

STUART HALL  
FOUNDATION

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

**Angela Davis to speak at  
Stuart Hall Foundation Southbank Centre event  
on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020**



**The Stuart Hall Foundation is delighted to welcome world-famous author and activist Angela Davis for 'An Audience with Angela Davis', an online event hosted in partnership with Southbank Centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

From the civil rights movement of the 1960s to the present, Angela Davis has been an important figure in the historical struggles of our times. Through her scholarship and organising, Davis has been a living witness to the shifting frontiers of social justice and is one of the world's foremost thinkers on women, race and class.

In the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic, in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement and the upcoming US election, Angela Davis will deliver a keynote speech reflecting on what led us to this historic chapter in our history and what might come next. Davis will be in conversation with lecturer and author Dr Brett St Louis about the political scene in the US heading into the upcoming election and the ongoing struggle for economic, racial and gender justice. Davis and St Louis will then respond to questions submitted by the general public in advance of the event.

Gilane Tawadros, Chair of the Stuart Hall Foundation says: "The Stuart Hall Foundation is delighted to be working in partnership with the Southbank Centre to present an evening with SHF Patron and Civil Rights campaigner Angela Davis at a pivotal moment in the US and UK and in the wake of both Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests worldwide. As Angela so poignantly said, now is the time to 'give expression to ideas about what we can do next'."

'An Audience with Angela Davis' marks a highlight in the Stuart Hall Foundation's new public programme that includes our recent #reconstructionwork online conversations between Gary Younge and Lola Olufemi, and David Lammy and Amina Gichinga, and continues with Catherine Hall and Ruth Ramsden-Karelse in conversation on Friday 4th September. The Stuart Hall Foundation's new dynamic digital programme #reconstructionwork launched in June this year and brings together writers, artists and activists, for a series of intergenerational conversations considering how we can build a better society and culture, connecting education, culture and politics, as Stuart Hall did.

The event will also be the inaugural event for Southbank Centre's new Inside Out series as part of their Autumn season of events. Ted Hodgkinson, Head of Literature & Spoken Word at the Southbank Centre, said: "After five months of closure, we're honoured to have Angela Davis open the Southbank Centre's autumn digital event series 'Inside Out'. Who better to address this tumultuous time than Angela Davis, whose singular perspective on generations of struggle and profound insight make her a vital touchstone at this defining moment in our history. We are particularly thrilled that Angela Davis will appear in the series alongside a leading voice in the Black Lives Matter movement, Alicia Garza. The Southbank Centre is delighted to be working with the Stuart Hall Foundation, who bring deep cultural knowledge and longstanding commitment to opening up public debate."

Tickets for 'An Audience with Angela Davis' will be on sale to Southbank Centre members from 10am, Friday 4th September 2020, and then to general public from 10am, Monday 7th September 2020, available from the Southbank Centre website, where you can also find details of how to take part in the audience Q&A: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

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## About Angela Davis

Through her activism and scholarship over many decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in movements for social justice around the world. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice.

Professor Davis' teaching career has taken her to San Francisco State University, Mills College, and UC Berkeley. She also has taught at UCLA, Vassar, Syracuse University the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. Most recently she spent fifteen years at the University of California Santa Cruz where she is now Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness – an interdisciplinary PhD program – and of Feminist Studies.

Angela Davis is the author of ten books and has lectured throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent eighteen months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List." She also has conducted extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender and imprisonment. Her recent books include *Abolition Democracy and Are Prisons Obsolete?* about the abolition of the prison industrial complex, a new edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, and a collection of essays entitled *The Meaning of Freedom*. Her most recent book of essays, called *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*, was published in February 2016.

Angela Davis is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison.

Like many educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions. Having helped to popularize the notion of a “prison industrial complex,” she now urges her audiences to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

### **About Brett St Louis**

Brett St Louis is senior lecturer in sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London, having previously been lecturer in sociology at Bristol University and assistant professor in ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of *C.L.R. James’ Critique of Modernity: Race, Politics and Poetics* (Routledge 2007) and is currently completing a book on racial eliminativism that develops a critical genealogy and analysis of postracial thought.

### **About Stuart Hall Foundation**

The Stuart Hall Foundation was established in 2015 by Professor Stuart Hall’s family, friends and colleagues. The Foundation is committed to public education, addressing urgent questions of race and inequality in culture and society through talks and events, and building a growing network of Stuart Hall Foundation scholars and artists in residence.

We strive to fulfil this commitment through two main streams of activity:

- Providing scholarship and creative opportunities for students and artists from black, brown and underrepresented students and artists and other underrepresented backgrounds; building connections among them and with our partner institutions.
- Promoting critical thought and understanding through a programme of events, workshops and conversations that foster an intergenerational creative exchange, enrich political debate, and create space for new ideas.

For more information, please visit the Stuart Hall Foundation website [www.stuarthallfoundation.org](http://www.stuarthallfoundation.org) or contact SHF Administrator Ilze Rieba [info@stuarthallfoundation.org](mailto:info@stuarthallfoundation.org)

### **About Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre and one of the UK’s top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London’s most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

## Details about Inside Out

The Southbank Centre today announces details about 'Inside Out', a brand-new series of music, literature and comedy from 17 September - 30 December.

With over 40 events across three months, audiences will be able to take advantage of a truly diverse range of programming coming from the Royal Festival Hall and beyond as acclaimed musicians including **Tasmin Little**, **Vikingur Olafsson** and **Roderick Williams**, and iconic writers and activists such as **Angela Davis**, **Alicia Garza**, **Arundhati Roy** and **Kae Tempest** bring art and ideas back to the Southbank Centre - Europe's largest multi-arts centre.

The Autumn season will be the first time these once vibrant spaces will be reopened since doors closed on 17 March. This includes welcoming home the Southbank Centre's world-leading **Resident and Associate Orchestras** as they begin their 20/21 seasons, with updated programmes to reflect vital contemporary cultural conversations.

These events will be **streamed online** while social distancing measures remain in place, and while the Southbank Centre continues to respond to challenges presented by COVID-19.