

21 - 27 SEPTEMBER

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

Blackfest

DIGITAL FESTIVAL
2020



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FROM DEATH ROW, USA TO LIVERPOOL

American Prisoner Joins BlackFest Digital Programme 2020 Lineup



Death row prisoner Keith LaMar will be calling in from Ohio USA to join local writer Ashleigh Nugent, who is kicking off BlackFest 2020 by launching his newly-published book, 'LOCKS'. Based on Nugent's own life story, 'Locks' shares the experiences of being a young, mixed race Liverpoolian who was once locked up in prison in Kingston, Jamaica.

Looking back to his youth in Merseyside, Nugent said "in 1993, I was one of the only 'Black lads' in our leafy English suburb. At sixteen, I had already been arrested three times, without having committed any crimes. This was solely due to racial profiling."

Keith LaMar was wrongly convicted for crimes that evidence shows he did not commit. He is due to be executed on November 16, 2023, unless he wins his fight against this grave injustice. Keith tells the story of his harrowing experience of the American (in)justice system in his book CONDEMNED, which is also the title of a short documentary about his case. Both are available online.

LaMar said "The world we see, from the president on down to the millions of people behind bars and those sleeping on the streets, is a reflection of white supremacists' visions and beliefs. It's time we ask ourselves whether or not they are qualified for the job of leading humanity."

BlackFest and partners Unity Theatre are proud to be part of the growing international campaign to save Keith's life.

Also on the programme will be D.Hunter, a writer and former UK prisoner, who is the author of 'CHAV SOLIDARITY' and 'TRACKSUITS, TRAUMAS AND CLASS TRAITORS'. Both books talk about Hunter's experiences of poverty, informal economies and social movements, to examine class, race, abolition, care, and community. In an interview, Hunter said that "The Prison Industrial Complex was created as a tool to maintain white supremacy and the capitalist system. Hearing

from those directly affected can shed new light on our understanding and push us towards collective action.”

This online conversation, in which the three men discuss their work, share their experiences (including how White Privilege exists even within the UK prison systems) and read extracts from their books, will be moderated by local writer, award-winning performer and former architect Tayo Aluko.

Event Details:

Monday Sept. 21, 2020, 19:00 –21:00pm BST

BlackFest Digital 2020 Presents - Locks: Prison Systems and Racial Profiling

Free Online Event

BlackFest 2020 runs from the 21st of September to the 27th of September. To find out more, go to www.blackfest.co.uk

Ticket info:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/blackfest-digital-2020-presents-locks-prison-systems-and-racial-profiling-tickets-118156462159>

Contact: BlackFest Producer, RJ Lloyd at blackfestcreatives@gmail.com

Further information:

Justice for Keith LaMar: www.keithlamar.org -- info@keithlamar.org - www.nativesonlitteracy.org

Ashleigh Nugent: www.riseupcic.co.uk

D Hunter: www.theclassworkproject.com/lumpen

Tayo Aluko: www.tayoalukoandfriends.com

Blackfest: www.blackfest.co.uk

Unity Theatre: www.unitytheatreiverpool.co.uk