Institute of African American Affairs presents

Feminism, Abolition and Radical Reconstruction in the 21st Century

Angela Davis
Scholar-in-Residence
March 3–7th, 2014
Angela Davis, through her activism and scholarship over many decades, 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, the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. Mostly 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 Ph.D. program — and of Feminist Studies.

Angela Davis is the author of nine 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, and a new edition of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. In 2012, she published a new collection of essays entitled The Meaning of Freedom.

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.
MARCH 6TH • THURSDAY • 7:00 PM

Film Screening: Free Angela and All Political Prisoners
Angela Davis in discussion with director Shola Lynch

Global Center-NYU | Grand Hall, 5th floor
238 Thompson Street (between West 3rd Street and Washington Square South) | New York, NY

Shola Lynch is an award-winning American filmmaker who burst on the scene in 2004. Her eagerly anticipated second feature documentary Free Angela and All Political Prisoners is a first hand account of the events that thrust Angela Davis into the national spotlight from a young college professor to a fugitive on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted List. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Code Black and Lionsgate distributed the critically acclaimed documentary in theaters this past April, and it is now available on DVD and digital download.

Lynch’s first independent feature documentary, Chisholm ’72: Unbought and Unbossed, about Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm’s historic run for president in 1972, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, aired on PBS’s POV series, and garnered two Independent Spirit Award nominations and a prestigious Peabody for excellence.

In 2005, Glover co-founded NY-based Louverture Films with writer/producer Joslyn Barnes and recent partners Susan Rockefeller and Matthew Palevsky. The company is dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. Among the films Glover has executive produced at Louverture are: the César-nominated Bamako, Sundance Grand Jury Prize and Oscar and Emmy nominated Trouble The Water, and the award-winning The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975. He has also associate produced Elia Suleiman’s The Time That Remains, and the 2010 Cannes Palme d’Or winner Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives.

MARCH 3RD • MONDAY • 7:00 PM

Film Screening: Bamako
Angela Davis in discussion with Danny Glover

Kimmel Center-NYU | E&L Auditorium, 4th Floor
60 Washington Square South | New York, NY

Written and directed by the celebrated filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako and co-executive produced by Danny Glover (who also provides a cameo in the film), this critically acclaimed political drama offers a unique look into contemporary Africa. Melé is a bar singer, her husband Chaka is out of work and the couple is on the verge of breaking up. In the courtyard of the house they share with other families, a trial court has been set up. African civil society spokesmen have taken proceedings against the World Bank and the IMF whom they blame for Africa’s woes. Amidst the pleas and the testimonies, life goes on in the courtyard.

Danny Glover — actor, producer and humanitarian — has been a commanding presence on screen, stage and television for more than 25 years. As an actor, his film credits range from the blockbuster Lethal Weapon franchise to smaller independent features, some of which Glover also produced. These smaller independent features include the award-winning To Sleep With Anger, for which he won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Actor; Bopha!, Manderlay; Missing in America; and the film version of Athol Fugard’s play Boesman and Lena.

Glover has also gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with a particular emphasis on advocacy for economic justice, and access to health care and education programs in the United States and Africa. For these efforts, Glover received a 2006 DGA Honor. Internationally, Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program from 1998-2004, focusing on issues of poverty, disease, and economic development in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and currently serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

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Hosted by Columbia University • presented by the Criminal Justice Caucus at the Columbia School of Social Work

co-sponsored by New York University’s Institute of African American Affairs in collaboration with the Angela Davis Scholar-in-Residence Program

Friday, March 7th Kickoff Event
FEATURING:
Angela Davis • Fania Davis
Beth Richie • Impact • Bryonn Bain

This conference will bring together current efforts and future ideas to address how incarceration has impacted our society. It is a collaborative effort from students, faculty and community members across New York City.

Planning is currently underway. For updates and more information, please visit criminaljusticecaucus.wordpress.com.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Institute of African American Affairs
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New York, NY 10003

The Institute of African American Affairs (IAAA) at New York University was founded in 1969 to research, document, and celebrate the cultural and intellectual production of Africa and its diaspora in the Atlantic world and beyond. IAAA is committed to the study of Blacks in modernity through concentrations in Pan-Africanism and Black Urban Studies. nyuiaaa.org

We’d like to thank our co-sponsors:
• The Africana Studies Program
• NYU LGBTQ Student Center
• NYU Center for Multicultural Education and Programs

The NYU-IAAA Angela Davis Scholar-in-Residence programs are free and open to the public. Space is limited. For more information on the Davis programs, please visit nyuiaaa.org.

Updates and information for the Beyond the Bars Conference may be found at criminaljusticecaucus.wordpress.com.