



THE KIMMEL CENTER  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC  
MERRIAM THEATER

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Internationally known activist, educator, and organizer @deray hosts an intimate community conversation that will empower a new generation of leaders at the @KimmelCenter on 10/6. More info @kimmelcenter.org

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## **INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BLACK LIVES MATTER ACTIVIST DERAY MCKESSON DISCUSSES NEW BOOK IN AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION ON KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS OCTOBER 6, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (Philadelphia, PA, September 5, 2018) – Internationally recognized Black Lives Matter activist and host of the podcast *Pod Save the People*, **DeRay Mckesson** will come to the Kimmel Center’s Perelman Theater on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. in support of his debut book *On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope*. During the *On the Other Side of Freedom* Tour, Mckesson will draw from his own experiences as an organizer, educator, and public official to discuss issues of culture, social justice, and politics. The conversation will also examine the core themes of Mckesson’s book where he talks about resistance, justice, and freedom, and offers an intimate portrait of the Black Lives Matter movement from the front lines. Mckesson will be joined by special guests for a live, no-holds-barred conversation about inclusion, community, and empowering a new generation of leaders.

“We are thrilled to welcome the remarkable DeRay Mckesson to our Cultural Campus for an important, timely, and intimate conversation about equality,” said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “Engaging, community-driven conversations are at the very heart of our mission and Mckesson’s visit will continue to pave the way toward greater understanding, progress, and change.”

Mckesson says, “It goes without saying that there is more to learn, but I wanted to share the things that I’ve learned so far about this world, about this work, about myself. I hope this tour creates entrances and on-ramps to collectively understand where we are and where we need to be, to help move us closer to justice and equity.”

In August of 2014, DeRay Mckesson stood with hundreds of others on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, to push a message of justice and accountability. These protests, and others like them in cities across the country, resulted in the birth of the Black Lives Matter movement. Since then, Mckesson has spoken at many venues including the White House, Oxford Union, and universities. He has appeared on TV shows across the political spectrum. He was named #11 on Fortune’s World’s Greatest Leaders list and Harvard’s Black Man of the Year in 2016, among his many other accolades. Now, in *On the Other Side of Freedom*, Mckesson lays out a language for understanding the nature of oppression and calls readers to take responsibility for imagining, and then building the world we want to live in.

Other featured upcoming performances on the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: **Hasan Minhaj: *Before The Storm*** (September 23, 2018, Merriam Theater), **Kathy Griffin: *Laugh Your Head Off World Tour*** (October 6, 2018, Merriam Theater), ***Seven Things I’ve Learned: An Evening with Ira Glass*** (October 21, 2018, Merriam Theater), and **Tom Segura** (November 16-17, 2018, Merriam Theater).

#### **DERAY MCKESSON: ON THE OTHER SIDE OF FREEDOM TOUR**

**Kimmel Center’s Perelman Theater**

*October 6, 2018, 8:00 p.m.*

#### **Tickets**

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$40.00. Every ticket includes a copy of the book *On the Other Side of Freedom* by DeRay Mckesson (a \$25 value). Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org), or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org) for more information.

*On the Other Side of Freedom* books are provided by Joseph Fox Bookshop, located at 1724 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

#### **Creative Artists Agency**

Leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA) represents many of the most successful professionals working in film, television, music, theatre, video games, sports, and digital content, and provides a range of strategic marketing and consulting services to corporate clients. CAA is also a leader in sports, representing more than 1,000 of the world’s top athletes in football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, tennis, Olympics, action sports, and golf. CAA works in the areas of broadcast rights, corporate marketing initiatives, licensing, and sports properties for sales and sponsorship opportunities.

#### **The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center’s mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for

the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2018-2019 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org).

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