

NEWS RELEASE

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THE NEW SCHOOL PUBLIC PROGRAMS: LITERARY EVENTS **November-December 2009 Update**

NEW YORK, October 27, 2009—The New School Writing Program rounds out its fall programs with a wide and engaging range of literary events and readings. The offerings run the gamut from nonfiction to poetry to writing for children forums that feature some of the most gifted writers and thinkers of our times.

Roberta Smith (Nov. 5) will be speaking in the third of the AICA/USA Distinguished Critic Lectures at The New School, an annual event addressing current issues in the world of art criticism. Her lecture will present a view of the craft, process and usage of art criticism, and the rising challenges of crisis-management and relevance-maintenance. **George Packer** (Dec. 9) will read and discuss his work, including his latest book *Interesting Times: Writing from a Turbulent Decade*. Acclaimed poet **Mark Doty** (Dec. 14) reads and discusses his work, including *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*, which won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2008.

Other highlights include the Food Writing Forum with **Judith Jones** (Nov. 10), The New Yorker Theater: A Talk with **Toby Talbot** on Life in Art-House Cinema (Nov. 12), The National Book Awards Reading (Nov. 17), and Writing for Children Forum with **Pat Cummings** (Dec. 8), among many other events.

About the New School Writing Program

The New School has been a vital center for writing and its instruction since 1931, when Gorham Munson, a Manhattan editor and influential partisan of the Alfred Stieglitz circle, introduced his now-legendary workshop in creative writing. Since 1996, The New School has offered a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree with concentrations in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and writing for children. Founded by poet and biographer Robert Polito, the MFA program marks the latest transformation in the school's commitment to creative writing. Over seven decades of steady innovation, The New School's writing faculty has featured many of America's most important poets, novelists, literary critics, and editors, including Robert Frost, W.H. Auden, Robert Lowell, and Frank O'Hara. The current faculty includes Francine Prose, Helen Schulman, Stephen Wright, Dale Peck, Vivian Gornick, Susan Cheever, Abigail Thomas, Honor Moore, Suzanna Lessard, and David Lehman. For more information, visit www.writing.newschool.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE: FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AVAILABLE HERE

All public programs are subject to change.

The New School: 212.229.5353 or visit www.newschool.edu/publicprograms

Box Office: Located at 66 West 12th St., open Mon.-Fri., 1-7 p.m.; contact 212.229.5488 or boxoffice@newschool.edu.

NOVEMBER

Writing for Children Forum: Richard Peck

Tuesday, November 3, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Richard Peck, will read from and discuss his work. Peck, a National Book Award and Newbery winner, is the author of *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. Moderated by **Deborah Brodie**, freelance editor.

Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

Cave Canem Poetry Instructors Reading

Thursday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.

Wollman Hall, Eugene Lang Building, 65 West 11th Street, 5th floor (enter at 66 West 12th Street)

Admission: Free; no tickets or reservations required; seating is first-come first-served

Please join us for a showcasing the award-winning poetry of **Tara Betts**, author of *Arc and Hue*; **Thomas Sayers Ellis**, author of *The Maverick Room*; **Patricia Spears Jones**, author of *The Weather That Kills*; **Marilyn Nelson**, author of *A Wreath for Emmett Till*; and **Patricia Smith**, author of *Blood Dazzler*. Sponsored by Cave Canem Foundation and The New School Writing Program.

The AICA/USA Distinguished Critic Lecture at the New School: Roberta Smith

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.

Wollman Hall, Eugene Lang Building, 65 West 11th Street, 5th floor (enter at 66 West 12th Street)

Admission: \$8; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Roberta Smith will be speaking in the third of the AICA/USA Distinguished Critic Lectures at The New School, an annual event addressing current issues in the world of art criticism. Her lecture will present one writer's view of the craft, process and usage of art criticism, and the rising challenges of crisis-management and relevance-maintenance. Smith is the acclaimed senior art critic for the *New York Times*. An alumna of the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, she worked at the Museum of Modern Art and the Paula Cooper Gallery before becoming a professional art critic in the 1970s, contributing to *Artforum* and serving as a senior editor for *Art in America*. In 1981 she became art critic for the *Village Voice*, before moving to the *New York Times* in 1986. In 2003, the College Art Association honored Smith with the prestigious Frank Jewett Mather Award for Art Criticism. AICA was founded in the wake of World War II to protect the openness of a global discourse in the arts. There are now chapters in 64 countries currently promoting art criticism and its insights into contemporary culture. Presented by The International Association of Art Critics (AICA: Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art) in collaboration with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics. For more information please contact the Vera List Center at (212) 229-2436 or at vlc@newschool.edu.

Fiction Forum: Terese Svoboda

Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Terese Svoboda's most recent work is the book of poetry *Weapons Grade*. Svoboda's short story collection *Trailer Girl and Other Stories* is forthcoming in 2009, and her work of fiction *Pirate Talk or Mermelade* will be published in 2010. Her book *Black Glasses Like Clark Kent: A GI's Secret from Postwar Japan* won the 2007 Graywolf Nonfiction Prize and was selected by the *Japan Times* for the Best of Asia 2008 list. Her work has been chosen for the Writer's Choice column in the *New York Times Book Review*, and she has received a translation fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and an O. Henry Award. *Cannibal*, her first novel, won the Bobst Prize and the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. Her second novel, *A Drink Called Paradise*, was one of Voice Literary Supplement's ten best reads of the summer. She has taught at Davidson, Bennington, William and Mary, Williams, San Francisco State, The New School, University of Miami, University of Hawaii, and Sarah Lawrence College. Moderated by **Jeffery Renard Allen**, faculty, the Writing Program.

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Food Writing Forum: Judith Jones

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Judith Jones reads from her book *The Pleasures of Cooking for One*.

Jones is a senior editor and vice president at Alfred A. Knopf, where she has worked since 1957. She has been interested for many years in developing a list of first-rate cookbooks and has worked with Julia Child, Nancy Verde Barr, Lidia Bastianich, James Beard, Marion Cunningham, Rosie Daley, Marcella Hazan, Ken Hom, Madhur Jaffrey, Irene Kuo, Edna Lewis, Scott Peacock, Joan Nathan, Jacques Pépin, Claudia Roden, Nina Simonds, Anna Thomas, and others. *The Pleasure of Cooking for One* was inspired by the stories and recipes in Jones's memoir *The Tenth Muse: My Life in Food*. She co-authored three books with her late husband, Evan Jones: *The Book of Bread; Knead It, Punch It, Bake It!* (for children); and *The Book of New New England Cookery*. She collaborated with Angus Cameron on *The L.L. Bean Game and Fish Cookbook*. Recently, she has contributed food articles to *Vogue*, *Saveur*, and *Gourmet*.

Moderated by **Luis Jaramillo**, associate chair of the Writing Program.

Riggio Forum at Barnes and Noble: Hari Kunzru and Kamila Shamsie

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Union Square, 33 East 17th Street

Admission: Free; no tickets or reservations required; seating is first-come first-served

A conversation between **Hari Kunzru**, author of *My Revolutions*, and **Kamila Shamsie**, author of *Burnt Shadows*, moderated by **Robert Polito**.

Co-sponsored by Riggio Writing & Democracy Honors Program.

Riggio Forum: A New Literary History of America

Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

Wollman Hall, Eugene Lang Building, 65 West 11th Street, 5th floor (enter at 66 West 12th Street)

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

A reading in celebration of *A New Literary History of America*, an anthology of 225 new essays edited for Harvard University Press by Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors—beginning with the year 1507, when the word “America” first appeared on a map and ending with a portfolio by Kara Walker on the election of Barack Obama. Participating contributors and editors include **Farah Griffin**, **Greil Marcus**, **Ann Marlowe**, **John Rockwell**, **Werner Sollors**, and **Stephanie Zacharek**. Moderated by Greil Marcus, visiting professor, Riggio Writing and Democracy Program. His most recent book is *The Shape of Things to Come: Prophecy in the American Voice*.

The forum is presented by the Riggio Writing and Democracy Initiative at The New School.

A Tribute to Marie Ponsot

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

Tishman Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street

Admission: Free; no tickets or reservations required; seating is first-come first-served

A celebration of esteemed poet Marie Ponsot and her new collection, *Easy*. Participants include **Rosemary Deen**, **Jean Gallagher**, **Richard Howard**, **Major Jackson**, **Alice Quinn**, **Sapphire**, and **Jackson Taylor**.

Ponsot's works include *Springing*; *The Bird Catcher*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the 1999 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize; *The Green Dark*; *Admit Impediment*; and *True Minds*. She has translated more than 37 books from French to English and has co-authored, with Rosemary Deen, two books about the fundamentals of writing, *Beat Not the Poor Desk* and *Common Sense*. Ponsot has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant, a Delmore Schwartz Memorial Prize, a Robert Frost Poetry Award, and the Modern Language Association's Shaughnessy Medal. She is emerita of Queens College, CUNY, and teaches at The New

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School and the 92nd Street YMHA.

Sponsored by The New School Writing Program

The New Yorker Theater: A Talk with Toby Talbot on Life in Art-House Cinema

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.

Theresa Lang Community and Student Center, Arnhold Hall, 55 West 13th Street, 2nd floor

Admission: Free; no tickets or reservations required; seating is first-come first-served

In 1960, American film changed forever, but the revolution didn't take place anywhere near a Hollywood set. That year, the New Yorker Theater opened on Manhattan's Upper West Side and began screening cutting-edge films from around the world for an eager audience that included the city's most influential producers, directors, critics, and writers. Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese, Susan Sontag, Andrew Sarris, and Pauline Kael—among many others—made the New Yorker their home, trusting the owners' taste and incorporating the films they viewed into their own work. For the first time, **Toby Talbot**, co-owner and proud “matron” of the New Yorker, recounts the eclectic personalities she and her husband, Dan, encountered as they pioneered the art-house movement in Manhattan. Godard, Fassbinder, Ozu, and Tati—these directors were regulars at the theater as it introduced French New Wave and New German Cinema to American audiences. With Vietnam War protests and the struggle for civil rights in full swing, the New Yorker became an early distributor of political films such as Bertolucci's *Before the Revolution* and the documentaries *Shoah* and *Point of Order*. The theater's Monday-night series featured program notes by Jack Kerouac, Jules Feiffer, Peter Bogdanovich, Jonas Mekas, Jack Gelber, and Harold Humes, a list of notables that testifies to the deeply engaged and collaborative spirit behind each showing. Discussing moments from her new book, *The New Yorker Theater and Other Scenes from a Life at the Movies*, Talbot shares stories from the projection booth and the box office—even the lost and found—and describes the highs and lows of a thrilling era in filmmaking. Toby and her husband founded, owned, and managed New Yorker Films, a distribution company, and they now own and run Lincoln Plaza Cinemas. Toby is also a long-time member of the faculty of The New School.

Fiction Forum: Susan Shapiro and Andrew Zornoza

Monday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Susan Shapiro and **Andrew Zornoza** read and discuss their work. Susan Shapiro's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Village Voice*, and the *Daily Beast*. She is the author of the memoirs *Only as Good as Your Word* and *Lighting Up* as well as *Five Men Who Broke My Heart*, which was optioned for a feature film. *Speed Shrinking* is her first novel. Andrew Zornoza is a writer and visual artist from Houston, Texas. He is the author of the photo-prose novel *Where I Stay*. His fiction and essays have appeared in magazines such as *Sleepingfish*, *Confrontation*, *PorcupineLiterary Arts*, *CapGun*, *H.O.W.*, *Gastronomica*, and *Matter Magazine*. He teaches writing at The New School and fiction at Gotham Writer's Workshop.

Moderated by **Luis Jaramillo**, associate chair, The New School Writing Program.

William Phillips Lecture—Norman Manea

Tuesday, November 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Theresa Lang Community and Student Center, Arnhold Hall, 55 West 13th Street, 2nd floor

Admission: Free; seating is limited; reservations required by emailing mcnamard@newschool.edu.

The New School for Social Research invites you to attend this year's William Phillips lecture, at which **Norman Manea** presents a paper titled “20 Years After the Berlin Wall.”

Norman Manea left Romania as the result of communist persecution and lived briefly in West Berlin before arriving in the United States in 1988. He has a master's degree in hydro-technological engineering from the Construction Institute in Bucharest and has been writing full-time since 1974. His fiction, essays, and anthologies have been translated into 20 languages and have appeared in periodicals and collections around the world. Manea has been proposed as a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature by literary and academic figures and institutions in the United States, Sweden, Romania, Italy, and France. He is the Francis Flournoy Professor in European Studies and

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Culture and writer-in-residence at Bard College. William Phillips was the editor of *Partisan Review* for more than 60 years. During his tenure, Phillips discovered some of the foremost writers of his time. His unshackled mind and courage kept him at the forefront of the literary world until his death in September 2002.

The National Book Awards Reading 2009

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.

Tishman Auditorium, Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street

Admission: \$10

The National Book Awards were established in 1950 by The National Book Foundation. On the eve of the annual award ceremony, The New School hosts a reading with the 2009 finalists in the categories of Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Young People's Literature. Twenty distinguished authors share excerpts from their works.

Fiction Forum: Chris Beha and Brian DeLeeuw

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Introduced by **Jane Friedman**.

Brian DeLeeuw is the author of the novel *In This Way I Was Saved*, to be published by Simon & Schuster in August. He is an editor at *Tin House* magazine and a contributor to the website *This Recording*.

Chris R. Beha is an assistant editor at *Harper's* magazine. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *the Believer*, *Tin House*, and *Bookforum*. He is the author of a memoir, *The Whole Five Feet*, and the co-editor, with Joyce Carol Oates, of the Ecco Anthology of Contemporary American Short Fiction.

Jane Friedman served as the president and CEO of HarperCollins Publishers Worldwide (1997 to 2008). She is a member of the American Advisory Committee of the Jerusalem International Book Fair, the Committee of 200, and the Advisory Committee to the MFA program in Creative Writing at The New School, and. Moderated by **Helen Schulman**, Fiction Coordinator, The New School Writing Program.

DECEMBER

Poetry Forum: Catherine Bowman

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Catherine Bowman is the author of the newly released book *The Plath Cabinet* as well as *Notarikon*, *Rock Farm*, and *1-800-HOT-RIBS*. She is the editor of *Word of Mouth*, an anthology of poems by poets she has reviewed and featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Her poems have appeared in six editions of *Best American Poetry* as well as many literary magazines and journals. Her writing has been awarded the Peregrine Smith Poetry Prize and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and she has received a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. Hosted by **Laura Cronk**, associate director, the Writing Program.

Riggo Forum: David Thomas

Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Moderator **Greil Marcus** in conversation with the lead singer and founder of the legendary avant-rock band Pere Ubu, formed in Cleveland in 1975. Over the years Pere Ubu, and David Thomas as a solo artist, have released a stream of uncompromising records, from Pere Ubu's *The Modern Dance* in 1978 to *Pennsylvania* in 1998 and *Why I Hate Women* in 2006. In 2008, the South Bank Centre in London commissioned a two-day performance of Thomas's musical interpretation of Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi*, *Bring Me The Head Of Ubu Roi*.

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Greil Marcus is visiting professor in the Riggio Writing and Democracy program at The New School. His most recent book is *The Shape of Things to Come: Prophecy in the American Voice*.

Writing for Children Forum: Pat Cummings

Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Pat Cummings, writer/producer for Nickelodeon, art teacher, and author of *Angel Baby* and *Talking with Artists* will discuss her work. Moderated by **Deborah Brodie**, freelance editor. Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

Nonfiction Forum: George Packer

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

George Packer will read and discuss his work. Packer's latest book is *Interesting Times: Writing from a Turbulent Decade*. He has edited a new book of George Orwell's essays, *Facing Unpleasant Facts: Narrative Essays*. Packer's book *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq* was named one of the ten best books of 2005 by the *New York Times* and won the New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award. He is also the author of *The Village of Waiting*. His book *Blood of the Liberals* won the 2001 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since May 2003. Packer is a 2001-2002 Guggenheim fellow who has written articles, essays, and reviews on foreign affairs, American politics, and literature. He has contributed to the *New York Times Magazine*, *Dissent*, *Mother Jones*, *Harper's*, and other publications. Moderated by **Helen Schulman**, fiction coordinator, the New School Writing Program.

Poetry Forum: Mark Doty

Monday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.

Alvin Johnson/J. M. Kaplan Hall, 66 West 12th Street, room 510

Admission: \$5; free to all students and New School faculty, staff, and alumni with ID

Acclaimed poet Mark Doty reads and discusses his work. Doty's *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems* won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2008. His books of poems include *School of the Arts*, *Source*, and *My Alexandria*. He has also published four volumes of nonfiction prose, including *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*, *Heaven's Coast*, and *Firebird*. His fourth book of nonfiction prose, *Dog Years*, was a New York Times Bestseller in 2007. His poems have appeared in *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* and *The Best American Erotic Poems*. Doty is the only American poet to have received the T.S. Eliot Prize in the U.K. His work has been honored by the National Book Critics Circle Award, and he has received two Lambda Literary Awards.

Moderated by David Lehman, poetry coordinator, the Writing Program.

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