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The Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre
Brown University
presents

50 YEARS SINCE 68

Providence, RI (BROWN UNIVERSITY) -- The Department of Africana Studies’ Rites and Reason Theatre presents 50 Years Since 68.

2018 is the 50th anniversary of an important and pivotal moment in history. 50 Years Since 68 is a year-long initiative that reflects on the meaning and significance of that remarkable year and examines the state of the world a half-century later. For Africana Studies at Brown University, it is also 50 years since the 1968 Walkout of black students and their allies that protested the small number of black faculty and the absence of a black studies curriculum. The University’s response led first to the formation of Rites and Reason Theatre in 1969 and then the Afro-American Studies Program, which eventually became today's Africana Studies Department/Rites and Reason Theatre.

Beginning on May 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th during Commencement Week, 50 Years Since 68 is hosting the first event, Music of 1968: A Change is Gonna Come highlighting the music and movements of 1968. Music of 1968 consists of a series of forums focused on listening, appreciating and reflecting critically on the musical trends- jazz, reggae, R&B and popular dances- of the era centered around 1968. In September, the Department’s Rites and Reason Theatre will host a play with music about the historic 1968 Brown Student Walkout and during the Fall semester, Africana will offer an open course, 1968: A Year in Review, that explores and analyzes the contentions, confrontations, and changes the events of 1968 brought forth often with consequences that continue to resonate into the present. On November 1st and 2nd, 50 Years Since ‘68 in partnership with the Brown University Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Africana will convene a symposium 1968: the Local and the Global to reflect on the global significance of 1968 and explore the impact that it has had on events and the world we live in today. 50 Years Since ‘68 will culminate in Spring 2019 with a major keynote speaker, reflecting on the past the uncertain present and proposing possible paths for the near future. To kick off the upcoming events, on May 10th, the Department will be hosting a Launch Reception. The event is by invitation only.

Located in the historic Churchill House, Brown University, the Department of Africana Studies is the intellectual center for faculty and students interested in the artistic, cultural, historical, literary, and theoretical expressions of the peoples and cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora. The Department
The Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre has one of the leading faculties in the discipline and offers a rigorous undergraduate and graduate program leading to the Ph.D. in Africana Studies.

The Department’s forum of arts and ideas, Rites and Reason Theatre, brings together artists and scholars to create original performances and artistic expressions that generate new knowledge about the world and human existence.

If you would like more information, please call (401) 863-3137, email at africana_studies@brown.edu, or visit www.brown.edu/academics/africana-studies/events-programs.