



AGAINST ALL ODDS

A FREE PUBLIC TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

Tuesday, December 1st 2015 at 5PM

SEIU Penthouse, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City

Hosted by Dr. Joycelyn Elders and The Association of Black Cardiologists

Come Meet the Doctors of “Changing the Face of Medicine”

New York, NY (Nov 10, 2015) – Award-winning documentary producer and author **Crystal Emery** is launching a new campaign and initiative called “**Changing the Face of Medicine**”. Its inaugural event will feature a book signing of her biographical photo essay entitled “**Against All Odds: Black Women in Medicine**”, which will be held on December 1.

For more than 30 years, **Emery** has been engaged with art and social justice initiatives grounded in the fight for equality and education. Her nonprofit, **URU The Right To Be**, strives to foster communication and understanding among diverse racial, social and economic groups about the issues affecting these groups and our community by using the arts to demonstrate that such communication and understanding is possible.

Join us on **December 1 at 5:00** at the **SEIU Penthouse at 330 W 42nd Street** for a rare opportunity to hear from seven Black female doctors, who will share their insights on how the face of medicine can be changed. The nine doctors include **Barbara Ross-Lee, Icilma Fergus, Joycelyn Elders, Lynne Holden, Ruth Reid-Thornton, Velma Scantlebury-White, Ayanna Poindexter, Jay-Sheree Allen and Donna Mendes**. In the words of **Dr. Joycelyn Elders**, featured in an accompanying film, “*You can’t be what you can’t see.*”

In this book, **Against All Odds**, **Crystal Emery** has captured and celebrated the advances of Black women in medicine in order to empower the next generation. Despite decades of advances, the number of Black female physicians has remained at levels that are shockingly low: approximately 2 percent.

“We desperately need role models to come forward and share their stories, so that our children can consider careers in the healthcare professions. We need to reach a point where a patient isn’t surprised to see a Black female doctor is their heart surgeon, or their primary care physician, or the expert consulted on their orthopedic surgery,” said **Dr. Claudia Thomas**, the first Black female orthopedic surgeon. “*Crystal Emery has made those role models come forward and heralds their success, so that a 10-year old Black girl today can envision herself as the physician.*”

“We who have been wounded by these healthcare disparities — physically, psychologically, and spiritually — are coming together to model a new vision of healthcare and one that includes people who are dark-skinned, or coffee-colored, or with beautiful African-American features. The healthcare world awaits us,” said **Dr. Karen Morris-Priester**.

Although this event is free to the public, it is a fundraiser for **URU The Right To Be**. We will be selling our book “**Against All Odds: Black Women in Medicine**” for \$75. We strongly recommend ordering your book in advance to avoid long waits. You can pre-order your book at <http://www.changingthefaceofmedicine.org/orderbook/against-all-odds>



ABOUT

Changing the Face of Medicine is a groundbreaking multimedia documentary project and educational initiative that celebrates the history, status and future of women of color in medicine. Cultivated through the lens of artist, producer, and director, Crystal Emery, **Changing the Face of Medicine** follows the journey of Black women doctors from inequality to excellence. By introducing their stories to the greater medical community and our society at large, the project works as an agent of social change to inspire a new generation of doctors of all races and genders. Built from the achievements, intelligence, and grace of over 100 Black women doctors, the project has been described by filmmaker Bill Duke as an “educational and artistic tour de force.”

www.changingthefaceofmedicine.org



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