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Contact: Adam Kubora, Press & Marketing Coordinator

(860) 685-2806 • [akubota@wesleyan.edu](mailto:akubota@wesleyan.edu)

Photos available on request

## ACTIVIST-POET AMIRI BARAKA PERFORMS AT WESLEYAN'S CENTER FOR THE ARTS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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CONTROVERSIAL ARTIST COMES TO WESLEYAN'S OUTSIDE THE BOX THEATER SERIES  
WITH ENSEMBLE BLUE ARK: THE WORD SHIP

**Middletown, Conn., January 23, 2007**— Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts presents a performance by American poet-activist Amiri Baraka as part of its Outside the Box Theater series. Baraka, the award-winning author of several dozen collections of poetry, fiction, drama, essays and criticism, weaves a rich tapestry of spoken word and world music with his septet, Blue Ark: The Word Ship, featuring Amina Baraka—poetry, Rahman Herbie Morgan—tenor saxophone, Ade Steve Colson—piano, Dwight West—voice, Curtis Lundy—bass violin and Wesleyan Private Lessons Instructor, Pheeroan Aklaiff—percussion. The performance takes place Friday, February 9 at 8pm in Crowell Concert Hall at Wesleyan University. Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for seniors and for students. For more information and tickets, call 860-685-3355 or visit [www.wesleyan.edu/cfa](http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa).

**Amiri Baraka** is the recipient of numerous literary prizes and honors, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Rockefeller Foundation Award for Drama, the Langston Hughes Award from the City College of New York and a lifetime achievement award from the Before Columbus Foundation. A teacher of poetry, literature and drama at University of Buffalo and Columbia University, Baraka has also taught at San Francisco State University, Yale University and George Washington University. Widely known for collaborating and recording albums with numerous major jazz musicians, Baraka currently is co-director (with his wife) of Kimako's Blues People, a community arts space, and continues to perform with his seven-person world music ensemble Blue Ark.

For more information on Amiri Baraka, visit: <http://www.amiribaraka.com/>

Co-sponsored by the Center for African American Studies and Writers' Bloc. The Outside the Box Series is presented by the Theater Department and the Center for the Arts.

The Center for the Arts ([www.wesleyan.edu/cfa](http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa)) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance, and also film studies classes and activities. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

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