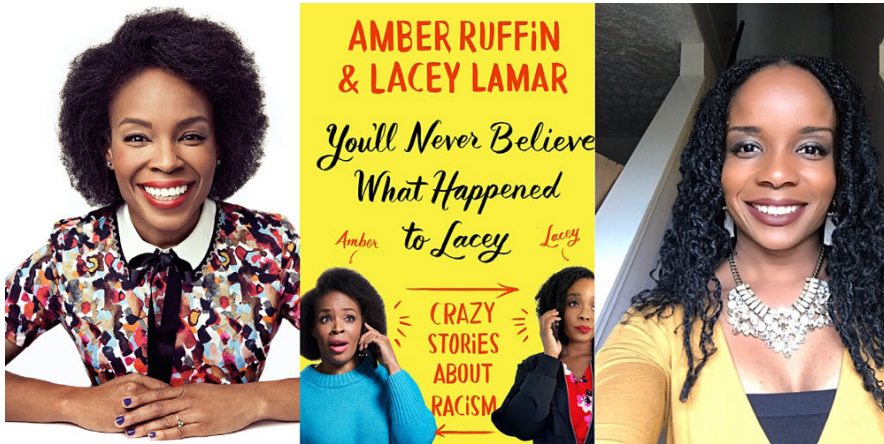


RITE NOW @ ROP



In honor of Black History Month and International Women's Day/Women's History Month, the Uta Halee Academy campus was fortunate enough to have New York Best Selling author Lacey Lamar visit our campus via Zoom. Lacey and her sister, Amber Ruffin, are the co-authors of the book *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey*. In the book, Amber and Lacey share stories of racism along with their laugh-out-loud sisterly banter. The stories are painfully relatable or shockingly eye-opening.

Lacey is a lightning rod for hilariously ridiculous yet all-too-real anecdotes and is a native of and resides Omaha, Nebraska where many of her stories come from. Amber has her own comedy show on Peacock and was the first black female to write for a late-night TV talk show.

Lacey was extremely insightful and shared her experience as a black teenager and adult while experiencing racism. She spoke of shining a light on micro vs. macro aggressions, systemic racism in society and how insane and sad it is for a person to believe "diversity is scary." She also made suggestions about how to navigate yourself if you are a teenager of color and within the criminal justice system. She spoke of how to handle yourself if someone thinks it's okay to disrespect your boundaries and touch your hair. She also spoke to the staff and students about why it's important to be an ally and how to go about it. Lacey is engaging and hilarious - the staff and students left our dialogue with her with a laugh and armed with more knowledge and awareness.
