



Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Cornelius Eady, National Book Award and co-founder of the national network of black poets Cave Canem, to keynote 11th annual Creative Arts Festival at Jackson State University on April 12 and 13, 2017.



Jackson, MS—The Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University is pleased to announce that Cornelius Eady, finalist for the 2001 National Book Award and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize in drama, will deliver the keynote address during the 11th Annual Creative Arts Festival, *Callaloo and Cave Canem: Publishing the African Diaspora*. Featuring student performances and panel presentations, the Creative Arts Festival will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, April 12 and 13, on the campus of Jackson State University. The keynote address will be at 10:30 a.m. in the JSU Student Center Theater on Thursday, April 13.

Cornelius Eady is the author of eight books of poetry, including *Hardheaded Weather: New and Selected Poems* (Putnam, April 2008). His second book, *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze*, won the Lamont Prize from the Academy of American Poets in 1985. In 2001, *Brutal Imagination* was a finalist for the National Book Award. In April 1999, *Running Man*, a music-theatre piece, co-written with jazz musician Diedre Murray, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and a production of *Brutal Imagination* with a score

by Diedre Murray won the 2002 Oppenheimer Award for the best first play by an American Playwright.

With poet Toi Derricote, Eady is co-founder of Cave Canem, a national organization for African American poetry and poets. He is the recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Literature (1985), a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry (1993), and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship to Bellagio, Italy (1993). Eady has taught poetry at SUNY Stony Brook, Sarah Lawrence College, New York University; the University of Notre Dame; the 92nd Street Y; the College of William and Mary; and Sweet Briar College. At present he is Professor of English and the Miller Family Endowed Chair in Literature and Writing at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

An awards ceremony, including the annual \$1,000 Margaret Walker Award for the best essay by a JSU student, will conclude the Festival at 4:00 p.m. in the Student Center Theater on Thursday, April 13.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Center's website at www.jsums.edu/margaretwalkercenter or contact the Center's staff at 601-979-3935 or mwa@jsums.edu.

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