VISITING WRITERS SERIES
Bibbe Hansen
Elizabeth Acevedo
John Leland
Sean Penn
Helen Rothberg
Tara Westover
Justine Bateman
Ibtihaj Muhammad
Mona Haydar
Evan Narcisse
Sujatha Gidla
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
Jean Shin
Ntozake Shange
Esmeralda Santiago
Alexander Heffner
Aly Raisman
Kirsten Gillibrand

NEW YORK STATE WRITERS INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

SPECIAL EVENTS
• New York State Author & New York State Poet September 28th
• Albany Book Festival September 29th
• The Creative Life Series

Events Calendar Fall 2018
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are very excited to host the inaugural Albany Book Festival, a celebration of literature and those who write, publish, and sell books, presented by the NYS Writers Institute at the University at Albany on September 28 and 29. We hope to draw thousands of book lovers to campus and to bring together our students, faculty, staff and community for a family-friendly event that will appeal to readers of all ages. The festival is free and open to the public, thanks to many generous sponsors and donors.

Fall book festivals are a mark of vibrant American cities. They underscore a collective commitment to the culture of literacy, the creative imagination, and the value of the literary arts in our lives. This is a new initiative for us and we ask you to join us in creating something truly amazing that elevates our University and the capital city for years to come.

We will kick off the festivities with a Friday evening ceremony installing a new State Author and State Poet, which the Writers Institute has a legislative mandate to award every two years following a selection committee process. Colson Whitehead, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning and bestselling novel The Underground Railroad, is the State Author for 2018-2020. The State Poet is Alicia Ostriker, who has published several award-winning poetry volumes, including The Old Woman, the Tulip, and the Dog. The laureates will meet fans and sign books at the Book Festival on Saturday. The daylong program includes panel discussions with Pulitzer Prize-winning historians Gilbert King and Annette Gordon-Reed; major bestselling mystery authors Walter Mosley and Linda Fairstein; memoirs about the immigrant experience by Julissa Arce and Abdi Nor Iftin; and books about food by Mark Kurlansky and Michael Twitty. There will be featured talks and signings by UAlbany alumnus Gregory Maguire, author of the bestseller Wicked, and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who will discuss her new book, Leadership: In Turbulent Times.

Writers Institute founder William Kennedy will sign a new book about his writing published by SUNY Press, titled Bootlegger of the Soul: The Literary Legacy of William Kennedy. There will be a Children's Literature Room with hands-on activities; a space for Young Adult fiction; workshops on the craft of writing for aspiring authors; book sales by local booksellers; and book signings by dozens of Capital Region authors.

We have so many exceptional artists coming to the Writers Institute this fall it is almost an embarrassment of riches. Consider just a few: Sean Penn, Tara Westover, Justine Bateman, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (a UAlbany alumnus), Ntozake Shange, Esmeralda Santiago and Aly Raisman. Read the full lineup in this program and prepare to be astonished. Great writing connects us rather than divides us. It reminds us of the power of words to open our minds, touch our hearts, and envelop our souls. We offer a respite in these turbulent times. Join the conversation.

Paul Grondahl
NEW YORK STATE AUTHOR & NEW YORK STATE POET

September 28 (Friday): Award Ceremony 7:30 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom

State Author  Colson Whitehead

New York State Author (2018-2020)
and winner of the Edith Wharton Citation of Merit in Fiction

Colson Whitehead, the author of six novels, is celebrated for work that wrestles in heroic fashion with the meaning of American mythology, history and racial identity. The Chicago Tribune has proclaimed him “the best living American novelist,” and author Edwidge Danticat has called him the “emerging Ralph Ellison of his generation.” Whitehead’s most recent novel is The Underground Railroad (2017), an imaginative “alternate history” of pre-Civil War America, with its network of safe houses and secret routes for escaped slaves. A #1 New York Times Bestseller, the novel received the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize, among other awards.

State Poet  Alicia Suskin Ostriker

New York State Poet (2018-2020)
and winner of the Walt Whitman Citation of Merit in Poetry

Alicia Ostriker, two-time finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry and the author of sixteen collections, is one of the most acclaimed poets, as well as one of the most influential poetry critics of her generation. Joyce Carol Oates asserts that her “iconoclastic expression, whether in prose or poetry, is essential to understanding our American selves.” Ostriker’s work explores motherhood, womanhood, social justice, Jewish identity and—in the words of poet Joan Larkin— “takes on nothing less than what it feels like to be alive.” Many of her works, including The Mother-Child Papers (1980), Writing Like a Woman (1983) and Stealing the Language (1986), are regarded as feminist classics.
The NYS Writers Institute presents the Albany Book Festival at the University at Albany

A celebration of authors, readers, & books!

Saturday, September 29, 2018
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

University at Albany Uptown Campus
Campus Center & Campus Center West Addition
1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222

Featured author panels including:
Food Writing, History, Memoir, and Mystery

Free and open to the public

Visit www.albanybookfestival.com for updates on pre-registration and the complete festival schedule.
JOIN US FOR:

- Bestselling and award-winning authors
- Dance Party Kickoff
- Book signings
- How-to workshops for aspiring authors
- Young Adult author panels
- Children's Room with fun activities
- Meet & greet local authors
- Exhibitor floor

FEATURED AUTHORS INCLUDE (AMONG OTHERS):

Julissa Arce  
Keisha N. Blain  
Kristen Ciccarelli  
Linda Fairstein  
Joseph Finder  
Terry Golway  
Doris Kearns Goodwin  
Annette Gordon-Reed  
Katie Henry  
Maeve Higgins  
Abdi Nor Iftin  
Khizr Khan  
Gilbert King  
Mark Kurlansky  
Francis Lam  
Laura Lippman  
Lauren Magaziner  
Gregory Maguire  
Walter Mosley  
Leyla Moushabeck  
Lygia Day Peñaflor  
Jonathan Santlofer  
Michael W. Twitty  

Winners of the My Albany, My Story Creative Expression Contest (Grades K-8) will be announced and will show off their work.

Bring a children's book to donate to a local literacy organization.

FEATURING AUTHORS INCLUDE (AMONG OTHERS):

Doris Kearns Goodwin  
Walter Mosley  
Khizr Khan  
Gregory Maguire

Annette Gordon-Reed
A celebration of the Pulitzer Prize–winning novelist who put Albany on the world’s literary map. Featuring reviews, interviews, and scholarly essays on Kennedy’s work, as well as essays, speeches, a play, and a short story by the author himself, *Bootlegger of the Soul* is a celebration of a writer still working hard at his craft at age 90.

Join William Kennedy for a book signing at the Albany Book Festival:

Saturday, September 29th, 2:00 p.m.
Campus Center West,
UAlbany Uptown Campus

Visit nyswritersinstitute.org for information on additional book signings in the Capital Region.
Events are free and open to the public and take place on the University at Albany's Uptown Campus, unless otherwise noted. Events are subject to change. Refer to page 24 for information on free on-campus parking for events.

**Special thanks to our primary sponsor: the University at Albany Foundation.** For the latest information on event updates, video clips, and literary news, visit our website: http://nyswritersinstitute.org

**SEPTEMBER**

**A CONVERSATION SERIES AT UALBANY**

Created and produced by the New York State Writers Institute, University Art Museum, and UAlbany Performing Arts Center in collaboration with WAMC Northeast Public Radio, this series features leading figures from a variety of artistic disciplines in conversation with WAMC's "Roundtable" host Joe Donahue about their creative inspiration, craft, and careers.

**ARTIST**

**September 5 (Wednesday)**

**Bibbe Hansen**

performance artist, musician and actress

Conversation with WAMC's Joe Donahue—7:00 p.m., University Art Museum

*Bibbe Hansen* first achieved prominence as a protégé of American pop artist Andy Warhol. She collaborated on several films with Warhol, including *PRISON*, in which she starred alongside Marie Mencken and Edie Sedgwick. From 1990–1995 she operated Troy Café, which became the center of a multicultural renaissance in downtown Los Angeles and was home to a generation of musicians, comedians, artists, and filmmakers. Today Bibbe creates artwork and is represented by Gracie Mansion Gallery in New York City. She recently completed the first draft of her memoir, and lectures frequently on art and the creative process. The daughter of Fluxus artist Al Hansen, she is also the mother of major American singer-songwriter, Beck.

*Sponsorship for The Creative Life is provided by The University at Albany Foundation with additional support from the UAlbany Alumni Association, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost and University Auxiliary Services.*

---

*Photo: Bibbe Hansen in Warhol's "Screen Test" 1965*
AUTHOR
September 6 (Thursday)
Elizabeth Acevedo
rising star of American poetry and bestselling YA novelist
Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Elizabeth Acevedo, the daughter of Dominican immigrants, is a National Poetry Slam Champion (2014) and author of the New York Times bestselling young adult novel, The Poet X (2018), the story of an Afro-Latina teenager growing up in New York City. She confronts prejudice and sexual harassment while discovering her voice and her literary ambitions. School Library Journal called it, “magnificently crafted,” and bestselling YA author Jason Reynolds called it, “an incredibly potent debut.” Acevedo’s viral poetry videos about oppressive beauty standards and rape culture have been showcased by Cosmopolitan, Huffington Post, Latina Magazine and PBS.

Cosponsored by the UAlbany Student Association and Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

MOVIE
September 7 (Friday)
MILK

Film screening — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 2008, 128 minutes, color)
Directed by Gus Van Sant. Starring Sean Penn, Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch.

Harvey Milk, University at Albany alumnus (Class of 1951) and founding figure of the Gay Rights Movement, is portrayed by major American actor Sean Penn in this Oscar-winning biographical film.

Shown in association with Sean Penn’s visit on Friday, September 21 (see separate listing).

Cosponsored by The Albany Guardian Society: Service to Seniors in the Capital District.

To register for the morning event, visit www.albanyguardiansociety.org

**MOVIE**

**September 14 (Friday)**

**IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE CITY**

Film screening with commentary by writer/director Tamer El Said — 7:00 p.m. [NOTE EARLY START], Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus (Egypt, 2018, 118 minutes, color, in Arabic with English subtitles) Directed by Tamer El Said. Starring Khalid Abdalla.

Set in Cairo before and after the Arab Spring, this acclaimed film follows a fictional director making a movie about the city he loves and hates. As he struggles with the creative process, he talks with Arab friends from Baghdad, Beirut and Berlin about how their home cities nourish and frustrate them. *The Village Voice* called it “mesmerizingly beautiful,” and the Museum of Modern Art called it, “a powerful, multilayered meditation on togetherness, the tactile hold of cities, and the meaning of homeland.”

**Tamer El Said** is a leading documentary filmmaker, political activist, and key figure of Egypt’s independent film industry. This is his first fiction feature.
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY SPEAKERS SERIES

September 21 (Friday)

Sean Penn
actor, director, author and activist

Conversation/Q&A · 7:30 p.m.
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

“A straight-up masterwork, more relevant to this very moment than anything I’ve seen.” —Sarah Silverman

Sean Penn, one of the preeminent actors of American cinema, is the winner of two Academy Awards for Best Actor—the first for MYSTIC RIVER (2003) and the second for his portrayal of UAlbany alumnus Harvey Milk in MILK (2008). A prize-winning director, his adaptation of Jon Krakauer’s INTO THE WILD appeared on numerous top ten lists in 2007. Published in 2018, Penn’s acclaimed first novel is Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff, the tale of an "odd job man" who kills off the weak and the sick as part of a secret contract with the U.S. government. Salman Rushdie said, “great fun to read…. Thomas Pynchon and Hunter S. Thompson would love this book.”

Sponsored by the University at Albany Student Association, Division of Student Affairs, Alumni Association, University Auxiliary Services, UAlbany Foundation, and the Justice and Multiculturalism Project in the School of Criminal Justice in partnership with the New York State Writers Institute.

September 28 (Friday): New York State Author and Poet Awards
September 29 (Saturday): Albany Book Festival
OCTOBER

CRAFT TALK (October 1)
Helen Rothberg
Author, Business Consultant and Behavioral Scientist

October 1 (Monday)
Helen Rothberg, a sought-after consultant and keynote speaker for major American companies, is the author of *The Perfect Mix: Everything I Know About Leadership I Learned as a Bartender* (2017), a quirky guide to human behavior based on insights she gathered while tending bar to pay her way through graduate school. Named a Best Summer Book of 2017 by Boston NPR station WBUR, *The Perfect Mix* appeared in excerpts in *Money* and *Business Insider*. Professor of Strategy at the Marist College School of Management, Rothberg holds a dual PhD in business and behavioral science.

Co-sponsored by Science on Tap Capital Region, a free opportunity for conversation, debate and interaction among scientists and the public. Visit capsciny.org.

AUTHOR

October 4 (Thursday)
Tara Westover
Bestselling Memoirist and Historian

Tara Westover is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Educated* (2018), about her experiences as the daughter of an “anti-education” survivalist family that devoted its time and energy to preparing for the End of Days in the mountains of Idaho. Westover first set foot in a classroom at the age of 17, graduated magna cum laude from Brigham Young University in 2008, and went on to earn a PhD in history from Cambridge University in England in 2014. Writing in the *New York Times*, Amy Chua called the book, “a beautiful testament to the power of education to open eyes and change lives.”
INGMAR BERGMAN CENTENNIAL FILM SERIES

Marking the 100th anniversary of Swedish director Ingmar Bergman’s birth

Ingmar Bergman (1918-2007), a giant of world cinema, is often compared with other founding figures of modern art, including Pablo Picasso and Samuel Beckett. His films frequently explore mortality, sickness, insanity, sin, betrayal, grief and faith. We join with film audiences all over the world in celebrating his profound legacy.

October 5 (Friday)

THE SEVENTH SEAL

Film screening— 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(Sweden, 1957, 96 minutes, b/w) Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Starring Max von Sydow, Gunnar Björnstrand, Bengt Ekerot.

A medieval knight searches for answers about the meaning of life, and plays a game of chess with Death during the Black Plague. The film is credited with launching a new cinematic culture of philosophical inquiry and serious artistic expression.

October 9 (Tuesday)

Justine Bateman

TV actress, writer, director and Net Neutrality activist

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Presentations/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom

Justine Bateman achieved TV stardom as the superficial and materialistic “Mallory Keaton” on the primetime comedy, Family Ties (1982-1989). Her first book, Fame: The Hijacking of Reality (2018) is an “insider’s” analysis of America’s culture of celebrity and its profound impact on personal and national life. Ready Player One author Ernest Cline said, “Justine Bateman has crafted the most compelling and comprehensive treatise on the nature of fame that you’re ever likely to read.” An activist for Net Neutrality, Bateman has addressed the topic before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce. She earned a degree in Computer Science and Digital Media from UCLA in 2016, and is completing her first feature film as director.
October 10 (Wednesday)

Muslim Women in 21st Century America

a conversation with

Mona Haydar, rapper and activist, and
Ibtihaj Muhammad, memoirist and U.S. Olympic fencing medalist

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center
Conversation/Q&A — 7:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Mona Haydar is a rapper, activist and writer. Billboard magazine named her debut song, “Hijabi (Wrap My Hijab)” one of 2017’s top protest songs and one of the “25 top feminist anthems of all time.” Her “Ask a Muslim” booth, set up in public places in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 2015, received worldwide media attention. Raised in Flint, Michigan, Haydar currently lives in Harlem, and is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary.

Ibtihaj Muhammad, Olympic fencer, is the first hijab-wearing Muslim to compete for the United States. As a participant in the Team Sabre event, she also became the first female Muslim-American athlete to earn an Olympic medal. Her new memoir is Proud: My Fight for an Unlikely American Dream (2018). Named one of TIME magazine’s 100 Most Influential People, she serves as a sports ambassador for the U.S. State Department, and was the model and inspiration for the first hijabi Barbie™ doll.

Shown in association with the stage performance, “Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity.” See Sunday, October 14 listing for more information.

Presented in collaboration with the Performing Arts Center. Support also provided by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, University Auxiliary Services, the Interfaith Center, and the Residence Inn by Marriott.
Evan Narcisse
Black Panther Marvel comic book author and cultural critic
Screening of clips from the hit film, BLACK PANTHER, Conversation/Q&A
7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
Evan Narcisse is the coauthor with Ta-Nehisi Coates of Rise of the Black Panther, a bestselling series that presents the backstory of the most popular black character in comic book history. The six-issue series is now available as a bound graphic novel. Rise provides a mythic foundation for the Marvel comic book franchise that has become a transformative cultural phenomenon, enlisting the talents of some of America’s leading African American public intellectuals and writers, including Coates and Roxane Gay. Narcisse is a long-time comic book critic for io9, the sci-fi blog. His reviews and articles have also appeared in Essence, the Washington Post, and Atlantic Monthly.
Cosponsored by Albany High School.

Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity
7:30 p.m., Main Theatre, Performing Arts Center, post-show discussion at 8:45 p.m.
Advance tickets: $15 general public / $10 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff
Day of show tickets: $20 general public / $15 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff. PAC Box Office: (518) 442-3997.
Chong + Company illuminates the daily experiences of five young Muslim Americans who have come of age in a post-9/11 society and are building their lives in a time of continued fear of and violence towards Muslims. “A chorus of voices gently demolishing the notion of Muslim culture as monolithic... [it’s] an exercise in empathy... drawn from real lives.” –New York Times
Presented in collaboration with the Performing Arts Center; and made possible by the Mid Atlantic Tours program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Support also provided by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, University Auxiliary Services and the Residence Inn by Marriott.
October 16 (Tuesday)

David Gersten
architect and writer

Conversation — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Conversation/Q&A — 7:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

David Gersten is an influential artist, architect, writer, educator, TED speaker, motivational thinker, former Dean of Architecture at Cooper Union, and originator of the concept of “spatial literacy”— an understanding of the profound impact of our surroundings on personal and collective experiences. In 2013, Gersten founded Arts Letters & Numbers, a nonprofit arts, education, and publishing organization dedicated to creating creative exchanges across a wide range of disciplines including Architecture, Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Film, Music, Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences. The organization is based at The Mill, a repurposed factory in Averill Park that hosts a variety of art installations, immersion workshops and creative happenings.

October 18 (Thursday)

Amy Wallen
memoirist and novelist

Craft talk — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

Amy Wallen grew up in Nigeria, Bolivia, Peru and elsewhere, the daughter of a blue-collar Southern father employed as an exploratory driller by the oil industry. Her memoir, When We Were Ghouls (2018), is an attempt to recover the elusive memories of her unusual childhood. Novelist Claire Messud said, “Amy Wallen’s beautiful memoir, replete with fantastic stories, will carry you across continents and introduce you to amazing characters.” Wallen serves as Associate Director of the New York State Summer Writers Institute in Saratoga Springs. Her first novel, MoonPies and Movie Stars, was a Los Angeles Times bestseller.
High-Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor (2018), a revelatory investigation of the impacts of data mining, policy algorithms, and predictive risk models on working-class people. Bestselling author Naomi Klein said, “This book is downright scary — but with its striking research and moving, indelible portraits of life in the ‘digital poorhouse,’ you will emerge smarter and more empowered to demand justice.”

In collaboration with the University Club of Albany.

---

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

October 22 (Monday):

**Melanie Wallace**

Senior Series Producer for NOVA

Conversation — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

CAS Keynote: “History, Science, and Truth in the 21st Century,” with film clips and Q&A — 7:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Melanie Wallace, an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, is the Senior Series Producer of NOVA, the most-watched and longest-running prime time science series on American television. Now in its 45th year, NOVA features an extraordinary diversity of topics, from the latest breakthroughs in technology to the deepest mysteries of the natural world. In her role, Melanie and NOVA Senior Executive Producer Paula Apsell seek out new talent, innovative program ideas, and new co-production opportunities. Melanie is the driving force behind deals brokered between NOVA and such international partners as the BBC, ARTE, ABC Australia, NHK, and CCTV. She also serves as an ambassador, traveling worldwide to promote the NOVA brand and to highlight the role NOVA plays in advancing science literacy.
AUTHOR
October 23 (Tuesday)

Sujatha Gidla
memoirist and NYC subway conductor

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Conversation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum, Cultural Education Center, Albany

Sujatha Gidla is the author of Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India, the story of a family’s attempts to achieve a better life against all odds, and one of the most talked-about books of 2017. The Economist reviewer said, “It is quite possibly the most striking work of nonfiction set in India since Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo, and heralds the arrival of a formidable new writer.” Gidla was the featured author on the front cover of Publishers Weekly’s “Best Books of 2017” issue, and the book was named among the year’s “Top Ten.” Born into generations of crushing poverty in the lowest caste in her home state of Andhra Pradesh, Gidla studied Physics at a regional college, emigrated to the U.S., and now works as a conductor on the New York City subway.

Cosponsored by the State Education Department’s Office of Cultural Education and Friends of the New York State Library.

AUTHOR
October 25 (Thursday)

Stephen Lang
actor, playwright

Ceremony/Conversation — 7:00 p.m., Chancellors Hall, NYS Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany

Stephen Lang, award-winning stage, television, and film actor, writer, and producer will receive the 2018 Empire State Archives and History Award from the NYS Archives Partnership Trust. Lang will discuss his career as an actor and history enthusiast with nationally prominent Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. Lang is the writer, producer and star of the new play, His Dark Land, which explores the turmoil experienced by war hero Lieutenant Colonel Charles Whittlesey, commander of “The Lost Battalion” during World War I. He is also the author of the award-winning one-man play, Beyond Glory, about the lives and combat experiences of Medal of Honor recipients. Lang's many acting credits include the role of the paraplegic Waldo on AMC’s hit series, Into the Badlands; a Tony nomination for Best Actor in The Speed of Darkness on Broadway; and a Saturn Award for his work in James Cameron's Avatar, for which he is currently filming four sequels.

In collaboration with the New York State Archives Partnership Trust.

Visit www.nysarchivestrust.org or call (518) 486-9349 for ticket information.
JAPANESE-AMERICAN FILMS

October 26 (Friday)

GREAT GRANDFATHER’S DRUM

Film screening— 7:00 p.m. [NOTE EARLY START TIME], Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., Downtown Campus
(United States, 2011, 57 minutes, color)
Broadcast on PBS Hawai’i, this documentary presents the taiko drumming and dance traditions of the descendants of Japanese sugar plantation workers.

PICTURE BRIDE

(United States, 1994, 94 minutes, color)
A landmark of Asian American filmmaking, PICTURE BRIDE won the Audience Award at Sundance, and was nominated for the Palme d’Or at Cannes. Set in 1918, the film explores the experiences of a couple—a Japanese city girl and a Japanese-American plantation worker—who meet and marry through long-distance matchmaking, a practice necessitated by U.S. anti-miscegenation laws. Shown in association with a performance on Saturday, November 10, at UAlbany Performing Arts Center by San Jose Taiko, a California drum ensemble celebrating its 45th Anniversary. For more information, contact the Performing Arts Center at (518) 442-3997 or visit www.albany.edu/pac.

AUTHOR

October 30 (Tuesday)

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

UAlbany alumnus and break-out literary star
Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center
Conversation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, 2013 University at Albany graduate with a degree in English, recently published his first short story collection, Friday Black (2018), a satirical look at what it’s like to be young and black in America. The book received superlative praise from a number of major American authors, including George Saunders who called it, “an excitement and a wonder: strange, crazed, urgent and funny....” and said “The wildly talented Adjei-Brenyah has made these edgy tales immensely charming....” Roxane Gay said, “This book is dark and captivating and essential... A call to arms and a condemnation. Adjei-Brenyah offers powerful
NOVEMBER

ARTIST

November 1 (Thursday)

Jean Shin
sculptor and public installation artist

Conversation with WAMC’s Joe Donahue—
7:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

Jean Shin is a leading visual artist who transforms vast collections of everyday and discarded objects into monumental art installations that represent elegant expressions of identity and community. Widely exhibited, her work includes solo exhibitions at MoMA in New York, the Smithsonian in Washington DC, and a landmark commission for New York City’s 63rd Street Subway Station.

Created and produced by the University Art Museum, Performing Arts Center and NYS Writers Institute in collaboration with WAMC Northeast Public Radio. Sponsorship for The Creative Life is provided by The University at Albany Foundation with additional support from the UAlbany Alumni Association, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost and University Auxiliary Services.

prose as parable.
The writing in this outstanding collection will make you hurt and demand your hope. Read this book.”

Cosponsored by the UAlbany English Department and Program in Writing and Critical Inquiry.

Photo: Limitless Imprint Entertainment
WCI Film Festival and Lecture Series

This weekend-long festival will feature a diverse selection of international science fiction films, a reading by acclaimed author Eugene Lim; student-made short films; live music by local musicians; a community art gallery show; a masquerade ball to benefit a local charity; a live recording of a local podcast; goods from local vendors; and other community and academic events. For a complete schedule visit The Program in Writing and Critical Inquiry website at www.albany.edu/wci.

AUTHOR
November 2 (Friday)
Eugene Lim
acclaimed science fiction and experimental fiction author
Reading and Q&A — 7:00 p.m., The Linda, WAMC’s Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave, Albany
Eugene Lim is the author of the underground bestselling novel, Dear Cyborgs (2017), which presents the story of two Asian American boys—social outcasts who bond over a love of comic books. Meanwhile, in an alternate universe, a team of superheroes ponders the state of modern society during breaks between black-ops missions and rescuing hostages. The New Yorker called it, “Wondrous.”

MOVIE
November 2 (Friday)
SAVE THE GREEN PLANET!
Film Screening — 8:00 p.m., The Linda, 339 Central Ave, Albany
(South Korea, 1957, 96 minutes, b/w)
Directed by Joon-Hwan Jang.
Author Eugene Lim will introduce one of his favorite films, the tale of a troubled young man who believes he must save the world from an alien invasion.

The WCI Film Festival and Lecture Series is cosponsored by the UAlbany Program in Writing and Critical Inquiry and the NYS Writers Institute, with support provided by WAMC, the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Institute for Experiential Education, the Office of Student Engagement, the Vice President for Research, the Alumni Association, Capitalize Albany Corporation, City of Albany Capital Resource Corporation, Humanities New York, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
POET

November 6 (Tuesday)

Ntozake Shange

major American playwright and poet

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library

Conversation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Main Theatre, Performing Arts Center

Ntozake Shange is a cultural icon, leading feminist and central figure of the Black Arts Movement. Her 1976 play, “for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf,” is widely regarded as a landmark of African American theatre. It received the Obie Award for Best Play, as well as a Tony for Best Featured Actress and a Tony nomination for Best Play. Dr. Shange is also the author of numerous books of poetry, including the new collection Wild Beauty: New and Selected Poems (2017), which features more than 60 poems in both English and Spanish. The Washington Post reviewer called it, “powerful,” and said, “No poet since Langston Hughes has insisted so forcefully on black people's right to simply be....”

AUTHOR

November 8 (Thursday)

Esmeralda Santiago

renowned writer of the Puerto Rican experience

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Conversation with WAMC’s Joe Donahue — 7:00 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom

Esmeralda Santiago is widely celebrated as a founding mother of Nuyorican literature. An American classic, her 1993 memoir, When I Was Puerto Rican, was named one of the "Best Memoirs of a Generation" by Oprah's Book Club. In 2018, it was one of five finalists for the “One Book, One New York” community-wide reading project. The eldest in a family of 11 children, Santiago came to the States from Puerto Rico at the age of 13. After 8 years of part-time study in community colleges, she transferred to Harvard where she graduated magna cum laude. Her 2011 novel, Conquistadora, set in 19th century Puerto Rico, was hailed as a “triumph” in The Washington Post.
November 9 (Friday)

CRIES AND WHISPERS
Film screening— 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(Sweden, 1972, 91 minutes, color) Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Starring Harriet Andersson, Liv Ullmann, Kari Sylwan.
Nominated for five Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay, this film explores the relationships among three sisters while one of them lies dying of cancer. As the end draws near, buried resentments and painful jealousies begin to surface. “Although we are all likely to see many films in our lives, there will be few like this one. It is hypnotic, disturbing, frightening. It envelops us in a red membrane of passion and fear...” (Roger Ebert).

November 13 (Tuesday)

Alexander Heffner
author and host of The Open Mind on PBS
Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
Community readings of America’s founding documents— 7:00 p.m., Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum, Cultural Education Center, Albany
Conversation/Q&A— 7:30 p.m., Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum, Cultural Education Center, Albany

Note: Prior to the evening conversation, a diverse range of community members, from political leaders to elementary school children, will take the stage to read memorable lines from America's founding documents.

Alexander Heffner is the co-author with his late grandfather, the historian Richard D. Heffner, of a revised and expanded 2018 edition of the million-selling book, A Documentary History of the United States, first published in 1952. Bill Moyers said, “Here is fertile soil for exploring our past and imagining our future. Present crises notwithstanding, you cannot spend time within these pages and be skeptical of our capacity to overcome, survive, and thrive....” Alexander is also the twenty-something host of the PBS talk show, The Open Mind, "a thoughtful excursion into the world of ideas across politics, media, technology, the arts, and all realms of civic life.” Founded by his grandfather in 1956, The Open Mind is the longest-running public broadcast in the history of American television.

Cosponsored by the State Education Department’s Office of Cultural Education and Friends of the New York State Library.
MOVIE

November 16 (Friday)
MORE THAN WORDS: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF NEWSMAN BOB PALEY

Film screening with panel discussion featuring director Mary Paley — 7:00 p.m. [NOTE EARLY START], Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus (United States, 2018, 85 minutes, b/w and color). Co-directed by Mary Paley and Jon Russell Cring.

The late Bob Paley, a photographer for the Albany Knickerbocker News from 1947 to 1974, was frequently described as a poet with a camera. For more than a decade he also earned national renown as a stringer for the Time-Life stable of magazines with Times Union colleague, John Maguire. Often with a single photo, he captured the mood, moment and meaning of the forces that rocked mid-20th century America. In this new documentary, Paley’s daughter Mary presents the startling and beautiful images of his singular career.

Mary Paley is the writer/director of the acclaimed 2014 Albany documentary, THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT DISAPPEARED, the story of how one of the most massive urban renewal projects in American history sterilized the cultural and ethnic heart of Albany, New York to build Empire State Plaza in 1962. An arrangement made by first term Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and longtime Albany Mayor, Erastus Corning 2nd, displaced almost eight percent of the city’s diverse population, razed more than a thousand buildings, dislodged 3,600 households, and closed 350 businesses. The film’s 2014 premiere on public TV station WMHT in Albany NY broke the station’s highest pledge of support in a single broadcast since the station went on the air in 1962. Cosponsored by WMHT and the Albany Times Union.
Valeria Luiselli and Alvaro Enrigue

Alvaro Enrigue — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library
Valeria Luiselli — 7:30 p.m., Touhey Forum, School of Education, College of Saint Rose, 1009 Madison Avenue, Albany

Though they reside in New York City, Valeria Luiselli and Alvaro Enrigue have been called “the first couple of Mexican fiction” (Vogue).

“One of the most outstanding writers of her generation” (New York Times en Español), Luiselli is the author most recently of Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions (2017), which is based on her experience working as an interpreter for child migrants in the United States. Her novel The Story of My Teeth (2015), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction. Alvaro Enrigue’s newest novel is Sudden Death (2017), about a 16th century tennis match and battle of ideas between the Italian artist Caravaggio and Spanish poet Francisco de Quevedo. Salman Rushdie called it, “The best new novel I’ve read this year.”

In collaboration with the Department of World Languages and Cultures of the College of Saint Rose.

THE BEST INTENTIONS

Film screening— 7:00 p.m. [NOTE EARLY START TIME], Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus


This is the 3 hour theatrical version of the 5 ½ hour teleplay written by Bergman and based on his account of the courtship and marriage of his parents, Erik Bergman and Karin Åkerblom, and their struggles with sickness, infidelity, class conflict, and religious faith. In its condensed form, it received the Palme d’Or, the highest prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1992.

There will be a brief intermission at approximately 8:30 p.m. during this three hour film.
Aly Raisman, Olympic gymnast who captained the US team to victory in 2012 and 2016, is one of the most decorated American gymnasts of all time. She’s also an influential advocate of positive body image, a hero of the #metoo movement, and an outspoken critic of the prevailing culture in American gymnastics organizations. Her new book is *Fierce: How Competing for Myself Changed Everything* (2017), an inspiring story of dedication, perseverance, and having a positive outlook even in the toughest times. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Fierce* was also named an *Entertainment Weekly* Best Young Adult Book of 2017. Billie Jean King said, “Aly Raisman is fierce in every sense of the word. Her story is one of persistence, hardship, triumph and leadership and *Fierce* is both inspiring and illuminating.”

Sponsored by the UAlbany Foundation, Student Association, Division of Student Affairs, Alumni Association, and University Auxiliary Services in partnership with the NYS Writers Institute.

December 3 (Monday)

**Aly Raisman**

Olympic Gymnast, Six-Time Medalist and Author

Conversation — 7:30 p.m., SEFCU Arena, University at Albany Uptown Campus

Aly Raisman, Olympic gymnast who captained the US team to victory in 2012 and 2016, is one of the most decorated American gymnasts of all time. She’s also an influential advocate of positive body image, a hero of the #metoo movement, and an outspoken critic of the prevailing culture in American gymnastics organizations. Her new book is *Fierce: How Competing for Myself Changed Everything* (2017), an inspiring story of dedication, perseverance, and having a positive outlook even in the toughest times. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Fierce* was also named an *Entertainment Weekly* Best Young Adult Book of 2017. Billie Jean King said, “Aly Raisman is fierce in every sense of the word. Her story is one of persistence, hardship, triumph and leadership and *Fierce* is both inspiring and illuminating.”

Sponsored by the UAlbany Foundation, Student Association, Division of Student Affairs, Alumni Association, and University Auxiliary Services in partnership with the NYS Writers Institute.

December 7 (Friday)

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand**

children’s book author

Conversation/Q&A – 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** returns to the New York State Writers Institute with her very first children’s book, *Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote* (Nov. 2018). With illustrations by award-winning artist Maira Kalman, the book features profiles of inspiring figures in the 70-year fight for women’s suffrage, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Jovita Idár, Alice Paul, Inez Milholland, Ida B. Wells, Lucy Burns, and Mary Church Terrell. The junior United States Senator from New York since January 2009, Senator Gillibrand is widely regarded as one of the preeminent American political leaders of her generation.
For additional information on events, schedule changes and updates, video clips, and literary news visit our website at: 
http://nyswritersinstitute.org
and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

On Campus Parking:
Courtesy parking for Writers Institute events on the Uptown Campus will be available in the State Quad Student Parking Lot one hour prior to and one hour after events.

Please note: Courtesy Parking for the September 13th Alumni House event, and the Albany Book Festival on September 29th will be available in the Dutch Quad Student Parking Lot.

Visitor Parking lots are also available for $3 per vehicle after 4 p.m., though parking spaces are very limited.

For Downtown Campus events, courtesy parking will be available in the Thurlow Student Parking lot.

For a map of the campus including parking lots go to: 
http://www.albany.edu/map

With special thanks to our primary sponsor, the University at Albany Foundation

The New York State Writers Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of University Auxiliary Services, Division of Student Affairs, Student Association, Alumni Association, Office of the Provost, Office of University Events, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Campus Bookstore, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, Albany Times Union, and the Friends of Writing.

William Kennedy, Executive Director
Paul Grondahl, Director

University at Albany · Science Library 320
1400 Washington Avenue · Albany, NY 12222
Tel: (518) 442-5620 · email: writers@albany.edu
website: http://nyswritersinstitute.org
Support the Writers Institute

If you enjoy attending the wide range of our cultural events, please consider supporting the Writers Institute.

Yes! I/we would like to make a gift in support of the Writers Institute.

To Donate Online with a Credit Card:
Visit https://www.albany.edu/giving/writers_institute.shtml

To Donate by Check:
Make check payable to: The University at Albany Foundation

GIFT AMOUNT:

☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ Other $________

Mail check and form to: New York State Writers Institute
University at Albany
Science Library 320
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222

Gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Thank you for your generosity.
Fall 2018
Visiting Writers Series
and Classic Film Series
Schedule of Events