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**Ursula Rucker to Host 27th Annual W.E.B. Du Bois Event Celebration
at Bard College at Simon's Rock**

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA— Bard College at Simon's Rock presents the 27th annual W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Event entitled "A Celebration of Soul with Ursula Rucker" on February 19 at 7:00 p.m. Historically presented as a lecture, this year, the event will be a celebration. This event is part of the Town of Great Barrington's W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Festival. The community is invited to enjoy an evening of cultural celebration, music, and soul.

Poet, recording artist, activist, teacher and revolutionary, Ursula Rucker, is a certified veteran of the global music and poetry scene. A skilled writer and dynamic performer, Rucker's rich and textured voice is one of the world's great, living instruments. For nearly three decades, Rucker has used her fiery prose and invigorating imagery to excite and inspire listeners around worldwide. Her solo albums are brimming with power and wide-ranging musical diversity and she has built an equally impressive catalog as a collaborator. Rucker can be heard on dance floors across the world, as the voice of many House and Dance music classics. She has toured with her live performance memoir, *My Father's Daughter*, which she describes as "90 minutes of self-truth and discovery."

She was a 2018 recipient of the prestigious fellowship from the Pew Center for Arts & Change. In 2020, she released *big/small poems for pockets*, a chapbook of haikus. In 2021, Ursula collaborated with artist Vince Fraser on his exhibit *Ase Afro Frequencies* which debuted at Artechouse Miami and was recognized as Best Art Exhibit 2021 by TimeOut Miami. At the close of 2022, Ursula had the distinct honor of being selected for the Philadelphia Cultural Treasures Fellowship, recognizing her continued commitment to the advancement of art, and artist advocacy, and an endorsement from her community that her legacy is essential to the cultural fabric of Philadelphia. Whether she's on the stage, in print, or on record, Ursula Rucker is an artistic force of nature.

Established in 1996, the annual W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Lecture at Simon's Rock is given each year by a distinguished individual whose own achievements carry on the legacy of Du Bois. Recent visitors include Pamela Larde, Shana Russell, Keeanga Yamahtta-Taylor, David Levering Lewis, Lorene Cary, John Edgar Wideman, Sonia Sanchez, and Penelope Andrews. The Lecture is one of many ways Simon's Rock [draws inspiration](#) from Du Bois.

"A Celebration of Soul with Ursula Rucker" will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 19, in the McConnell Theater at the Daniel Arts Center on the Bard College at Simon's Rock campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [here](#).

About Simon's Rock

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

[The Bard Queer Leadership Project](#) (BQLP) is a revolutionary, new Bachelor of Arts degree program designed for, and by, LGBTQIA+ college students to elevate LGBTQIA+ students and college graduates into leadership roles in school and across the workforce while serving as a space for actualizing educational practices designed for students to thrive. The centerpiece of BQLP is a four year dual major B.A. degree combining Queer Leadership with a second academic field.

For more information, visit simons-rock.edu and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu

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