

# EVENTS

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

NEW YORK STATE  INSTITUTE

*State University of New York*

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

SPRING 2008

STATE AUTHOR/STATE POET AWARDS  
PEN WORLD VOICES

# CATALOG

UNIVERSITY  
AT ALBANY

## THE WRITERS INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK CITY

### AWP Annual Conference — January 30 – February 2, 2008

The Writers Institute opens its Spring 2008 season as a sponsor of the annual Associated Writing Programs Conference (AWP), North America's largest conference of writers, creative writing teachers, publishers of literary journals, and representatives of literary programs. This year's conference will be held in New York City at the Hilton New York and Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, January 30 – February 2, 2008. The Institute will share a booth with its new partner FENCE/Fence Books, and will sponsor the following events:

#### Thursday, January 31 — 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Small Press Center, 20 West 44th Street

Reception with FENCE/Fence Books, the Small Press Center, New York State Council on the Arts, and New Directions Publishing Company. Writers, aspiring writers, and readers are invited to join us for casual conversation with a variety of authors who will be participating in the AWP conference.

#### Friday, February 1 — 10:30 – 11:45 a.m., Grand Ballroom East, Hilton, 3rd Floor

*Conversations with and Readings by the New York State Author:* New York State Author Russell Banks will read from his work and discuss the craft of writing with novelist and Institute Executive Director William Kennedy.

#### Friday, February 1 — 1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Grand Ballroom, Hilton, 3rd Floor

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist William Kennedy will read from his work along with National Book Award-winning novelist Alice McDermott.

#### Saturday, February 2 — 3:00 – 4:15 p.m., Empire Ballroom, Sheraton, 2nd Floor

*The Place of Art and Language and the Language of Art and Place:* A panel discussion with Institute/UAlbany writing faculty Lydia Davis, William Kennedy, Edward Schwarzschild, Lynne Tillman, and Rebecca Wolff, moderated by Institute Director Donald Faulkner.

For information on registering for the AWP conference visit their website at: [www.awpwriter.org/conference/2008awpconf.php](http://www.awpwriter.org/conference/2008awpconf.php)

### Fence Books Spring Launch Reading

Tuesday, April 22 — 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The New School, 66 W. 12th Street, Room 510, New York, NY

Celebrate the release of Fence Books' new spring titles, featuring readings by:

Jibade-Khalil Huffman (*19 Names for Our Band*)

Aaron Kunin (*The Mandarin*)

Kaisa Ullsvik Miller (*Unspoiled Air*)

Reception to follow.

**FENCE**

# SPRING EVENTS 2008

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 events

## 12th Annual Burian Lecture

Cosponsored by the Department of Theatre and funded by the Jarka and Grayce Burian Endowment

**February 7 (Thursday): Award-winning theatre director Michael Mayer**

**Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center**

**The Burian Lecture — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center**



Photo: Ben Strothmann

Michael Mayer

**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 depicted teenage sexual discovery that it 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*.

Mayer made his feature film directorial debut with *A Home at the End of the World* (2004), based on the novel by Michael Cunningham. More recently he directed the family film, *Flicka* (2006).

**SPRING AWAKENING**

FEBRUARY

**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.



**KILLER OF SHEEP**

**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**



Photo: Sigrid Estrada

**Susan Choi**

“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.

**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,

**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, “....



Photo: Thirteen/WNET

**Perry Miller Adato**

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**



Photo: Cade Martin

**James Wood**

**James Wood**, English-born staff writer and literary critic at *The New Yorker* and a former book editor at the *New Republic*, has been called the most influential literary critic of his generation. His third book of criticism is *How Fiction Works* (2008), a blunt, funny and plainspoken analysis of the art form. Wood became chief literary critic of the *Guardian* (UK) at the age of 26 in 1992. He champions art over ideology, and aesthetics over politics. *Los Angeles Times* critic Jeffrey Meyers has said, “. . . James Wood has ignored the opaque aridity of literary theory and insisted on the human relevance of classic and modern literature.” Previous collections of criticism include *The Irresponsible Self* (2004), and *The Broken Estate* (1999). *The Book Against God*, his first novel, appeared in 2003.



**February 29 (Friday): SHOLAY film screening**

7:00 p.m. \* [Note early start time], Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(India, 1975, 188 minutes, color, DVD, in Hindi with English subtitles)  
Directed by Ramesh Sippy  
Starring Dharmendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini, Amitabh Bachchan

Loosely inspired by Akira Kurosawa's THE SEVEN SAMURAI, and combining relentless action with lively song-and-dance numbers, SHOLAY is widely-considered one of the greatest films of Bollywood cinema. A police officer from a small village in rural India recruits two small-time crooks to help him fight the notorious bandit who murdered his family.



SHOLAY

**March 3 (Monday): State Author/State Poet Award Ceremony and Reading (recipients TBA)**

Ceremony/Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

The New York State Writers Institute will award the Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for Fiction Writers and the Walt Whitman Citation of Merit for Poets for 2008-2010 to authors whose career achievements make them deserving of New York State's highest literary honors. The recipients will read from their work following the award ceremony.

**March 7 (Friday): DRAGONWYCK film screening**



DRAGONWYCK

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

(U.S., 1946, 103 minutes, b&w, 35 mm)  
Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz  
Starring Gene Tierney, Walter Huston, Vincent Price

Set in the Albany area, this campy Gothic melodrama tells the tale of a young woman who goes to live with rich, possibly murderous relatives in a Hudson Valley mansion. Based on the novel by Anya Seton, the film represents Joseph Mankiewicz's directorial debut. The peculiar Van Ryn family is based on the Capital Region's Van Rensselaer family.

**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, sparsely 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).



Photo: Brad Fowler

Marie Howe



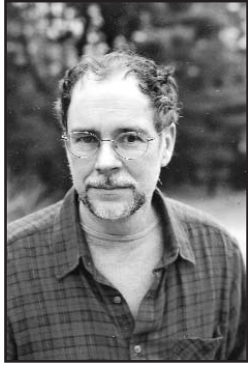
Campbell McGrath

**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



**Gregory Maguire**

**Gregory Maguire**, the much acclaimed Albany-born author, revisionist fairy tale writer, and UAlbany graduate, is best-known for *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* (1995). “An amazing novel,” said John Updike in *The New Yorker*. Adapted as a Broadway musical in 2003, *Wicked* received 10 Tony nominations. Maguire’s newest book is *What-the-Dickens: The Story of a Rogue Tooth Fairy* (2007), a children’s novel about an orphaned male fairy, hatched in a discarded tuna can, who embarks on a quest of self-discovery. *The Washington Post* praised the author’s “dancing, silken prose,” and *Kirkus Reviews* called it “a winner for Maguire’s fans of all

ages.” Other fairy tale “revisions” include *Son of a Witch* (2005), an Oz sequel; *Mirror, Mirror* (2003), based on *Snow White*; and *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister* (1999), a Cinderella tale. A scholar of children’s literature, Maguire currently serves as codirector of the not-for-profit arts foundation, Children’s Literature New England, Inc.

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.



**CLANDO**

**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

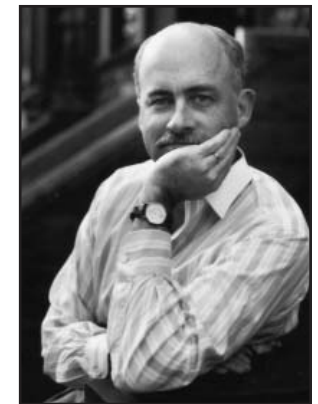


**Daniel Cassidy**

**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.”

**Peter Quinn**, author of the introduction to Cassidy’s book, is also the author of the new book, *Looking for Jimmy: A Search for Irish America* (2007). Paying homage in its title to a notable pair of 20th century Irish-American archetypes—actor James Cagney and corrupt New York City mayor James J. Walker—the book presents portraits of legendary and unknown Irish-Americans, including writers, politicians, cops, and priests. The *Washington Post Book World* called it an “exceptionally thoughtful and interesting inquiry into Irish America.” A former speechwriter for New York State Governors Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo, Quinn received the American Book Award for *Banished Children of Eve: A Novel of Civil War New York* (1994). He is also the author of the detective novel, *Hour of the Cat* (2005).



**Peter Quinn**

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**

**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.”

**MAD DOG AND GLORY**

# Quick Reference Calendar

# Spring 2008

**Visiting Writers Series**

\* Denotes 7:00 p.m. start time for events

**February 7 (Thursday)****12th Annual Burian Lecture****Award-winning theatre director Michael Mayer**

Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

The Burian Lecture — 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

**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

**February 22 (Friday)****Documentary filmmaker Perry Miller Adato**

Seminar — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

Screening of GERTRUDE STEIN with Commentary — 7:00 p.m.\*, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

**February 28 (Thursday)****Critic James Wood**

Fiction reading — 4:15 p.m., Science Library 340

Talk on contemporary literary criticism — 8:00 p.m., Assembly Hall, Campus Center

**March 3 (Monday)****2008–2010 State Author/State Poet Award Ceremony and Reading**

Ceremony/Reading — 8:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

**March 11 (Tuesday)****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

**March 13 (Thursday)****Fiction writer Gregory Maguire**

Reading — 7:00 p.m.\*, Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

**March 17 (Monday)****Irish-American writers Daniel Cassidy and Peter Quinn**

Reading/Discussion — 8:00 p.m., Clark Auditorium, Cultural Education Center, Albany



**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)

**April 4 (Friday): MAD DOG AND GLORY**

Directed by John McNaughton (U.S., 1993, 97 minutes, color, 35 mm)

**April 11 (Friday \*): THE AGE OF INNOCENCE**

Directed by Martin Scorsese (U.S., 1993, 139 minutes, color, 35 mm)

Nancy Lewis, Edith Wharton scholar, will provide commentary following the screening.

**April 18 (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)

# New York State Summer Young Writers Institute



The New York State Writers Institute in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Special Programs at Skidmore College is pleased to announce the 10th annual creative writing workshop for New York State high school students. The New York State Summer Young Writers Institute (SYWI) will be held at **Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, July 20 – 26, 2008.**



Participants in the SYWI receive instruction in poetry, prose, and imaginative nonfiction, and engage in the critical evaluation of each other's work. There will be three workshops per day: two sessions in the morning, and one in the afternoon. In addition, the young writers will attend evening readings and craft talks by such nationally known writers as Russell Banks, Ann Beattie, Mary Gordon, William Kennedy, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Pinsky, and many more, who are part of the New York State Summer Writers Institute, a writing workshop for post-college writers, which also takes place on the Skidmore campus during the month of July.



The SYWI is open to any New York State high school student entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the fall of 2008. Thirty-four students will be chosen based on the submission of creative writing samples (see application for details). Full and partial scholarships are available to participants based on need. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2008.



For application forms and additional information visit the Institute website: [www.albany.edu/writers-inst/sywi.html](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/sywi.html)



University at Albany ♦ Science Library 320 ♦ 1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12222 ♦ (518) 442-5620

Visit the Writers Institute online for additional appearances and changes  
website: [www.albany.edu/writers-inst](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst)

## 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



Photo: Ralph Gibson

### Richard Price

**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. Price is also 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."



THE AGE OF  
INNOCENCE

*continued on next page*



Wharton scholar Nancy Lewis, whose husband R.W.B. Lewis served as a consultant on the script, will offer commentary immediately after the screening.

**Nancy Lewis** is an American studies scholar who collaborated frequently with her late husband, R. W. B. Lewis, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the landmark biography, *Edith Wharton* (1975). Together, the Lewises co-edited *The Letters of Edith Wharton* (1989), a collection of nearly 400 pieces of correspondence that show the great American novelist “at her epistolary best.” Writing in the *New York Times*, Michiko Kakutani called it a “meticulously edited volume” that adds “depth and chiaroscuro” to the known details of Wharton’s life.

"The Big Read" project encourages every member of the Capital Region to read a single book. This year's selection is *Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence*. "The Big Read" is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

## Authors Theatre

### 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.



Photo: Jerry Bauer

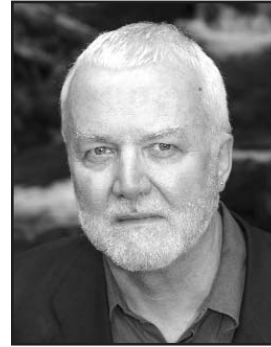
### Dava Sobel

**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, Rensselaer (RPI)



### Russell Banks

**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 Pfeil, *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 working class experience in 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*).



### LA BÊTE HUMAINE

**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. Connors Prize. In 2003, Bidart was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

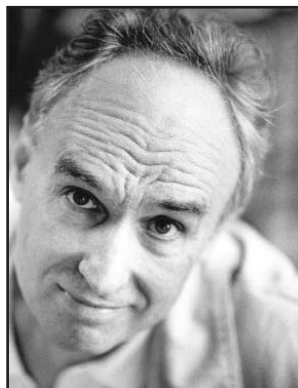


Photo: Emma Dodge Hanson

**Frank Bidart**

**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*).



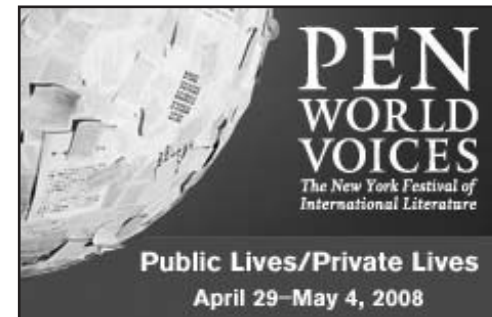
**THE LOST CITY**

**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.

**FENCE**

**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



**THE FACE OF ANOTHER**

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).



Photo: Emma Dodge Hanson

**Nicholas Delbanco**



Photo: Norma Quintana

**Cristina Garcia**

**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.”



**CITY LIGHTS**



### 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](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst).

*Cosponsored by UAlbany's Documentary Studies Program*



William Kennedy, Executive Director  
Donald Faulkner, Director

University at Albany  
Science Library 320  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12222  
Tel: (518) 442-5620  
Fax: (518) 442-5621

e-mail: [writers@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:writers@uamail.albany.edu)  
website: [www.albany.edu/writers-inst](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst)

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

Visit the Writers Institute online for additional appearances and changes:  
[www.albany.edu/writers-inst](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst)





NEW YORK STATE WRITERS INSTITUTE  
State University of New York

Science Library 320  
University at Albany/SUNY  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12222

Tel: (518) 442-5620  
Fax: (518) 442-5621

e-mail: [writers@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:writers@uamail.albany.edu)  
website: [www.albany.edu/writers-inst](http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst)

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## Spring 2008 Visiting Writer Series and Classic Film Series Schedule of Events