

THE MEYER AND RENEE LUSKIN LECTURE SERIES

WITH THE INSTITUTE ON INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY AT UCLA LUSKIN
PRESENT

“The Audacity of Despair” with David Simon

MacArthur Fellow, writer and creator of *The Wire*,
Treme, and *Show Me a Hero*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016
JAMES BRIDGES THEATER, UCLA

6:00 p.m. **Arrival and Light Reception**

7:00 p.m. **Screening of *Show Me a Hero***

8:00 p.m. **Welcome:** Lois Takahashi, Dean, UCLA Luskin
School of Public Affairs

Introduction: Ananya Roy, Director, Institute
on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin

Lecture: David Simon



Photo by: Paul Schiraldi

DAVID SIMON is a Baltimore-based journalist, author and television producer. Born in Washington, he came to Baltimore in 1983 to work as a crime reporter at The Baltimore Sun. While at the paper, he reported and wrote two works of narrative non-fiction, *Homicide: A Year On The Killing Streets* and *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood*, the former an account of a year spent with the city homicide squad and the latter, a year spent on a West Baltimore drug corner.

Homicide became the basis for the NBC drama, which aired from 1993 to 1999 and for which Simon worked as a writer and producer after leaving The Sun in 1995. *The Corner* became an HBO miniseries and won three Emmy Awards in 2000. *The Wire*, a subsequent HBO drama, aired from 2002 to 2008 and depicted a dystrophic American city contending with a fraudulent drug war, the loss of its industrial base, political and educational systems incapable of reform and a media culture oblivious to all of the above.

Simon served as a writer and executive producer of HBO's *Generation Kill*, a miniseries depicting U.S. Marines in the early days of the Iraq conflict. Simon also co-created the HBO series *Treme*, following life in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. *Treme* was nominated for two Emmys, Outstanding Writing in a Miniseries and Outstanding Miniseries. Simon's most recent project, the HBO miniseries *Show Me a Hero*, tells the story of Yonkers Mayor Nick Wasiczko who finds himself thrust into racial controversy when a federal court orders to build a small number of low-income housing units in the white neighborhoods.

Simon also does prose work for The New Yorker, Esquire and The Washington Post, among other publications.



THE LUSKIN LECTURE SERIES

The UCLA Luskin Lecture Series enhances public discourse on topics relevant to the betterment of society. The series features renowned public intellectuals, bringing scholars as well as national and local leaders to address society's most pressing problems. Lectures encourage interactive, lively discourse across traditional divides between the worlds of research, policy and practice. The series demonstrates UCLA Luskin's commitment to encouraging innovative breakthroughs and creative solutions to formidable policy challenges.