VISITING WRITERS SERIES
CAMPBELL MCGRATH
GREGORY MAGUIRE
JAMES WOOD
LI-YOUNG LEE

NEW YORK STATE INSTITUTE
State University of New York

EVENTS
MARIE HOWE
SUSAN CHOI
RICHARD PRICE
CRISTINA GARCIA
CLASSIC FILM SERIES
KILLER OF SHEEP
DRAGONWYCK
GERTRUDE STEIN DOCUMENTARY
LA BÊTE HUMAINE
THE FACE OF ANOTHER

PEN WORLD VOICES
STATE AUTHORITY POET AWARDS

SPRING 2008 UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
Michael Mayer, leading Broadway theatre director, received a 2007 Tony Award for “Best Director” for Spring Awakening (2006), which also earned “Best Musical.” A boldly original work Spring Awakening is a rock musical set in 19th century Germany. It is based on the controversial 1891 Frank Wedekind play that so daringly played and was banned from the stage for almost 100 years. Mayer has received three previous “Best Director” Tony nominations for the revival of Arthur Miller’s A View from the Bridge (1998), which received the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Director; the revival of You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown (1999); and Thoroughly Modern Millie (2001), which earned a Tony for “Best Musical,” as well as the Drama Desk Award. Other Broadway credits include the Drama Desk winner, Side Man (1998), which was presented as a play-in-progress by the Writers Institute’s Authors Theatre program, and a Drama Desk Outstanding Revival award for Chekhov’s Uncle Vanya.

**February 8 (Friday): KILLER OF SHEEP film screening**
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(U.S., 1977, 83 minutes, b&w, 35 mm)
Directed by Charles Burnett
Starring Henry G. Sanders, Kaycee Moore, Charles Bracy
A radically inventive, dream-like portrait of a Black slaughterhouse worker as he experiences everyday life in South Central L.A., this film was declared a “national treasure” by the Library of Congress, and was selected by the National Society of Film Critics as one of the “100 essential films” of all time. Shown in a much-anticipated director’s cut that was re-released to theatres in 2007.

**February 12 (Tuesday): Fiction writer Susan Choi**
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Susan Choi, prize-winning fiction writer, is the author most recently of *A Person of Interest* (2008), a thriller about a mild-mannered Asian American math professor falsely accused of killing prominent scientists with mail bombs. The novel has been described as a fusion of the Unabomber and Wen Ho Lee investigations. Choi was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for *American Woman* (2003), a novel based on the 1974 kidnapping of heiress Patty Hearst by the Symbionese Liberation Army. The novel’s central character, Jenny Shimada, is based on the real-life Japanese-American radical, Wendy Yoshimura. The USA Today reviewer said, “Choi gives us an intelligently rendered book that reminds us how fascinating Hearst’s story — and the times that spawned it — really were.” Choi’s first novel was *The Foreign Student* (1999), winner of the Asian-American Literary Award. She also coedited the anthology, *Wonderful Town: New York Stories from The New Yorker* (2000), with editor-in-chief David Remnick.

**February 22 (Friday): Documentary filmmaker Perry Miller Adato**
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Screening of GERTRUDE STEIN documentary with commentary — 7:00 p.m.*, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Perry Miller Adato is a major figure in the art of biographical and historical filmmaking. Her 1970 documentary, *GERTRUDE STEIN: WHEN THIS YOU SEE, REMEMBER ME* (U.S., 89 minutes, b&w/color, DVD), is one of the key pioneering works of the historical documentary genre. Using revolutionary techniques that have been widely imitated, the film makes use of old photographs, letters, readings, art objects, songs, newsreel footage, and interviews to bring its subject to life. In 1977, Adato became the first woman to receive the prestigious Directors Guild of America Award for her television documentary, *GEORGIA O’KEEFFE*. Adato went on to receive that same award three more times for *EUGENE O’NEILL: A GLORY OF GHOSTS* (1986), CARL SANDBURG: ECHOES AND SILENCES (1982), and *PICASSO: A PAINTER’S DIARY* (1980). Her most recent documentary is *ALFRED STIEGLITZ: THE ELOQUENT EYE* (2001). The Philadelphia Enquirer has asserted, “... Among American producers and directors, she leads the league....” During the afternoon seminar Adato will discuss the process of funding and producing a major documentary, using as an example her current project “Paris: The Luminous Years,” a two-part series that celebrates the arts in Paris from 1905–1930. Adato will provide commentary and answer questions following the evening screening of her documentary *GERTRUDE STEIN*. Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Documentary Studies Program.

**February 28 (Thursday): Critic James Wood**
Fiction reading — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Talk/discussion on contemporary literary criticism — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

March 11 (Tuesday): Award-winning poets Marie Howe and Campbell McGrath
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Marie Howe writes “a poetry of intimacy, witness, honesty, and relation” (The Boston Globe). Her newest collection is The Kingdom of Ordinary Time (2008), an exploration of ordinary, yet nevertheless miraculous, day-to-day moments—hurrying through errands, attending a dying mother, helping a child on the playground. Howe was selected by Stanley Kunitz for the Lavan Younger Poets Prize in 1988. Kunitz said, “Her long, deep-breathing lines address the mysteries of flesh and spirit, in terms accessible only to a woman who is very much of our time and yet still in touch with the sacred.” Her first book of poems, The Good Thief (1989), was chosen by Margaret Atwood to be the winner of the National Poetry Series. Atwood said, “Marie Howe’s poetry doesn’t fool around . . . these poems are intensely felt, sparely expressed, and difficult to forget....” Howe is also the author of What the Living Do: Poems (1997), and co-editor of In the Company of My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic (1994).

Campbell McGrath is a prize-winning poet admired for accessible verse that explores the cultural and natural landscapes of the United States. Much of his work has been characterized as a witty and wise indictment of American consumerism. Outside magazine has called him, “An acrobatic, exuberant poet, part Walt Whitman, part Tom Waits.... a writer who could help save poetry from academia and get the rest of us reading it again.” Library Journal has said, “McGrath sings American in a voice at once electric and eclectic, plumbing the best and worst of our society.” McGrath’s latest poetry collection is Seven Notebooks (2008), a season-by-season accounting of a year in the life of its narrator, from spring in Chicago to summer at the Jersey shore to winter in Miami Beach. Publishers Weekly calls it, “... a big, ambitious, optimistic volume.” Previous collections include Florida Poems (2002), Road Atlas (1999), Spring Comes to Chicago (1996), and American Noise (1993). He is a three-time winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize, and a 1999 recipient of a MacArthur ‘genius grant.’
March 13 (Thursday): Fiction writer Gregory Maguire
Reading/Talk — 7:00 p.m. * [Note early start time], Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center


A book signing will be held at the University Art Museum following the reading.

March 14 (Friday): CLANDO film screening
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(Cameroon, 1996, 90 minutes, color, 35 mm, in French with English subtitles)
Directed by Jean-Marie Téno
Starring Paulin Fodouop, Henriette Fenda, Caroline Redl

In this acclaimed feature film an African computer programmer gets caught up in a web of corruption and political intrigue. Jean-Marie Téno, award-winning, socially-conscious filmmaker, explores the political kleptocracy and bitter colonial legacy of his native country of Cameroon, the only African country to be colonized by three European powers: Germany, France, and Britain. The prestigious Toronto Film Festival bills the Paris-based Téno as “one of the best documentarians alive” and “one of African cinema’s most exciting directors.” Téno’s work has frequently been censored in Cameroon and banned from state-owned television.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

March 17 (Monday): Irish-American writers Daniel Cassidy and Peter Quinn
Reading/Discussion — 8:00 p.m., Clark Auditorium, Cultural Education Center, Albany

Daniel Cassidy, founder and co-director of the Irish Studies Program at New College in San Francisco, is the author of the new book, How the Irish Invented Slang: The Secret Language of the Crossroads (2007). In a series of essays, Cassidy demonstrates that many of the words of “unknown origin” that define colloquial American English—including “jazz,” “dude,” “poker,” “slum,” “sucker,” and “scam”—all derive from the Irish language. The Belfast Telegraph called How the Irish Invented Slang, a “stunningly original book” and said that as Cassidy “cites example after example of Irish words infiltrating the street vernacular of the U.S., the plausibility of his argument tends to overwhelm scepticism.”


Cosponsored by Friends of the New York State Library
April 1 (Tuesday): Poet Li-Young Lee
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Li-Young Lee was born to Chinese parents in Jakarta, Indonesia. His father, who had been Mao Zedong’s personal physician, fled China to escape persecution for Christian beliefs. The family emigrated to the United States in 1964. Strongly influenced by T’ang Dynasty poetry—as well as the poetry of the King James Bible—Lee’s work is often characterized by simplicity and silence. Of his newest collection, Behind My Eyes (2008), Publishers Weekly in a starred review said, “... every line bears the weight of long meditation, sometimes even of wisdom,” and Booklist called it a “lithe and powerful new collection.” The book is accompanied by an audio CD. Lee’s awards include a 2003 Fellowship of the Academy of American Poets; the William Carlos Williams Award for the collection Book of My Nights (2001); the American Book Award for the memoir, The Winged Seed (1995); the Lamont Poetry Prize for The City in Which I Love You (1990); and the Delmore Schwartz Award for Rose (1986). He is also a recipient of the Lannan Literary and Whiting Writer’s Awards.

April 4 (Friday): MAD DOG AND GLORY film screening
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(U.S., 1993, 97 minutes, color, 35 mm)
Directed by John McNaughton
Starring Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman, Bill Murray

Street-smart novelist Richard Price (who will appear at the Writers Institute on April 10 —see listing on page 13) showcases his gift for dialogue in this comedy about a shy cop who saves the life of a mob boss and is rewarded with the problematic “gift” of a beautiful woman. Writing in the New York Times, Vincent Canby called it, an “unconscionably enjoyable movie that plays like something conceived by a contemporary, furiously hip Damon Runyon.”
April 1 (Tuesday)
Poet Li-Young Lee
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

April 10 (Thursday)
Novelist Richard Price
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

The Big Read
April 11 (Friday)
Edith Wharton scholar Nancy Lewis
Screening of The Age of Innocence followed by film commentary — 7:00 p.m.*, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

April 14 (Monday)
Staged Reading of Dava Sobel’s play And the Sun Stood Still
Reading — 7:00 p.m.*, Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

April 16 (Wednesday)
Award-winning fiction writer Russell Banks
Seminar — 4:00 p.m., Heffner Alumni House, 1301 Peoples Avenue, Troy (RPI)
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Darrin Communication Center 308, RPI

April 24 (Thursday)
Poet Frank Bidart
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

April 29 (Tuesday)
PEN World Voices: Festival of International Literature
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

May 1 (Thursday)
FENCE Spring/Summer 2008 Launch Reading
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

May 6 (Tuesday)
Fiction writer Nicholas Delbanco
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

May 8 (Thursday)
Cuban-American fiction writer Cristina Garcia
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Classic Film Series

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

February 8 (Friday): KILLER OF SHEEP
Directed by Charles Burnett (U.S., 1977, 83 minutes, b&w, 35 mm)

February 22 (Friday *): GERTRUDE STEIN: WHEN THIS YOU SEE, REMEMBER ME
Directed by Perry Miller Adato (U.S., 1970, 89 minutes, b&w/color, DVD)
Perry Miller Adato will provide commentary and answer questions following the screening.

February 29 (Friday *): SHOLAY
Directed by Ramesh Sippy (India, 1975, 188 minutes, color, DVD, in Hindi with English subtitles)

March 7 (Friday): DRAGONWYCK
Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (U.S., 1946, 103 minutes, b&w, 35 mm)

March 14 (Friday): CLANDO
Directed by Jean-Marie Téno (Cameroon, 1996, 90 minutes, color, 35 mm, in French with English subtitles)

March 18 (Friday): MAD DOG AND GLORY
Directed by John McNaughton (U.S., 1993, 97 minutes, color, 35 mm)

March 31 (Friday *): THE AGE OF INNOCENCE
Directed by Martin Scorcese (U.S., 1993, 139 minutes, color, 35 mm)
Nancy Lewis, Edith Wharton scholar, will provide commentary following the screening.

April 4 (Friday): LA BÊTE HUMAINE
Directed by Jean Renoir (France, 1938, 100 minutes, b&w, DVD, in French with English subtitles)

April 25 (Friday): THE LOST CITY
Directed by Andy Garcia (U.S., 2005, 143 minutes, color, 35 mm, in English and Spanish with English subtitles)

May 2 (Friday): THE FACE OF ANOTHER [TANIN NO KAO]
Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara (Japan, 1966, 124 minutes, b&w, 35 mm, in Japanese with English subtitles)

May 9 (Friday): CITY LIGHTS
Directed by Charlie Chaplin (U.S., 1931, 87 minutes, b&w, 35 mm, silent with live piano accompaniment provided by Mike Schiffer)
April 10 (Thursday): Novelist Richard Price
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Richard Price is one of America’s leading novelists, an author whose hard-boiled, provocative and often violent books transcend genre and earn superlative praise. He is regarded as one of the most sought-after writers of streetwise plots and dialogue for the motion picture industry. His newest novel of crime and urban survival is Lush Life (2008), about the desperate fates of working class people left stranded by gentrification on New York’s Lower East Side. In advance praise, Russell Banks said, “With Lush Life Richard Price has become our post-modern American Balzac. [He] writes the language we hear and speak better than any novelist around, living or dead....” Earlier novels, many of them adapted for the screen, include Samaritan (2003), Freedomland (1998), Clockers (1992), Bloodbrothers (1976), and The Wanderers (1974). Screen and TV writing credits include four episodes of HBO’s “The Wire,” FREEDOMLAND (2006), SHAFT (2000), RANSOM (1996), NIGHT AND THE CITY (1992), SEA OF LOVE (1989), and THE COLOR OF MONEY (1986), which received a “Best Screenplay” Oscar nomination.

“The Big Read” Project
April 11 (Friday): THE AGE OF INNOCENCE film screening
7:00 p.m., *[Note early start time] Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(U.S., 1993, 139 minutes, color, 35 mm)
Directed by Martin Scorsese
Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder

A sumptuous adaptation of Edith Wharton’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of sex and social scandal among New York’s upper classes in the 1870s. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone said that director Martin Scorsese “sweeps us away on waves of dizzying eroticism and rapturous romance.”

continued on next page
April 14 (Monday):  Staged Reading of Dava Sobel’s And the Sun Stood Still

Staged Reading — 7:00 p.m., * [Note early start time] Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

The Writers Institute will offer a staged reading of Dava Sobel’s new play-in-progress, And the Sun Stood Still. The play presents the brilliant Polish astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, in his struggle to understand and describe the solar system. Copernicus’s master work, On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres, caused a firestorm of controversy in its own day, particularly among religious authorities who believed, based on statements in Scripture, that the Earth stood—fixed and immovable—at the center of the Universe. The play was originally commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club with funds provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Dava Sobel, bestselling science writer and former science reporter for the New York Times, is renowned for her ability to present arcane subjects in riveting and readable prose. She is the author most recently of The Planets (2005), an entertaining history of the individual members of our “solar family” as they have been explained by science, mythology, visual art, and popular culture throughout the ages. Her other books include Galileo’s Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love (1999), a number one New York Times nonfiction bestseller, and winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Award; and the 1995 surprise bestseller, Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time.

April 16 (Wednesday):  Award-winning fiction writer Russell Banks

Seminar — 4:00 p.m., Heffner Alumni House, 1301 Peoples Avenue, Rensselaer (RPI), Troy

Reading and McKinney Award Ceremony — 8:00 p.m., Darrin Communication Center 308, Rensselear (RPI)

Russell Banks, the author of eleven novels and five short story collections, recently served as New York State Author (2004–7). He has been called, “...a writer we, as readers and writers, can actually learn from, whose books help and urge us to change” (Fred Pfeif, Voice Literary Supplement). His newest novel, The Reserve, is set in the Adirondacks in 1936-37, at the height of the Great Depression. Winner of numerous awards, Banks is a leading voice of modern letters. He is a past recipient of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award, the John Dos Passos Award, and the O. Henry Memorial Award. He received the American Book Award for The Book of Jamaica (1980). His novels, Continental Drift (1986), and Cloudsplitter (1998), were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. Two other novels, Affliction (1990) and The Sweet Hereafter (1991) were adapted as major motion pictures. His recent novel, The Darling (2004), was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

Cosponsored in conjunction with Rensselaer’s 67th McKinney Writing Contest and Reading

April 18 (Friday):  LA BÊTE HUMAINE film screening

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

(France, 1938, 100 minutes, b&w, DVD, in French with English subtitles)

Directed by Jean Renoir

Starring Jean Gabin, Simone Simon, Fernand Ledoux, Julien Carette

A train engineer, given to fits of violence, falls for a kittenish station-master’s wife in this dark, atmospheric, pre-film noir treatment of Emile Zola’s novel by master-director Jean Renoir. A classic of poetic realism and “proletarian” cinema, the film features “stunning images of trains and railway lines as a metaphor for the blind, immutable forces that drive human passions to destruction” (Time Out New York).
April 24 (Thursday): **Poet Frank Bidart**

**Seminar** — 4:15 p.m., Campus Center 375
**Reading** — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

**Frank Bidart**, more than any contemporary American poet, is associated with the revelations of troubled minds, and with risk-taking adventures into the realm of vision and spirit. In 2007, Bidart received Yale University’s Bollingen Prize for lifetime achievement in poetry. In making the award, the judges said, “Bidart’s poems—eerie, probing, sometimes shocking, always subtle—venture into psychic terrain left largely unmapped in contemporary poetry.” His newest collection, *Watching the Spring Festival: Poems* (2008), explores “the difficulties of finding transformation.” Known as a master of the long, or book-length poem, Bidart here writes in the short lyric form for the first time. Recent collections include *Star Dust* (2005), *Music Like Dirt* (2002), and *Desire* (1997), which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and National Book Critics Circle Award. His prizes include the Wallace Stevens Award, the Shelley Award, and the *Paris Review’s* first Bernard F. Conners Prize. In 2003, Bidart was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

April 25 (Friday): **THE LOST CITY film screening**

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

(U.S., 2005, 143 minutes, color, 35 mm, in English and Spanish with English subtitles)

Directed by Andy Garcia

Starring Andy Garcia, Inés Sastre, Tomas Milian

Sixteen years in the making and based on a screenplay by the late Guillermo Cabrera Infante, this lavish epic follows the fortunes of Havana’s glitzy nightclub set during and after Castro’s revolution. Many critics view the film as a flawed masterpiece, a Cuban DOCTOR ZHIVAGO intercut with spectacular cabaret performances, “a musical fever dream of Paradise Lost” (*The Seattle Times*).

Special Event

April 29 (Tuesday):

**PEN World Voices: Festival of International Literature**

**Reading** — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

For the first time ever PEN World Voices and the Writers Institute will join together to present an exciting line up of writers from around the globe. The Institute will play host to a selection of writers who will participate in the 2008 PEN World Voices: The New York Festival of International Literature, sponsored by the PEN American Center. Dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding, tolerance, and freedom of expression, the PEN American Center is the largest of the 141 centers of International PEN, the world’s oldest human rights organization and the oldest international literary arts organization. Last year’s participants in the PEN Festival included Chinua Achebe, Nadine Gordimer, Toni Morrison, Orhan Pamuk, Salman Rushdie, and Saadi Youssef, among many others. This year’s featured writers will represent more than 30 countries.

May 1 (Thursday):

**FENCE Spring/Summer 2008 Launch Reading**

**Reading** — 8:00 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

Contributors from the Spring/Summer 2008 issue of FENCE magazine will read from their poetry and fiction to celebrate the release of the Spring/Summer 2008 issue. Marking its 10th year of publication, FENCE is a biannual journal of poetry, fiction, criticism, and art. Widely respected, the journal is known for including writing from the “experimental” community along with the work of “mainstream” authors and juxtaposing the work of lesser known and/or unknown writers with some of the most well known and respected writers of our time.
May 2 (Friday):  THE FACE OF ANOTHER [TANIN NO KAO] film screening
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(Japan, 1966, 124 minutes, b&w, 35 mm, in Japanese with English subtitles)
Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara
Starring Tatsuya Nakadai, Machiko Kyô, Mikijiro Hira

In this low-budget horror classic, a man disfigured by an industrial fire persuades a doctor to give him a new face. Along with it, he adopts a new and dangerously unstable personality. Strictly Film School (filmref.com) calls the film, “a haunting, cautionary fairytale of masquerade and revelation, defect and vanity, impersonation and self-discovery.” Shown in a newly restored print.

May 6 (Tuesday):  Fiction writer Nicholas Delbanco
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Nicholas Delbanco, author of more than twenty books, has been called “…as fine a pure prose stylist as any writer living” (Chicago Tribune Book World). John Updike has said that Delbanco, “ wrestles with the abundance of his gifts as a novelist the way other men wrestle with their deficiencies.” His newest book is The Count of Concord (2008), a fictionalized biography of the real-life Count Rumford, born Benjamin Thompson in Woburn, Massachusetts in 1753. A boy genius and inventor, Rumford declared himself a loyalist during the American Revolution, fled the newborn United States, and eventually became a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. Andrea Barrett praised the book saying, “…this brilliantly written novel—by turns wrenching, antic, and deep—marvelously illuminates a complicated scientist’s life and times.” Delbanco’s previous novels include The Vagabonds (2004), What Remains (2000), The Sherbrooke Trilogy (1977-1980), and The Martlet’s Tale (1966). Recent nonfiction includes Anywhere Out of the World: Essays on Travel, Writing, and Death (2005) and The Sincerest Form: Writing Fiction by Imitation (2004).

May 8 (Thursday):  Cuban-American fiction writer Cristina Garcia
Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340
Reading — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

Cristina Garcia, prize-winning Cuban-American novelist and former Miami Bureau Chief for Time, is the author most recently of A Handbook to Luck (2007). The novel tells the stories of three immigrants from countries in conflict—Enrique of Cuba, Marta of El Salvador, and Leila of Iran—whose fortunes intersect, unpredictably, in the casinos of Las Vegas. People magazine said, “Garcia expertly braids each of the stories together, tenderly tracing the passage of these 1960s children into 1980s adults as they begin to discover the often unavoidable gap ‘between what you planned and what actually happened.’” Garcia’s previous novels include Monkey Hunting (2003), a novel of the Chinese Cuban experience; The Agüero Sisters (1997), winner of the Kafka Prize; and Dreaming in Cuban (1992), a finalist for the National Book Award. She is also editor of Bordering Fires: The Vintage Book of Contemporary Mexican and Chicano Literature (2006) and Cubanismo: The Vintage Book of Contemporary Cuban Literature (2003). Garcia is also a past recipient of the Whiting Writer’s Award.

May 9 (Friday):  CITY LIGHTS film screening
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(U.S., 1931, 87 minutes, b&w, 35 mm)
Directed by Charlie Chaplin
Starring Charlie Chaplin, Virginia Cherrill, Harry Myers
SILENT with live piano accompaniment by Mike Schiffer

Both moving and laugh-out-loud funny, Chaplin’s slapstick masterpiece about the love affair between a “tramp” and a blind flower girl will be screened in a newly restored print. The Chicago Reader’s Dave Kehr called it, “A beautiful example of Chaplin’s ability to turn narrative fragments into emotional wholes…. as eccentric as it is sublime.”
Showcase of Documentary Films

Watch for an announcement of a special series in February showcasing the genre of documentary films. Five remarkable filmmakers will both screen and talk about their work. Screenings will take place in the Science Library 340. Details will be posted on the Institute’s website: www.albany.edu/writers-inst.
Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Documentary Studies Program
Spring 2008
Visiting Writer Series
and Classic Film Series
Schedule of Events