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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 3, 2017

[Press Room](#)



High resolution images of Marlon James are available for download from Cal Performances' online press room.

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
*BERKELEY TALKS* FEATURING MARLON JAMES,  
MAN BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING JAMAICAN AUTHOR  
MARCH 1 AT 8PM IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Berkeley, February 3, 2017** — In the first event of the spring 2017 season of *Berkeley Talks*, Cal Performances will host Jamaican author Marlon James, winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, on Wednesday, March 1 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. James will appear alongside Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks in a far-reaching discussion that will explore his writing process, as well as the themes that underlie his celebrated works of fiction: the colonial history of the Caribbean, race and gender in the US and UK, and hip-hop and reggae youth subcultures.

Marlon James won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for his most recent novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, making him the first Jamaican author to take home the UK's most prestigious literary award. In the work, James explores Jamaican history through the perspectives of multiple narrators and genres: the political thriller, the oral biography, and the classic whodunit confront the untold history of Jamaica in the 1970s, with excursions to the assassination attempt on reggae musician Bob Marley, as well as the country's own clandestine battles during the cold war.

James' first novel, *John Crow's Devil* (2005), tells the story of a biblical struggle in a remote Jamaican village in the 1950s. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women* (2009), is about a slave woman's revolt on a Jamaican plantation in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

James was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1970. The son of two police officers, he had a front-row seat to the violence, unrest, and political turmoil that ruled the country for decades. James currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and teaches English and creative writing at Macalester College.

A limited number of press passes will be available for this event.

### ABOUT BERKELEY TALKS

*Berkeley Talks* brings international thought leaders, public intellectuals, creators, and innovators to the Berkeley campus to engage in dialogues with campus scholars on distinctive and timely issues, exploring forward-thinking concepts that impact our global community and intersect with the university's core mission of teaching, research, and public service. Past speakers in the series have included Alphabet executive chairman Eric Schmidt; co-founder and LinkedIn executive chairman Reid Hoffman; grandfather of the graphic novel Art Spiegelman; Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr; cellist Yo-Yo Ma; authors Michael Lewis, Jonathan Franzen, and Michael Ondaatje; and many others.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for this event are general admission and are available to the public for \$5. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, by phone at (510) 642-9988, and online at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org).

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### **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Wednesday, March 1 at 8pm

Zellerbach Hall  
Bancroft Way at Dana Street  
UC Berkeley campus

### ***Berkeley Talks***

**Marlon James, author**

**Nicholas B. Dirks, Chancellor, UC Berkeley**

**Program:** Jamaican author Marlon James, winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks engage in a far-reaching discussion that will explore James' writing process, as well as the themes that underlie his celebrated works of fiction: the colonial history of the Caribbean, race and gender in the US and UK, and hip-hop and reggae youth subcultures.

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