

## **SPEAKERS AT 2005 CEA CONFERENCE**

### PLENARY SESSION: KEYNOTE ADDRESS (THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 5:30-6:30 P.M.)

**Maurice Manning**, Indiana University: “Metaphor the Civil Libertarian”

Maurice Manning will offer a historical and literary perspective on the communal nature of metaphor, beginning with our own political jargon and moving to focus, in part, on the poetic technique of 16<sup>th</sup>-century English poet, Thomas Wyatt. Reading from others’ work and his own, Manning will consider the reconciliatory nature of metaphor as “a necessary means to making meaning accessible.”

Manning’s first book, *Lawrence Booth’s Book of Visions*, was selected for the 2000 Yale Series of Younger Poets, its poems exhibiting according to judge W. S. Merwin “authority, daring, a language of color and sure movement.” His second book, *A Companion for Owls*, was published by Harcourt in fall 2004. Manning’s poems have been published in a variety of magazines and journals, including *Shenandoah*, *The Southern Review*, *Columbia*, *Poetry London*, and *The New Yorker*. He teaches English and creative writing at Indiana University.

### DIVERSITY LUNCHEON TALK (FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 12:30-2 P.M.)—see fee schedule

**Supriya Nair**, Tulane University: “Trauma in the Tropics: Caribbean Perspectives”

Supriya Nair, an Associate Professor at Tulane University, will be presenting work from her current book project, *Pathologies of Paradise: Contemporary Anglophone Caribbean Literature*. Suitable for generalists, Nair’s talk will examine “gardens, the tropics and the Eden motif in Caribbean social life and literature.”

In addition to articles on women’s studies, African and Caribbean literatures, Nair is the author of *Caliban’s Curse: George Lamming and the Revisioning of History* (U Michigan P, 1996), co-editor of *Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism* (forthcoming from Rutgers, 2005) and a special issue of MELUS on “Multi-Ethnic Literatures and the Idea of Social Justice” (2003).

### ALL-CONFERENCE LUNCHEON PRESENTATION (SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 12:50-2:30 P.M.)—see fee schedule

**Sonia Hofkosh**, Tufts University: “The Poetics of Furniture”

How should we read furniture? How does it occupy and organize domestic space? In her presentation, Sonia Hofkosh takes as her starting point a decoupage screen owned by George Gordon, Lord Byron. Using images of Byron’s screen, Hofkosh examines the stories it represents on its surfaces—the history of theatre on one side, the culture of pugilism on the

other—as well as its place as a tangible piece of furniture, one which arranges identity, especially gendered identity. Join us for a perceptive and engaging examination of furniture as signifying objects.

Hofkosh is an Associate Professor at Tufts University, where she teaches courses in Romantic literature and culture, feminist theory, and research methods. She is the author of *Sexual Politics and the Romantic Author* (Cambridge, 1998) and co-editor of *Romanticism, Race, and Imperial Culture* (Indiana, 1996). Her current book project, *Household Gods*, examines the vitality of objects in Romantic Era literary and visual contexts.

### PERFORMANCE SESSIONS (BOTH ON FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 6-10 P.M.)

#### *THE LARK.*

by Jean Anouilh, adapted by Lillian Hellman. Directed by Stacy Embry. Produced by theNEOacademy for the Performing Arts

#### DIRECTOR

Stacy Embry has been a professional director for more than twenty years, opening her own production company in 1991. She is a Ph.D. student in English at Ball State University, and theatre aesthetics is her emphasis. A full-time educator at BSU, Stacy is a former Artistic Director of several theatres and serves as Executive President of the board of directors for theNEOacademy.

#### PRODUCTION GROUP

TheNEOacademy for the Performing Arts is a new education partner in Muncie, Indiana. Having broken records with their production of *GODSPELL* this past August, they are performing *THE LARK* as their second production of the new season. Noted for their philosophy of education as the key to expanding the mind, and by providing high-end arts education, NEO has created a partnership with local secondary and post-secondary schools. This spring, they are producing/directing *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS* as a joint project between BSU, Muncie Central High School, and the Burriss Laboratory School.

#### SESSION

On creating a ritual space, this session features a live performance cutting of *THE LARK* by Jean Anouilh (adapted by Lillian Hellman). Altering a hotel space into a theatre, theNEOacademy for the Performing Arts provides the production, and the Production Director, Stacy Embry, is also the author of the paper. A Q/A session will follow.

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## THE “THEATRICAL SPACE” OF LITERATURE CLASSROOMS

This is an active, participatory workshop that explores the role of selected Reader's Theatre techniques to promote dramatic visualization of literary texts in classroom performance. Participants also receive sample exercises and scripts for additional classroom exploration. Observers are also welcome to attend.

Gerald Lee Ratliff is the award-winning author of numerous articles, essays, and the popular textbook *An Introduction to Reader's Theatre*. He is a former Fulbright scholar to China, past president of both the Eastern Communication Association and the Association for Communication Administration, and has received multiple teaching awards for pioneering creative approaches to curriculum design and classroom instructional activities.

Gerald Lee Ratliff, SUNY Potsdam

### EXCURSION TOUR (SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 3:00-6:00 P.M.)—see fee schedule

This bus excursion, leaving from the Omni Severin Hotel at 3 p.m. and returning to that hotel at 6 p.m., includes tours of both of the following:

#### **James Whitcomb Riley Home**

Take a glimpse of society life at the turn of the century just as Hoosier Poet James Whitcomb Riley experienced it. The James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home recalls a simpler time—a time before cell phones, palm pilots, or pagers. The Museum Home, nestled in the heart of Indianapolis' historic Lockerbie neighborhood, showcases many of the great poet's personal belongings including his writing desk, a portrait of his beloved dog, and his top hat and cane. At the home, visitors get the rare chance to experience the country's only late-Victorian preservation (not restoration). Authentic furnishings and décor fill the home with an air of nostalgia.

AND . . .

#### **Benjamin Harrison Home**

The Benjamin Harrison Home, the former residence of President Benjamin Harrison, is now a museum dedicated to his life. Benjamin Harrison was the 23rd President of the United States, from 1889 to 1893. He was president one hundred years after George Washington, which made Harrison the Centennial President. The Harrison Home houses some 3,700 artifacts and 2,440 books. About 75% of the artifacts in the home actually belonged to the Harrisons. In the home the visitors will see approximately ten of the rooms with period furnishings and Harrison items. A new exhibit opens every six months with Harrison Home artifacts and borrowed artifacts. Textiles, dresses, and other artifacts are displayed throughout the house.