All-virtual rethinking of PEN America’s landmark event series features Yaa Gyasi, Roxane Gay, Ayad Akhtar, Ben Rhodes, Claudia Rankine, Marilynne Robinson, and Alexander Chee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2020

(New York, NY) — PEN America today announced the fall lineup for its PEN Out Loud author conversation series. This season, reimagined virtually for our current times, will continue its mission to present meaningful dialogues, highlighting books that offer multilayered, thought-provoking conversations on race and class, immigration and family at a particularly divisive moment.

PEN Out Loud’s fall 2020 season will feature conversations with Yaa Gyasi and Roxane Gay, Ayad Akhtar and Ben Rhodes, Claudia Rankine, and Marilynne Robinson and Alexander Chee. PEN Out Loud is co-presented with Strand Book Store and Scripps Presents.

“We’re delighted to offer up a rethinking of our PEN Out Loud series, not just for our all-digital moment, but rather rethinking how conversations are happening in our current all-digital moment,” said PEN America’s Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf. “But we’re still holding fast to our belief that PEN Out Loud is the hallmark national literary series

PEN AMERICA UNVEILS FALL 2020 PEN OUT LOUD LINEUP

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that amplifies diverse voices and convenes the most vital conversations with poets, journalists, artists, and activists."

“We’re delighted to be partnering on the PEN Out Loud series. PEN America’s mission to celebrate creative expression and defend the liberties that make it possible is vital, most especially in this moment,” said Corrina Lesser, artistic director of Scripps Presents.

PEN Out Loud Fall 2020 Lineup

**We Don’t Know What We Don’t Know**
*Yaa Gyasi*, author of the forthcoming book *Transcendent Kingdom*, in conversation with *Roxane Gay*
Tuesday, September 1 at 5pm PT/8pm ET
*This is a book launch event

**America Is My Home**
*Ayad Akhtar*, author of the forthcoming book *Homeland Elegies*, in conversation with *Ben Rhodes*
Tuesday, September 1 at 5pm PT/8pm ET
*This is a book launch event

**Just Listen**
*Claudia Rankine*, author of the forthcoming book *Just Us: An American Conversation*, with a conversation partner to be announced
Wednesday, September 30 at 5pm PT/8pm ET

**Guilt and Grace**
*Marilynne Robinson*, author of the forthcoming book *Jack*, in conversation with *Alexander Chee*
Tuesday, October 6 at 5pm PT/8pm ET

Tickets go on sale Monday, August 10.

MEDIA CONTACT: Stephen Fee, sfee@pen.org | +1 202 309 8892

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**Tags:** Ayad Akhtar, claudia rankine, Marilynne Robinson, PEN Out Loud, Yaa Gyasi  
**Genre:** Press Release  
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**Country:** United States of America
Next week, the PEN America Translation Committee presents a Bilingual Reading To Celebrate Women In Translation Month! This reading and Q&A brings together five translators and authors working in languages such as Hungarian, Sinhalese, & Turkish.