And Speaking Volumes Live Literature Productions’ Breaking Ground: Black British Writers U.S. Tour Proudly Present

A Talk and Readings by
Jay Bernard and Bernardine Evaristo

Monday, November 2, 2015
TALK 1:40pm-3pm
Rutgers Cinema 2, Livingston Campus

RECEPTION 4pm-4:30pm; READING AND Q&A 4:30pm-6:30pm
Brower Commons, College Avenue Campus

From the novels of Bernardine Evaristo, which explore the myriad experiences of the black diaspora through history and across oceans, to the poetry and graphic short stories of Jay Bernard which lay bare the most personal of emotions as well as capturing snapshots of modern life, here are two writers whose work reflects the wide-ranging scope of Black British writing happening in the UK today.

JAY BERNARD won the 2004 London Respect Slam and is the recipient of a Foyle’s Young Poet award (2005). She is from London and has been published in numerous international journals and magazines. Her first pamphlet Your Sign is Cuckoo, Girl was the Poetry Book Society’s pamphlet choice for summer that year. She was the inaugural 2012 writer-in-residence at the Arts House and National University of Singapore and 2013 City Read young writer in residence at London Metropolitan Archives. Her second book, English Breakfast, appeared in 2013. Jay is also a programmer for BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival and, as a graphic artist, her work has appeared on the cover of Wasafiri and in Chroma, Diva and Litro. In her own words: ‘I am interested in graphic/public art, film, literature, technology, cyber-feminism, queerness and impending doom(s).’ See www.jaybernard.co.uk for more information.

BERNARDINE EVARISTO is the award-winning author of seven books including her latest novel, Mr Loverman, about a seventy-four year old Caribbean London man who is closet homosexual. She has written poetry, novels, short stories and dramas. Her awards include the EMMA Best Book Award, a NESTA and the Arts Council Writer’s Award. She was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2004, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2006 and received an MBE in 2009. Her books have been a Notable Book of the Year thirteen times in British newspapers and The Emperor’s Babe was a Times ‘Book of the Decade’. Two of Bernardine’s books have been adapted for BBC Radio and she is co-editor of two anthologies: NW15 (Granta/British Council) and Ten: New Poets (Bloodaxe). She has guest-edited Poetry Review, Wasafiri and Mslexia magazines. Her literary criticism appears in newspapers including the Guardian and Independent and she has judged many literary awards as well as founding the annual Brunel University African Poetry Prize. See www.bevaristo.com for more information.