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## **HISTORIC BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE RETURNS TO NEW YORK CITY**

**JULY 27 – 29, 2018**

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**New York, New York – June 28, 2018 – Beyond Bold And Brave** returns to Barnard College on July 27 – 29, 2018 to proudly present the **“Work As Memoir” 2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual Black Lesbian Conference (BLC2018)**. These three days of affirming Black Lesbian work, life and community will continue building from being the first of conference its kind in Harlem and first of its kind in New York City in over thirty years. Just like the first conference did in 2016, BLC2018 will unite Black/African-descent lesbians of varied ages and histories to responsibly and honestly address important issues and concerns in a respectful, welcoming and safe space. The celebrated Barnard Center for Research On Women is again the conference host and the New York Women’s Foundation, a returning sponsor, is also this year’s conference Co-Presenter. As BLC2018 presenter & Lambda Literary Award-Winning Author Jewelle Gomez states, “Black Lesbians have been the innovators and the designers of our future, bringing healing and vision. I feel fortunate to have lived long enough to even hear the words “Black Lesbian Conference” out loud so being able to sit in rooms with those walking that path from our past to our future is a gift.”

The conference opens on Friday, July 27 with a keynote presentation by Film & Television director **Cheryl Dunye**. Dunye, a Guggenheim Fellow and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has made over 15 films including the award-winning *The Watermelon Woman*, and HBO’s *The Stranger Inside*. Dunye has also directed television episodes of *Queen Sugar*, *Love Is \_\_\_*, *The Fosters* and *Claws* and is adapting the novel, *The Wonder of All Things* as her next independent feature film.

Saturday, July 28 will feature established and emerging Black/African descent lesbian educators, activists, faith leaders and more presenting sessions that will address a variety of topics including:

- *“Work As Memoir”*
- *“The Resiliency and Legacy of POC Queer Elders”*
- *“A Forgotten Population An Inside Scoop: Formerly Incarcerated LGBTQ Women”*
- *“Bloom and Flourish: A Visual Art Experience”*
- *“Kampala, Uganda to Cherry Grove, Fire Island: An African Lesbian Artist’s Journey”*

The conference closes on Sunday, July 29 with a discussion featuring the BLC2018 Co-Founders and a final empowering message from Cara Page Director of Programs for the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

**Beyond Bold And Brave** thanks following sponsors and partners for their generous support:

**Sponsors:** Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, Griot Community Care, Health Education Alternatives for Teens (HEAT), HBO, LGBT Center, The National LGBTQ Task Force, SAGE, and St. Mary’s Adult Day Health Center.

**Community Outreach Partners:** African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, bklynboihood, C-Dubb Show, Circle of Voices Inc., Dollhouse Meetup, G-Listed, GO Magazine, Harlem Pride, Harlem YES, In Our Own Voices, Kappa Xi Omega Sorority Inc., Lesbians of Color Symposium, LGBT Kwanzaa Community of NYC, New York Transgender Advocacy Group, NYC Black Pride, Rivers of Living Water, TAGG Magazine, Target Cue, Velvet Park Media, Whitman-Walker Health, Women In The Life Association, Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon, ZAMI NOBLA: National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging.

For more information and to register, visit: [www.beyondboldandbrave.org](http://www.beyondboldandbrave.org)

## **ABOUT BEYOND BOLD AND BRAVE**

**Beyond Bold And Brave** works to increase the visibility of \*Black/African Descent Lesbians in our communities by supporting and producing programs, projects and events that responsibly and truthfully affirm and represent Black /African Descent Lesbian life, work and identity. We define \*Black/African Descent Lesbians as a diverse community of women who are: part of the African diaspora including Black, African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Indigenous, Afro-Latina, Afro-Asian, Afro-European; identify as transgender, cisgender, gender non-conforming, queer, same-gender loving as well as additional identities; and are attracted to and/or have relationships with women. Beyond Bold And Brave is founded by New York City based LGBTQ community activists Alyce Emory and Kim L. Ford.

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TAGS: African Diaspora, Black lesbians, Alyce Emory, Kim L. Ford, Black Lesbian Conference, Barnard College, Barnard Center for Research on Women, Beyond Bold And Brave, Black African Lesbians, black feminist movements, Black Lesbian Conference 2018, black lesbian health, black lesbian mental health, LGBTQ, transgender black lesbian, black lesbian feminism, black lesbians, black lesbian work, black lesbian education, black lesbian community, black queer activism, black queer art, Black Lives Matter, Black Queer Lives Matter, Black Girl Magic, capacity-building, cisgender, cisgender black lesbian, Columbia University, creating change, Work As Memoir, Cheryl Dunye, Jewelle Gomez, Cara Page, Harlem, New York City, healing, HIV/AIDS, leadership, LGBTQ Diaspora, March 2016, organizing, our stories, sankofa, scholarship, trans-inclusivity, wealth-building, women of color, womanism,