

**Koffler Centre of the Arts presents**

## **Wesley Morris in conversation with Amanda Parris, May 28, 2019 at 7 PM**

The Koffler also hosts free masterclass with Wesley Morris on May 29,  
in partnership with the Regent Park Film Festival

*“He’s like Oscar Wilde — breathtakingly funny and absolutely serious in the same breath, able to illuminate the deepest and sometimes darkest meanings of a piece of popular culture without losing sight of the fact that it’s all supposed to be fun.”*

— A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

Toronto, April 23, 2019 ... The Koffler Centre of the Arts is thrilled to present Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, film critic, and podcast host **Wesley Morris**, in conversation with Canadian broadcaster and writer **Amanda Parris**. Part of the Koffler’s **2019 Books & Ideas** series, the talk takes place at **7 PM, Tuesday, May 28** at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles Street West.

Wesley Morris is critic-at-large at *The New York Times* and a staff writer at *The New York Times Magazine*, where he writes about popular culture and hosts the podcast *Still Processing* with **Jenna Wortham**. Known for his “inexhaustible enthusiasm for and command of contemporary culture,” Morris bring “a fan’s heart and a critic’s mind to everything from pop stars to film directors.” (*The New York Times*)

For three years, Morris was a staff writer at *Grantland*, where he wrote about movies, television, and the role of style in professional sports, and co-hosted the podcast *Do You Like Prince Movies* with Alex Pappademas. Before that, he spent 11 years as a film critic at the *Boston Globe*, where he won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for criticism.

Amanda Parris writes a weekly column for CBC Arts, hosts three CBC television series (*Exhibitionists*, *The Filmmakers* and *From the Vaults*), and is the radio host of *Marvin’s Room* on CBC Music. She also writes stories for the stage and screen. Parris is the co-founder of the award-winning alternative education organization Lost Lyrics, and worked with The Remix Project and Manifesto Festival.

Wesley Morris will also participate in a free masterclass open to students and emerging media makers from the Regent Park community on **Wednesday, May 29, 11 AM to 1 PM** at Paintbox Bistro, 555 Dundas Street East. Morris will share insights about his professional trajectory and approach to cultural commentary in conversation with a panel of local content creators and cultural producers. Moderated by **Tendisai Cromwell**, Executive Director of the **Regent Park Film Festival**, the discussion will explore emerging counter-narratives that reflect the current cultural/political moment. Presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts in partnership with the Regent Park Film Festival and creative producer, Kehinde Bah. Admission is free with pre-registration.

“We are delighted to present Wesley Morris in a rare Toronto public appearance,” says Koffler Centre of the Arts Executive Director Karen Tisch. “Morris’ provocative writing and podcasts are bringing fresh ideas and critical perspectives to contemporary cultural discourse. Morris has the finger on the pulse of popular culture — from Michael Jackson to *Green Book* — but it is his sharp and incisive observations about the ways in which contemporary media reflect and shape our understanding of the world that make him one of the most vital voices in North America today. Toronto audiences are in for an uncommon intellectual treat.”

## Listing Information:

**Wesley Morris in conversation with Amanda Parris**

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019 | 7 PM (doors 6 PM)**

**Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St West**

Tickets: \$30 General Admission | \$25 Student/Senior (w/valid ID) available through [kofflerarts.org](http://kofflerarts.org)

### Preferred Access tickets:

\$250 ticket includes reserved/best in-house seating, a pre-event reception in Isabel Bader Theatre, and a tax receipt for the maximum allowable amount. To purchase: Call Lauren Abecassis-Kandravy, Director of Development 647-925-0643 ext. 226 or email [lauren.ak@kofflerarts.org](mailto:lauren.ak@kofflerarts.org)



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## ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and position our Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant West Queen West art and design district.

## ABOUT REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL

The Regent Park Film Festival is Toronto's longest running free community film festival. We are dedicated to showcasing local and international independent works relevant to people from all walks of life, with a focus on inviting those of us from low income and public housing communities. The films we present break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story. The Festival was founded with the goal of providing Regent Park residents access to high quality films that resonate with their experiences. Today, as Regent Park undergoes a fifteen year re-development, the Festival also works to bring together the many diverse communities that exist in the neighbourhood to enjoy and engage with film as a means of artistic expression and a catalyst for change.

## For further information and high resolution images, contact:

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