

The Eleventh Annual Old Dominion University

LITERARY FESTIVAL

**Monday-Thursday
October 3-6, 1988**

*Preview Fund Raiser
September 22, 1988
Donald Hall
W. D. Snodgrass*

Toi Derricotte
Donald Hall
Larry Heinemann
DeWitt Henry
Clarence Major
Carole Oles
Helen Pelton
Peggy Shumaker
Carol Houck Smith
W. D. Snodgrass
Peter Taylor
Anne Waldman
Bruce Weigl

All festival events are open to the public; all but the Preview Fund Raiser are free.

Sponsored by the Old Dominion University Creative Writing Program
the Department of English
the College of Arts and Letters
the Center for the Arts
the Student Activities Council
the Virginia Commission for the Arts
the City of Norfolk, and
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The Eleventh Annual Old Dominion University LITERARY FESTIVAL

Literary Festival Preview Fund Raiser



**W. D.
SNODGRASS**

Of W. D. Snodgrass's most recent book, one reviewer said: "On the evidence of his *Selected Poems 1957-87*, W.D. Snodgrass is one of the six best poets now writing in English." Snodgrass's first book, *Heart's Needle*, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1960; in 1961, that same volume won the British Guinness Award. Of *Heart's Needle*, critics said, Snodgrass "has found a place for emotions felt, but previously left without words and out of consciousness. He has identified himself with exquisite suffering and guilt and with all those who barely manage to exist on the edge of life." The poems of his *The Fuehrer Bunker* (1977) have been called "a rare example of ambitious, on-going verse sculpture." *The Death of Cock Robin*, which will be published in the spring of 1989, includes such playful titles as "W. D. Lifts Ten Times the Weight of His Own Body," and "Disguised as Humpty Dumpty, W. D. Practices Tumbling." His other books include *After Experience* (1967), *Remains* (1970, revised edition, 1985), and *In Radical Pursuit*, a collection of critical essays (1975). He has published numerous song and poetry translations, including (with Lore Segal) Christian Morgenstern's *Gallows Songs*, as well as minnesinger and troubadour songs. A former Distinguished Visiting Professor in creative writing at Old Dominion University, he is currently Distinguished Professor of creative writing and poetry at the University of Delaware. He continues to be one of the most original voices in American poetry.

W. D. Snodgrass will read with Donald Hall in the Festival Preview and Fund Raiser on Thursday, September 22, at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. Admission will be \$7.50, \$5 for students.



**DONALD
HALL**

Donald Hall is not only one of our most prolific writers (six new books in 1987 alone, two more so far in 1988), but is perhaps the leading American "person of letters." He is the author of ten books of poetry, beginning with *Exiles and Marriages* (winner of the Lamont Prize in 1955) and including *Kicking the Leaves* (1978) and most recently *The Happy Man*, which won the Lenore Marshall/The Nation Award as best book of poems for 1986; *The Bone Ring*, a play in verse (1987); and *The One Day*, a poem in three parts (1988). His sixteen books of prose cover a wide range of subjects: *String Too Short To Be Saved* is about growing up on—and saying what he thought then was a final farewell to—his grandparents' subsistence farm in New Hampshire (1961); *Seasons at Eagle Pond* is about living now on that same farm (1987); *Remembering Poets* contains his reminiscences about T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Dylan Thomas and Robert Frost (1978); *Goatfoot Milk Tongue Twinbird* (1978), *The Weather for Poetry* (1982) and *Poetry and Ambition* (1988) are about poetry and poetics; two other books are about sports: *Dock Ellis in the Country of Baseball* (1976) and *Fathers Playing Catch With Sons* (1985). At least three of his plays have been produced. Hall is also a busy editor, with seventeen additional titles to his credit. And finally, he is the author of four children's books, including *The Ox Cart Man*, which won the Caldecott Award in 1980. In 1975, at the age of forty-seven, he resigned his Professorship of English at the University of Michigan and returned to Eagle Pond Farm to write full time; since then he has published sixteen books and edited six others (not counting new editions of older books). He seems able to grow with each new book.

Donald Hall will read with W. D. Snodgrass in the Festival Kickoff/Fund Raiser at 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, in the University Theatre. Admission is \$7.50, \$5 for students.



**CLARENCE
MAJOR**

Clarence Major is the author of seven novels, including most recently *Such Was the Season* (1987) and *Painted Turtle: Woman With Guitar* (1988); one collection of stories, *Fun and Games* (1988); and eight books of poetry, most recently *Surfaces and Masks* (1987) and *Some Observations of a Stranger at Zuin in the Latter Part of the Century* (1988). He also edited the *Dictionary of Afro-American Slang* and *The Dark and Feeling: Black American Writers and Their Work*. He has won the Western States Book Award for Fiction for *My Amputations*, a Pushcart Prize, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a National Council on the Arts Fellowship. He has lectured and read from his work in England, Algeria, France, Liberia, West Germany, Ghana, Italy, the Netherlands, and Yugoslavia, as well as in this country. He is currently Professor of English at the University of Colorado. Major's earlier work was experimental; in fact, some critics say he "has been in the forefront of experimental poetry and prose." Of his most recent novel, the *New York Times Book Review* said: "*Such was the Season* is an old-fashioned, straight-ahead narrative crammed with action, a dramatic storyline and meaty characterization. But it's the widow Annie Eliza's melodic voice, by turns lilting and gruff, that salts and peppers and sweetens this story, enriching its flavor and meaning.... Clarence Major...has himself come home to touch base with the blues and spirituals that continue to nourish and express the lives of those people he writes about so knowingly, and with contagious affection."

Clarence Major will give a talk titled "Some Afterthoughts on Becoming a Writer" at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 3, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center. He will read from his poetry and fiction at 8 p.m. that evening in the University Theatre.



**LARRY
HEINEMANN**

Larry Heinemann won the National Book Award in 1987 for *Paco's Story*, the second book in a trilogy which began with *Close Quarters*. Both books had their genesis in his service with the Twenty-fifth Division in Vietnam as a combat infantryman. Of his writing, critics have said: "Larry Heinemann tells this story as if talking aloud, at times a hip, cynical patter that contains the bitterness Paco never speaks. It's an effective voice well-suited to the Vietnam War, a fiction that rings truer than factual accounts." Others have said, "Heinemann writes about the workingman's Vietnam, exceptional for its bleak, shared, unexceptional reality." He has been called "One of America's most important writers." Larry Heinemann has twice been the recipient of National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships and has twice won Illinois Arts Council Fellowships. *Paco's Story* also won the Carl Sandburg Literary Arts Award and the Vietnam Veterans of America Freedom to Express award, among others. His forthcoming non-fiction book about "tripwire veterans" was excerpted in the April 1985 issue of *Harper's*.

Larry Heinemann will give a talk titled "Vietnam Chic" at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center. He will read from his fiction at 8 p.m. that evening in the University Theatre.



**ANNE
WALDMAN**

Anne Waldman is the author of eleven books of poetry, including *Fast Speaking Woman* (City Lights Books, 1978) and, most recently, *Skin Meat Bones* (Coffee House Press, 1985) and *Blue Mosque* (United Artists, 1987). Of her work it has been said, "she moves through language with a simplicity and grace and respect that give her poems power, not only in the way they are written, but in what they have to say." She is perhaps best known for hundreds of performances in which her poems have been accompanied by musicians or dancers. Critics have raved: "Make no mistake. A Waldman appearance is a performance with a capital 'P'." She has read or performed her poetry in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Venice, Bhopal, London, Glasgow, Cambridge, Vancouver, and Toronto, in addition to most of the major cities in this country. She has also read on television, film, video, and radio. She is a winner of the Dylan Thomas Memorial Award, the Poets Foundation Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry. The influence of "Beat" poetry on her work helped lead her to become co-founder and Director of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics and the MFA program in creative writing at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

Anne Waldman will perform her poetry at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, in the University Theatre; her performance will also feature dancer Helen Pelton. Waldman will give a talk on "Performance Poetry" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 6, in the Newport News Room of the Webb Center.



**HELEN
PELTON**

Helen Pelton toured extensively with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company and taught at the Hawkins Studio in New York City during 1978-83. Since leaving the Hawkins Company to concentrate on her own work, she has taught and choreographed throughout the United States and Europe. She has been Artist-in-Residence at the University of Montana, Northern Arizona University and Colorado State University. Her choreography has joined the repertoires of the On The Edge Dance Company (Virginia) and Artlink Dance Company (London). She has been guest artist in London, Banyoles and Barcelona, West Berlin and Freiburg. During 1984-86 Ms. Pelton served on the faculty of the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado, where she began an association with poet Anne Waldman creating concerts of improvised and choreographed dance/poetry collaborations. She is also involved in projects with composers and video/visual artists. This fall Ms. Pelton returns to the Tidewater area for her second dual residence with the Governor's Magnet School for the Performing Arts and the On The Edge Dance Company.

Helen Pelton will dance with Anne Waldman's poetry at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, in the University Theatre.



**PETER
TAYLOR**

Peter Taylor is the author of two novels, *A Woman of Means* (1950) and *A Summons to Memphis*, which in 1986 won both the Pulitzer Prize and, in Paris, the \$50,000 Ritz-Hemingway prize for English Literature. Best known as a short story writer, he has published seven books of short stories, beginning with *A Long Fourth and Other Stories* (1948) and including *The Old Forest and Other Stories*, which won the P.E.N./Faulkner Award in 1986. Nine stories of his appeared in the annual *Best American Short Stories*, and six stories appeared in the O. Henry Prize collections. He has been described as "a Southern writer in the tradition of William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor" and "one of the most accomplished short-story writers of our time." His work has also been described as "outwardly simple but psychologically complex and powerful, and under the surface of events in the regions he knows best the author discloses the universal longings of the human heart." As a dramatist, he is the author of *Tennessee Day in St. Louis* (1957), *Presences: Seven Dramatic Pieces* (1973) and *A Stand in the Mountains* (1985). In 1983 he retired from the University of Virginia, though he still divides his time between Charlottesville and Key West, Florida. In 1982 he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Peter Taylor will speak on "The Creative Process" at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center. He will read from his fiction at 8 p.m. that evening in the University Theatre.



**DEWITT
HENRY**

DeWitt Henry, a member of the Associated Writing Programs Board of Directors, is the author of the novel *The Marriage of Anna May Potts*, cited by the 1983-84 Sinclair Fiction Prize. He is also Co-founder and Director of Ploughshares, Inc., which publishes *Ploughshares* magazine and Ploughshares books, and serves as a staff editor for *The Pushcart Prize*. He has won both a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for Fiction and a Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines Editorial Fellowship for *The Ploughshares Reader: New Fiction for the Eighties*. He teaches at Emerson College in Massachusetts, where he is currently coordinator of that school's M.F.A. in Creative Writing as well as acting chair of the division of writing.

DeWitt Henry will read from his fiction at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center. He will also join W. W. Norton Senior Editor Carol Houck Smith for a question-and-answer session at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center.



**CAROL
HOUCK
SMITH**

Carol Houck Smith, a member of the Associated Writing Programs Board of Directors, is Vice President and Senior Editor in the trade department of W. W. Norton and Company, where she edits both fiction and a broad range of nonfiction. She has been a speaker at many workshops and conferences, including the Breadloaf Summer Workshop and the annual Writers at Work Conference in Park City, Utah. Of herself and her work as an editor, she says: "My own interests have attracted me to books about writing, and to at least one book, *The Writer on Her Work*, in which notable writers examine the rewards and vicissitudes of the writing life. Since I find encouraging new writers especially rewarding, I am also concerned about the vitality of the institutions that support them—the literary magazines and writing programs. Editorially I see myself as a facilitator, liaison between the aspirations of the writer and the realities of the marketplace."

Carol Houck Smith will give a talk on "The View from New York" at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center. At 3:45 she will be joined by DeWitt Henry, Editor of *Ploughshares* literary magazine, for a question-and-answer session.



**CAROLE
OLES**

Carole Oles, a member of the Associated Writing Programs Board of Directors, is the author of three books of poetry: *The Loneliness Factor* (1979), *Quarry* (1983), and *Night Watches: Inventions on the Life of Maria Mitchell* (1985). Among her awards are a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, a Pushcart Prize, and two Fellowships at the MacDowell Colony. She teaches creative writing at Old Dominion University.

Carole Oles will read from her poetry at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 3, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center.



**PEGGY
SHUMAKER**

Peggy Shumaker is the author of two books of poetry: *Esperanza's Hair* (1985) and *The Circle of Totems* (1988). Her poems have appeared in such magazines as *North American Review*, *Greenfield Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *MSS*, and *Colorado Review*. A former Director of Creative Writing at Old Dominion University, she now teaches at the University of Alaska.

Peggy Shumaker will read from her poetry at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center.



**TOI
DERRICOTTE**

Toi Derricotte is the author of two books of poetry, *The Empress of the Death House* and *Natural Birth*. Of her work, one reviewer said: "Good news to men and women alike: the poet offers us all a metaphor in which to see reflected our common experience of fear, pain, struggle, and ecstasy." Another added, "...she grips the reader. This is powerful, an experience that separates all before from all after." Toi Derricotte teaches creative writing at Old Dominion University.

Toi Derricotte will read from her poetry at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center.



**BRUCE
WEIGL**

Bruce Weigl, a member of the Associated Writing Programs Board of Directors, is the author of five books of poetry: *A Sackful of Old Quarrels*, *Executioner*, *A Romance*, *The Monkey Wars* and most recently *Song of Napalm* (1988). His poetry, essays, articles and reviews have appeared in many periodicals. His work has received a Pushcart Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Breadloaf Fellowship, and a Yaddo Fellowship. During 1967-68 he served with the First Air Cavalry in Vietnam; in 1985 he revisited Vietnam. A former member of the creative writing faculty at Old Dominion University, he now teaches at Pennsylvania State University.

Bruce Weigl will read from his poetry at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, in the Newport News Room of Webb Center.

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LITERARY
FESTIVAL

Schedule
of
Events

Literary Festival Preview Fund Raiser
Thursday, September 22

8 p.m. POETRY READING
Donald Hall and W. D. Snodgrass
University Theatre
Donation \$7.50, students \$5

Monday, October 3

1:30 p.m. AFTERTHOUGHTS ON BECOMING A WRITER
a talk by
Clarence Major
Newport News Room, Webb Center

3 p.m. POETRY READING
Carole Oles
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8 p.m. FICTION AND POETRY READING
Clarence Major
University Theatre

Tuesday, October 4

1:30 p.m. VIETNAM CHIC
a talk by
Larry Heinemann
Newport News Room, Webb Center

3 p.m. POETRY READING
Peggy Shumaker
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8 p.m. FICTION READING
Larry Heinemann
University Theatre

Wednesday, October 5

11 a.m. POETRY READING
Toi Derricotte
Newport News Room, Webb Center

1:30 p.m. POETRY READING
Bruce Weigl
Newport News Room, Webb Center

3 p.m. FICTION READING
DeWitt Henry
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8 p.m. POETRY PERFORMANCE
reading by Anne Waldman
dance by Helen Pelton
University Theatre

Thursday, October 6

11 a.m. PERFORMANCE POETRY
a talk by
Anne Waldman
Newport News Room, Webb Center

1:30 p.m. THE CREATIVE PROCESS
a talk by
Peter Taylor
Newport News Room, Webb Center

3 p.m. THE VIEW FROM NEW YORK
a talk by
Carol Houck Smith
(DeWitt Henry will join Ms. Smith for a question-and-answer session
following her talk)
Newport News Room, Webb Center

8 p.m. FICTION READING
Peter Taylor
University Theatre

All Festival events are open to the public; all but the Preview Fund Raiser are free. All events are interpreted for the hearing-impaired. For more information, call Wayne Ude, 683-4033.