

Stowe Prize winner for 2021 Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center awarded Dr. Eddie Glaude the 2021 Stowe Prize for *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* (Crown Publishing Group, 2020). His book uses the life of James Baldwin to create a dialogue about racial inequality in the United States today.

The award was presented on Thursday, September 23, 2021 and while originally planned to be both on site and virtual, the weather intervened and it was virtual only.

The event brought together Dr. Glaude with Beth Burgess, Stowe Center Director of Collections and Research along with Professor Jeffrey Ogbar Professor of History at UCONN and Director of The Center for the Study of Popular Music. The Program itself was excellent, with in depth questions and insightful comments by all three of the participants.

It began by Professor Ogbar going back to his time at Morehouse College when he was a sophomore and Dr. Glaude was then the Senior Class President. The familiarity and comfort that the two men shared from then on made the time fly by.

Beth Burgess was also able to contribute to the conversation with her deep knowledge of Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Center's extensive collection of artifacts.

The conversation began with James Baldwin's criticism of Stowe for her sentimentality in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and from there to the flatness of her characters, her inability to portray the complexity of the characters and make them human. They continued to discuss Baldwin's writing, his own fiction and his essays that are by now more than half a century old, and their sudden revival in the summer of 2020 after the death of George Floyd.

The conversation, which was broadcast and recorded by 3rd Row Live was an excellent production showing how much the Stowe Center learned from the technical problems during the first virtual Stowe Prize Presentation in 2020. That they originally had planned on an outdoor live event with a simultaneous virtual component and quickly pivoted to all virtual, creating a temporary video studio in the Visitor Center in just a few hours, is a real testament to the dedication of the staff at the Stowe Center.

For the first week after the event, the recording will only be available to those who signed up for tickets to the live event, but don't despair. Like most every thing else produced by the Stowe Center, it is intended to be archived and shared with as wide an audience as possible. Check at [The Harriet Beecher Stowe Multi-media Gallery](#) where it will appear along with several audio programs about this fascinating look at the relationship between Harriet Beecher Stowe, James Baldwin and the understanding of racism in America today. It is well worth your time.

