



Unprotected: An Evening with Billy Porter

Actor, singer, director, composer, and playwright. Author of the brand-new memoir *Unprotected*.

Winner of the 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for his portrayal of Pray Tell in *Pose*.

Winner of the 2013 Tony, GRAMMY, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his groundbreaking performance as Lola in *Kinky Boots*.

Jamal Jordan

Mixed-media documentarian and occasional professor. Author of the new book *Queer Love in Color*.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7:00 PM Central

www.bit.ly/PorterFANWebinar

AND: A book giveaway! Details on Zoom registration page.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bennett Day School, Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Christ Church Winnetka, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Family Service of Glencoe, Foundation 65, Francis W. Parker School, Fusion Academy, Glencoe D35, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Latin School of Chicago, Magnetar Capital, Mindful Psychology Associates, Near North Montessori School, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Parents' Association, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, and Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.).

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ familyactionnetwork.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: BILLY PORTER

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

NEW DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7:00-8:00 PM, Unprotected: An Evening with Billy Porter, a FAN webinar featuring Billy Porter in conversation with Jamal Jordan.

BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY! FAN is giving away copies of *Unprotected* to guests randomly selected from the Zoom attendance report. All details on the webinar registration page.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/PorterFANWebinar.

It's easy to be yourself when who and what you are is in vogue. But growing up Black and gay in America has never been easy. Before **Billy Porter** was slaying red carpets and giving an iconic Emmy-winning performance in the celebrated TV show *Pose*; before he was the groundbreaking Tony and Grammy Award-winning star of Broadway's *Kinky Boots*; and before he was an acclaimed recording artist, actor, playwright, and director, Porter was a young boy in Pittsburgh who was seen as different, who didn't fit in. At five years old, Porter was sent to therapy to "fix" his effeminacy. He was endlessly bullied at school, sexually abused by his stepfather, and criticized at his church. Porter came of age in a world where simply being himself was a constant struggle.

Billy Porter's debut memoir, *Unprotected*, is the life story of a singular artist and survivor. It is the story of a boy whose talent and courage opened doors for him, but only a crack. It is the story of a teenager discovering himself, learning his voice and his craft amid deep trauma. It is the story of a young man whose unbreakable determination led him through countless hard times to where he is now; a proud icon who refuses to back down or hide. And it is the story of a man who finally is at peace to reveal truths that have haunted him for countless years. In Porter's own words: "The truth is the healing."

Porter is the first openly gay Black man to be nominated and win an Emmy Award in any lead acting category. As a director, among other shows, Porter helmed the revival of Suzan-Lori Parks' *Topdog/Underdog* at Boston's Huntington Theatre, where he was awarded the Elliot Norton Award for Best Director.

Porter will be in conversation with **Jamal Jordan**, a multimedia artist and occasional professor whose first book, *Queer Love in Color*, was just released. He has worked with VICE news, NBC News, and *The New York Times*.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available later on our website and YouTube channel.

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