TRADITION AND THE INDIVIDUAL VOICE

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY'S 30TH ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

- OCTOBER 1-4, 2007, NORFOLK, VA -
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY’S
30th Annual Literary Festival

MONDAY OCTOBER 1 2PM
M I C H A E L B L U M E N T H A L

Formerly director of creative writing at Harvard University, award-winning author of numerous poetry collections and prose works, Michael Blumenthal holds the Mina Hoberfest Darden Endowed Chair in Creative Writing at Old Dominion University. An essayist and commentator for National Public Radio, Blumenthal has lived and taught in Hungary, Israel, Germany and France. His most recent book is the memoir All My Mothers and Fathers, and his seventh poetry collection, And, is forthcoming in 2009. Blumenthal’s work appears in the New Yorker, as well as in numerous literary journals.

MONDAY OCTOBER 1 4PM
M.S.G.

M.S.G. - The Acoustic Blues Trio performs traditional Piedmont blues in a style influenced by artists such as Archibald Edwards, Etta Baker and Cephas & Wiggins. The group has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Memphis International Blues Challenge and other festivals. A trio with a rich performance and recording background, the artists include Jackie Merritt, harmonica; Miles Spicer, guitar; and Resa Gibbs, vocals.

MONDAY OCTOBER 1 8PM
R I C K B A S S

Rick Bass is the author of 23 books of fiction, including The Watch and the forthcoming memoir Why I Came West, to be published by Houghton-Mifflin in spring 2004. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, grew up in Houston, and went to school at Utah State University. After working as a biologist in Arkansas and a geologist in Mississippi and Alabama, Bass moved to Montana’s Yaak Valley, where he has been active for 20 years in the efforts to help designate as wilderness the last roadless lands in the Yaak Valley.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 2 1PM
J A N I N E L A T U S

Janine Latus is an acclaimed journalist and essayist whose recently released book, If I Am Missing or Dead, weaves stories of women who stay in abusive relationships with those who escape. Her work has appeared in More, Woman’s Day, Family Circle, Parents, All You, American Baby and other national publications. She has written for Women’sWallStreet.com and MSN Money, and her commentaries have aired on National Public Radio. Latus is a frequent speaker at conferences, workshops and press events.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 2 4PM
S A B I N A M U R R A Y

Sabina Murray is the award-winning author of the novels Slow Burn and A Carrion Inquisitor’s Inquiry, and the story collection The Caprices. A former Michener Fellow at the University of Texas and Bunting Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University, she received the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction in 2003. Murray’s stories have appeared in Ploughshares, Ontario Review, the New England Review and other literary journals. Currently, she teaches in the MFA program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 2 8PM
W I L L I A M H E N R Y L E W I S

William Henry Lewis is the prizewinning author of two story collections, I Got Somebody in Staunton and In the Arms of Our Elders. His fiction has appeared in America’s top literary journals and anthologies including The Best American Short Stories. Lewis is the recipient of the short fiction prize from the Zora Neale Hurston/ Richard Wright Foundation, the 2006 Black Caucus of the American Library Association Fiction Honor Award, and he was a finalist for the 2005 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3 2PM
A L A N S H A P I R O

Alan Shapiro’s poetry collections and memoirs have received many awards including the William Carlos Williams Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Kingery Taft Poetry Award. Other honors include a Guggenheim fellowship and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is the W. R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Shapiro’s new collection, Old War, will be published in 2008.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3 4PM
S H E R W I N B I T S U I

Sherwin Bitsui, Diné (Navajo) poet, is the author of Shapeshift, his first poetry collection, and a recipient of the 2006 Whiting Writers’ Award. Other honors include an Individual Poet Grant from the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, a Truman Capote Creative Writing Fellowship, and a University of Arizona Academy of American Poets Award. His work has appeared in several literary journals including American Poets, The Iowa Review, Frank, Red Ink, and others.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3 8PM
J I L L M C C O R K L E

Jill McCorkle is the author of five novels and three story collections including Creatures of Habit, The Cheerleader, and Ferris Beach. Her work has appeared in Atlanta Monthly, Ploughshares, Best American Short Stories, The Southern Review and New Stories from the South, among other publications. She has received the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize and the North Carolina Award for Literature. Currently, McCorkle is on the faculty at North Carolina State University as the Lee Smith Writer in Residence.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 4 2PM
D A V I D W O J A H N

Poet and essayist David Wojahn was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his most recent collection, Interrogation Palace: New and Selected Poems 1982-2004, published in 2006, and the recipient of the O. B. Hardison Award from the Folger Shakespeare Library. He won the Yale Series of Younger Poets prize for his first collection, Inborne Lights, as well as numerous other literary awards. Wojahn’s other titles include Mystery Train, Late Empire, The Fallling Hour, and Spirit Cabinet. A Guggenheim fellow and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, Wojahn is professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University. He also teaches in the MFA Program at Vermont College.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 4 12:30 & 4PM
H O N O R E E F A N O N N E J E F F E R S


THURSDAY OCTOBER 4 8PM
E T H A N C A N I N

Ethan Canin is the author of six books of fiction, including the story collections Emperor of the Air and The Palace Thief, and the novel Carry Me Across the Water. He has been called by the New Yorker one of “twenty writers for the new millennium.” Canin’s widely anthologized short stories have appeared in the New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, Esquire, The Paris Review and many other anthologies, and have also been the basis for several Hollywood movies. A graduate of Harvard Medical School and a licensed physician, Canin gave up medicine a decade ago to become a professor at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, in Iowa City, Iowa.
The premier literary gathering of its kind in Virginia colleges and universities, Old Dominion University's Literary Festival brings to the region nationally and internationally renowned writers. Out of diverse traditions in poetry, fiction and essay, these dynamic and award-winning artists celebrate the power of the individual voice to enhance and change our ways of seeing, and more vitally, our ways of being.

**SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**Michael Blumenthal**
- 2 p.m.
  Chandler Recital Hall

**M.S.G. - The Acoustic Blues Trio**
- 4 p.m.
  Stables Theatre

**Author Reception**
- 7 p.m.
  Diehn Composers Room

**Rick Bass**
- 8 p.m.
  Chandler Recital Hall

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2**

**Janine Latus**
- 1 p.m.
  Webb Center River Rooms

**Sabina Murray**
- 4 p.m.
  Webb Center Hampton-Newport News Room

**Author Reception**
- 7 p.m.
  Diehn Composers Room

**William Henry Lewis**
- 8 p.m.
  Chandler Recital Hall

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3**

**Alan Shapiro**
- 2 p.m.
  Webb Center River Rooms

**Sherwin Bitsui**
- 4 p.m.
  Webb Center Hampton-Newport News Room

**Author Reception**
- 7 p.m.
  Diehn Composers Room

**Jill McCorkle**
- 8 p.m.
  Chandler Recital Hall

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**David Wojahn**
- 2 p.m.
  Webb Center River Rooms

**Honoree Fanonne Jeffers**
- 12:30 p.m.
  Virginia Beach Higher Education Center, Room 244A
- 4 p.m.
  Webb Center Hampton-Newport News Room

**Author Reception**
- 7 p.m.
  Diehn Composers Room

**Ethan Canin**
- 8 p.m.
  Chandler Recital Hall

For more information, please call (757) 683-3991. Or visit www.lib.odu.edu/litfest/30th.