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[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES AND THE
UC BERKELEY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PRESENT**

***A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER:*
THE WILD WEST OF THE WEB, THE FIRST AMENDMENT,
AND SAVING THE NEWS
MONDAY, APRIL 12 AT 5PM (PDT)**

**Harvard Law School professor Martha Minow and Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky
join veteran investigative reporter Lowell Bergman
for a conversation on social media, the news industry, and the First Amendment**

**This free, livestreamed discussion is presented as part Cal Performances’
Illuminations: Fact or Fiction programming**

**A recording of this event will be available on demand
for three months following the livestream**

Berkeley, March 29, 2021 — Cal Performances, in partnership with UC Berkeley’s Institute of International Studies, presents *A Clear and Present Danger: The Wild West of the Web, the First Amendment, and Saving the News*, a free, livestreamed discussion on Monday, April 12 at 5pm (PDT). The conversation will feature **Martha Minow**, 300th Anniversary University Professor at Harvard Law School; **Erwin Chemerinsky**, Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law at Berkeley Law; and **Lowell Bergman**, Emeritus Reva and David Logan Distinguished Chair in Investigative Reporting at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

The live discussion will center on issues discussed in Minow’s forthcoming book, *Saving the News*, in particular the impact social media platforms—which have the power to determine whose voice is heard, and whose commercial business model delivers the news in a way that has polarized the nation—have on the news industry. “As Internet platforms draw attention, profit from ads and uncompensated posts, the news industry—the public’s primary generator of reliable information—has experienced decades of decline and hundreds of local communities have no coverage of local politics, health, police, or corruption. The Constitution mentions and protects only one private

industry: the press—and at this moment, local, regional and even national news media are on the ropes or dying,” said Minow.

In her book, Minow addresses the ongoing news industry crisis and argues for the necessity of vigorous government regulation, along with innovative policies designed to rescue reliable news from extinction. For the live discussion Minow will be joined by Chemerinsky—a renowned legal scholar who has argued First Amendment cases before the US Supreme Court—for a conversation exploring what role—if any—government regulation and action can, and should, play in taming the forces that now threaten the existence of a free press and democracy itself. Veteran reporter/producer Lowell Bergman will moderate the discussion, adding his own perspective on the history of the regulation of electronic media.

This event is free and open to the public and will feature a Q&A session following the discussion. Questions for the participants can be submitted at calperformances.org/clear-present-danger. Following the livestream, the program will be available to view on demand for three months, through July 12, 2021, at calperformances.org/beyond-the-stage.

A Clear and Present Danger is presented as part of Cal Performances’ ongoing [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) programming, which examines what happens when alteration of the truth—even the deliberate dissemination of disinformation—begins to affect our ability to tell fact from fiction, and how this challenge is impacting today’s world.

Produced in partnership with the UC Berkeley Institute of International Studies, this event is co-sponsored by the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation and *Investigative Studios*, along with UC Berkeley’s Berkeley Law, the Center for the Study of Security in Politics, the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association, the Goldman School of Public Policy, and the Institute of Governmental Studies.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

LIVESTREAMED EVENT

Monday, April 12, 5pm (PDT)

Following the livestream, this event will be available to view on demand for three months, through July 12, 2021, at calperformances.org/beyond-the-stage

A Clear and Present Danger:

The Wild West of the Web, the First Amendment, and Saving the News

Program: Harvard Law School professor Martha Minow joins Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky—a renowned legal scholar who has argued First Amendment cases before the US Supreme Court—for a live, online conversation exploring what role—if any—government regulation and action can, and should, play in taming the forces that now threaten the very existence of a free press and democracy itself. Veteran reporter/producer and Berkeley emeritus professor

Lowell Bergman will moderate the discussion, adding his own perspective on the history of the regulation of electronic media.

This event is part of Cal Performances' [Illuminations: Fact or Fiction](#) programming.

Tickets: This online conversation is free and open to the public. Advance registration is recommended at calperformances.org/clear-present-danger.

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