

“The Intellectual’s Dilemma”: 2009 Callaloo Conference To Feature Michael Eric Dyson, Rita Dove And Houston Baker March 25-28

March 16, 2009 – Have African-American intellectuals abandoned the Civil Rights Movement? Do black academics need to reengage the larger community, and if so, how? What is the relationship between contemporary politics and popular culture?

Some of the nation’s most prominent African-American writers and thinkers will address these questions and more during the 2009 Callaloo Conference, which takes place March 25-28 at Washington University in St. Louis.



Rita Dove

Other events will include readings by Pulitzer Prize-winning poets Rita Dove and Yusef Komunyakaa, respectively at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27. Panel discussions will focus on recent books by the influential academics Houston A. Baker Jr, and Richard Iton – both of whom will be in attendance – as well as on works by Harold Cruse, bell hooks and Cornell West.

The conference will conclude Saturday, March 28, with a series of informal readings beginning at 5 p.m. in the Ethiopian restaurant Queen of Sheba, 6665 Olive Blvd.

All events are free and open to the public and – other than the concluding readings – take place on Washington University’s Danforth Campus. For more information, contact Anton DiSclafani, lecturer in the Department of English, at

adisclaf@artsci.wustl.edu or (314) 935-5047.

For a complete schedule, visit
http://callaloo.tamu.edu/events_StL_schedule.htm

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 25th

8 p.m., Whitaker Auditorium

Keynote address: Michael Eric Dyson, Georgetown University

Welcome: Vincent Sherry, Washington University in St. Louis,

John Baugh, Washington University in St. Louis

Introductions: Charles H. Rowell, Texas A&M University and
editor, Callaloo;

Salamishah Tillet, University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, March 26

10 a.m., Hurst Lounge

Panel discussion: "On Harold Cruse's The Crisis of the Negro
Intellectual"

Panelists: Carole Boyce Davies, Cornell University; Fred
Moten, Duke University;

and Francesca Royster, DePaul University of Chicago

Moderator: Garrett Duncan, Washington University in St. Louis

MC: Adrienne Davis, Washington University in St. Louis

2 p.m., Hurst Lounge

Panel Discussion: "On Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have
Abandoned

the Ideals of the Civil Rights Era"

Featuring: Houston A. Baker Jr, Vanderbilt University

Moderated by: Joseph Skerrett, University of Massachusetts

8 p.m., Whitaker Auditorium

Reading: Poet Rita Dove, University of Virginia

MC: Carl Phillips, Washington University in St. Louis

Friday, March 27

10 a.m., Hurst Lounge

Panel discussion: "On Breaking Bread, by bell hooks and Cornell West

Panelists: Suzette Spencer, University of Wisconsin; Thomas Glave, MIT

Respondents: Fred D'Aguiar, Virginia Tech University; Koritha Mitchell,

The Ohio State University; and Ivy Wilson, Northwestern University

Moderator: Joe Thompson, Washington University in St. Louis

MC: Amina Gautier, Washington University in St. Louis

2 p.m., Hurst Lounge

Presentation: "On In Search of the Black Fantastic: Politics and Popular

Culture in the Post-Civil Rights Era"

Featuring: Richard Iton, University of Toronto

Moderated by: Michelle Wright, University of Minnesota

MC: J. Dillon Brown, Washington University in St. Louis