



The University of Minnesota's
African American Read-In and Black Men Reading present

Keith Gilyard

distinguished professor of English at Penn State University

discussing his newest book

John Oliver Killens: A LIFE OF BLACK LITERARY ACTIVISM

In this first major biography of Killens, Keith Gilyard examines the life and career of the man who was perhaps the premier African American writer-activist from the 1950s to the 1980s. Figuring prominently in these pages are the many important African American artists and political figures connected to the author from the 1930s to the 1980s—W. E. B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Alphaeus Hunton, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Harry Belafonte, and Maya Angelou, among others.

Killens's politically charged novels *And Then We Heard the Thunder* and *The Cotillion or One Good Bull Is Half the Herd* were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His works of fiction and nonfiction, the most famous of which is his novel *Youngblood*, have been translated into more than a dozen languages. An influential novelist, essayist, screenwriter, and teacher, Killens was the founding chair of the Harlem Writers Guild and mentored a generation of black writers at Fisk, Howard, Columbia, and elsewhere. Killens is recognized as the spiritual father of the Black Arts Movement.

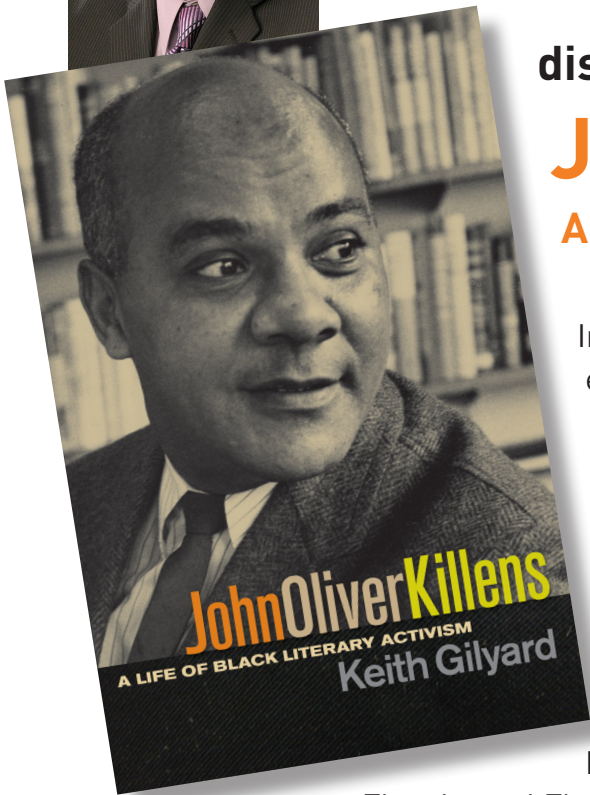
Thursday, May 27, 6 p.m.
Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC)
Room 107
2001 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Refreshments and book signing after discussion

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