

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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For Immediate Release

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Sir Ken Robinson at The Progressive Forum March 20, 2012

One of the world's leading thinkers on creativity, education, and human potential, Sir Ken Robinson, PhD, will appear at The Progressive Forum, Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, at 7:30 PM. Sir Robinson will greet fans and sign books at the end of the evening.

The event is produced in association with Rice University Education Entrepreneurship Program (REEP) and Houston A+ Challenge. The Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business is also a key sponsor.

Tickets range from \$14 to \$54. A limited number of \$74 tickets are available which include a green room reception with Sir Robinson at 6:15 PM and center-front seating. Tickets are available at www.ProgressiveForumHouston.org or by calling 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, "Sir Ken Robinson inspires audiences. And he's really funny. The videos of his two talks on TED.com on creativity and education have been seen by over 200 million people in over 150 countries. He says schools kill creativity, that most people simply don't discover what they're capable of."

Robinson was knighted in 2003 for his services to education for the UK

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government which appointed him to lead The National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education. The work resulted the report *All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture, and Education* (also known as The Robinson Report), published to wide acclaim in 1999.

Robinson was a central figure in developing a strategy for creative and economic development as part of the peace process in Northern Ireland, publishing *Unlocking Creativity*, a plan adopted by the ministers of all the parties.

In 2005, he was named as one of *Time/Fortune/CNN*'s "Principal Voices."

Robinson has advised a number of Fortune 500 companies on innovation and creativity as well as a wide variety of public and private organizations such as the governments of Hong Kong, Singapore, the European Commission, and the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles.

Until 2001, he served as professor of education at the University of Warwick in the UK and is now professor emeritus. He earned his PhD from the University of London, researching drama and theatre in education. Robinson was born in Liverpool, UK, as one of seven children. He and his wife have three children and now live in Los Angeles, California.

Robinson's most recent book is entitled *Out of our Minds: Learning to be Creative* (2011), an updated 10th anniversary edition of his classic of the same title. The book provides a groundbreaking approach to understanding creativity in education and business. It's a passionate and powerful call for radically different approaches to leadership, teaching, and professional development.

His other book, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes*

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Everything (2009), is a *New York Times* bestseller and has been translated into 21 languages. The element is the point at which natural talent meets personal passion. Robinson examines conditions that enable us to find ourselves in the element and those that stifle that possibility.

The Progressive Forum is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting its events at The Wortham Center. It's the only civic speaker organization in America dedicated expressly to progressive values. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of individuals, our species, and life on the earth.

The Progressive Forum premiered on June 13, 2005, with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Houston Mayor Bill White in a program called "Our Environmental Challenges." Since then, The Progressive Forum has produced a number of highly acclaimed events. Al Gore launched *An Inconvenient Truth* at The Progressive Forum June 7, 2006, his first U.S. book event for that title. On September 17, 2008, Gloria Steinem celebrated the 30th anniversary of the historic National Women's Conference held in Houston. On March 27, 2008, Robert Redford introduced a film he produced and narrated, *Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars*, a documentary about 32 Texas cities banding together opposing coal plant permits. In June 12, 2009, Nancy Pelosi became the first sitting U.S. House Speaker to make a public appearance in Houston in modern times. On December 7, 2009, The Progressive Forum produced the national launch event for the first book by premier climatologist James Hansen of NASA, *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth*

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about the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our last Chance to Save Humanity. And in 2010, The Progressive Forum presented John Paul Stevens, the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice to appear in a public event in Houston.

Other speakers have included Karen Armstrong, Lester Brown, Ken Burns, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, Elizabeth Edwards, Tim Flannery, Jane Goodall, Brian Greene, Arianna Huffington, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, Joe Klein, Anna Deavere Smith, George Lakoff, Richard Leakey, Bill McKibben, Eric Schlosser, T. Boone Pickens, Michael Pollan, Larry Wilmore, and Edward O. Wilson.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model in civic speaker organizations in Houston to deliver a larger audience and a higher quality experience in a theater rather than a hotel luncheon as with traditional speaker organizations. The Progressive Forum model is similar to that of a performing arts company by using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to present the top intellectual stars, and marketing to the public throughout the region rather than just organizational members. It offers convenient box office services through its website allowing ticket buyers to print tickets at their computer in addition to traditional phone sales.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc. for 36 years, an independent advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included leading oil equipment in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton co-created, co-produced, and co-hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, a another speaker platform which is still the largest in the oil industry. While earning a

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degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee. At Georgetown, he was ranked third nationally as a pass receiver in nonscholarship football. He earned a second B.A. degree from the University of Tulsa in communications where he later served as an adjunct professor teaching advertising design and copy writing. He is married to former prima ballerina with Houston Ballet, Suzanne Longley, and they have two children.