

**The Seventh Annual  
Old Dominion University**

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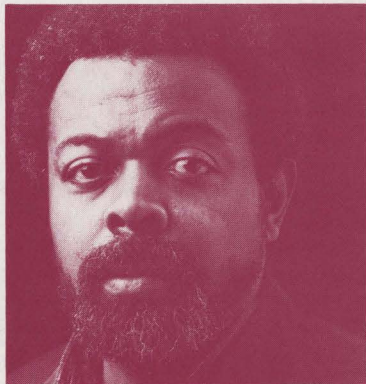
**LITERARY FESTIVAL**

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**Monday—Thursday  
October 1-4, 1984**

**Amiri Baraka  
George Garrett  
Robley Wilson, Jr.  
Mark Smith  
Gloria Emerson  
Gwendolyn Brooks**

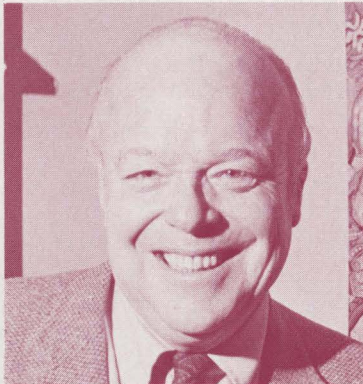
Free and open to the public.  
Sponsored by the Department of English, the Arts and Letters Public Service  
Program of Old Dominion University, the Activities Programming Board, the  
Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Norfolk Commission on the Arts and  
Humanities, and the Associated Writing Programs.



## AMIRI BARAKA

Formerly LeRoi Jones, Amiri Baraka has been hailed as "one of the most fascinating intellectual figures in postwar America," "the father of modern black poetry," and "one of America's most important writers." Baraka's first poetry collection, *Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note*, appeared in 1961. Two years later he published his brilliant discussion of music and culture, *Blues People*. *Dutchman*, his first play, opened in 1964 to perhaps the most excited acclaim ever accorded an off-Broadway production and received the year's Obie Award. In all, Baraka has published twenty-four plays, eleven volumes of poetry, six books of nonfiction, a novel, a story collection, and *The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka*. He also founded Harlem's Black Arts Repertory Theater School and Newark's Spirit House.

In addition to his Monday evening reading, which will open the 1984 literary festival, Baraka will present a Tuesday afternoon talk, "Literature and Reality," and answer questions from the audience.



## GEORGE GARRETT

"George Garrett has enlarged the scope of historical fiction," wrote the *Chicago Sun Times* about his 1983 work *The Succession: A Novel of Elizabeth and James*. The *Washington Post* observed, "Garrett writes of Elizabethan England as if he has lived there all his life. He draws us into the total reality of life—the sights, the smells, the look of the streets, the food people ate, the lusts they savored, the fears they endured, the holiday feasts they enjoyed." Annie Dillard called *The Succession* "a masterpiece of imagination and reality. Not since Chaucer has an English writer given us such powerful, vivid storytelling."

One of our most prolific authors, Garrett has also written four other novels, six short story collections, six books of poetry, two plays, several screenplays, and a biography of James Jones. In September he returned to the University of Virginia, as the Hoynes Professor of Creative Writing.

On Tuesday afternoon Garrett will talk informally and answer questions from the audience. He will read his fiction that evening.



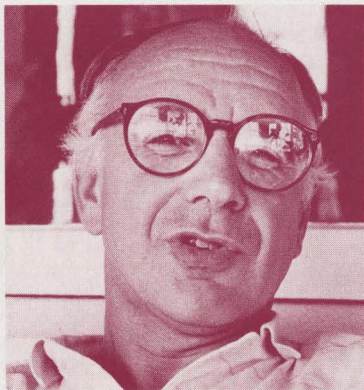
## ROBLEY WILSON, JR.

Vance Bourjaily said, "Writers who love and create short stories in America today are our purest literary artists, and Robley Wilson, Jr., is a prince among them." Wilson's most recent collection of short stories, *Dancing for Men*, received the 1982 Drue Heinz Literature Prize and was called by the *Chicago Sun Times* "an excellent place to ponder the physics of love." A master of surprise and nuance, Wilson writes about the circumstances that join and divide women and men; much of his work is about politics, sexual and otherwise. The *Village Voice* reported, "There is no doubt that Wilson is a superb writer," and praised his "technical brilliance" and "lovely, poetic sentences."

Wilson's two previous story collections are *Living Alone* and *The Pleasures of Manhood*. He has also written three books of poems and is the editor of *The North American Review*.

He and Mark Smith will talk about fiction writing and answer questions on Wednesday morning. That afternoon Wilson will read his fiction.





## MARK SMITH

Called "a resurrected Charles Dickens" by The New York Times, and "one of the most ambitious, original, and thought-provoking novelists writing today" by The Chicago Daily News, Mark Smith is the author of seven novels. His stunning *The Death of the Detective* became a New York Times Bestseller and was nominated for the 1974 National Book Award. *The Moon Lamp* and *The Delphinium Girl* were both Book-of-the-Month Club selections. *Doctor Blues*, published in 1983, further enhanced Smith's reputation; John Irving found it "funny and boisterous and wise." The Boston Sunday Herald described Smith's second book, *The Middleman*, as "one man's voice speaking clearly above the mass voice, a superb example of the novelist's art." Smith's newest work, *Smoke Street*, a surrealistic adventure set in South America, has just been published this fall.

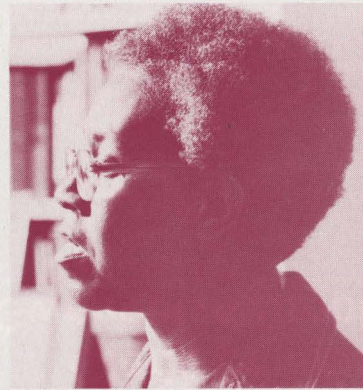
On Wednesday morning he and Robley Wilson, Jr., will talk about fiction writing and will answer questions from the audience. Smith will read his fiction that evening.



## GLORIA EMERSON

Gloria Emerson's eloquent and unforgettably powerful work, *Winners & Losers*, received the 1978 National Book Award for Nonfiction. *Winners & Losers* presented America's reactions, and lack of reaction, to the Vietnam War, as well as her personal witness. From 1965 to 1972, Emerson was a foreign correspondent for The New York Times, covering the Nigerian Civil War, Northern Ireland, and Vietnam. She was in Vietnam from 1970 to 1972. Among the many honors she has received for her writing is the 1971 George Polk Award for excellence in foreign reporting from Vietnam. More recently, Emerson has taken magazine assignments to El Salvador and Nicaragua. Her essays on Vietnam, Central America, and a variety of other subjects have appeared in Esquire, Harper's, Saturday Review, Vogue, Playboy, New Times, Rolling Stone, and Vanity Fair.

On Thursday afternoon Emerson will present a talk, "Writing About War," and answer questions from the audience.



## GWENDOLYN BROOKS

One of the best-loved and most widely read American poets, Gwendolyn Brooks has published seventeen books since 1945, when *A Street in Bronzeville*, a volume of poetry portraying the black urban poor, first appeared. Her second collection, *Annie Allen*, received the 1950 Pulitzer Prize, the first awarded to a black poet. *In the Mecca*, a book-length poem about a child's brutal murder set against a city of indifference and misery, was nominated for the 1968 National Book Award. In 1969 Brooks succeeded Carl Sandburg as Poet Laureate of Illinois. Brooks has also written the novel *Maud Martha*, books for children, and the first volume of her autobiography, *Report from Part One*. Her work, in the tradition of the common people, has broken vital ground and helped give voice to generations of writers of all colors.

On Thursday afternoon she will give an informal talk, "On Poetry: Brooks on Brooks," and answer questions from the audience. Her evening poetry reading will conclude the 1984 literary festival.



**The Seventh Annual  
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**LITERARY  
FESTIVAL**

**Schedule  
of  
Events**

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**Monday, October 1**

8 p.m.      A READING by Amiri Baraka  
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

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**Tuesday, October 2**

12:30 p.m.      LIVING WITH ELIZABETHANS  
by George Garrett  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m.      LITERATURE AND REALITY  
by Amiri Baraka  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m.      FICTION READING by George Garrett  
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

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**Wednesday, October 3**

11 a.m.      ON FICTION  
by Robley Wilson, Jr., and Mark Smith  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m.      FICTION READING by Robley Wilson, Jr.  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m.      FICTION READING by Mark Smith  
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

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**Thursday, October 4**

12:30 p.m.      ON POETRY: BROOKS ON BROOKS\*  
by Gwendolyn Brooks  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m.      WRITING ABOUT WAR  
by Gloria Emerson  
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m.      POETRY READING by Gwendolyn Brooks  
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

George Garrett appears courtesy of ODU's Activities Programming Board.  
For further information call Tony Ardizzone, ODU Department of English, (804) 440- 3991.