

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VALERIE JARRETT, DAVID PETRAEUS, PAUL RYAN, PETER THIEL, SUE  
DESMOND-HELLMAN — LIVE AT 2015 ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL**

*Watch Live Video Today from the Festival's Largest Event, the Afternoon of Conversation*

**WHAT:** Today's Afternoon of Conversation at the 2015 Aspen Ideas Festival, presented by the Aspen Institute and *The Atlantic*, will be aired LIVE. Also, new video from previously held on- and offstage talks is now online.

- **The Afternoon of Conversation LIVE**

*July 1, 2:00 PM MT (4:00 PM ET)*

**Scheduled to Appear:**

Elizabeth Alexander, David G. Bradley, Cameron Carpenter, Sue Desmond-Hellmann, Jeffrey Goldberg, Brian Greene, Gwen Ifill, Walter Isaacson, Valerie B. Jarrett, William Kristol, David Petraeus, Paul Ryan, Peter Thiel, and more.

**LIVE here:** <http://as.pn/afternoon>

- **What's Character Got to Do with It?**

*June 29, 9:00 PM MT*

David Brooks writes about character. Aaron Sorkin writes about characters. The opinionator and consummate storyteller join in a conversation about how Sorkin's connection to and love of character distinguishes his writing and his craft.

**Aaron Sorkin**, Screenwriter, Producer, and Playwright

**David Brooks**, Op-Ed Columnist, The New York Times

**Watch here:** <https://youtu.be/eucVNYQNGAs>

- **Aspen Ideas Offstage: Misty Copeland, the New Voice of Ballet**

*June 30*

Misty Copeland is the first female African American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre in New York. On the day of this historic announcement, Aspen Institute Arts Program Director Damian Woetzel — a former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet — explains Copeland's significance in ballet, what makes her stand out, and the future of this art form.

**Damien Woetzel**, Program Director, Aspen Institute Arts Program

**Watch here:** <http://youtu.be/q6y4oC4iVOY>

- **Counterterrorism, Counterinsurgency, and Contradictions: America's Lessons Learned in Afghanistan**

*June 29, 12:00 PM MT*

For well over one decade after 9/11, America pursued three very different and difficult campaigns in Afghanistan. The CIA waged a war in the shadows to dismantle Al Qaeda, the U.S. military battled a resilient Taliban insurgency, and the State Department led efforts to help the Afghan people establish a legitimate government and repair their war-torn country. The missions unavoidably led to contradictions as different values were placed on counterinsurgency warfare, sustainable development, the promotion of rule of law, and clandestine operations against a deadly terrorist organization. Karl Eikenberry, U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan from 2009-2011 and twice a military commander of coalition forces in that country, will discuss the lessons we might draw for future large scale interventions into countries suffering from wars of internal disorder.

**Karl Eikenberry**, William J. Perry Fellow in International Security, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University; Former US Ambassador, Afghanistan; Retired Lieutenant General, United States Army

Interviewed by: **Rebecca Blumenstein**, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *The Wall Street Journal*

**Watch here:** <https://youtu.be/zj2XzILsJ10>

**WHERE:** Throughout the week of the Aspen Ideas Festival, which runs June 25 to July 4, video will be available at [www.youtube.com/aspeninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/aspeninstitute), [www.aspenideas.org/video](http://www.aspenideas.org/video), and [YouTube.com/AtlanticLIVEvideo](http://YouTube.com/AtlanticLIVEvideo).

Additionally, on Twitter, follow [@AspenIdeas](https://twitter.com/AspenIdeas) and [@Atlantic LIVE](https://twitter.com/AtlanticLIVE), tweet your thoughts using [#AspenIdeas](https://twitter.com/AspenIdeas) and [#SpotlightHealth](https://twitter.com/SpotlightHealth), and follow our speakers at <http://as.pn/ideasspkrs15>. Like us at [Facebook.com/AspenIdeas](https://facebook.com/AspenIdeas) and [Facebook.com/TheAtlantic](https://facebook.com/TheAtlantic), and follow [Facebook.com/AspenInstitute](https://facebook.com/AspenInstitute) and [Facebook.com/AtlanticLIVE](https://facebook.com/AtlanticLIVE) for inside looks at the Festival. See our behind-the-scenes photos and show us your point of view using [#AspenIdeas](https://twitter.com/AspenIdeas) and [#SpotlightHealth](https://twitter.com/SpotlightHealth) at [Instagram.com/AspenInstitute](https://instagram.com/AspenInstitute) and [Instagram.com/AtlanticLive](https://instagram.com/AtlanticLive).

For a full list of ways to stay engaged with the 2015 Aspen Ideas Festival online, see <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/about/blog/join-ideas-festival-anywhere>.

**WHEN:** Video from the Aspen Ideas Festival will be available on a rolling basis throughout the coming week (now through July 4, 2015). Archived videos can be found online at [www.youtube.com/aspeninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/aspeninstitute) and [www.aspenideas.org/video](http://www.aspenideas.org/video).

Presenting underwriters for the 2015 Aspen Ideas Festival include Allstate; Booz Allen Hamilton; HP; Mount Sinai Health System; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Shell; Southern Company; Toyota; U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management; and Walton Family Foundation. Supporting underwriters include American Federation of Teachers, Environmental Defense Fund, EY, Genworth, and Pearson. The MacArthur Foundation and PBS are contributing underwriters.

Presenting underwriters for 2015 Aspen Ideas Festival Spotlight Health are Anschutz Medical Campus, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Booz Allen Hamilton, HCN, Mayo Clinic, Mount Sinai Health System, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Supporting underwriters include

American Medical Association, Autism Speaks, and Children's National Health System. Association of American Medical Colleges, the CDC Foundation, Consumer Reports, Genentech, and The Rockefeller Foundation are contributing underwriters.

**About *The Atlantic***

Founded in 1857 and today one of the fastest growing media platforms in the industry, *The Atlantic* has throughout its history championed the power of big ideas and continues to shape global debate across print, digital, events, and video platforms. With its award-winning digital presence, [TheAtlantic.com](http://TheAtlantic.com) and [CityLab.com](http://CityLab.com) on cities around the world, *The Atlantic* is a multimedia forum on the most critical issues of our times—from politics, business, urban affairs, and the economy, to technology, arts, and culture. *The Atlantic* is the flagship property of Washington, D.C.-based publisher Atlantic Media. Its co-presidents are Editor in Chief James Bennet and Chief Operating Officer, Bob Cohn.

**About the Aspen Institute**

**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).

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