



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

BABE RUTH: THE BIG BAM WITH LEIGH MONTVILLE AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 7, 2006) – He has been called everything from the Sultan of Swat to the Wizard of Whack, the Caliph of Clout to the Great Bambino, and most notably, the Big Bam. We know Babe Ruth's various nicknames, but not much about the story behind the man. The National Constitution Center presents *Babe Ruth: The Big Bam* with Leigh Montville on Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. This program is held in conjunction with the Center's summer exhibit, *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*.

Leigh Montville, award-winning author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Ted Williams*, tells the true story of Babe Ruth in his new book, *The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth*. Babe Ruth was baseball's original superstar, and for eighty-five years he remained the leader. He was named Athlete of the Century several times, but beyond his baseball statistics, little is known about this legendary player. His childhood, private life, and inner thoughts are now uncovered in *The Big Bam*, as Montville offers an exceptionally intimate look at the large, loud, enigmatic man who still reigns as baseball's leading titan.

-MORE-

ADD ONE/THE BIG BAM

Montville used newly discovered documents and interviews, including personal scrapbook pages, to chronicle Ruth's life from poor city kid in Baltimore to a legendary professional baseball player.

Montville also pays particular attention to the myths surrounding Ruth: Did he really hit the "called shot" home run in the 1932 World Series? Were his home runs really "the farthest balls ever hit"? And was Ruth the high-octane, womanizing, heavy-drinking "fatso" of legend, or just a boyish, rudderless quasi-orphan who did, in fact, take his training and personal conditioning quite seriously? *The Big Bam* brings readers back to the pure glory of baseball during a time when present-day baseball is surrounded by controversies, free agency, and super-inflated salaries.

Leigh Montville, a former columnist at the *Boston Globe* and former senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*, is the author of the bestselling *Ted Williams*, *At the Altar of Speed*, *Manute*, and *Why Not Us?* The *Chicago Tribune* calls him "one of the best sportswriters in America."

Moderating this program is *Philadelphia Daily News* sports editor Josh Barnett. Barnett has been the sports editor of the *Philadelphia Daily News* since July 2004 and has worked at the newspaper for seven years. He previously served as a sports copy editor and page designer at the *Daily News* and is currently a regular contributor to the newspaper's podcasts at Philly.com.

A book sale and signing will follow, courtesy of the Joseph Fox Bookshop

From May 26 through August 20, 2006 the National Constitution Center is hosting **Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers**, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition that tells the stories of 35 athletes and their performances in 17 different sports. The exhibit also features an exclusive National Constitution Center created section, *Local Legends*, as a tribute to hometown heroes who have made a difference in the Philadelphia sports community.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers is free with regular museum admission of \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/THE BIG BAM

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition.

The Constitution Center's showing of the *Sports* exhibit is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. The *Daily News* has a longstanding tradition for excellent sports coverage by an award-winning staff. *Daily News* sports writers also are seen each weekday on *Daily News Live* from 5-6:30 p.m. on Comcast SportsNet. The show is currently in its ninth season.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising."

###