NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS CONGRATULATES

NIKKY FINNEY

2011 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER!

Head Off & Split: Poems
Nikky Finney
978-0-8101-5216-8 $15.95
Boris Pasternak is best known in the West for his epic novel *Doctor Zhivago*, whereas in Russia he is most celebrated as a poet. The two poetry collections offered here in translation are chronological and thematic bookends, and they capture Pasternak’s abiding and powerful vision of life: his sense of its beauty and terror, its precariousness for the individual, and its persistence in time—that vitality of being with which he is on familiar and familial terms.

In the early work *My Sister Life*, which commemorates the year 1917, Pasternak, then in his late twenties, found his poetic voice. The book would go on to become one of the most influential collections of Russian poetry of the twentieth century. "The Poems of Yury Zhivago" are a part of the poet’s famous novel, *Dr. Zhivago*, whose title might be rendered in English as “Doctor Life.” These later lyrics are a kind of summing up that reflect, from the perspective of age and approaching death, upon the accumulated experience of a contemplative life amid turbulent and terrifying times.

Falen’s fresh new translations of these poems capture their expression of the beauty and the joy, the terror and the pain, of what it is to be alive . . . and to die.

Boris Pasternak (1890–1960) was a Nobel Prize–winning Russian and Soviet poet as well as a novelist and translator of Goethe and Shakespeare.

James E. Falen is an emeritus professor of Russian at the University of Tennessee. He is the translator of Pushkin’s *Selected Lyric Poetry* (Northwestern, 2010) as well as of acclaimed editions of Pushkin’s “Boris Godunov” and *Other Dramatic Works* and *Eugene Onegin*, his version of which is widely considered to be the one most faithful to Pushkin’s spirit. He also translated *Intimations: Selected Poems by Anna Akhmatova*.

**My Sister Life and The Zhivago Poems**

*Boris Pasternak*

Translated from the Russian by James E. Falen

**Anguish**

To give this book an epigraph
The wildernesses moaned,
And lions roared, and Kipling grasped
At tigers of the dawn.

The ghastly well of anguish gaped,
A dried and open moat,
As, loping off, they growled and snapped
And licked their frozen coats.

And now, as they go loping on,
Through these disheveled lines,
To prowl a mist of dewy lawns,
For them the Ganges pines.

Cold vipers of the dawn emerge,
Then crawl inside their lairs;
The jungle drips a funeral dirge
And incense fills the air.

**Also of Interest**

*Selected Lyric Poetry*

Alexander Pushkin

Translated from the Russian and annotated by James E. Falen

Paper 978-0-8101-2642-8 $16.95

*Northwestern World Classics Poetry*
Letters on God and Letters to a Young Woman

Rainer Maria Rilke
Translated from the German by Annemarie S. Kidder

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) was an avid letter writer, and more than seven thousand of his letters have survived. The best-known collection today is Rilke’s Letters to a Young Poet, first published in 1929. Two other letter collections appeared around the same time and gained high acclaim among readers yet are virtually unknown today. They are Letters to a Young Woman (1930) and Letters on God (1933).

With this volume, Annemarie S. Kidder makes available to an English-speaking audience two of the earliest collections of Rilke letters published after his death. The thematic collection On God—here published in English for the first time—contains two letters by Rilke, the first an actual letter written during World War I, in 1915 in Munich, the second a fictional one composed after the war, in 1922 at Muzot, in Switzerland. In these letters, Rilke builds on the mystical view of God conceived of in The Book of Hours, but he moves beyond it, demonstrating a unique vision of God and Christ, the church and religious experience, friendship and death. The collection Letters to a Young Woman comprises nine of Rilke’s letters, written to a young admirer, Lisa Heise, over the course of five years, from 1919 to 1924. Though Rilke and Heise never met, Rilke emerges in these letters as the compassionate listener and patient teacher who with level-headed sensitivity affirms and guides the movements of another person’s soul.

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) is considered one of the German language’s greatest twentieth-century poets. Among other works, he wrote Duino Elegies, The Sonnets to Orpheus, and the novel The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge. Bilingual editions of Rilke’s The Book of Hours: Prayers to a Lowly God, Duino Elegies, and New Poems are published by Northwestern University Press.

Annemarie S. Kidder is a professor at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. The author and editor of numerous books, she is also the translator of The Mystical Way in Everyday Life (2010), a collection of spiritual writings by Karl Rahner; Pictures of God (2005), an anthology of Rilke’s religious poetry; and Rilke’s The Book of Hours: Prayers to a Lowly God (Northwestern, 2002).

NORTHEASTERN WORLD CLASSICS

May • World • First Publication • 5-1/8 x 7-3/4 • 80 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2740-1 $14.95
The Living Moment
Modernism in a Broken World

Jeffrey Hart

In the spirit of Lionel Trilling, Edmund Wilson, and Susan Sontag, the renowned literary critic Jeffrey Hart writes The Living Moment, a close reading of literature as it intersects with the political. Hart’s book is an even-handed guide for anyone toddling into the mists of the modernist moment, effortlessly moving between such modernist monuments as Eliot’s “The Waste Land,” Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms, Mann’s Doctor Faustus, and Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby. Hart’s most stunning achievement is his brilliant inclusion of Marilynne Robinson’s Gilead as a modernist text, for the way the novel teaches us to see more, to hear more, to feel more. Hart’s dazzling study is an examination of important works of literature as they explore the experience of living in a broken world with thought and sometimes with examples of resolve that possess permanent validity. The Living Moment is for anyone who is wearied by so much of today’s trendy, narrow, and ideologically driven criticism.

Jeffrey Hart is a professor emeritus of English at Dartmouth College. A cultural critic, essayist, and columnist, he lives in New Hampshire.
A man of extraordinary and seemingly limitless talents—musician, inventor, composer, poet, and even amateur mycologist—John Cage became a central figure of the avant-garde early in his life and remained at that pinnacle until his death in 1992 at the age of eighty. Award-winning biographer Kenneth Silverman gives us the first comprehensive life of this remarkable artist. Silverman begins with Cage’s childhood in interwar Los Angeles and his stay in Paris from 1930 to 1931, where immersion in the burgeoning new musical and artistic movements triggered an explosion of his creativity. Cage continued his studies in the United States with the seminal modern composer Arnold Schoenberg, and he soon began the experiments with sound and percussion instruments that would develop into his signature work with prepared piano, radio static, random noise, and silence. Cage’s unorthodox methods still influence artists in a wide range of genres and media. Silverman concurrently follows Cage’s rich personal life, from his early marriage to his lifelong personal and professional partnership with choreographer Merce Cunningham, as well as his friendships over the years with other composers, artists, philosophers, and writers.

Drawing on interviews with Cage’s contemporaries and friends and on the enormous archive of his letters and writings, and including photographs, facsimiles of musical scores, and Web links to illustrative sections of his compositions, Silverman gives us a biography of major significance: a revelatory portrait of one of the most important cultural figures of the twentieth century.

Kenneth Silverman is a professor emeritus of English at New York University. He is the author of biographies of Edgar Allan Poe, Harry Houdini, and Samuel F. B. Morse, and he has received the Pulitzer Prize for Biography and the Bancroft Prize in American History, among other awards. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

BIOGRAPHY

July • World • Paperback Reprint • 6 x 9 • 496 pages • 45 b/w images
Paper 978-0-8101-2830-9 $24.95
The Abundance of Nothing
Poems
Bruce Weigl

Throughout his award-winning career, Bruce Weigl has proven himself to be a poet of extraordinary emotional acuity and consummate craftsmanship. In The Abundance of Nothing, these qualities are on full display, animating and informing poems that combine rich, metaphorical imagery with direct, powerful language. Deftly weaving history and everyday experience, Weigl transports readers from the front lines of the Vietnam War and all the tangled cultural and emotional scenes of that time to the slow winds of the American Midwest that softly ease the voice of the veteran returning home. Though the poems struggle with themes of mortality and illness, violence and forgiveness, the poet’s voice never wavers in its meditative calm, poise, and compassion. Elegiac yet agile, ethereal yet embodied, The Abundance of Nothing is a work of searching openness, generous insight, and remarkable grace.

Bruce Weigl’s previous collections include After the Others (1999), Sweet Lorain (1996), and What Saves Us (1992), all published by TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press. His poetry, essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in such magazines and journals as The Nation, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and Harper’s. Weigl has been awarded the Pushcart Prize, fellowships at Bread Loaf and Yaddo, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Bill
Someone had left him in the cold,
the black and white cat I found at the pound,
and the kind people took him in
once they had reported to work.
They put him in a cage with a blanket, some food and water,
where I found him,
and how could I have said no to Bill,
named to honor my uncle
who’d won a Silver Star
for glider landings in the dark, and who asked the nurse,
the last time I took him to the VA hospital, in Lorain, Ohio,
which is another kind of story, just days before he died,
“You don’t work for that Kevorkian, do you?”
Bill lies across the table where I try to work. He stretches his long body
precisely out across the paper
so it’s impossible to write a single word.

ALSO OF INTEREST
After the Others: Poems
Bruce Weigl
Paper 978-0-8101-5092-8 $16.00

Sweet Lorain: Poems
Bruce Weigl
Paper 978-0-8101-5054-6 $14.00

What Saves Us: Poems
Bruce Weigl
Paper 978-0-8101-5013-3 $14.00
Olives
Poems
A. E. Stallings

“One of the strongest talents to emerge in recent years.” — Poetry

A. E. Stallings has established herself as one of the best American poets of her generation. In addition to a lively dialogue with both the contemporary and ancient culture of her adopted homeland, Greece, this new collection features poems that, in her inimitable voice, address the joys and anxieties of marriage and motherhood. This collection builds on previous accomplishments with some longer poems and sequences of greater philosophical scope, such as “On Visiting a Borrowed Country House in Arcadia.” Stallings possesses the rare ability to craft precise poems that pulsate with deeply felt emotion. Like the olives of the title, the book embraces the bitter but savory fruits of the ancient tree, and the tears and sweetness we harvest in our temporary lives. These poems show Stallings in complete command of her talent, able to suggest the world in a word.

A. E. Stallings has published two books of poetry, Archaic Smile (1999), which won the Richard Wilbur Award, and Hapax (Northwestern University Press, 2006), which won the Poet’s Prize and the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Benjamin H. Danks Award. She has also published a verse translation of Lucretius, The Nature of Things (2007). Stallings is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and a 2011 MacArthur Fellow. She lives in Athens, Greece.

Telephonophobia

We joke about it. Really, you’re annoyed
To make some call I should make on my own—
It doesn’t bite, you say. That isn’t true.
We keep it on a leash; it isn’t tame.
It stalks us in our sleep. And when at last
Some shy, unbidden happiness arrives
That triggers its alarm, it’s not for you.
I bring it to my head, it speaks my name:
Old anger pours like poison in my ear—
Or information, cool as dates on stone,
Rocks in its smooth, black cradle. I avoid
The thing, because it holds what I most fear:
At any hour, the future or the past
Can dial into the room and change our lives.

ALSO OF INTEREST

Hapax: Poems
A. E. Stallings
Paper 978-0-8101-5171-0 $14.95
Winner of the 2010 Cave Canem Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize

“The poems in Vievee Francis’s *Horse in the Dark* are revelations—of memory, of dust, of the cotton and marginalia strung together to make a history.”
—Adrian Matejka, author of *Mixology*

**Horse in the Dark**

Poems

Vievee Francis

Bold and skilled, Francis takes us into the still landscapes of Texas, evoking the African American South in fluid detail. Her poems become panhandle folktales fraught with the weight of memories both individual and collective. Her creative tangle of metaphors, people, and geography will keep the reader rooted in the good earth of extraordinary verse.

Vievee Francis is the author of *Blue-Tail Fly: Poems* (2006). Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in several periodicals and anthologies including *Crab Orchard Review, Rattle, Best American Poetry 2010*, and *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. She was the 2009–2010 Poet-in-Residence for the Alice Lloyd Hall Scholars Program and is the recipient of a 2009 Rona Jaffe Award, a 2010 Kresge Artist Fellowship, and Cave Canem fellowships. She is an associate editor for *Callaloo*.

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**Sweet Spot**

Poems

J. T. Barbarese

Goddesses and junkies, the Vietnam memorial and a neighborhood hangout are the coordinates of J. T. Barbarese’s *Sweet Spot*. His poems explore the emotional centers of whatever is fleeting in characters or places that will be instantly familiar to the reader. Barbarese masterfully evokes the specific land- and cityscapes of his poems.

*Sweet Spot* confirms Barbarese’s preeminence as a chronicler of the heroic everyday, the telling detail, the subtle reminders of the human predicament hidden in habit and memory.

J. T. Barbarese is an associate professor of English at Rutgers University and the author of four previous collections of poetry and a translation of Euripides. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Poetry*, and his literary journalism in *The Georgia Review*, *Sewanee Review*, and elsewhere.
The Lemon Grove
A Novel
Ali Hosseini

Identical twins Ruzbeh and Behruz are at the center of Ali Hosseini’s debut novel in English—a story about love, redemption, and the courage to survive in the face of calamity and loss. The novel begins in the small town in southern Iran where the boys are raised and in their summer home which is surrounded by a lemon grove. Their idyll is shattered by personal and geopolitical events. Both boys fall in love with Shireen, a childhood friend. Behruz goes to America to escape the pain of competing for Shireen’s affections. Ruzbeh fights in the Iran/Iraq war and ends up alone and wandering the streets. When Behruz returns to Iran to help his shell-shocked brother, he finds the country devastated by revolution and war. His return sets off a string of events that change all their lives.

Ali Hosseini is an Iranian American who came to the United States as a student in the seventies. He has published a novel and two short story collections in Iran, and his short fiction has been published in Persian in the United States in Par Monthly and Persian Book Review. His work in English has been published in Epoch, Fiction International, American Letters & Commentary, Puerto del Sol, Ararat, and Hawai’i Review. He lives in the Boston area.

ALSO OF INTEREST
The Bolero of Andi Rowe: Stories
Toni Margarita Plummer
Paper 978-0-8101-2767-8 $17.95
The Apology and the Last Days
A Novel

Borislav Pekić
Translated from the Serbian by Bojan Mišić

Originally published in 1975, The Apology and the Last Days is the final volume in a trilogy of novels—also including The Rise and Fall of Icarus Gubelkian and How to Quiet a Vampire—about the aftermath of World War II, by Borislav Pekić, one of the former Yugoslavia’s most important postwar writers. The narrator tells his story from prison, where he is serving time for the murder of a former Nazi official. As the novel unfolds, we learn that the victim was the same person whom the narrator, while a lifeguard during the war, saved from drowning, thus making him vulnerable to charges of collaboration. In this tragicomic tale, Pekić explores eternal questions of fate and individual responsibility.

Borislav Pekić (1930–1993) was born in Montenegro, Yugoslavia. In 1948 he was accused of organizing a student conspiracy against the state and sentenced to fifteen years of hard labor. He was pardoned in 1954. Ten years later he won a major Yugoslav literary prize for The Time of Miracles. One of Yugoslavia’s most acclaimed writers, he lived in England from 1971 until his death.

Bojan Mišić holds an M.A. in comparative literature from San Diego State University.

WRITINGS FROM AN UNBOUND EUROPE
ANDREW WACHTEL, GENERAL EDITOR

FICTION

June • World • First Publication • 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 • 128 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2823-1 $18.95
The Gift
A Novel

Florence Noiville
Translated from the French by Catherine Temerson

This moving fictional memoir begins as a woman heads home after a meeting regarding her inheritance. Rebeling against the legalese uttered by the attorney, her mind drifts back to her childhood and she sees her life with sudden clarity. On the train, she jots down a few notes, which prompt the poetic outpouring of memory and emotion that make up this delicate novel.

The narrator’s mother looms large in her psyche. Labeled “eccentric” or “Italian,” her mother in fact suffered from what was later found to be manic depression. Without understanding the disease, the family treated the unpredictable ups and downs of her condition as they struck. During periods of paralyzing depression she was hospitalized, and the family felt abandoned. During periods of manic productivity and overdrive, she was a dedicated pharmacist, an exemplary homemaker, and an unusually knowledgeable gardener.

This sparse novel draws the portrait of a grand and unforgettable lady, loving and unable to love at once. Her bequest is as much a material one as it is an emotional one, and, the author surmises as she glances at her own daughters, a genetic one.

Florence Noiville is the author of Isaac B. Singer: A Life, which won the Prix du Recit biographique in 2003. She is a literary critic for Le Monde and lives in Paris.


FICTION

June • World • First Publication • 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 • 90 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2676-3 $17.95

ALSO OF INTEREST

Isaac B. Singer: A Life
Florence Noiville
Translated from the French by Catherine Temerson
Paper 978-0-8101-2482-0 $14.95
Three Plays

_Melissa Arctic, Orange Flower Water, and The Pavilion_

_Craig Wright_

Foreword by Jane Hamilton

Craig Wright is one of the most widely produced, consistently entertaining playwrights of his generation. The three plays gathered in this volume—_Melissa Arctic_ (winner of the 2005 Helen Hayes Award), _Orange Flower Water_, and _The Pavilion_—are all set in the fictional town of Pine City, Minnesota. The plays share a focus on love and relationships and feature a consistent undercurrent of observation and speculation about the nature of time. _Melissa Arctic_ brings Shakespeare’s _The Winter’s Tale_ into the present, retaining the original’s captivating mix of the comic and tragic. A brutally frank exploration of marriage, _Orange Flower Water_ examines the irresistible lure and poisonous effects of unrealistic expectations within love, and portrays the inescapably compromised contours of relationships founded on adultery. _The Pavilion_, a lyrical and rueful homage to _Our Town_, is a meditation on dashed dreams and unquenchable hopes, set at a twenty-year high school reunion. In all three plays, Wright shows himself to be one of the most perceptive and engaging playwrights working today.

_Craig Wright’s_ other plays include _Recent Tragic Events, Molly’s Delicious, Mistakes Were Made_, and _The Unseen_. His plays have been produced at theaters around the country, including Barrow Street Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, and Steppenwolf. His work as a television writer and producer includes _Six Feet Under_ (for which he received an Emmy nomination), _Lost, Brothers and Sisters_, and _Dirty Sexy Money_. He is an ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre.

_Praise for the productions of Melissa Arctic, Orange Flower Water, and The Pavilion_

“Masterly, affectionate.”
— _New York Times_ on _Melissa Arctic_

“Every aspect of [the] production delivered, with beauty, poetry, humor and tears.”
— _Washington Theater Review_ on _Melissa Arctic_

“Homes in on seemingly mundane behavior and then shocks us by revealing it in its most intimate, corrupting detail . . . the battles waged by the husbands and wives have a reality and depth far more lethal than the verbally polished outpourings of Edward Albee’s married couples.”
— _Chicago Sun-Times_ on _Orange Flower Water_

“Wright’s intelligent play is laced with humor and is full of crisp, emotionally resonant dialogue . . . _Orange Flower Water_ should not be missed.”
— _TheaterMania.com_

“Wright’s poetic exploration of the hope and pain of first love lifts this gentle work to soaring heights.”
— _Time Out New York_ on _The Pavilion_

_The Pavilion_ is a play with a genuine heart and an honest soul. Eschewing the easy road, it’s emotionally challenging and richly rewarding.”
— _Saint Paul Pioneer Press_

Detroit • World • First Publication • 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 • 164 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2814-9 $22.95
Venus in Fur
A Play

David Ives

A young playwright, Thomas, has written an adaptation of the 1870 novel Venus in Fur by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (after whom the term “masochism” was coined); the novel is the story of an obsessive adulterous relationship between a man and the mistress to whom he becomes enslaved. At the end of a long day in which the actresses Thomas auditions fail to impress him, in walks Vanda, very late and seemingly clueless, but she convinces him to give her a chance. As they perform scenes from Thomas’s play, and Vanda the actor and Vanda the character gradually take control of the audition, the lines between writer, actor, director, and character begin to blur. Vanda is acting . . . or perhaps she sees in Thomas a masochist, one who desires fantasy in “real life” while writing fantasies for a living.

An exploration of gender roles and sexuality, in which desire twists and turns in on itself, Venus in Fur is also a witty, unsettling look at the art of acting—onstage and off.

David Ives’s plays include two evenings of one-act comedies, All in the Timing (winner of the Outer Critics Circle Award) and Time Flies, as well as New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza; Is He Dead? (adapted from Mark Twain); Irving Berlin’s White Christmas; Polish Joke; and Ancient History. He has also adapted Corneille’s The Liar, Molière’s The School for Lies, and Regnard’s Le Légataire universal.

DRAMA

Available Now • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 88 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2822-4 $15.00
Reimagining
A Raisin in the Sun
Four New Plays

Edited by Rebecca Ann Rugg and Harvey Young

In 1959, Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* energized the conversation about how Americans live together across lines of race and difference. In *Reimagining “A Raisin in the Sun”*, Rebecca Ann Rugg and Harvey Young bring together four contemporary plays—including 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner *Clybourne Park*—that, in their engagement with Hansberry’s play, illuminate the tensions and anxieties that still surround neighborhood integration.

Although the plays—Robert O’Hara’s *Etiquette of Vigilance*, Gloria Bond Clunie’s *Living Green*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s *Neighbors*, and Bruce Norris’s *Clybourne Park*—are distinct from one another in terms of style and perspective on their predecessor, they commonly feature characters who are forced to closely examine, and sometimes revise or abandon, their ideas concerning race and their notions of social and economic justice. Above all, the plays use the lenses of neighborliness, privacy, and community to engage the large question of America’s common purpose. Each play is accompanied by an interview with the playwright about the influence of Hansberry’s landmark work. The afterword includes an interview with George C. Wolfe, whose play *The Colored Museum* laid the groundwork for the titles in this collection.

The conversation around *A Raisin in the Sun* has continued unabated since its premiere fifty years ago. Rugg and Young’s book will serve as a valuable resource to fans, scholars, and students alike.

Rebecca Ann Rugg is an artistic producer at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. She has held academic appointments at the Yale School of Drama, the University of Chicago, and DePaul University.

Harvey Young is an associate professor of theater at Northwestern University and the author of *Embodying Black Experience: Stillness, Critical Memory, and the Black Body* (2010).

Drama

*April* • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 458 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2813-2 $29.95
The Playwright at Work
Conversations

Rosemarie Tichler and Barry Jay Kaplan
Foreword by Marcia Gay Harden

Rosemarie Tichler and Barry Jay Kaplan take us behind the scenes in conversations with thirteen of today’s most distinguished playwrights, including Tony Kushner, John Guare, Wallace Shawn, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Henry Hwang, and Sarah Ruhl. To familiarize the reader with the world of each playwright, Tichler and Kaplan introduce us to the environments in which the work happens, conducting their interviews in the playwright’s home, a dark theater, or a coffee shop. Topics of conversation range from the playwrights’ earliest memories of the theater to finding their unique voices, and from their working relationships with directors, actors, and designers to their involvement in the purely commercial aspects of their profession. Taken together, these conversations constitute a collectively taught master class in the art and craft of writing for the stage.

Rosemarie Tichler was casting director and artistic producer at the Public Theater (New York). She teaches in New York University’s Graduate Acting Program. She is the recipient of the Casting Society of America’s Apple Award, the Villager Award for Excellence in Casting, and two Tony Award Producing nominations. Tichler founded the Public Theater’s Shakespeare Lab, now in its sixteenth year. She is on the board of directors of New York’s Classic Stage Company. She is the coauthor, with Barry Jay Kaplan, of Actors at Work.

Barry Jay Kaplan’s plays include Landscape of Desire. He is the recipient of the Joe Callaway Award and the Whitfield Cooke Best Play Award. He is also the author of the best-selling novels Black Orchid (with Nicholas Meyer) and Biscayne. His short stories have been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. He is the coauthor, with Rosemarie Tichler, of Actors at Work.

THEATER

June • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 352 pages
Paper 978-0-8101-2762-3 • $24.95

Praise for Rosemarie Tichler and Barry Jay Kaplan’s Actors at Work

“For actors, directors, and anyone who appreciates the art form, these interviews are priceless.” — Publishers Weekly

“The responses make for a fascinating, intelligent book, in which true masters of their craft, such as Meryl Streep, Kevin Spacey, and Philip Seymour Hoffman, share real information about acting and startling insights into literature of the kind that can’t be communicated in a 15-second sound bite.” — Booklist

Conversations with:
John Guare
David Henry Hwang
Christopher Durang
Sarah Ruhl
Lynn Nottage
Paula Vogel
David Greenspan
Doug Wright
Wallace Shawn
Suzan-Lori Parks
David Hare
Nilo Cruz
Tony Kushner
The Second City Unscripted
Revolution and Revelation at the World-Famous Comedy Theater

Mike Thomas

Since its modest beginning in 1959, The Second City in Chicago has become a world-renowned bastion of hilarity. A training ground for many of today’s top comedic talents—including Alan Arkin, Dan Aykroyd, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, Bill Murray, and Amy Sedaris—it was an early blueprint for improv-based sketch revues in North America and abroad. Its immeasurable influence also extends to television, film, and the Broadway stage. Mike Thomas interviewed scores of key figures who have contributed to Second City’s vast legacy—its stars as well as those who worked and continue to work behind the scenes—to create this entertaining and informative oral history. The story is equal parts legendary highlights, gossip, and insight into how the theater’s brand of comedy was and is created. Unprecedented in scope and rife with colorful tales well told, The Second City Unscripted is an essential account of this iconic show business institution.

Mike Thomas is a staff writer for the Chicago Sun-Times. He has also written for Esquire, Smithsonian magazine, and Salon.com.

Praise for The Second City Unscripted

“His top-notch lineup of comedian . . . upholds a bedrock law of improv: never try to be funny. Much of the humor here emerges naturally, as it should. Thomas carves his interviews into snippets, grouping them by topic; when things gel, it’s like listening to these people swap stories on grungy backstage couches.”

—Lynn Harris, New York Times

“A winning collection for any fan of comedy’s last half-century.” —Publishers Weekly

“Mike Thomas . . . does a wonderful job with an impossible task: capturing that lightning-in-a-bottle quality of Second City, from its humble origins to its current status as a comedy institution.” —Julia Keller, Chicago Tribune

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Second City Almanac of Improvisation
Anne Libera
Paper 978-0-8101-1801-0 $29.95

Process: An Improviser’s Journey
Mary Scruggs and Michael J. Gellman
Foreword by Anne Libera
Paper 978-0-8101-2472-1 $17.95

Theater

June • NAM • Paperback Reprint • 6 x 9 • 304 pages • 39 b/w images
Paper 978-0-8101-2874-4 $16.95
Vita Nova

Dante Alighieri
Translation, introduction, and notes by Andrew Frisardi

Dante’s Vita Nova (circa 1292–1295) depicts the joys and sorrows, the discoveries and conflicts of Dante’s early love for Beatrice—who would achieve later and even greater fame in Commedia—starting with his first sighting of her and culminating in his prevision of Beatrice among the beatified in heaven. Award-winning translator and poet Andrew Frisardi channels the vigor and nuance of Dante’s first masterpiece for a modern audience.

The “little book,” as Dante calls it, consists of thirty-one lyric poems—mostly sonnets—embedded in a prose narrative, which both recounts an apparently autobiographical set of events also evoked in the poems and offers analysis of the poems’ construction in the medieval critical tradition of divisio textus, or division of the text. Dante selected poetry he had written before age twenty-eight or so and wrote the prose to shape it into a story. The poems anthropologize Dante’s growth as a poet, from the influence of his earliest mentors to the stylistic and thematic breakthroughs of his poetic coming-of-age.

The interplay of poetry and prose in Vita Nova, along with the further distinction in the latter between autobiography and critical divisiones, presents a particular challenge for any translator. Frisardi faithfully voices the complex meter and rhyme schemes of the poetry while capturing the tone of each of the prose styles. His introduction and in-depth annotations provide additional context for the twenty-first-century reader.

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) was born in Florence to a prominent family and trained as a pharmacist. He fought in the battle of Campaldino and was active in the internecine Florentine politics of the time, which resulted in his exile. His Commedia, also known as The Divine Comedy, is widely considered to have given rise to the Italian language and is perhaps the greatest work of the Middle Ages.

Andrew Frisardi is a writer, translator, and editor who resides in Orvieto, Italy. His translation of the selected poems of Giuseppe Ungaretti won the 2004 Raiziss/de Palchi Translation Award.
Women of the Washington Press
Politics, Prejudice, and Persistence

Maurine H. Beasley
Foreword by Sandy Johnson

In Women of the Washington Press, Maurine Beasley chronicles for the first time the discrimination faced by Washington women journalists from the 1830s to the present day. In the face of blatant prejudice and restrictive societal attitudes, these remarkable journalists found ways to make enormous strides, sometimes by creating their own beats. Ironically, women arrived in top jobs only to see the field radically change and face an uncertain future. Although the traditional news field as a whole faces upheavals due to declining revenues coupled with the growth of social media, the stakes and costs for women continue to be particularly high as they wrestle with combining both family life and the heavy demands of new career paths.

Maurine H. Beasley is a professor emerita of journalism at the University of Maryland. She is the author, most recently, of Eleanor Roosevelt: Transformative First Lady (2010) and First Ladies and the Press: The Unfinished Partnership of the Media Age (Northwestern, 2005). Beasley is a coauthor of Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism (2002) and a coeditor of The Eleanor Roosevelt Encyclopedia (2000).

Undercover Reporting
The Truth About Deception

Brooke Kroeger
Foreword by Pete Hamill

In her provocative book, Brooke Kroeger argues for a reconsideration of the place of oft-maligned journalistic practices. While it may seem paradoxical, much of the valuable journalism in the past century and a half has emerged from undercover investigations that employed subterfuge or deception to expose wrong. Kroeger asserts that undercover work is not a separate world, but rather it embodies a central discipline of good reporting—the ability to extract significant information or to create indelible, real-time descriptions of hard-to-penetrate institutions or social situations that deserve the public’s attention. Together with a companion website that gathers some of the best investigative work of the past century, Undercover Reporting serves as a rallying call for an endangered aspect of the journalistic endeavor.

Brooke Kroeger is a professor of journalism at New York University’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and was its founding director. She is the author, most recently, of Passing: When People Can’t Be Who They Are (2003).

ALSO OF INTEREST
First Ladies and the Press: The Unfinished Partnership of the Media Age
Maurine H. Beasley
Paper 978-0-8101-2312-0 $24.95

Visit www.undercoverreporting.org for additional resources
Long Way Home
A Young Man Lost in the System and the Two Women Who Found Him
Laura Caldwell

By all accounts, Jovan Mosley was a good kid. He was working on a way out of his tough Chicago neighborhood and had been accepted at Ohio State University when he was forced to confess to a murder he did not commit. He then spent five years and ten months in jail without a trial. His efforts to exonerate himself got him nowhere until he happened to meet a successful criminal defense lawyer, Catharine O’Daniel. She became convinced of his innocence and took him on as her first pro bono client. Along with Laura Caldwell, she decided to fight to free Jovan. Against enormous odds, they finally won some measure of justice. In this affecting memoir, Caldwell tells the unforgettable story of a breakdown in the criminal justice system and what it took to free an innocent man.

Laura Caldwell is a distinguished scholar in residence at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she started the Life After Innocence Project. She is the author of thirteen novels, including the Izzy McNeil series. Caldwell’s freelance writing has been published in Chicago Magazine, Woman’s Own, The Young Lawyer, and elsewhere.

Criminal Justice

May • COBE • Paperback Reprint • 6 x 9 • 316 pages • 17 b/w images
Paper 978-0-8101-2826-2 $16.95
Narratives Unsettled
Digression in Robert Walser, Thomas Bernhard, and Adalbert Stifter

Samuel Frederick

In Narratives Unsettled, Samuel Frederick proposes a new conception of narrativity that can accommodate unwieldy, recalcitrant forms of digression. By way of close readings of three distinct German-language writers, Frederick demonstrates that digression, far from being a non- or anti-narrative interruption, contributes to what makes these writers’ works fundamentally narrative. The author thus counters several basic assumptions of classical narratology, including the belief—rooted in Aristotle—that a narrative without a plot is a logical impossibility, and that anything deviating from a narrative’s purposeful whole is either destructive or insignificant. Frederick’s readings of the narrative experiments, utopian moments, and obsessions with the trivial in the works of Walser, Bernhard, and Stifter point to new ways of approaching the ostensibly anti-narrative as a productive element of narrativity. As a work that explores the often neglected crossroads of German studies and postclassical narratology, Narratives Unsettled will be of great interest to scholars in both of these fields, as well as to those working on literature and theory in general.

Samuel Frederick is an assistant professor of German at Clemson University in South Carolina.

LITERARY CRITICISM/GERMAN STUDIES

August • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 224 pages • 2 b/w images
Cloth 978-0-8101-2817-0 $79.95 (s)
Paper 978-0-8101-2818-7 $29.95 (x)
Sacrifice in the Modern World
On the Particularity and Generality of Nazi Myth

David Pan

A landmark book, David Pan’s *Sacrifice in the Modern World* seeks to explain the continuing emphasis, in modern times, on sacrifice. Pan specifically turns to the culture of sacrifice—ritualized and sanctified death—in Nazi Germany, showing how that regime co-opted an existing discussion of sacrifice and infused it with its own mythology. Pan suggests that sacrifice is a key value in every society but that there is a preponderance of association of sacrifice with Nazi culture and therefore a largely pejorative treatment of sacrifice.

Surveying the arguments of philosopher Alfred Baeumler and other symptomatic Nazi texts, Pan shows how the Nazis’ reactionary intellectual culture unraveled much of the Enlightenment project. In so doing, he is able to offer a compelling new perspective on basic theoretical concepts in the work of Kant, Nietzsche, Adorno, Bataille, Girard, and others. He posits that it is only by clearing our way through the Nazis’ misuse of sacrifice that we can understand the durability of sacrificial structures that—following several of the theorists he discusses—establish the fundamental values by which we live our lives.

Rather than condemning the Nazi appeal to sacrifice itself, this book looks at the particular ways in which sacrifice was distributed and structured within that society. All cultures must grapple with the existential violence of the human condition, and they frequently do so through aesthetic treatments of sacrifice, rooted in myths and traditions. Pan argues that our task is not to eradicate these traditions but to engage them by carefully evaluating the commitments and values that they imply.

David Pan is an associate professor of German at the University of California, Irvine.

GERMAN STUDIES

August • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 184 pages
Cloth 978-0-8101-2816-3  $34.95 (x)

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Word Unheard: Legacies of Anti-Semitism in German Literature and Culture
Martha B. Helfer
Cloth 978-0-8101-2794-4  $34.95
Michelle Balaev’s *The Nature of Trauma in American Novels* is an ambitious reconsideration of the foundations, implementations, and possibilities of literary trauma theory.

Balaev examines the significance of traumatic experience in contemporary American novels by extending the discussion of trauma beyond the disease-driven paradigm in literary criticism today. Drawing upon psychological theories of trauma and memory, this book explores the heterogeneous and at times contradictory depictions of trauma in fiction. Balaev contends that the value of trauma and the importance of remembering in the novel are shaped by contextual factors such as culture, place, and landscape, which inform the emotional texture and narrative structure of the reader’s experience. Her book addresses the reliance upon place and landscape imagery in the novels of Toni Morrison, Lan Cao, Leslie Marmon Silko, Edward Abbey, and Robert Barclay by examining how landscape imagery creates a concern for meaning that erupts from a discordant event to catalyze a restructuring of consciousness.

The publication of *The Nature of Trauma in American Novels* marks an exciting new direction in literary criticism.

Michelle Balaev is a visiting assistant professor of English at Wake Forest University.
The Thought of John Sallis
Phenomenology, Plato, Imagination

Bernard Freydberg

John Sallis is one of America’s preeminent and most original contemporary philosophers. The absence, until now, of a comprehensive work on Sallis has constituted a glaring oversight in philosophical scholarship. The Thought of John Sallis is both an introduction for students new to his work and a valuable resource for scholars needing a systematic consideration of Sallis’s wide-ranging thought.

Sallis’s work possesses an intrinsic power and originality, as well as deep interpretive insight. This book is a descriptive and critical journey through his thought, providing an overview for readers who wish to gain a sense of its sweep, along with discrete sections on particular philosophical disciplines for readers whose interests are more specific. It grapples with the challenges Sallis’s thought presents, making them explicit and opening them up to further consideration. And it attempts to locate his thought within both contemporary continental philosophy and philosophy as a whole. Essential for any student of continental philosophy, The Thought of John Sallis expounds on his work in a manner that increases access, honors its depth, and opens up unexplored possibilities for philosophy.

Bernard Freydberg is a professor emeritus at Slippery Rock University and a scholar in residence in the philosophy department at Duquesne University. He is the author of many books, including, most recently, Schelling’s Dialogical “Freedom Essay”: Provocative Philosophy Then and Now (2008).

PHILOSOPHY

August • World • First Publication • 6 x 9 • 390 pages
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Paper 978-0-8101-2827-9 $34.95 (x)

ALSO OF INTEREST

A Thing of This World: A History of Continental Anti-Realism
Lee Braver
Paper 978-0-8101-2380-9 $34.95
Machiavelli in the Making
Claude Lefort
Translated from the French by Michael B. Smith

Machiavelli in the Making is both a novel interpretation of the Florentine’s work and a critical document for understanding influential French scholar and public intellectual Claude Lefort’s later writings on democracy and totalitarianism. Lefort extricates Machiavelli’s thought from the dominant interpretations of him as the founder of “objective” political science, which, having liberated itself from the religious and moralizing tendencies of medieval political reflection, attempts to arrive at a realistic discourse on the operations of raw power. Lefort ultimately finds that Machiavelli’s discourse opens the “place of the political” which had previously been occupied by theology and morality.


Michael B. Smith is a professor emeritus of French and philosophy at Berry College.

Foucault, Politics, and Violence
Johanna Oksala

In Foucault, Politics, and Violence, Johanna Oksala challenges the assumption of the inextricability of violence from the political that is often based on excessively broad, ontological conceptions of violence distinct from its concrete and physical meaning and, on the other hand, on a restrictively narrow and empirical understanding of politics as the realm of conventional political institutions. Oksala turns to three of Foucault’s recently published lectures, focusing on Society Must Be Defended; Security, Territory, Population; and The Birth of Biopolitics. She also critically assesses and brings to bear philosophers who advocate agonistic, conflict-centered conceptions of politics, such as Carl Schmitt, Hannah Arendt, Chantal Mouffe, and Slavoj Žižek. Her inquiry outlines an agonistic conception of the political that builds not on an ontology of violence but on a poststructuralist denial of all essentialist political ontologies.

Johanna Oksala is a senior research fellow in the department of philosophy, history, culture, and art studies at the University of Helsinki in Finland.
Kant’s Conception of Pedagogy
Toward Education for Freedom

G. Felicitas Munzel

Although he was involved in the education debates of his time, it is widely held that in his mature philosophical writings Immanuel Kant is silent on the subject. In her groundbreaking Kant’s Conception of Pedagogy, G. Felicitas Munzel finds extant in Kant’s writings the so-called missing critical treatise on education; it appears in the Doctrines of Method with which he concludes each of his major works. Here Kant identifies the fundamental principles for the cultivation of reason’s judgment when it comes to cognition, beauty, nature, and the exercise of morality while subject to the passions and inclinations that characterize the human experience. From her analysis, Munzel extrapolates principles for a cosmopolitan education that parallels the structure of Kant’s republican constitution for perpetual peace. With the formal principles in place, the argument concludes with a query of the material principles that would fulfill the formal conditions required for an education for freedom.

G. Felicitas Munzel is an associate professor in the Program of Liberal Studies and the department of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

Hamann and the Tradition

Edited by Lisa Marie Anderson

Recent years have witnessed a resurgence of scholarly interest in the work of Johann Georg Hamann (1730–1788), across disciplines. New translations of work by and about Hamann are appearing, as are a number of books and articles on Hamann’s aesthetics, theories of language and sexuality, and unique place in Enlightenment and counter-Enlightenment thought.

Edited by Lisa Marie Anderson, Hamann and the Tradition gathers established and emerging scholars to examine the full range of Hamann’s impact—be it on German Romanticism or on the very practice of theology. Of particular interest to those not familiar with Hamann will be a chapter devoted to examining—or in some cases, placing—Hamann in dialogue with other important thinkers, such as Socrates, David Hume, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Lisa Marie Anderson is an associate professor of German at Hunter College. She is the translator and editor of the critical edition Hegel on Hamann (Northwestern, 2008).

ALSO OF INTEREST

Hegel on Hamann
G. W. F. Hegel
Translated from the German and with an introduction by Lisa Marie Anderson
Paper 978-0-8101-2491-2 $29.95
Isaac Babel and the Self-Invention of Odessan Modernism

Rebecca Jane Stanton

In what marks an exciting new critical direction, Rebecca Stanton contends that the city of Odessa—as a canonical literary image and as a kaleidoscopic cultural milieu—shaped the narrative strategies developed by Isaac Babel and his contemporaries of the Revolutionary generation. Modeling themselves on the tricksters and rogues of Odessa lore, Babel and his fellow Odessans Valentin Kataev and Yury Olesha manipulated their literary personae through complex, playful, and often subversive negotiations of the boundary between autobiography and fiction. In so doing, they cannily took up a place prepared for them in the Russian canon and fostered modes of storytelling that both reflected and resisted the aesthetics of Socialist Realism. Stanton concludes with a rereading of Babel’s “autobiographical” stories and examines their legacy in post-Thaw works by Kataev, Olesha, and Konstantin Paustovsky.

Rebecca Jane Stanton is an assistant professor of Russian at Barnard College.

Singing the Self

Guitar Poetry, Community, and Identity in the Post-Stalin Period

Rachel S. Platonov

This book is a study of a Soviet cultural phenomenon of the 1950s through the 1980s known as guitar poetry—songs accompanied by guitar and considered poetry in much the same way as those of, for example, Bob Dylan. Platonov’s is the most comprehensive book in English to date to analyze guitar poetry, which has rarely received scholarly attention outside of Russia. Going well beyond the conventional, text-centered view of guitar poetry as a form of political or artistic dissent, largely a function of the Cold War climate in which it began, Platonov argues for a more complex understanding of guitar poetry as a means of self-invention and community formation. Although grounded in literary studies, the book effectively brings historical, anthropological, and musicological perspectives to bear on an understudied phenomenon of the post-Stalin period.

Rachel S. Platonov is a lecturer in Russian studies at the University of Manchester.

ALSO OF INTEREST

Resonant Dissonance: The Russian Joke in Cultural Context
Seth Graham
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Pleasures in Socialism: Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc
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Jews and Ukrainians in Russia’s Literary Borderlands: From the Shtetl Fair to the Petersburg Bookshop
Amelia M. Glaser
Cloth 978-0-8101-2796-8 $45.00
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Murder and Its Consequences
Essays on Capital Punishment in America

Leigh Buchanan Bienen
Foreword by Deborah W. Denno

The essays in Murder and Its Consequences span several periods in the history of capital punishment in America and the professional career of Leigh Bienen, a leading researcher on the death penalty. “A Good Murder” describes the subtle relationship between high-profile murders and the death penalty, while “The Proportionality Review of Capital Cases” places the well-known study of proportionality in New Jersey within a nationwide context. “Anomalies” suggests that the arcane protocols written for lethal injection have little to do with insuring humane executions, but rather are concerned with protecting the sensibilities of witnesses and the liability of corrections officials. “The Quality of Justice in Capital Cases: Illinois as a Case Study” addresses the groundbreaking developments surrounding the death penalty in that state. “Not Wiser After Thirty-Five Years of Contemplating the Death Penalty” concludes the collection by taking a retrospective look at the evolution of her own and the country’s thinking about this complex, divisive topic.

Leigh Buchanan Bienen is a senior lecturer at Northwestern University School of Law.

LAW

Available Now • World • Paperback Reprint • 6 x 9 • 256 pages
978-0-8101-2834-7 $34.95 (s)

Contents

Foreword by Deborah W. Denno
Introduction: Murder, the Rule of Law, and the Tale of the Little Red Hen
“A Good Murder”
Not Wiser After Thirty-Five Years of Contemplating the Death Penalty
Anomalies: Ritual and Language in Lethal Injection Regulations
The Quality of Justice in Capital Cases: Illinois as a Case Study
The Proportionality Review of Capital Cases by State High Courts After Gregg:
Only “the Appearance of Justice”
Charles Deering and Ramón Casas
Two Friends

Isabel Coll i Mirabent
Translated from the Spanish by Jennifer Croft
Foreword by Lindsay King

Charles Deering and Ramón Casas follows the development and dramatic dissolution of a formidable partnership that connected the Spanish artist Ramón Casas (1866–1932), the artist’s lifelong friend and fellow artist Miguel Utrillo (1862–1934), and the Chicago industrialist Charles Deering (1852–1927), who was an admirer and collector of Casas’s work. Isabel Coll i Mirabent untangles hearsay and rumor to provide historical resolution.

When Casas introduced Deering to Sitges, a beach town near Barcelona, the American fell in love with the village’s beauty and decided to acquire a home there. He bought a Gothic-style hospital and over time acquired adjoining properties. Fueled by genuine affection, shared values, and common interests among the three men, Deering amassed his art collection at this refuge, naming the compound Maricel. Miguel Utrillo became director of the institution.

Although the images form a catalog of Casas’s work, Coll’s text explores a mystery: What could have happened among these three men that would have led Casas to take the side of the American, abandoning his childhood friend, Utrillo, with whom he would never speak again? She finds credence in the opinion popularly held in Sitges—that Utrillo betrayed Deering, which estranged Utrillo from Casas and prompted Deering to abandon Sitges, taking his art collection with him.

A tale of fruitful curatorial collaboration and devastating betrayal, Charles Deering and Ramón Casas is both a beautiful book for art lovers and a wrenching human story of friendship and loss.

Isabel Coll i Mirabent is professor of art history at the University of Barcelona.

Jennifer Croft’s translations have appeared in numerous collections, including Best European Fiction 2012, Argentina: A Traveler’s Literary Companion, and Nietzsche and the Becoming of Life. She lives in Buenos Aires, where she writes and teaches twentieth-century literature.

ART HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY

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By Any Means Necessary
Malcolm X: Real, Not Reinvented

Edited by Herb Boyd, Ron Daniels, Maulana Karenga, and Haki R. Madhubuti

Compiled as a response to Manning Marable’s controversial new biography of Malcolm X, more than 30 noted scholars from the African American community offer their opinions on Marable’s portrayal of the man whose short life still inspires speculation of what might have been.

Herb Boyd is an activist, journalist, author, and a teacher of African American history for four decades. His most recent book, co-authored with Simeon Wright, is Simeon’s Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till.

Ron Daniels is executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. In 1988, he became Deputy Campaign Manager for Jesse Jackson’s bid for President, and in 1992, he ran as an independent candidate for President of the United States.

Maulana Karenga is professor and chair of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach. He is the creator of the pan-African cultural holiday Kwanzaa and the author of several books including The Liberation Ethics of Malcolm X: An Emancipatory Critique and Corrective, a study of the social and ethical philosophy of Malcolm X.

Haki R. Madhubuti has published more than 28 books, and founded Third World Press, an American book publishing house, in 1967. He is also a founder of the Institute of Positive Education/New Concept School, co-founder of Betty Shabazz International Charter School, Barbara A. Sizemore Middle School, and DuSable Leadership Academy. In 2010, Madhubuti was awarded the Hurston/Wright Legacy Poetry Prize for his book Liberation Hermetistics.

Contributors include:
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BLACK STUDIES/SOCIAL COMMENTARY

February • World • First Publication • 6.9 x 9.2 • 280 pages
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Haki R. Madhubuti

The Narrative of Craft, Art, Kindness and Justice: Poems

For over thirty years, poets Gwendolyn Brooks and Haki R. Madhubuti shared a unique literary and personal relationship. In this latest volume of his work, Madhubuti, a renowned poet in his own right, pays tribute to Brooks’ legacy and memory with this collection of poems that he produced during those years. He also offers two essays and a selection of newer poems to express his gratitude and show his great respect for this literary giant.

Haki R. Madhubuti has published more than 28 books, and founded Third World Press, an African-American book publishing house, in 1967. He is also a founder of the Institute of Positive Education/New Concept School, co-founder of Betty Shabazz International Charter School, Barbara A. Sirocco Middle School, and DuSable Leadership Academy. In 2011, Madhubuti was awarded the Hurston/Wright Legacy Poetry Prize for his book Liberation Narrative.

POETRY/SOCIAL COMMENTARY

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Mumia Abu-Jamal and Marc Lamont Hill

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Marc Lamont Hill is Associate Professor of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He also holds an affiliated faculty appointment in African-American Studies at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University. Dr. Hill has lectured widely and provides regular commentary for media outlets such as NPR, WSJ, and CNN. He is the host of the nationally syndicated television show, “Our World with Black Enterprise.” He is the author of five books, including the New York Times bestseller, Beating the Odds.

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Haki R. Madhubuti has published more than 20 books, and founded Third World Press, an African American book publishing house, in 1967. He is also a founder of the Institute of Positive Education/New Concept School, co-founder of Betty Shabazz International Charter School, Barbara A. Sumenore Middle School, and Dusable Leadership Academy. In 2010, Madhubuti was awarded the Hurston/Wright Legacy Poetry Prize for his book Liberation Narratives.

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Mari Evans

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Afterword by Nikki Giovanni

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Mari Evans, an award-winning poet and writer, is the author of six children’s books, three volumes of poetry, a collection of essays, theater pieces, and a musical. Her work has been included in more than 400 anthologies and textbooks, including translations. A leading contributor to the Black Arts Movement, she has lectured and read at colleges and universities throughout the United States. She currently lives and works in Indianapolis.

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Dr. Kennon Mitchell is currently an Assistant Superintendent of Student Services for the San Bernardino City Unified School District. As principal, Dr. Mitchell developed the MAAT Academy, an African-centered after school intervention program targeting at-risk African American male students.

A. Majadi is a native of Detroit, a father of seven, and currently serves as the President/CDO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Bernardino. He has more than 20 years experience in community program development, specifically gang prevention and intervention, and is a staunch advocate for education.

Dr. Salin Faraji is an Associate Professor of African Studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He is the author of the forthcoming book on Africa Word Press, The Last Pharaoh: Roots of Nubian Christianity Uncovered, A Study on Late Antique Africa.
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Rushing Waters, Rising Dreams
How the Arts Are Transforming a Community

Edited by Denise M. Sandoval and Luis J. Rodriguez

The Northeast San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles is the second largest community of Mexicans and Central Americans in the United States, with 500,000 people. Yet, until 2001 the Northeast Valley had no trade bookstores, movie houses, art galleries, or decent cultural spaces. That year Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural opened its doors, first as a cultural café, which in ten years has provided workshops in music, visual arts, dance, theater, writing, and indigenous cosmology—along with an art gallery, a poetry press, a youth empowerment project, and the only annual outdoor literacy and performance festival in the area, “Celebrating Words: Written, Performed & Sung.”

Rushing Waters, Rising Dreams borrows its name from the name of one of its communities: Pacoima, a Native American word meaning “rushing waters.” Interviews with artists, community leaders, politicians, and well-known personalities, essays, research, photos, art pieces, poetry, and cultural tableaux explore twenty years of how the lack of neighborhood cultural spaces adversely affects struggling families and communities, and how the example of Tia Chucha’s and others inspires a cultural awakening and a revival of the economy and community spirit. The book speaks to a need for a national arts policy of cultural spaces, arts education, independent bookstores, public art projects, and more. Funded in part by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the book includes a companion DVD by filmmaker John Cantu.

Denise M. Sandoval, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at California State University, Northridge. An expert on Chicana/Chicano culture, in particular the well-known lowrider car phenomenon, Ms. Sandoval has curated lowrider shows at the Peterson Automotive Museum in Los Angeles and the Guadalajara International Book Fair in Mexico, among others.

Luis J. Rodriguez co-founded Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural with his wife Trini and other family members and community leaders. Luis is the author of poetry, children’s literature, fiction, and nonfiction books, including the bestselling memoir, Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A. His latest memoir is It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing.

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