

CULTURAL EQUITIES



The *17th* Annual Literary Festival

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Cultural Equities: The 17th Annual Literary Festival

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 p.m. Literary Festival Fund Raiser
Poetry Reading
Derek Walcott
Mills Godwin 102
Donation: \$10.00, students \$5.00

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

3:00 p.m. Poetry/Fiction Readings
Scott Cairns
Susan Power
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8:00 p.m. Poetry/Creative Nonfiction Reading
Luis Francia
Chandler Recital Hall
Fine and Performing Arts Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

3:00 p.m. Poetry/Fiction Readings
Richard Garcia
Janet Peery
Chandler Recital Hall
Fine and Performing Arts Center

8:00 p.m. Poetry Reading
Larry Levis
Chandler Recital Hall
Fine and Performing Arts Center

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

11:00 a.m. Poetry/Fiction Readings
Jeannette Drake
Evelina Galang
Newport News Room, Webb Center

3:00 p.m. Poetry/Creative Nonfiction Readings
Kenneth Carroll
Mike Pearson
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8:00 p.m. Fiction Reading
Ed Jones
Chandler Recital Hall
Fine and Performing Arts Center

All Festival events are open to the public.
All but the Fund Raiser are free.
For more information call 683-4023.

The editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* have gathered numerous definitions of the word *equity*, most of them relating to the law, from "the recourse to general principles of justice to correct or supplement common and statute law" to "the value of a mortgaged property after deducting charges and claims against it." It's fascinating that the one definition listed as "long rare" is the most simple, the most potentially explosive. This definition tells us that equity is "that which is fair and right." This definition implies that under our shifting, and sometimes cynical, cultural formalities there may be a bedrock of something like goodness.

It is Luis Francia who introduced me to the term "cultural equity," which he had recently learned on an Academy of American Poets tour of California. I had complained to him that the term "multi-cultural" seemed inadequate to describe the value of a literary festival that would offer twelve writers, one of them the premiere poet of West-Indian culture, three of them African American, two of them Native American, one each Filipino and Filipina, one Hispanic, one whose poetry has enlarged the existing canon by a refusal to let meaning give in to rigidity, one who finds the human on America's wide plains and, finally, one who finds the human on the wide plains of the Bronx. Yet the previous sentence, long as it is, only begins to describe the rich diversity of these writers.

What is fair and right about this group of artists is a very potent mixture of their unswerving loyalties to the crafts which they practice, their care for the talent that has been granted to them, their fidelity to their homelands, and their involvement in a new world order that is as fertile and various as the imagination itself. Enjoy!

We are also pleased to announce the inception of The Associated Writing Programs/Old Dominion University International Writers Center at Old Dominion University. This organization will work to promote awareness of international issues, cultures, and writers in American creative writing programs and it will facilitate international exchanges of writers and students. Watch for more information about this exciting project.

Janet Sylvester,
Director, Literary Festival

DEREK WALCOTT

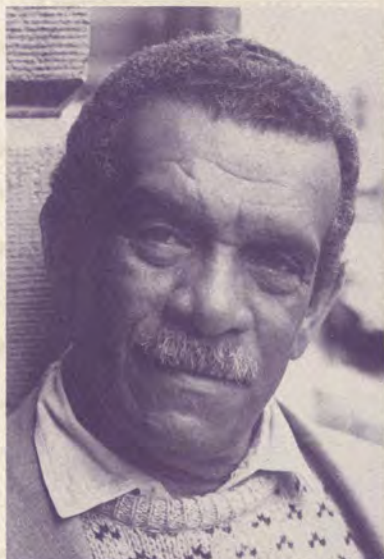


PHOTO BY VIRGINIA SCHENDLER

When the Swedish Academy awarded Derek Walcott the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992, it cited his "poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by historical vision" and his "multicultural commitment," adding that in Walcott "West Indian culture has found its great poet." Born in 1930 in the town of Castries on the island of St. Lucia, a former British colony in the Lesser Antilles, Mr. Walcott attended the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica. In 1957, he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Grant to study the American theater, and he went on to found the Trinidad Theater Workshop and to have his plays produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles and the Negro Ensemble Company. His plays include *Dream on Monkey Mountain*, *The Joker of Seville*, *O Babylon!*, *Remembrance*, *Pantomime* and *The Odyssey*, which has its American premiere at the Arena Stage in Washington D.C. this month.

But it is Mr. Walcott's poetry and its fierce loyalty to the English language that has earned him the Guinness Award, a Royal Society of Literature Award, a five-year fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Queen's Medal and the Nobel Prize. His many books include *The Gulf*, *Another Life*, *Sea Grapes*, *The Star-Apple Kingdom*, *The Fortunate Traveller*, *Midsummer*, *Collected Poems 1948-1984*, *The Arkansas Testament*, *Omeros* and *The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory*, his Nobel Lecture. His poetry fuses the classics, folklore and history, combining the vernacular and the grand manner. Mr. Walcott, who has taught at Columbia, Rutgers, Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Boston University, has said that "all the races of the world" are represented in the Caribbean, giving a "tremendous possibility of an example of unity."

Also an accomplished visual artist, he now divides his time between St. Lucia and Boston.

SCOTT CAIRNS



Scott Cairns has recently joined the faculty of Old Dominion's Department of English as Director of Creative Writing. He has published three books of poetry: *Figures for the Ghost*, *The Translation of Babel* and *The Theology of Doubt*, and his poems have appeared in, among others, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review* and *The Denver Quarterly*. Since 1992, he has served as series editor for the Vassar Miller Prize in Poetry, an annual book competition from University of North Texas Press.

SUSAN POWER



PHOTO BY DEBI MILLIGAN

Susan Power is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe (Yanktonnai Dakota), and a native Chicagoan. She received her A.B. in psychology from Harvard/Radcliffe, her J.D. from Harvard Law School, and her MFA from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, where she was the first recipient of an Iowa Arts Fellowship. She has also been granted a James Michener Fellowship (1992-1993) and a Bunting Institute Fellowship at Radcliffe College (1993-1994). Her short fiction has been published in a dozen literary journals and anthologies including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Best American Short Stories 1993*, *The Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Story*, and *The Voice Literary Supplement*. Her first novel, *The Grass Dancer*, will be published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in Fall 1994.

LUIS FRANCIA



PHOTO BY ARCHIE REYES

Luis H. Francia is a Manila-born poet, critic and journalist. He is the editor of *Brown River, White Ocean: An Anthology of 20th-Century Philippine Literature in English*, a seminal book surveying the vigorous and imaginative works of many writers little-known in the United States. Francia has been the recipient of the Palanca Memorial Award in Poetry, the Philippines' most prestigious literary prize. He is the author of two books of poetry, *Her Beauty Likes Me Well* (with David Friedman) and *The Arctic Archipelago and Other Poems*. He has published in various literary journals, including *Caracoa*, *Linden Lane*, *The Literary Review*, *City and Bomb*. He writes on politics and the arts for *The Village Voice* and *A Magazine*, and he is currently at work on a nonfiction semi-autobiographical book on the postcolonial Philippines.

RICHARD GARCIA

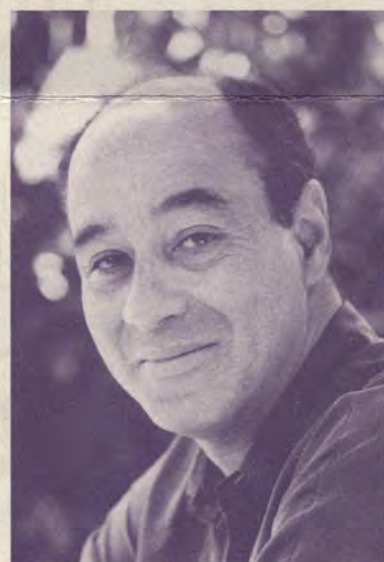


PHOTO BY DINAH BERLAND

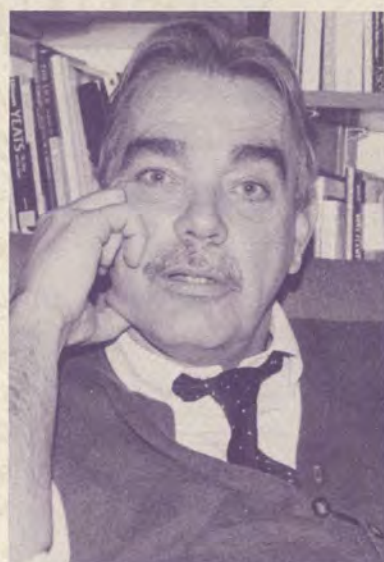
Richard Garcia is the author of *The Flying Garcias*, published in 1993 by the University of Pittsburgh Press. He has received fellowships in poetry and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council. He is a recipient of the Cohen Award from *Ploughshares* magazine. His poems appear in many journals, including *The Americas Review*, *Bloomsbury Review*, *The Colorado Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Kenyon Review* and *Parnassus*. He also writes poetry and stories for children, and is the author of a bilingual children's book, *My Aunt Otilia's Spirits*. He earned his MFA in creative writing from Warren Wilson College and he is currently the poet-in-residence at Childrens' Hospital, Los Angeles.

JANET PEERY



Janet Peery has recently joined the faculty of the creative writing program at Old Dominion. Her stories have won numerous awards, including two Pushcart Prizes and two Jeanne Charpiot Goodheart Prizes and her work appears in *Best American Short Stories 1993*, selected by Louise Erdrich. Her first book of short stories, *Alligator Dance*, received the Rosenthal Award of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. In addition, she has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Whiting Foundation. She earned her MFA from Wichita State University.

LARRY LEVIS



Larry Levis is currently Full Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has published five collections of poems, among them *The Dollmaker's Ghost*, *Winter Stars* and, most recently, *The Widening Spell of the Leaves*. He is at work on a new collection. His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and, in 1988, a Senior Fulbright Fellowship to Yugoslavia. His work has appeared in *Antaeus*, *The New Yorker*, *The Southern Review*, *Field*, and many other journals and magazines.

JEANNETTE DRAKE



PHOTO BY JAY PAUL

writing classes for low-income mothers in Richmond, Virginia.

Jeannette Drake, born in Newport News, was a social worker from 1964 to 1991. She holds MSW and MFA degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her poems have appeared in *Callaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters*, *Obsidian*, *Catalyst*, *New Virginia Review* and *The Southern Review*, among others. A recipient of two Individual Artist Project Awards from the Virginia Commission of the Arts, she has served as poet-in-the-schools for the Richmond Arts and Humanities Center since 1980. Presently, she tutors privately and facilitates

M. EVELINA GALANG



graduate teaching fellowship at CSU, and served as Assistant Manager for *The Colorado Review*.

Evelina Galang, a recent graduate of the MFA Program at Colorado State University, has joined the faculty of Old Dominion University's creative writing program as a visiting writer for 1994-1995. She has published both fiction and nonfiction in *Mid-American Review*, *Crescent Review*, *Riksha*, *Quarterly West*, *Amerasia Journal*, *New Voices* and *Special Edition Press*. Her nonfiction essay, "Mix Like Stir Fry," won an Associated Writing Program Intro Award in 1994. Recipient of a scholarship to the 1994 Breadloaf Writers Conference, she has also held a

KENNETH CARROLL



has also co-produced and written a literary/video project, "Black and Blue and Still Rising," that was aired on WHMM Channel 32 and he is currently completing another literary/video project entitled "Voices Against Violence." In addition, he writes for Black Entertainment Television's *Story Porch* Program. His poetry has appeared in *Black Literature*, *Forum*, *Catalyst*, *African Commentary*, *NOMMO* and *Konch Magazine* and is forthcoming in an anthology entitled *In Search of Color Everywhere*, edited by E. Ethelbert Miller. His first book will be published in 1995 by Bunny and The Crocodile Press.

Kenneth Carroll, a native Washingtonian, is a founding member of the Spoken Word poetry-performance ensemble and 8Rock Writers Collective, an African-American cultural arts center. He is also president of the African American Writers Guild and a member of the Poetry Committee of Greater Washington. He has received the Mayor's Service to Disabled Constituencies Award for his work with patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and he has been nominated for the Mayor's Art Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist and Artistic Excellence. He

MIKE PEARSON



1991. His second work of nonfiction, *A Place That's Known: Essays*, was published this year. He is currently working on two chapters for *American Nature Writers*, which will be published by Scribners, and a memoir about growing up in the Bronx in the 1960's, *Rest in Peace*.

Mike Pearson is an associate professor of English at Old Dominion University, where he has taught journalism, American literature, and creative nonfiction since 1988. He has published essays and stories in many magazines, journals, and newspapers including *The New York Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Journal of American Culture*, *Studies in Popular Culture* and *Creative Nonfiction*. His first book, *Imagined Places: Journeys Into Literary America*, was listed by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the notable books of

ED JONES



PHOTO BY JERRY BAUER

Ed Jones, born and raised in Washington, D.C., received his BA from Holy Cross College and his MFA from the University of Virginia. His first book of short stories, *Lost in the City*, received the PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction and was also nominated for the National Book Award in 1992. Ed Jones's stories have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Essence* and *Ploughshares*, among others, and he has taught at the University of Virginia, American University, Hofstra University, the University of Maryland and Warren Wilson College. He makes his home in Washington, D.C.

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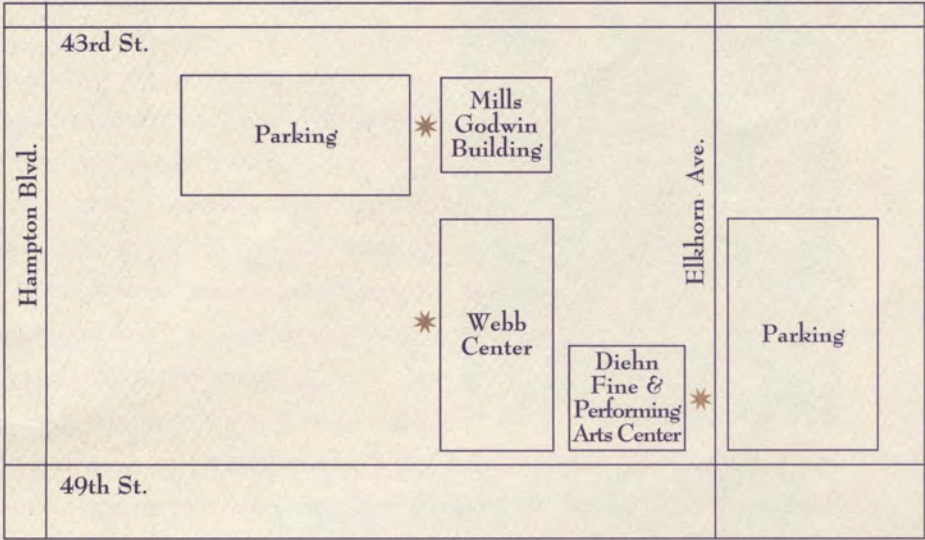


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PARKING

For both afternoon events in the Webb Center and evening events in the Chandler Recital Hall/Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center and the Mills Godwin Building, parking is available in the lot west of Elkhorn Avenue and in the lot east of Mills Godwin.



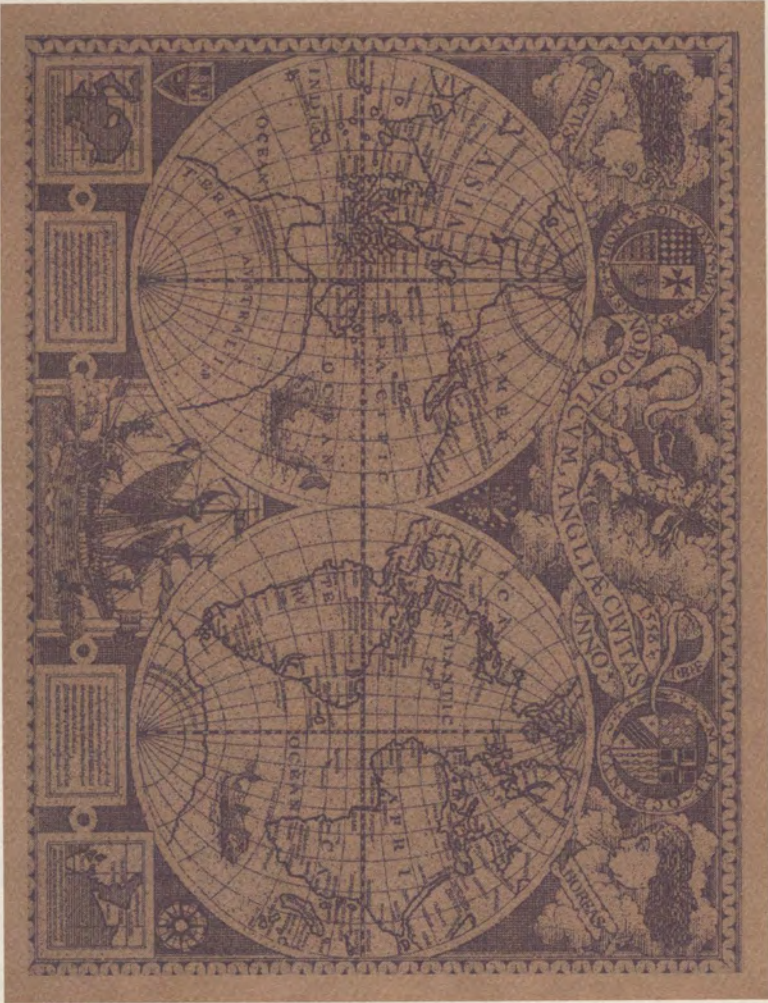
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For further information call 683-4023.
If special accommodations are needed, please call 683-4035 at least 14 days prior to the festival (TDD users may call 683-3433).



Creative Writing Program
English Department
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia 23529-0078



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