



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Benilde Little and Richard Wesley in Conversation with Guy Sterling at the Newark Public Library**



On Tuesday, April 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. the Newark Public Library will host local author and historian Guy Sterling in conversation with notable Newarkers Benilde Little and Richard Wesley as part of its continuing series Newark Lifetimes: Recollections and Reflections.

Benilde Little grew up in the South Ward and attended Weequahic High School where she is a member of the Hall of Fame. Little's latest book is a memoir, *Welcome to My Breakdown*. She is also the bestselling author of the novels *Good Hair* (selected as one of the ten best books of 1996 by the *Los Angeles Times*), *The Itch*, *Acting Out*, and *Who Does She Think She Is?* She previously worked as a reporter for the *Star Ledger* and *People*, and as a senior editor for *Essence*.

Richard Wesley lived in the Ironbound and attended East Side High School, where he was added to the Alumni Roster of Superior Merit in 2008. Wesley is currently an Associate Professor in the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and has just completed eight years as the Chair of the Rita and Burton Goldberg Department of Dramatic Writing there. His numerous awards for play writing include a Drama Desk Award for his 1971 play *Black Terror*. He has also written for motion pictures and television. The *Richard Wesley Play Anthology* was published in 2015.

Guy Sterling is a former *Star Ledger* reporter and the author of *The Famous, the Familiar, and the Forgotten: 350 Notable Newarkers*.

The program will be held in Centennial Hall on the second floor of the Main Library at 5 Washington Street in Newark.

Also, on view before and after the program, on the Library's Third Floor Gallery, is the exhibit *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal*, which takes viewers on a journey through Newark's rich history from its founding by the Puritans in 1666 to the present day, and chronicles events that have not only shaped the city and the state, but the nation as well. Curated by librarian Thomas Ankner, the exhibit cases are filled with unique images from the Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the Special Collections Division. A dual arrangement of the cases provides both chronological and thematic approaches to the city's people, places, architecture, politics, institutions and education.

The program and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call 973-733-7793.

The exhibit, which is supported by the New Jersey Historical Commission, runs through December 31, 2016, and is on view during regular Library hours.

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