

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2014

CONTACT:
Rusty Barnes 510.642.9121
rbarnes@calperformances.org

[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

ADDED EVENT

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS EGYPTIAN POLITICAL SATIRIST BASSEM YOUSSEF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

This Berkeley Talks event is in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement.

BERKELEY, September 16, 2014—Named to *TIME* magazine’s list of the “100 Most Influential People in the World” (2013), **Bassem Youssef**, “the Jon Stewart of Egypt,” will take part in a conversation with UC Berkeley Chancellor **Nicholas B. Dirks** on Wednesday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. A cardiac surgeon-turned-political satirist, Youssef became a television personality as the host of Al-Bernameg (“The Show”), which began in 2011 as a series of five-minute YouTube segments. It later became the most watched show in the history of Egyptian television, averaging 40 million viewers each week. As a result of his bold criticism, an arrest warrant was issued for Youssef in March 2013, accusing him of insulting Islam and Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, and for disrupting public order and peace. In October 2013, Capital Broadcast Center (CBC), the broadcasting network of Al-Bernameg, ceased airing the show on its channels. This Berkeley Talks event will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement by continuing to foster dialogue around the modern issues of free speech in times of revolution.

[Berkeley Talks](#) is a new series of conversations hosted by UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks, bringing together international luminaries to examine the distinctive issues of our time. Visiting speakers will engage in dialogue at the nexus between their area of expertise and the university’s core mission, furthering the Chancellor’s vision of a vibrant, engaged, and forward-looking campus culture. Speakers include grandfather of the graphic novel [Art Spiegelman](#) on Friday, October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall, comedian and best-selling

-MORE-

author [David Sedaris](#) on Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall, and cellist [Yo-Yo Ma](#) on Wednesday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall.

Bassem Youssef was inspired to create his first program, "The B+ Show," on YouTube in response to the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. The show quickly gained five million views in only three months, and led to an offer from Egyptian television network ONTV to create a weekly political satire television program called "Al-Bernameg" in 2011. Modeled after Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show," Al-Bernameg was the first show of its kind in the Middle East and the first to include a live audience. By 2013, Youssef's YouTube channel had more than two million subscribers and 184 million total views, growing tremendously through the show's humorous yet bold criticism of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. Following his arrest in March 2013, Youssef took a break from Al-Bernameg. He returned to the air in October 2013 with a show that stirred significant controversy, prompting CBC to remove the program from its channels. Meanwhile, more than 120 complaints were filed at the General Prosecutor's office, accusing Youssef of insulting the Armed Forces and Acting President Adly Mansour, and for describing the June 30 revolution as a military coup. The General Prosecutor's investigation continues today. In June 2014, Youssef announced he will end Al-Bernameg due to pressure on both the show and the airing channel, and out of fear for his family's safety.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Bassem Youssef** on Wednesday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$20.00 to \$48.00 and are subject to change. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, September 23 at 12:00 p.m. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

#

Cal Performances' 2014—2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

#

ADDED EVENT

Wednesday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Berkeley Talks

Bassem Youssef, speaker

Program:

Egyptian political satirist and television personality Bassem Youssef will take part in a conversation with UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Free Speech Movement by continuing to foster dialogue around the modern issues of free speech in times of revolution.

Tickets: Prices range from \$20.00 to \$48.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

– Cal Performances –