

EVENTS

VISITING WRITERS SERIES

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

JUDITH ORTIZ COFER

JANE HAMILTON

RICHARD RUSSO

NEW YORK STATE  INSTITUTE

State University of New York

TOM PERROTTA

ANDREA BARRETT

CHRIS HEDGES

NATHANIEL MACKEY

CLASSIC FILM SERIES

SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN

PANDORA'S BOX

EL ESPÍRITU DE LA COLMENA

CLÉO DE 5 À 7

THE AWFUL TRUTH

FESTIVAL OF CHINESE POETRY
JONATHAN SPENCE/KANG ZHENGQUO

CALENDAR

FALL 2007 UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY

FALL EVENTS 2007

Events are free and open to the public and take place on the University at Albany's uptown campus, unless otherwise noted.

* Denotes 7:00 p.m. start time for film screening

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Welcome to a new season at the Writers Institute. As you'll see our programming this fall has a strong international flavor, with writers and films representing cultures and ethnicities ranging from Nigeria, to India, to China, the latter programs in concert with UAlbany's *China Semester*. And yet we also showcase our own regional riches, bringing back Richard Russo, one of the area's native sons.

Over the past year the Institute has grown significantly and has reaffirmed its mission to provide "a milieu for established and aspiring writers to work together to increase the freedom of the artistic imagination," and "to encourage the development of writing skills at all levels of education throughout the state." Our growth includes the acquisition of the renowned literary magazine *Fence*, and its publishing arm, Fence Books, both run by poet and editor, Rebecca Wolff. We are in the process of adding new writers to our faculty, redeveloping our website, and are working continually on the preservation of our extensive audio and video archives in order to make them accessible to a broader public. We will also soon be adding a documentary filmmaker to our staff.

The year ahead will include some other major events, among them our co-sponsorship of The Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference, which will be held in New York City, January 30 – February 2, 2008; and the announcement and inauguration of a new State Author and a new State Poet.

Join us for an exciting season ahead!

Donald W. Faulkner
Director



Geoffrey Young

September 5 (Wednesday):
Poet Geoffrey Young and visual artist James Siena
Reading and Discussion — 7:00 p.m.,
University Art Museum,
Fine Arts Building
Geoffrey Young, poet, and James Siena, visual artist, will discuss the interplay between word and image in their collaborative publication *Pockets of Wheat* (1996, reissued 2007), featuring poems by Young and black-and-white abstractions by Siena. The University Art Museum's current exhibition (curated by Geoffrey Young), includes Siena's drawings from *Pockets of Wheat*. Young's most recent poetry collection is *Lights Out* (2004). The reviewer for *Publishers Weekly* said, "Young has long been a fringe figure amid the Language Poets and the neo-New York School poets... and this impressive compendium of recent work might put him right at the center." Young is also publisher of The Figures Press in Great Barrington, MA—one of the oldest small presses in the country. Siena's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including the 2004 Whitney Biennial. He is the recipient of awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, and The New York Foundation for the Arts.

Cosponsored by the University Art Museum in conjunction with the exhibit James Siena: BIG FAST INK: Drawings, 1996-2007, July 12 – September 30, 2007



James Siena
Crooked Lattice, 2005

SEPTEMBER

September 18 (Tuesday):
 Best-selling novelist Jane Hamilton
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m.,
 Assembly Hall, Campus Center
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall,
 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

Jane Hamilton, major contemporary fiction writer, is the author most recently of *When Madeline Was Young* (2006), the tale of a newly married woman who is brain-damaged in a cycling accident, and who becomes the *de facto* child of her husband and his second wife. The *Washington Post* reviewer said, “only a writer as skillful as Hamilton, as devoted to the manifestations of the observable world, could produce a work so revelatory of the human spirit.” Hamilton received the PEN/Hemingway Award for *The Book of Ruth* (1988), a novel that enjoyed a “second life” seven years later as an international bestseller and Oprah Book Club selection. Her second novel, *A Map of the World* (1994), another Oprah Book Club pick and *New York Times* bestseller, was adapted as a motion picture starring Sigourney Weaver in 2000. Other books include *The Short History of a Prince* (1998), winner of the *Chicago Tribune’s* Heartland Prize, and *Disobedience* (2000).



© Kevin Horan

Jane Hamilton

September 25 (Tuesday):
 Award-winning Hispanic American author Judith Ortiz Cofer
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center



© Steve Sortino

Judith Ortiz Cofer

Judith Ortiz Cofer is an award-winning poet, essayist, and novelist. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in New Jersey, her work explores the experience of being Puerto Rican and living in the United States. Her first novel, *The Line of the Sun* (1989), was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. The *New York Times Book Review* applauded Cofer as “a writer of authentic gifts, with a genuine and important story to tell.” Both *The Line of the Sun* and her essay collection, *Silent Dancing* (1990), about the challenges of living between two cultures, were listed by the New York Public Library as Outstanding Books of the Year. Cofer is also the author of *Woman in Front of the Sun* (2000), which recounts how she became a writer, and a second novel, *The Meaning of Consuelo* (2003), the story of a girl who lives in the suburbs of San Juan in the 1950s. *Publishers Weekly* described the novel as “richly descriptive of the shifting mores of Puerto Rican culture and the historical particulars of the era.”

Cosponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Department in conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 27 (Thursday):
 Best-selling fiction writer Kim Edwards
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall,
 Campus Center
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall,
 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

Kim Edwards is the author of the runaway bestseller, *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* (2005), a novel that explores the consequences of a troubling family secret: a daughter with Down Syndrome who is abandoned at birth and raised in a different city by another family. Writing in the *Washington Post*, Ron Charles praised the book for its “extraordinary power and sympathy.” *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* sold modestly well in hardcover, but became a major publishing phenomenon in paperback in the summer of 2006, ultimately spending several months on the *New York Times* Paperback Bestseller List. Edwards is also the author of a short story collection, *The Secrets of a Fire King* (1997), a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, which is being re-released in 2007. The *New York Times Book Review* praised the collection for giving “eloquence to an astonishing range of discoveries” that “leaves the reader entranced.” Edwards teaches writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.



© Mark Kidd

Kim Edwards



SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN

September 28 (Friday): **SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN [XIAO CHENG ZHI CHUN]** film screening

7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

(China, 1948, 85 minutes, b&w, DVD)

Directed by Mu Fei

Starring Chaoming Cui, Wei Li, Yu Shi, Wei Wei

In Mandarin with English subtitles
 Filmed in China just prior to the Communist takeover, this celebrated work tells the delicately layered story of a woman torn between loyalty to her sick husband and the dashing doctor who was the lover of her youth. **SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN** has been named “the best Chinese-language film of all time” by numerous critics and

organizations, including the Hong Kong Film Academy, the Hong Kong Film Critics Society, and *China Now* magazine.

NOTE: The film will be screened in association with the University-wide *China Semester* at UAlbany.

October 4 (Note special Thursday screening):

KEEPING MUM film screening

7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

(United Kingdom, 2005, 103 minutes, color, 35 mm)

Directed by Niall Johnson

Starring Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott

Thomas, Maggie Smith, Patrick Swayze

A well-crafted black comedy in the Ealing

tradition, **KEEPING MUM** features an

English vicar too preoccupied to notice his

daughter's unhealthy relationships with boys,

his son's problem with bullies, and his wife's

affair with an oversexed American golf tutor.

An elderly housekeeper (Maggie Smith)

moves in and takes it upon herself to put the

family's life in order. Part Mary Poppins, part Supernanny, she also happens to be

criminally insane.

NOTE: Richard Russo, who co-scripted **KEEPING MUM**, will speak at the Writers Institute on Friday, October 5. No film will be shown on that date.



KEEPING MUM

October 5 (Friday): Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo

Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

Richard Russo, Gloversville-raised novelist and screenwriter, is regarded by many leading critics as the most important writer about “Main St., USA” since Sherwood Anderson and Sinclair Lewis. Russo received the Pulitzer Prize for his novel, *Empire Falls* (2001), which the *Christian Science Monitor* called, “the last great novel of the 20th century.” Russo explores a clash of cultures in his newest novel, *Bridge of Sighs* (2007), the story of Louis Charles “Lucy” Lynch, a convenience store mogul in the fictional upstate town of Thomaston, NY. The

novel follows Lynch's efforts to reconnect with the best friend of his youth, a painter who fled New York to pursue a completely different life in the rarefied art circles of Europe. Russo's other novels include *Straight Man* (1997), a rollicking academic satire, *Nobody's Fool* (1993), which was adapted for the screen starring Paul Newman, *The Risk Pool* (1988), and *Mohawk* (1986).

Cosponsored by the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center



© Elena Seibert

Richard Russo

October 11 (Thursday): China scholar and author Jonathan

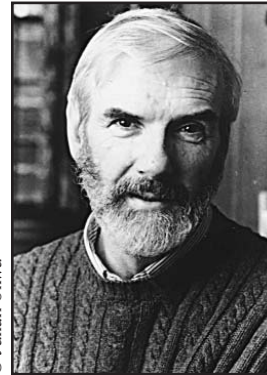
Spence and poet and memoirist Kang Zhengguo

Seminar/Reading by Kang Zhengguo — 4:15 p.m.,

Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Reading/Talk by Jonathan Spence — 8:00 p.m.,

Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center



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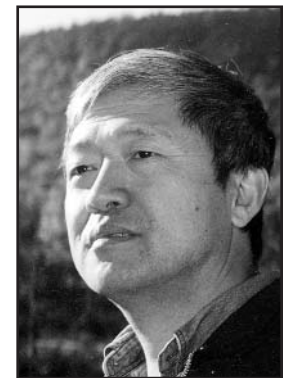
Jonathan Spence

Jonathan Spence, dynamic professor and storyteller, is one of the world's leading authorities on Chinese civilization. His newest book is *Return to Dragon Mountain* (2007), a translation and distillation of the writings of Zhang Dai (1597-1689), a brilliant chronicler, historian, and epicure of the Ming era. *Publishers Weekly* called it, “absorbing and evocative.... Spence retrieves a portrait of a civilization imbued with esoteric obsessions as well as sensuality.” Spence has written over a dozen books on China including *Treason by the Book* (2001), *Mao Zedong* (1999); *The Chan's Great Continent* (1998); *Chinese Roundabout* (1992); *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1981), winner of the *Los*

Angeles Times Book Award and the Vursel Prize of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; *The Death of Woman Wang* (1978); and *Emperor of China* (1974). A 1988 MacArthur Fellow, Spence was named a Companion of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George by Queen Elizabeth in 2001.

Kang Zhengguo is the author of a quirky, highly-praised memoir about life during the Cultural Revolution, *Confessions: An Innocent Life in Communist China* (2007). A self-described misfit, individualist, contrarian and ne'er-do-well, Kang commits countless minor political offenses with both his tongue and his pen. These offenses eventually lead to his expulsion from university, forced labor in a brickyard, a three-year prison term, and a failed career as a rural laborer in a peasant commune. Writing in the *New York Times*, William Grimes called the book, “A mesmerizing read.... Like a character in a picaresque novel, Mr. Kang stumbles from one misadventure to the next, his big mouth and relaxed habits ensuring disaster at every turn.... Mr. Kang serves as an extraordinary guide through an extraordinary period of Chinese history.” A poet and scholar of classical Chinese literature, Kang has been Senior Lecturer in Chinese at Yale University since 1994.

NOTE: This event is being sponsored in conjunction with UAlbany's *China Semester*.



Kang Zhengguo

October 12 (Friday): **PAULINA** film screening
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus
(Mexico/United States/Canada, 1998, 88 minutes, color, DVD)



PAULINA

Directed by Vicky Funari
Starring Paulina Cruz Suárez
In Spanish with English subtitles
A favorite at Sundance, this moving and innovative documentary received the Grand Jury Prize at the San Francisco International Film Festival and Lifetime Television's Vision Award. A middle-aged woman returns to her home village in Mexico to confront the family who traded

her away as a child slave and mistress in exchange for land rights. The *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "PAULINA was ten years in the making, but its passion and energy are fresh...blending real-life and re-enactment footage with dazzling virtuosity... it has a magical glow."

Sponsored in conjunction with National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 16 (Tuesday):
Nigerian-born fiction writer
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Seminar — 4:15 p.m.,
Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall,
Performing Arts Center

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie earned widespread international acclaim for her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003), a middle class Nigerian coming-of-age story that received the Commonwealth Writers Prize. The *Washington Post Book World* called it, "a breathtaking debut." Adichie's second novel is *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006), which follows the fates of three individuals during Nigeria's bloody Biafran civil war. Novelist and critic Edmund White said the book, "deserves to be nominated for the Booker Prize." Joyce Carol Oates called it, "a worthy successor to such 20th century classics" as *Things Fall Apart* and *A Bend in the River*. Adichie received the 2003 O. Henry Prize for her short story, "American Embassy." Her work has been featured in *Granta*, *Zoetrope*, *Iowa Review* and *Calyx*.



© Okey Adichie

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



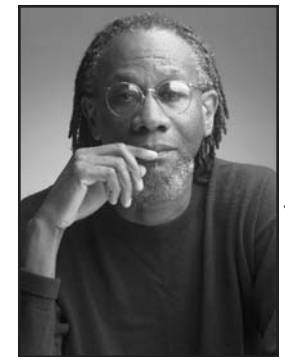
Elizabeth Wong

October 17 (Wednesday): Chinese American playwright Elizabeth Wong Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Elizabeth Wong, award-winning Chinese-American playwright, fuses comedy and social commentary in plays that explore Asian American themes. Her breakthrough work was *Letters to a Student Revolutionary* (1991), a drama based on her personal correspondence with a Chinese woman during the years before the Tianenman Square Massacre. The *Seattle Times* called it, "engrossing... an animated exchange of soul-searching dispatches." Other notable plays include *The Amazing Adventures of the Marvelous Monkey King* (2007), winner of the Mississippi Theatre Festival; *The Lovelife of a Eunuch* (2004), a lusty tale of Imperial China; *China Doll* (1995), about silent film star Anna May Wong; and *Kimchee & Chitlins* (1990), about the African American boycott of Korean-owned grocery stores in Brooklyn.

NOTE: Elizabeth Wong's play *Letters to a Student Revolutionary* is being performed by the UAlbany Theatre Department on October 19 – 27 in conjunction with UAlbany's *China Semester*. For ticket information call 518-442-3997.

October 18 (Thursday): African-American poet Nathaniel Mackey Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Nathaniel Mackey is a major American poet and leading authority on the reciprocal impacts of African and African-American music and writing. He received the National Book Award for Poetry for *Splay Anthem* (2006), an epic work about the lost tribe of "we" in "the imperial, flailing republic of Nub the United States has become, the shrunken place the earth has become, planet Nub." The collection fuses West African mythology with Modernist poetic traditions, and brings "the attitudes of free jazz and the reverberating patterns of West African ensemble music to... the American encyclopedic long poem" (*Publishers Weekly*). The *Nation* called it, "enchanting and haunting, provocative and unsettling." Mackey's previous collections include *Whatsaid Serif* (1998), *School of Udhra* (1993), and *Eroding Witness* (1985). A Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Mackey is a coeditor of the *Library of America's American Poetry: The Twentieth Century* (2000), and coeditor of the influential anthology, *Moment's Notice: Jazz in Poetry and Prose* (1993).



Nathaniel Mackey

© Paul Schraub
courtesy of New Directions



PANDORA'S BOX

she goes. Pabst's creation, based on playwright Frank Wedekind's character Lulu, scandalized Berlin upon its release and began the clash between artistic freedom and Hollywood censorship. Today, film critics regard PANDORA'S BOX as "one of European silent cinema's crowning achievements," (Tom Dawson, *BBC*). It influenced the work of a number of filmmakers including Fritz Lang, Alfred Hitchcock, and Billy Wilder. The film also features moviedom's first lesbian character, the Countess Geschwitz. Shown in a newly struck 2006 print.

October 19 (Friday): PANDORA'S BOX
[DER BÜCHSE DER PANDORA]
film screening

7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave.,
Downtown Campus

(Germany, 1928, 110 minutes, b/w, 35 mm)

Directed by G. W. Pabst

Starring Louise Brooks, Fritz Kortner, Francis
Lederer

SILENT with live piano accompaniment by Mike
Schiffer

Expatriate Kansas-born actress Louise Brooks
became an icon of the Jazz Age after starring in this
dark tale of a sexy vaudeville performer who ignites
madness and desire—and brings ruin— everywhere

October 25 (Thursday):

Novelist and UAlbany Writer-in-Residence
Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya
Reading — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall,
Campus Center

Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya is the author of the first novel *The Gabriel Club* (1998), a philosophical murder mystery about the fate of a group of artists in Budapest, Hungary. The action unfolds during the Communist regime in the 1970s, and some twenty years later, after Communism's fall. Nobel laureate J. M. Coetzee called the novel, "An impressive debut, serious and passionate." The book received the Grand Jury Prize at the Budapest Book Fair, and has been published in 11 languages. Roy-Bhattacharya will discuss two works-in-progress: *Homeland*, a two-thousand page novel set in interwar Germany; and *The Desert of Love*, the story of a couple's sudden disappearance from a market square in Marrakesh, Morocco. *The Desert of Love* is the first in a planned trilogy of novels set in various parts of the Muslim world, including modern Iraq, India, and the United States. Born and educated in India, the author presently serves as Writer-in-Residence in the UAlbany English Department.



Joydeep Roy-
Bhattacharya

QUICK REFERENCE CALENDAR

FALL 2007

VISITING WRITERS SERIES

September 5 (Wednesday)

Poet Geoffrey Young and visual artist James Siena
Reading and Discussion — 7:00 p.m., University Art Museum, Fine Arts Building

September 18 (Tuesday)

Best-selling novelist Jane Hamilton
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

September 25 (Tuesday)

Award-winning Puerto Rican-American author Judith Ortiz Cofer
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

September 27 (Thursday)

Best-selling fiction writer Kim Edwards
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

October 5 (Friday)

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

October 11 (Thursday)

China scholar and author Jonathan Spence and poet and memoirist
Kang Zhengguo
Seminar/Reading by Kang Zhengguo — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading/Talk by Jonathan Spence — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

October 16 (Tuesday)

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October 25 (Thursday)

Novelist and UAlbany Writer-in-Residence Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya
Reading — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

November 1 (Thursday)

Award-winning fiction writer Andrea Barrett
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

November 8 (Thursday)

Award-winning war correspondent and author Chris Hedges
Reading/Talk — 8:00 p.m., Ballroom, Campus Center

November 13 (Tuesday)

Festival of Chinese Poetry
Classical Chinese Poetry with Da Chen — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Readings by Contemporary Chinese American Women Poets — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

November 15 (Thursday)

Nonfiction author and “true crime” writer Joe McGinniss
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Bernard D. Arbit Lecture Center 25, Academic Podium

November 27 (Tuesday)

Poet and fiction writer Victoria Redel
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

November 29 (Thursday)

Fiction writer Tom Perrotta
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Campus Center 375

December 5 (Wednesday)

Award-winning novelist, playwright, and essayist Darryl Pinckney
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

CLASSIC FILM SERIES

Friday evenings (unless otherwise noted)
7:30 p.m. (* Denotes 7:00 p.m. start time)
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

September 28 (Friday): SPRING IN A SMALL TOWN
(XIAO CHENG ZHI CHUN)
Directed by Mu Fei (China, 1948, 85 minutes, b/w, DVD)

October 4 (Note special Thursday screening): KEEPING MUM
Directed by Niall Johnson (United Kingdom, 2005, 103 minutes, color, 35 mm)

October 12 (Friday): PAULINA
Directed by Vicky Funari (Mexico/United States/Canada, 1998, 88 minutes, color, DVD)

October 19 (Friday): PANDORA'S BOX (DER BÜCHSE DER PANDORA)
Directed by G. W. Pabst (Germany, 1928, 110 minutes, b/w, 35 mm)

October 26 (Friday): SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE
(EL ESPÍRITU DE LA COLMENA)
Directed by Víctor Erice (Spain, 1973, 97 minutes, color, 35 mm)

November 2 (Friday): THE DESIGNATED MOURNER
Directed by David Hare (United Kingdom, 1997, 94 minutes, color, 35 mm)

November 9 (Friday): CLEO FROM 5 TO 7 (CLÉO DE 5 À 7)
Directed by Agnès Varda (France, 1961, 90 minutes, b&w and color, 35 mm)

November 16 (Friday): BORDERLINE
Directed by Kenneth MacPherson (United Kingdom, 1930, 63 minutes, b&w, DVD)

November 30 (Friday *): LITTLE CHILDREN
Directed by Todd Field (United States, 2006, 130 minutes, color, 35 mm)
with commentary by screenwriter and author Tom Perrotta

December 7 (Friday *): BAMAKO
Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako (Mali, 2006, 118 minutes, color, 35 mm)
with commentary by English Professor and author Bret Benjamin

December 14 (Friday): THE AWFUL TRUTH
Directed by Leo McCarey (United States, 1937, 91 minutes, b/w, 35 mm)

The University at Albany and the New York State Writers Institute proudly announce the inauguration of a partnership with *Fence* and Fence Books.



FENCE

A biannual journal of poetry, fiction, art, and criticism



FENCE BOOKS

Publishing poetry, fiction, and critical texts

New contact information for *Fence*/Fence Books:
Science Library 320 | University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue | Albany, NY 12222
518-591-8162 | fence@albany.edu | www.fencemag.com

October 26 (Friday): **SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE [EL ESPÍRITU DE LA COLMENA]** film screening

7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus
(Spain, 1973, 97 minutes, color, 35 mm)

Directed by Víctor Erice

Starring Fernando Fernán Gómez,
Teresa Gimpera, Ana Torrent,
Isabel Tellería

In Spanish with English subtitles
After watching James Whale's
1931 horror feature
FRANKENSTEIN, screened by a
travelling projectionist in a
Spanish village during the early



SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE

years of Franco's regime, two small girls embark on a quest to find and befriend the monster. Recently rediscovered by American critics, **SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE** has been called "a work of sheer, entrancing beauty" (*Chicago Tribune*), and "the finest and most beautifully wrought first film of the European 70s" (*Village Voice*). A new 2006 print will be shown.

November 1 (Thursday): Award-winning fiction writer Andrea Barrett Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Andrea Barrett, winner of the National Book Award for *Ship Fever: Stories* (1992), is best-known for fiction about 19th century scientists, naturalists, and explorers. Her newest novel is *The Air We Breathe* (2007), the story of an isolated Adirondack community of tuberculosis patients as they experience the outbreak of World War I. *Servants of the Map* (2002), an earlier collection of stories about the romance and trauma of scientific discovery was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. That collection's title novella—about a timid cartographer in the Himalayas under British rule—appeared in the *Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Awards* anthologies. Barrett's novels include *The Voyage of the Narwhal* (1998) and *The Forms of Water* (1993). She is the recipient of a 2001 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and a 2003 Award in Literature of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Andrea Barrett

November 2 (Friday):
THE DESIGNATED MOURNER
 film screening
 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western
 Ave., Downtown Campus
 (United Kingdom, 1997, 94 minutes, color, 35 mm)
 Directed by David Hare
 Starring Mike Nichols, Miranda Richardson,
 David de Keyser



THE DESIGNATED MOURNER

Wallace Shawn's powerful, monologue-driven play about three characters trapped in a war-torn future dystopia is translated to the screen by David Hare, who also directed the original London stage production. Jack, an English professor, has become increasingly sympathetic to the fascist regime. Howard, Jack's father-in-law, is a famous poet suspected of supporting the guerilla insurgents. Jack's wife, Judy, is also under suspicion. The *New York Times* called the work an "exquisitely written dramatic lament for the decline of high culture."

NOTE: The original show date for this film, March 16, 2007, was cancelled due to bad weather.



© Kim Hedges

Chris Hedges

November 8 (Thursday): Award-winning war correspondent and author Chris Hedges
 Reading/Talk — 8:00 p.m., Ballroom,
 Campus Center

Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent and bestselling author, will be a keynote speaker at *The Ecologies of War: Life Technologies and Planetary Conflict*, a conference that explores 21st century shifts in the political agendas, social orders, and cultural preoccupations of a new horizon of violence and change. Hedges is the author of *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (2002), a national bestseller that explores the seductive powers of wartime mythologies.

The book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Hedges shared the 2002 Pulitzer Prize as part of the *New York Times* reportorial team on global terrorism. His latest book is *American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America* (2007). *Publishers Weekly* said, "this urgent book forcefully illuminates what many across the political spectrum will recognize as a serious and growing threat to the very concept and practice of an open society." Other books by Hedges include *Losing Moses on the Freeway* (2005) and *What Every Person Should Know About War* (2003).

Cosponsored by the Department of English. For additional information on the conference go to: http://albany.edu/chats/iccc/ecologies_of_war.html

November 9 (Friday):
CLEO FROM 5 TO 7 (CLÉO DE 5 À 7) film screening
 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus
 (France, 1961, 90 minutes, b&w and color, 35 mm)

Directed by Agnès Varda
 Starring Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dominique Davray
 In French with English subtitles
 Awaiting the results of a biopsy for cancer, a pretty, pampered *chanteuse* spends two hours searching for meaning in the streets of Paris. The film established Agnès Varda as the preeminent female director of her generation and the *grandmère* of the French New Wave. Film critic Molly Haskell wrote, "the director adroitly uses the camera's addiction to beautiful women's faces to subtly question the consequences of that fascination...." A new print will be shown.



CLEO FROM 5 TO 7

Festival of Chinese Poetry

November 13 (Tuesday): A Celebration of Chinese Poetry from Classical to Contemporary
 Classical Chinese Poetry with Da Chen — 4:15 p.m.,
 Assembly Hall, Campus Center
 An Evening of Contemporary Chinese American Poetry —
 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

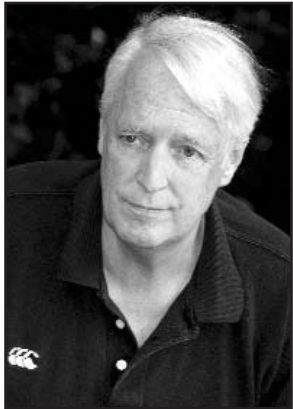


Li Po by 13th c. Sung
 Dynasty painter Liang K'ai

Da Chen, author of the best-selling memoir *Colors of the Mountain* (1999), and the novel *Brothers* (2006), is also a bamboo flute player and brush calligrapher. He will present the work of such classical poets as Li Po, Du Fu, and Wang Wei, masters of the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), in words, symbols, and music. In the evening, Quang Bao, Director of the Asian American Writers Workshop, will present three poets of Chinese descent, all of them women and all now living and writing in New York City. They will read from their work and talk about the contemporary Chinese American cultural experience.

Cosponsored by the Asian American Writers Workshop (www.aaww.org) in conjunction with UAlbany's China Semester

November 15 (Thursday):
 Nonfiction author and “true crime” writer Joe McGinniss
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Bernard D. Arbit Lecture Center 25,
 Academic Podium



Joe McGinniss

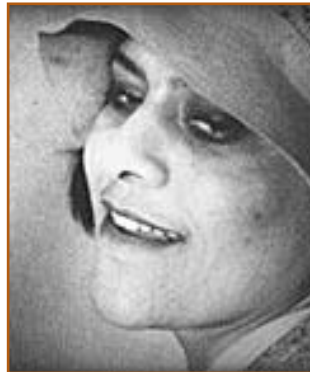
Joe McGinniss is best-known for his popular classics of the “true crime” genre, including *Cruel Doubt* (1991), *Blind Faith* (1988), and *Fatal Vision* (1983). *Never Enough* (2007), his first “true crime” book in 16 years, presents the wealthy Kissel family of Greenwich, CT. In 2003, investment banker Robert Kissel’s wife is convicted of bludgeoning him to death after lacing his milkshake with sedatives. Robert’s brother Andrew receives custody of the couple’s three children. Three years later, Andrew is found tied up and beaten to death. The latter murder remains unsolved. In writing *Never Enough*, McGinniss enjoyed privileged access to numerous Kissel relatives and acquaintances. A former reporter and columnist for the *Philadelphia*

Inquirer, McGinniss also wrote the major nonfiction bestseller, *The Selling of the President, 1968* (1969), a groundbreaking study of the role of marketing in Richard Nixon’s presidential campaign. His other notable books include *The Big Horse* (2004) and *The Last Brother: The Rise and Fall of Teddy Kennedy* (1993).

November 16 (Friday): **BORDERLINE** film screening
 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

(United Kingdom, 1930, 63 minutes, b&w, DVD)
 Directed by Kenneth MacPherson
 Starring Paul Robeson, Eslanda Robeson,
 Hilda Doolittle

SILENT with new jazz score
 This fascinating silent work by early film theorist Kenneth MacPherson features African American actor Paul Robeson and his wife Eslanda in a tangled tale of interracial adultery and violence. MacPherson uses experimental camera techniques and narrative styles to explore the “borderlines” of racial and sexual identity. Silent filmmaker G. W. Pabst called *BORDERLINE*, “the only real avant-garde film.” *BORDERLINE* also features Hilda Doolittle (H. D.), the influential American poet, in her only movie role.



BORDERLINE



© Bill Hayward

Victoria Redel

written this prose. Only a storyteller could keep a reader turning these pages so greedily.” Redel’s first novel, *Loverboy* (2001), about a mother’s obsessive love for her child, was made into a movie in 2005, directed by Kevin Bacon and starring Kyra Sedgwick and Matt Dillon. In reviewing the book *Library Journal* said, “Redel . . . writes like an angel about the darkest edge of obsession. This debut is simply excellent.” Redel’s most recent book is *The Border of Truth* (2007), which follows the daughter of a Holocaust survivor as she uncovers the secrets of her family’s history. The *Publishers Weekly* review said, “Redel offers a welcome and fresh perspective on the well-trod subject of the Holocaust.”

November 27 (Tuesday): Poet and fiction writer Victoria Redel
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m.,
 Science Library 340
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall,
 Campus Center

Victoria Redel is a poet, short story writer, and novelist whose work often deals with women’s issues and the experiences of Jewish immigrants. Her story collection *Where the Road Bottoms Out* and her poetry collection *Already the World* were both published in 1995 and received strong praise. *Publishers Weekly* noted that her poetry “fashions a mature, distinctive voice.” Grace Paley said of her story collection, “Only a poet could have

November 29 (Thursday): Fiction writer Tom Perrotta
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Campus Center 375

Tom Perrotta, “one of America’s best-kept literary secrets” (*Newsweek*), writes biting satires about suburban life and adolescent experience. His newest novel is *The Abstinence Teacher* (2007), a foray into the world of sex education and the American culture wars. The novel has already been optioned for a film to be directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, the team behind the indie hit *Little Miss Sunshine*. Perrotta’s previous novels include *Little Children* (2004), a *New York Times* and NPR “Best Book of 2004”; *Joe College* (2000), *Election* (1998) and *The Wishbones* (1997). The story of a bitterly fought election for High School Class President, *Election* became a hit movie starring Reese Witherspoon and Matthew Broderick, and earned an Oscar nomination for “Best Screenplay.” Perrotta is also the author of a story collection, *Bad Haircut: Stories of the Seventies* (1994).



Tom Perrotta

Cosponsored by the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

November 30 (Friday) **LITTLE CHILDREN** film screening
 * 7:00 p.m. Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus
 (United States, 2006, 130 minutes, color, 35 mm)
 Directed by Todd Field
 Starring Kate Winslet, Patrick Wilson, Jennifer Connelly

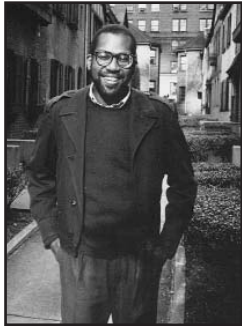


LITTLE CHILDREN

This film earned cowriters Tom Perrotta and Todd Field a “Best Screenplay” Oscar nomination for the adaptation of Perrotta’s novel of the same name. **LITTLE CHILDREN** follows the course of an adulterous affair between a stay-at-home mom and a stay-at-home dad who meet on the playground of an affluent American town. Writing in the *Guardian* (UK), Philip French called it, “a sharply observed and brilliantly acted study of American suburban life.”

NOTE: Tom Perrotta who coscripted **LITTLE CHILDREN**, and authored the novel, will offer commentary and answer questions immediately following the screening. Perrotta will also hold an informal seminar on screenwriting at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, November 30th in Science Library 340 on the UAlbany uptown campus.

December 5 (Wednesday): Award-winning novelist, playwright, and essayist Darryl Pinckney
 Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
 Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center



© Dominique Nabokov

Darryl Pinckney

Darryl Pinckney, prize-winning novelist, playwright, and essayist is the author most recently of *Out There: Mavericks of Black Literature* (2002), critical and biographical sketches of three Black authors who lived and worked in Europe: J. A. Rogers, Vincent O. Carter, and Caryl Phillips. *World Literature Today* said the essays, “are eminently readable and flow beautifully.... [Pinckney] is incisive, his touch light but full of conviction.” *High Cotton* (1992), Pinckney’s semi-autobiographical satirical novel about growing up Black and bourgeois in the 1960s, received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for fiction. The *New York Review of Books* said of *High Cotton*, “Pinckney’s prose—funny, observant, lyrical, self-deprecating—is as good as any now being written in English.” Other works include the collection of critical essays, *Sold and Gone: African American Literature and U.S. Society* (2001), and the texts for three theatrical works by leading avant-garde director Robert Wilson, “The Forest” (1988), “Orlando” (1989), and “Time Rocker” (1995). Pinckney is a past recipient of the Whiting Writers Award and the Vursell Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

December 7 (Friday): **BAMAKO** film screening
 * 7:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus

(Mali, 2006, 118 minutes, color, 35 mm)
 Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako
 Starring Aïssa Maïga, Tiécoura Traoré, Maimouna Hélène Diarra
 In Bambara and French with English subtitles



BAMAKO

A poignant and provocative film, **BAMAKO** presents a group of ordinary Africans who convene an impromptu court of justice to try officials of the IMF and World Bank for crimes against Africa. Writing in the *New York Times*, A. O. Scott called **BAMAKO**, “A film that needs to be seen, argued over and seen again.... A disarmingly beautiful, fierce and unforgettable piece of political art that is also a haunting visual poem.”

NOTE: Bret Benjamin, UAlbany English professor and author of *Invested Interests: Capital, Culture, and the World Bank* (2007), will answer questions and offer commentary immediately after the screening.

December 14 (Friday): **THE AWFUL TRUTH** film screening

7:30 p.m., Page Hall,
 135 Western Ave.,
 Downtown Campus



THE AWFUL TRUTH

(United States, 1937, 91 minutes, b/w, 35 mm)

Directed by Leo McCarey
 Starring Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Ralph Bellamy
 Jerry (Cary Grant) and Lucy (Irene Dunne) divorce over mutual suspicions of infidelity. Lucy becomes engaged to a rich Oklahoma oilman, while Jerry pursues a wealthy socialite. Meanwhile, each is compelled to ruin the other’s plans. A classic of the screwball comedy genre, **THE AWFUL TRUTH** was

nominated for six major Academy Awards, and earned a “Best Director” Oscar for Leo McCarey. It will be shown in a restored 70th Anniversary print.

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