24TH ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

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OCTOBER 1-5, 2001 OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
The word is full of magic. The word is the wand. The word is a crystal ball. Look into the word and see your grandmother changed into a wolf. Look again, and you’re floating down the Mississippi on a raft. Look a third time, and you’re a cockroach or a queen. Abracadabra. What could be more powerful than the word?

The 24th Annual Literary Festival celebrates "Magic, Vision, and Transformation." Each writer participating in the week’s events is a kind of magician, using words to expose the mystery of all that seems ordinary in life. Their words teach us to see beyond the obvious, and their words could be more powerful than the word?

Through words, we see beyond the illusions of our lives, and for a moment, we can become and experience more than what we are.
AGYMAH KAMAU, originally from Barbados, moved to New York in 1977, where he worked as a senior economist for the state government until he moved to Virginia to study writing. He earned his MFA in English from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1992. His stories and essays have appeared in Callaloo, Caribbean Vibes, InSigne Magazine, and others. Kamau is the recipient of a number of distinctions, including a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship, a James Michener Fellowship, and a DeWitt Wallace/Readers Digest Fellowship for the MacDowell Colony. He has published two novels, Flickering Shadows and Pictures of a Dying Man, and is at work on a third.

SHERYL ST. GERMAIN studied literature and arts at The University of Texas at Dallas, taking both her Masters and PhD there. She is currently Associate Professor at Iowa State University, where she teaches poetry and creative non-fiction writing. Her work has received two NEA fellowships, an NEH Fellowship, the Dobie-Paisano Fellowship, the KI Davis Award from the Aspen Writers Foundation, and most recently, the William Faulkner award for the personal essay. Her poems and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals, including North American Review and TriQuarterly Review. Her books include Going Home, The Masque of Medusa, Making Bread at Midnight, How Heavy the Breath of God, and The Journals of Scheherazade. A collection of essays about growing up in New Orleans is forthcoming from University of Utah Press.

“THE ZOO STORY”
By Edward Albee
4 PM
Directed by Gerald Schwartz

The Zoo Story, a masterpiece of American drama, rivals “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” as Albee’s most celebrated work. Although compressed into a single act and inhabited merely by two characters and a park bench, Albee’s 1960 play explores the full complexity of human communication and foreshadows the violence and disconnection haunting society today.

Presented by The Old Dominion University Theatre program. Produced in conjunction with Elizabeth River Theatre Project and Old Dominion University Literary Festival. Other dates: September 28, 29, 30 and October 5, 6, 7.

WEDNESDAY CONT.

EDWARD ALBEE PRODUCTION

“The Sandbox,” an absurdist comedy, provides a complete examination of American family life in 14 stage minutes. “The Zoo Story,” a masterpiece of American drama, rivals “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” as Albee’s most celebrated work. Although compressed into a single act and inhabited merely by two characters and a park bench, Albee’s 1960 play explores the full complexity of human communication and foreshadows the violence and disconnection haunting society today.

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The Sandbox
By Edward Albee
Directed by Christopher Hennis
2 PM

HOLLY HUGHES, author of Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler, is one of the most popular and controversial out-there-in-your-face writer-performers around. An “escape artist” who escaped her conservative upbringing in a part of the country “where silence was the first language,” she has become an Obie award-winning performance artist and playwright, as well as a central figure in America’s culture wars. In the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, Holly Hughes was the undisputed lesbian “bad girl” of publicly funded art. Her open, often raw depiction of sexuality, especially in her work at New York’s feminist WOW café, rattled both ends of the political spectrum. By the end of the ‘80s, Hughes had moved toward a showdown with the Christian Right’s perennial senile arterial patriarch, Jesse Helms. Her body of work includes Dear Suzy for Hire (a collaboration with Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver), No Trace of the Blonde, The Well of Horniness, Clit Notes, and Cat O’ Nine Tales.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

2 PM Agymah Kamau: Webb Center
4 PM Sheryl St. Germain: Webb Center
8 PM Holly Hughes: Chandler Hall (Dichia)

THURSDAY

FACULTY READING

EUGENE MCAVOY received his MFA in Creative Writing from Old Dominion University in 1999. His poetry has appeared in Poetry, The Epochal Tide, and Our Own Community Press. His nonfiction has appeared in Upbeat Magazine, Spotlite Magazine, Homecoming Magazine, and The Virginian-Pilot. His fiction will appear this year in Rebel Yell II: Stories by Contemporary Southern Gay Authors and The Harrington Gay Men’s Fiction Quarterly. He is currently an instructor in the English department at Old Dominion University. (Continued on back)

We would like to thank the Office of the President and the President’s Lecture Series, the Hugo A. Owens African-American Cultural Center, the College of Arts and Letters, the Department of English, the Department of Foreign Languages, the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Office of the Provost, and the Department of Women’s Studies. This program is paid for in part by grants from The Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Special Appreciation Old Dominion University thanks Mrs. Edie White for her longtime support of creative endeavors, in particular for establishing an endowment for the Literary Festival in memory of her husband, Dr. Forrest P. White.
Amy Tudor received her MFA in Poetry and Nonfiction from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994. She was a 1996 recipient of an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Her first collection of poems, The Land of Intension, won the Devil’s Millhopper Press’ National Chapbook Contest, and was published by TDH Press in 1997. In addition to her poetry, Ms. Tudor has also published essays and photographs in national magazines, and is currently at work on two novels, Formation and City of Light, and a second collection of poems entitled Message from Limbo. She teaches at Old Dominion University.

Juliet Crichton, a native Virginian, teaches at Old Dominion University and at Tidewater Community College’s Virginia Beach campus, where she also co-edits Black Water Review. Her book-length manuscript of poems, The Rain Shapes, has been a finalist in the University of North Texas Press’s Vassar Miller Prize in Poetry Series; in Western Michigan University’s Folio. Her interviews with writers have appeared in Black Water Review, Phoebe, and elsewhere. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia, George Mason University, and American University, where she was an assistant editor of Folio.

Matilda Cox is Director of Advising for the College of Arts and Letters at Old Dominion University where she previously was an instructor in the English Department. She received an M.A. in Creative Writing/Poetry from Old Dominion in 1994. She continues to write poetry and has published in some small magazines.

Renee Olander’s poems have appeared in Verse and Universe (Milkweed), 13th Moon, Amelia, Rhino, Snake Nation Review, frisk, Sistersong, Artword Quarterly, and other anthologies and journals; Wild Fights, a chapbook of poems, appeared in 2000. Her interviews with writers have appeared in The Writers Chronicle and Conversations with John Edgar Wideman (U. Miss. Press). With poet Luisa Igloria, she co-edited Turnings: Writings on Women’s Transformations, published in 2000 by Friends of Women’s Studies at Old Dominion University. Her honors include a Pushcart nomination, the Kate Smith Award for Poetry (Amelia magazine), and the Bern Award for Creative Writing from Mary Baldwin College.

Renee Olander teaches English and directs the Interdisciplinary Teacher Preparation program at Old Dominion University.

Joseph Skibell teaches at Emory University. He has worked as a bread baker, copy editor, journalist, screenwriter, and bartender. His stories have appeared in such literary journals as Story magazine, and many of his plays have been produced nationally. In the past 15 years, he has received numerous literary honors, including a Helene Wurlitzer Foundation grant, and New Mexico Creative Arts Division/NEA grant, a James A. Michener Fellowship, and the Jay C. and Ruth Hall Fellowship for Fiction. He is the author of the novel A Blessing on the Moon.

Edward Albee is the author of the memoir Angelhead, which was named one of the best five works of nonfiction of 2000 by Esquire magazine. His second book, Sentimental, Heartbroken Rednecks: Tales, will be released in August 2001 by Context Books. His stories and essays have appeared in a number of magazines and literary journals, and anthologies, including The Beacon Best of 1995, Creative Nonfiction, and Esquire. He is currently the Teaching and Writing Fellow at Sweet Briar College.

Karen McElmurray is Writer-in-Residence at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. Her first book was a novel entitled Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven (October, 1999, Hill Street Press) and her memoir, forthcoming in March from Hill Street, is Mother of the Disappeared: An Appalachian Birth Mother’s Journey. McElmurray has received grants from the NEA and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. This summer she received the Lillie Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing.

Dorothy Allison is the author of Bastard Out of Carolina, a finalist for the 1992 National Book Award; Cavedweller (Dutton, 1998), a national bestseller and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year; as well as the memoir Two or Three Things I know for Sure (Dutton, 1995). Her poetry The Women Who Hate Me (1990), short fiction Trash, (1989), and essays Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature (1995) are available in small press editions from Firebrand Books. Ms Allison’s first novel, Bastard Out of Carolina was made into a highly acclaimed film, directed by Angelica Huston. Two or Three Things I know for Sure was translated into a short documentary that took prizes at the Aspen and Toronto film festivals, and was an Emmy-nominated feature on PBS’s P.O.V. (PBS’s P.O.V.)
Parking for all events is available in Lot 27, which is adjacent to the Health and Physical Education Building and across the street from the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH
2:30 PM Literary Festival Preview
   Roberley Bell
   University Gallery, 350 W. 21st Street, Norfolk

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
4 PM Graduates of Old Dominion University's MFA program
   (Webb center: Hampton/Newport News Room)
8 PM Roseann Rupe
   (Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center/Chandler Recital Hall)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
2 PM Aygmah Kamau
   (Webb Center: Hampton/Newport News Room)
4 PM Sheryl St. Germain
   (Chandler Recital Hall)
8 PM Holly Hughes
   (Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center/Chandler Recital Hall)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
2 PM Albee Production by the Theatre Department (Stables Theatre)
4 PM Eugene Gloria
   (Webb Center: Hampton/Newport News Room)
8 PM Margorie Agosin
   (Mills Godwin, Jr. Life Sciences Building, Auditorium)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
2 PM Faculty Reading
   (Webb Center: Hampton/Newport News Room)
4 PM Joseph Skibell
   (Webb Center: Hampton/Newport News Room)
8 PM Edward Albee (President's Lecture Series)
   (Webb Center: Hampton/Newport News Room)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
2 PM Greg Bottoms
   (Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center/Chandler Recital Hall)
4 PM Karen McElmurray
   (Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center/Chandler Recital Hall)
8 PM Dorothy Allison
   (Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center/Chandler Recital Hall)

SEATING IS LIMITED. COME EARLY!