

## NEWS RELEASE

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### THE NEW SCHOOL PUBLIC PROGRAMS: LITERARY EVENTS

#### Fall 2009

NEW YORK, August 6, 2009—This fall, The New School and its Writing Program present a wide and engaging range of literary events and readings. The offerings run the gamut from fiction to poetry to writing for children forums that feature some of the most gifted writers and thinkers of our times, including **Brenda Shaughnessy** (Sept. 8), **Ntozake Shange** (Oct. 8), and **Mark Doty** (Dec. 14).

Highlights include a screening and colloquium, **Birth and Rebirth of a Nation** (Sept. 26) which considers issues of race and representation in the media and beyond. English philosopher **Simon Critchely** (Oct. 9) will discuss his 2009 *New York Times* bestseller *The Book of Dead Philosophers*. The Writing for Children Forum: Picture Book Panel (Oct. 13), moderated by **Deborah Brodie**, will feature **Geoffrey Hayes, Tad Hill, Amy Schwartz, Anne Schwartz, and Lee Wade**. The New School will also celebrate the contributions of influential writers, including a tribute to **Thom Gunn** (Oct. 28) and the presentation of the AICA/USA Distinguished Critic Lecture with **Roberta Smith** (Nov. 5).

The university will also host events in conjunction with literary awards ceremonies. **Best American Poetry** (Sept. 24) will include readings by **John Ashbery, Mark Bibbins, Suzanne Cleary, Richard Howard, Phillis Levin, and Matthew Zapruder**. The **Academy of American Poets Awards Ceremony** (Oct. 16) will include readings from winning poets and presenters. This Award ceremony precedes the Poets Forum: Discussion of Contemporary Poetry (Oct. 17) with **Frank Bidart, Rita Dove, Lyn Hejinian, Edward Hirsch, Sharon Olds, Ron Padgett, Carl Phillips, Robert Pinsky, Kay Ryan, Gerald Stern, Susan Stewart, Jean Valentine, and Ellen Bryant Voigt**. Finally, several workshops are geared to helping writers in these challenging economic times, including Book Publishing: Challenges and Opportunities in a Turbulent Market (Oct. 7).

#### 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](http://www.writing.newschool.edu).

All public programs are subject to change.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AVAILABLE HERE**

**The New School:** 212.229.5353 or visit [www.newschool.edu/publicprograms](http://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](mailto:boxoffice@newschool.edu).

**Poetry Forum: Brenda Shaughnessy**

**Tuesday, September 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**

**Brenda Shaughnessy** reads and discusses her work. She is the author of *Human Dark with Sugar* (2008), which won the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets and was nominated for a 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. Her book *Interior with Sudden Joy* (1999) was nominated for the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry, a Lambda Literary Award, and the Norma Farber First Book Award. Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Bomb*, *Boston Review*, *the New Yorker*, *the Paris Review*, and *the Yale Review*. She is the poetry editor at *Tin House Magazine* and currently teaches creative writing at Princeton University and Eugene Lang College at the New School. Moderated by **Mark Bibbins**, Faculty, the Writing Program.

**Fiction Forum: Paul Beatty**

**Wednesday, September 9, 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**

**Paul Beatty**, author of three novels, *Slumberland*, *The White Boy Shuffle* and *Tuff*, and two volumes of poetry, *Big Bank Take Little Bank* and *Joker, Joker, Deuce*, will read and discuss his work.

Moderated by **Jeffery Renard Allen**, faculty, The New School Writing Program.

**Fiction Forum: Ben Greenman**

**Monday, September 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**

**Ben Greenman** is an editor at the *New Yorker* and the author of several acclaimed books of fiction, including *Superbad*, *Superworse*, and *A Circle is a Balloon* and *Compass Both: Stories About Human Love*. His fiction, essays, and journalism have appeared in numerous publications—including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Paris Review*, *Zoetrope: All Story*, *McSweeney's*, and *Opium*—and his work has been widely anthologized. His recent projects include *Correspondences*, a limited-edition handcrafted letterpress publication created by Hotel St. George Press, and *Please Step Back*, a novel published by Melville House.

**Writing For Children Forum: What Book Reviewers Look For**

**Tuesday, September 15, 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**

This Writing for Children Forum focuses on what book reviewers are looking for from authors in terms of a compelling story and structural format for children's book literature. Speaker **Elizabeth Devereaux**, reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review* and *Publishers Weekly*, discusses these topics with moderator **Deborah Brodie**, freelance editor. Sponsored by The New School Writing Program.

**Riggio Forum: Samuel R. Delany**

**Wednesday, September 16, 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**

**Samuel R. Delany** in conversation with **Greil Marcus**. Delany's fiction includes *Nova*, *Dhlagren*, *Aye and Gomorrah* (stories), and *Atlantis: Three Tales*. Also the author of *Hogg* and *The Mad Men*, Delany won the Stonewall Book Award for his 2007 novel *Dark Reflections*. His other honors include multiple Hugo and Nebula Awards, as well as the Kessler Award and the William Whitehead Award for a Lifetime's Contribution to Lesbian and Gay Writing. He is Director of the Graduate Creative Writing Program at Temple University. Moderated by Greil Marcus, visiting professor, Riggio Writing and Democracy Program. This forum is presented by the Riggio Writing and Democracy Initiative at The New School.

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**Reading: The Lost Origins of the Essay**

**Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.**

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

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

A reading from *The Lost Origins of the Essay*, edited by John D'Agata. *The Lost Origins of the Essay* is a tour through 4,500 years of literary history—it features over 60 writers from ancient Sumer, Babylon, Greece, Rome, China, Japan, Austria, England, Italy, France, Zimbabwe, Portugal, and 30 other countries. The anthology focuses on the roots of essaying and innovative uses of the genre. Featuring **Vivian Gornick** reading Natalia Ginzburg's "He and I," **Ben Marcus** reading Julio Cortazar's "The Instruction Manual," **Robert Polito** reading Sir Thomas Browne's "Urn Burial," and **Honor Moore** reading Marguerite Duras' "The Atlantic Man." Sponsored by the Writing Program.

**Poetry Forum: Robert Polito**

**Wednesday, September 23, 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**

**Robert Polito** reads from his new book, *Hollywood and God*. He is the author of the poetry collection *Doubles*, as well as *A Reader's Guide to James Merrill's "The Changing Light at Sandover,"* and *Savage Art: A Biography of Jim Thompson*, which received the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is the editor of seven books, including the Library of America volumes *Crime Novels: American Noir Novels of the 1930's and 40's* and *Crime Novels: American Noir of the 1950s*. His reviews, criticism, and essays on literature, film, and popular music have appeared in *The Believer*, *Bookforum*, the Poetry Foundation website, *Best American Essays*, and *Best American Film Writing*. He is a professor of writing and is currently completing *Detours: Seven Noir Lives*. Polito's book *The Complete Film Writings of Manny Farber* is forthcoming from the Library of America. Moderated by **Laura Cronk**, associate director of the New School Writing Program.

**Best American Poetry 2009**

**Thursday, September 24, 7:00 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**

**David Lehman**, series editor of *The Best American Poetry* and poetry coordinator of the New School's MFA program, will introduce poets chosen by David Wagoner for the 2009 volume, the 22nd edition of the acclaimed annual anthology. Featured poets include **John Ashbery**, **Mark Bibbins**, **Suzanne Cleary**, Billy Collins, **James Cummins**, **Mark Doty**, **Margaret Gibson**, **Dolores Hayden**, **Jennifer Michael Hecht**, **Richard Howard**, **Tina Kelley**, **Phillis Levin**, **Mitch Sisskind**, **Tom Sleigh**, **Craig Morgan Teicher**, and **Matthew Zapruder**. Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

**Birth and Rebirth of a Nation**

**Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.**

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

**Admission: Free: reservations recommended**

*Birth and Rebirth of a Nation* considers current issues of race and representation in the media and beyond. D.W. Griffith's notorious white supremacist manifesto is discussed in the context of contemporary developments in an attempt to reconcile the racial imagination of the average American of today with that of the average American of less than a century ago, when *The Birth of a Nation* was the most popular film of the day. Speakers analyze recent scholarship on racism in the period of the film and examine the film's legacy and continuing impact. How do we think critically about the contested notion of a "post-racial" America as we look back at history? How has the social, political, and cultural context that created *The Birth of a Nation* transformed over time? Organized on occasion of the Vera List Center's 2009-2010 program theme, *Speculating on Change*.

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Screening of D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* (1915), silent film with live accompaniment.

2:00—5:00 p.m., Colloquium - Speakers include **Douglas A. Blackmon**, Pulitzer-prize winning author and Atlanta Bureau Chief, *The Wall Street Journal*; **David Blight**, Class of 1954 Professor of American History and Director of the

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Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, Yale University; **Bill Gaskins**, photographer, essayist, and professor of Photography and Art History, Parsons The New School for Design; **Miriam J. Petty**, professor of Film and Media Studies, Rutgers University-Newark; and **Michele Wallace**, professor of English, Women's Studies and Film, CUNY Graduate Center and City College of New York.

6:00–7:30 p.m., Screening of DJ Spooky's *Rebirth of a Nation* (2002), a critical revision of Griffith's historic film.

### **Nonfiction Forum: Joshua Clover**

**Wednesday, September 30, 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**

**Joshua Clover** reads and discusses his work. Clover is a poet and cultural critic who has served as senior writer for *SPIN* and the *Village Voice* and contributes to *The Nation* and the *New York Times*. He is a professor of poetry and poetics, film studies, and critical and cultural theory at the University of California, Davis. He has published two books of poetry, including *The Totality for Kids* (University of California), as well as a book on the film *The Matrix* and political economy (British Film Institute). His new book, *1989: Bob Dylan Didn't Have This to Sing About* (University of California), is a study of radical changes in pop music at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War. Moderated by **Robert Polito**, director, The New School Writing Program.

### **Fiction Forum: Nicole Krauss**

**Monday, October 5, 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**

**Nicole Krauss** reads and discusses her work. Her first novel *Man Walks into a Room* was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Award. Her critically acclaimed second novel is *The History of Love*. Krauss' fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and *Best American Short Stories*. Moderated by **Helen Schulman**, fiction coordinator, The New School Writing Program.

### **MFA Poetry Faculty Reading**

**Tuesday, October 6, 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**

MFA Poetry faculty members **Mark Bibbins**, **Elaine Equi**, **Jennifer Michael Hecht**, **David Lehman**, **Meghan O'Rourke**, **Robert Polito** and **Paul Violi** read from their work. Mark Bibbins received a Lambda Literary Award for his first collection of poems, *Sky Lounge*; his second collection, *The Dance of No Hard Feelings*, is forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press. He cofounded *LIT*, the journal of the New School graduate writing program. Elaine Equi is the author of more than seven volumes of poetry, most recently, *Ripple Effect: New and Selected Poems*, which was nominated for a Griffin Prize. Jennifer Michael Hecht is the author of two books of poetry, *Funny*, which won the Felix Pollak Prize, and *The Next Ancient World*, which won the Poetry Society of America's 2002 Norma Farber First Book Award. David Lehman has written several books of poetry and nonfiction, including *The Last Avant-Garde: The Making of the New York School of Poets*. He is the series editor of *The Best American Poetry*, which he initiated in 1988. Lehman's work has been translated into ten languages. Meghan O'Rourke is the author of the collection of poems *Half-life*. She is a poetry co-editor of the *Paris Review* and the literary editor of the online magazine *Slate*. Robert Polito's most recent book is *Hollywood and God. The Complete Film Writings of Manny Farber* is forthcoming from the Library of America. Paul Violi is the author of eleven books of poems, including *Overnight*, *The Curious Builder*, and *Breakers*, a selection of his longer poems.

### **Book Publishing: Challenges and Opportunities in a Turbulent Market**

**Wednesday, October 7, 6:30 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**

You hope to get your book published. You dream that your book will get picked up and developed into a television series or film. This does happen; but how do you make it happen? And what can you expect afterwards?

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Meet **Alberto Ferreras**. His debut novel, *B as in Beauty*, was purchased and released by Grand Central Publishing, and then adapted for television before the book was finished. Joining Alberto is **Fernando Ramirez, Esq.**, an adjunct professor at The New School who advised Alberto on the legal aspects of his publishing and TV deal, and **Linda Duggins**, the director of Multicultural Publicity at Hachette Book Group USA, who fashioned the innovative communications and marketing strategy for the novel. Come hear the professionals discuss book publishing in today's uncertain economy. Sponsored by the Department of Media Studies and Film at The New School.

**Poetry Forum: Emily Warn and Robyn Schiff**

**Wednesday, October 7, 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**

**Emily Warn** and **Robyn Schiff** read and discuss their work. Emily Warn's newest collection of poetry is *Shadow Architect* (Copper Canyon Press, 2008). Her previous books (also from Copper Canyon Press) include *The Leaf Path* and *The Novice Insomniac*. She most recently served as founding editor of the Poetry Foundation website. Robyn Schiff is the author of the poetry collections *Revolver* (2008) and *Worth* (2002), both published by the University of Iowa Press Kuhl House Poets series. She was a featured poet at the 2007 Poetry Society of America Festival of New American Poets; and was recognized with an award from the Greenwall Fund by the Academy of American Poets in 2002. She co-edits *The Canary* and *Canarium Books* and is an associate professor at The University of Iowa. Moderated by **Robert Polito**, director, The New School Writing Program.

**Cave Canem Legacy Conversation: Ntozake Shange**

**Thursday, October 8, 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**

This is the fifteenth conversation in a series featuring pre-eminent poets and scholars who have shaped African-American poetry. Obie-winning playwright, poet, and novelist **Ntozake Shange** reads selected work and discusses her life in letters with interviewer **Claude Sloan**. Sponsored by Cave Canem Foundation and the New School Writing program.

**Fridays@One: To Philosophize is to Learn How to Die**

**Friday, October 9, 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Admission: Free; seating is limited; reservations required by calling 212-229-5682 or emailing [irp@newschool.edu](mailto:irp@newschool.edu).**

English philosopher **Simon Critchley**, chair and professor of Philosophy at The New School for Social Research, discusses his 2009 *New York Times* bestseller, *The Book of Dead Philosophers*. Starting with Cicero's axiom, "To philosophize is to learn how to die," Professor Critchley leads us to his conclusion that to die is to learn how to live. The Daily Telegraph called the book "rigorous, profound, and frequently hilarious" and described Critchley as "an engaging and deadpan guide to the metaphysical necropolis" as well as "bracingly serious and properly comic." Fridays@One is partly supported by a bequest in memory of Estelle Tolkin. Sponsored by the Institute for Retired Professionals.

**Fiction Forum: Binnie Kirshbaum**

**Monday, October 12, 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**

**Binnie Kirshbaum** reads and discusses her work. Kirshbaum is the author of the forthcoming novel *The Scenic Route*. She has also written *An Almost Perfect Moment* (2005), *A History on a Personal Note* (2004), and *Pure Poetry* (2000). Her novel *A Disturbance in One Place* (2004) was a Barnes and Noble Discover New Authors Book and winner of a Critics Choice Award. *Hester Among the Ruins* (2003) was a Chicago Tribune Favorite Book of the Year and an American Jewish Book Award Nominee. She is a professor of Fiction Writing at the Columbia University Graduate School of the Arts. Moderated by **Jackson Taylor**, Associate Director, the Writing Program.

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**A Lexical Feast: Active Vocabulary Development for ESOL Learners**

**Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Admission: Free; seating is limited; reservations required by emailing [elsc@newschool.edu](mailto:elsc@newschool.edu).**

Do your students struggle with the sheer volume of vocabulary needed to read and write fluently? Have you ever been frustrated by the limited amount of class time you can devote to teaching vocabulary? **Jayme Adelson-Goldstein**, author of the popular Oxford Picture Dictionary Program and the Step Forward series, addresses these questions by exploring ways to teach students strategies to manage their own vocabulary learning. She looks at how linking classroom tasks to the stages of vocabulary development helps students progress from comprehension to production to mastery of the target language. Co-sponsored by English Language Studies Department and Oxford University Press.

**Writing For Children Forum: Picture Book Panel**

**Tuesday, October 13, 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**

Writing For Children Forum: Picture Book Panel will be moderated by **Deborah Brodie**, freelance editor, and feature award-winning author-illustrators **Geoffrey Hayes**, author of children's books including *Bear By Himself*, and *Uncle Tooth and Otto*; **Tad Hill**, author and illustrator of children's books including *What's Up Duck*, and *Waking Up Wendell*; **Amy Schwartz**, author and illustrator of children's books, which include *Bea and Mr. Jones*, and *What James Likes Best*; and **Anne Schwartz** and **Lee Wade** of Schwartz & Wade Books, Random House Children's Book family imprint. Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

**Fiction Forum: Victor LaValle**

**Wednesday, October 14, 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**

**Victor LaValle** is the author of *Slapboxing with Jesus*, a book of stories, and two novels, *The Ecstatic* and *Big Machine*. He has contributed essays to periodicals such as *Nerve Magazine*, *The FADER*, *Essence Magazine*, and *GQ*. His stories have been included in many anthologies, including *Step into a World: A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature*; *Sometimes Rhythm*, *Sometimes Blues*; and *Scoot Over*, *Skinny: The Fat Nonfiction Anthology*. He has received the Bread Loaf Writers' Fellowship, the PEN/Open Book Beyond Margins Award, and the Whiting Writers' Award, and has been a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Foundation Legacy Award and PEN/Faulkner Award. He teaches at Columbia University. Moderated by **Jeffrey Renard Allen**, Faculty, the Writing Program.

**Academy of American Poets Award Ceremony 2009**

**Friday, October 16, 7:00 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**

Celebrate the best in contemporary poetry as the Academy of American Poets presents the premier collection of awards for poets in the United States. The night will include readings from winning poets to be announced as well as presenters. The Academy of American Poets Award ceremony is part of the Poets Forum, a series of events held from October 15-17 exploring the ever-changing landscape of contemporary poetry in America. For more information, visit [www.poets.org/poetsforum](http://www.poets.org/poetsforum). Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

**Poets Forum: Discussion of Contemporary Poetry**

**Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

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

**Admission: Saturday Discussion Panels Pass: \$60. All students with current ID, \$35; student tickets available only by phone: (212) 274-0343 ext.10. For general public tickets or the All-Events Pass for the 2009 Academy of American Poets Forum, visit information: [www.poets.org/poetsforum](http://www.poets.org/poetsforum).**

From October 15 to 17, the Academy of American Poets presents the 2009 Poets Forum on Contemporary Poetry.

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On Saturday, October 17, some of the most renowned poets of our time examine issues central to poetry. Participants in the four conversations include **Frank Bidart, Rita Dove, Lyn Hejinian, Edward Hirsch, Sharon Olds, Ron Padgett, Carl Phillips, Robert Pinsky, Kay Ryan, Gerald Stern, Susan Stewart, Jean Valentine, and Ellen Bryant Voigt**. Past Poets Forum panels have featured discussions on topics such as "Poems in Place," "The Aesthetic Self or The Anxiety of the I," and "Drawing from the Past / Breaking from the Past." Co-sponsored by the Academy of American Poets and the New School Writing Program.

**Poetry Forum: Nin Andrews**

**Monday, October 19, 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**

**Nin Andrews** will read and discuss her new book of poetry *Sleeping with Houdini*. Andrews is the author of *Spontaneous Breasts*, winner of the Pearl Chapbook Contest; *Any Kind of Excuse*, winner of the Kent State University chapbook contest; *The Book of Orgasms*, and *Why They Grow Wings*, winner of the Gerald Cable Award. Her book, *Midlife Crisis with Dick and Jane* was published in 2005 by Web del Sol. Nin Andrews' poems and stories have appeared in many literary journals and anthologies including *Ploughshares*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry* (1997, 2001, 2003), *The KGB Bar Book of Poems*. Moderated by **David Lehman**, Poetry Coordinator, The New School Writing Program.

**Nonfiction Forum: Sam Tanenhaus**

**Tuesday, October 20, 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**

**Sam Tanenhaus** will discuss his new book, *The Death of Conservatism*. Since 2004, Tanenhaus has been the senior editor of the *New York Times Book Review*. He was an assistant editor at the *New York Times* from 1997 to 1999 and a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* from 1999 until 2004. His 1997 biography of Whittaker Chambers won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Biography. The discussion will be moderated by **Bruce Handy**, a deputy editor at *Vanity Fair*. Sponsored by the New School Writing Program.

**Nonfiction Forum: Jane Alison**

**Wednesday, October 21, 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**

**Jane Alison's** most recent book is a memoir entitled *The Sisters Antipodes* (2009). She is also the author of three novels, including *The Love-Artist* (2001), which was translated into seven languages; *The Marriage of the Sea* (2003), which was a *New York Times* Notable Book; and *Natives and Exotics* (2005). She teaches in the MFA programs at the University of Miami and Queens University in Charlotte, NC. Moderated by **Robert Politto**, director, The New School Writing Program.

**Riggio Forum: Sean Wilentz**

**Monday, October 26, 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 noted author. Wilentz is the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor of History at Princeton. His books include *The Rise of American Democracy: From Jefferson to Lincoln*, (2006 Bancroft Prize), *The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th Century America* (with Paul E. Johnson), and *The Age of Reagan: A History 1974-2008*. 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*.

**Harlem Writers Guild: Minnette Coleman, Betty Anne Jackson with Grace F. Edwards**

**Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m.**

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**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**

Harlem Writers Guild Reading with **Minnette Coleman** and **Betty Anne Jackson**. Moderated by **Grace F. Edwards**. Minnette Coleman is an author, actress, and singer born in Atlanta, Georgia. Her one-woman show *Hand-Me-Downs* explores the way her life has paralleled the Civil Rights Movement. Betty Anne Jackson, a Guild member since 1981, is an educator who specializes in ethnic studies. She produced a curriculum guide to Kwanzaa in 1978 that still serves as source material for educators and writers. Her works include *African Activities, Nigeria* and *There is a River Called Niger*, as well as *Tips For Vintage Woman With Young Lovers*, which she illustrated. She is currently working on a memoir. Grace F. Edwards is the executive secretary of the Harlem Writers Guild. She is the author of *In The Shadow Of The Peacock*, the *Mali Anderson Mystery Series* and *The Viaduct*. Sponsored by the Writing Program.

**Tribute to Thom Gunn**

**Wednesday, October 28, 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**

This tribute to Thom Gunn (1929–2004) celebrates the publication of *At the Barriers: On the Poetry of Thom Gunn*, edited by Joshua Weiner (2009). Thom Gunn's first volume of verse was *Fighting Terms* (1954). *The Sense of Movement* (1957) won the Somerset Maugham Award, which he used for travel in Italy. "On the Move," a celebration of black-jacketed motorcyclists from that volume, is one of his best-known poems. In the late 1950s, Gunn's poetry became more experimental as his strict metrics opened to more searching free verse. In the 1970s, Gunn began to explore themes of homosexuality and drugs. Notable collections that explore these themes include *Moly* (1971) and *Jack Straw's Castle* (1976), and *The Man with Night Sweats* (1992), which was recognized for its rigorous and compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic. Gunn received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship (1971) and MacArthur fellowship (1993). Readings by **Eavan Boland, Alfred Corn, Elaine Equi, Wendy Lesser, Robert Pinsky**, and **Tom Sleigh**. Sponsored by the Writing Program.

**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**

This reading will showcase 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*. 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



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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](mailto: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. Moderated by **Jeffery Renard Allen**, faculty, the Writing Program.

**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, 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: 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*

**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, Jean Valentine, 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

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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 School and the 92nd Street YMHA.

**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*, *Literary Arts*, *CapGun*, *H.O.W.*, *Gastronomica*, and *Matter Magazine*. Moderated by **Luis Jaramillo**, associate chair, The New School Writing Program.

**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 DeLewu**

**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**

**Chris Beha** and **Brian DeLewu** will be introduced by **Jane Friedman**. Brian DeLewu 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 from November 1997 to June 2008, overseeing HarperCollins' worldwide book publishing. She is a member of the American Advisory Committee of the Jerusalem International Book Fair, the Advisory Committee to the MFA program in Creative Writing at The New School, and The Committee of 200. Moderated by **Helen Schulman**, Fiction Coordinator, The New School Writing Program.

**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.**

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**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*. **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 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. 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. 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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