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SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES ANNOUNCES YAA GYASI EVENT TO BE ONLINE-ONLY

Event date and time will remain the same

Seattle, WA—AUGUST 14, 2020: In light of the ongoing health crisis, Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL) announces their opening Literary Arts Series event with Yaa Gyasi will be online-only and will be streamed digitally on lectures.org, on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:30 PM (PST). The event will also be available online for a week afterwards, so the event can be paused and returned to at one's leisure.

[Subscriptions](#) are available now and include a copy of Yaa Gyasi's newest book, *Transcendent Kingdom*, which will be mailed to ticket holders from Elliot Bay Book Company. Single tickets for this event will be available August 17, 2020, at lectures.org.

Yaa Gyasi is the author of *Homegoing*, one of the most celebrated debut novels of 2016. A riveting, kaleidoscopic novel, *Homegoing* is a story of race, history, ancestry, love, and time that traces the descendants of two sisters torn apart in eighteenth-century Africa across three hundred years in Ghana and America.

Her new book, *Transcendent Kingdom*, is a portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants ravaged by depression and addiction and grief—a novel about faith, science, religion, love. The novel centers around Gifty, a sixth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at Stanford, studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after an ankle injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family's loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith and grappling with the evangelical church in

which she was raised, whose promise of salvation remains as tantalizing as it is elusive.

An important new literary voice, Gyasi's writing has been praised by National Book Award winner Ta-Nehisi Coates as "an inspiration" and "what happens when you pair a gifted literary mind to an epic task." In September 2016, she was chosen by Coates as one of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" honorees.

Born in Ghana and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, Gyasi is a graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop and lives in Berkeley, California. She is the winner of the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize, the PEN/Hemingway Award for Best First Novel, and was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction and the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. *Homegoing* also was a winner at the 2017 Audie Awards, and a Seattle Reads pick for 2018.

Ticket Information

Subscriptions are available now at lectures.org.

All Digital Access tickets are Pay-What-You-Can Pricing and are available Monday, August 17, 2020.

- SAL Superhero Digital Pass & Book: \$100
- SAL Hero Digital Pass: \$50
- SAL Pal Digital Pass: \$35
- Suggested Price Digital Pass: \$20
- Student of Life Digital Pass: \$10
- Student/25 & Under: \$5

Tickets are available at lectures.org or by calling the SAL Box Office at 206.621.2230, ext. 10. ^[1]_[SEP]

About Seattle Arts & Lectures: Founded in 1987, Seattle Arts & Lectures champions the literary arts by engaging and inspiring readers and writers of all generations in the Puget Sound region. SAL's programs include the Literary Arts Series, Poetry Series, Women You Need to Know (WYNK), Journalism Series, SAL Presents, Hinge, Local Voices, Summer Book

Bingo, the Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program, and Writers in the Schools (WITS). For more information about SAL, visit lectures.org.