



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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Travel to ancient Egypt and a time “when women ruled the world” with #Egyptologist @KaraCooney for the @KimmelCenter’s @NatGeoLive #SpeakerSeries on 3/18. More info at KimmelCenter.org.

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**KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS PRESENTS
THE RETURN OF *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE* SERIES WITH
AUTHOR AND EGYPTOLOGIST DR. KARA COONEY IN
WHEN WOMEN RULED THE WORLD
MARCH 18, 2020**

**“Cooney provides welcome insights into pharaonic politics
while bringing numerous little-known Egyptian women to the fore.”**

– KIRKUS REVIEWS

**“Cooney discusses the women’s leadership...and speculates about what they must have
experienced...her stories of these remarkable women...will enchant those wishing to imagine
what ancient Egyptian court life was like.”**

– PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, February 11, 2020) – The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus is proud to present **Dr. Kara Cooney**, a National Geographic author and professor of Egyptian art and architecture, to the Merriam Theater on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the latest installment of the ***National Geographic Live Speaker Series “When Women Ruled the World.”***

Cooney will offer audiences a fascinating and informative look into a time in ancient history when women ruled. Often neglected in the history books, these women were considered exceptions to the rule, political pawns in a patriarchal society. But their power and influence are undeniable.

Cleopatra used her sexuality—and her money—to build alliances with warlords of the Roman empire. Nefrusobek was the first woman to definitively take the title of King. Nefertiti is known more for her beauty than for bringing a fractured Egypt together. What can we learn from how these women ruled? Dr. Cooney shares some illuminating answers.

“Our National Geographic Live Speaker Series offers audiences a first-hand look into the lives and environments of Earth’s most mesmerizing facets and times,” said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “In the series’ latest speaker event at our Merriam Theater, Philadelphia audiences will travel back thousands of years to ancient Egypt, at a time when women ruled the world. Dr. Kara Cooney will lead audiences on this thought-provoking journey and engage in a chat back, allowing guests to become part of the show, asking their own questions and engaging with a real-life explorer.”

Cooney is a professor of Egyptology at UCLA. Her academic work focuses on death preparations, afterlife beliefs, and gender studies. She has participated in digs with the Metropolitan Museum of New York, at the Royal Pyramid complex of Senwosret III, and the Theban Necropolis with Johns Hopkins University.

She appeared as a lead expert in the popular Discovery Channel special *The Secrets of Egypt's Lost Queen* and is a recurring team member of the History Channel's *Digging for the Truth*. Her book, *The Woman Who Would Be King: Hatshepsut's Rise to Power in Ancient Egypt*, was published in 2014, and she also wrote *When Women Ruled the World: Six Queens of Egypt*, which was published by National Geographic in 2018.

National Geographic Live is the live events division of National Geographic. With a broad roster of talent including renowned photographers, scientists, authors, filmmakers, and adventurers, *National Geographic Live's* critically-acclaimed programs have connected with audiences worldwide for over a century. Currently, *National Geographic Live* events are held in a variety of cities around the world, including Seattle, Tampa, Los Angeles, and Calgary. In each of these cities, speakers share behind-the-scenes stories from the front lines of exploration onstage alongside stunning imagery and gripping footage.

Other featured upcoming performances at the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: **Paula Poundstone** (March 7, 2020, Merriam Theater), **An Evening with David Sedaris** (April 4, 2020, Academy of Music), **Ronan Farrow** (April 8, 2020, Merriam Theater), and **National Geographic Live: *The Search for Life Beyond Earth with Planetary Scientist Kevin Hand*** (May 21, 2020, Merriam Theater).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: “WHEN WOMEN RULED THE WORLD” WITH EGYPTOLOGIST DR. KARA COONEY

Kimmel Center Cultural Campus’ Merriam Theater
March 18, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now starting at \$24.50. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See www.kimmelcenter.org for more information.

This show is part of the National Geographic Live Speaker Series. Save up to 15% with a package.

The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Opera Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania Ballet**, **The Philly POPS**, **PHILADANCO**, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**, **The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially-responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2019-2020 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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