevant educational opportunities to Southeast Queens, the **Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL)** will host an **online Reading & Discussion series**. The theme will be “**James Baldwin’s America.**” The program is free.

Prior to each session of “James Baldwin’s America,” participants will receive a series of thematically linked texts. Over the course of four sessions held once a month on Tuesday evenings, 7pm, from September to December, participants gather via Zoom to discuss the reading, and the work of James Baldwin, in a 90-minute conversation facilitated by a trained local scholar. This initiative is made possible by an Action Grant from Humanities New York.



For Immediate Release

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The series begins Tuesday, September 15, 7pm, on Zoom. Other confirmed dates include October 13, November 10 and December 8. Upon registering, participants will be sent a PDF containing the reading material. **Other multimedia sources, such as documentaries, will also be referenced.** The series is based on “James Baldwin’s America,” a curated collection of early novels, essays and stories by the acclaimed author.

The “James Baldwin’s America” Reading & Discussion series will be led by **Iyvon Edebiri**, an award-winning New York-based theater producer, company manager, dramaturg and scholar. Iyvon is the co-founder, Artistic Director and Host of The Parsnip Ship, a radio-play podcast series. She was the recipient of the 2019 Mark O’Donnell Prize awarded by The Actors Fund and Playwrights Horizons for emerging, anomalous theater artists.

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About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to provide accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL is temporarily closed in accordance with state and local guidelines. Normal operating hours: Open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit JCAL.org.

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