Coming Up...

An Evening with Antony & Cleopatra

Chris Baker

Join us for dinner and a talk on Antony & Cleopatra by Chris Baker, senior dramaturg at Hartford Stage and lecturer in theater at the University of Massachusetts. Chris will talk about the play itself and about Hartford Stage’s sensational production.
Then we will see the show.

Date: Thursday, November 4
Location: Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street
See page 8 for details
OFF THE RADAR SCREEN, BUT ON THE TV SCREEN, as it were, we have been experimenting with videostreaming. As I mentioned last month, we put together a little band of eight intrepid PC Fellows to serve as course participants in a series of four sessions on *Antony and Cleopatra* that we beamed into Duncaster and McLean. We met four times at weekly intervals to talk about the play and to engage in a series of conversations with people involved in the Hartford Stage production: Rob Clare, text and verse consultant, Liana Thompson, dramaturg, Scott Parkinson, who played Caesar, Julio Monge, who played the Soothsayer, and Alexander Cendese, who played Pompey. While there were a few rough spots (I, at least, am a total novice at such activities), it seems to have been judged a success by those watching the sessions at the two remote locations. The participants were able to e-mail questions and comments to us as the sessions went along.

The experiment bodes well for the future. When our new seminar room is functioning in the Library (all being well, it will open next fall), we will have both videostreaming and videoconferencing facilities built in. One of our goals is to make our programs available to people who do not live in the area (snowbirds in Florida, alumni all across the country) and people who cannot get out to go to our events in person.

Next up is a program at Hartford Stage on November 4 with Chris Baker, whose assistance in inviting guests to the videostreamed course was a major element in its success. For all its strengths, A&C has a complicated plot line, so Chris's introduction will be particularly valuable. Sign up with us for the dinner and talk, and buy tickets through Hartford Stage.

Most of my attention is now directed at preparations for our spring program, which we hope to announce in December (save the date for our Spring Kick-off at the Library on Friday, January 14!). We have exciting programs coming up in November and December, including a course on the history of exploration (with Michael Robinson) and a course on Irish detective novels (with Kathleen McGrory). Don’t miss these events — and also the exceptionally exciting Fridays at the Mortensen on November 5, and Maria Frank at Duncaster on November 30.

HUMPHREY TONKIN
Friday, November 5
Fridays at the Mortensen: David Macbride and Hartt Symphony Orchestra, Conserving Furniture

Composer (and professor of composition at the Hartt School) David Macbride will be our guest at a special session of Fridays at the Mortensen on November 5, to be followed by an evening at Millard Auditorium to hear the Hartt Symphony Orchestra perform Sibelius’s Finlandia, Richard Strauss’s Ein Heldenleben, and the world premiere of Macbride’s Piano Concerto, with soloist Erberk Eryilmaz.

Of Eurasian heritage (his mother was born in Beijing), David Macbride was born in Berkeley, CA in 1951. His principal teachers include Edward Diemente (of the Hartt School), and Jack Beeson and Chou Wen-chung (of Columbia University). He has written numerous works, ranging from solo, chamber and orchestral music to music for film, TV, dance and theatre, with particular emphasis on music for percussion and music for voice. His works have been performed extensively in the United States and abroad: recent performances include the Hartford Symphony, the Arditti String Quartet, League ISCM, Percussive Arts Society International Convention, World Saxophone Congress, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Tim Page of Newsday writes: “In David Macbride’s music, one finds technical skills of a high order, a direct lyricism that informs the most complex passages, and a personal aesthetic that combines Western chromaticism with a fascination for the music of China.” Awards include the Georges Enesco International Composition Prize, two Leo Snyder Memorial Composition Prizes sponsored by League ISCM Boston, the Composers Inc. Prize and two Connecticut Commission on the Arts artists grants.

Join us at 5:45 pm at the Mortensen Library on the University of Hartford campus for a glass of wine, a light supper, and the talk. Then go on to the performance.

Fridays at the Mortensen with David Macbride, November 5. $40 (Fellows $30), including dinner and concert. You will be the guest of the President’s College at the concert.

Friday, December 10
Fridays at the Mortensen: A Deeper Look into Antique Furniture with Nicholas Kotula

Most of the antique furniture world is full of fluff and bubble and is created and controlled by the marketplace. Faking, reworking, and misrepresenting pieces is common. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but what are the reactions within our bodies? With a little practice one can quickly separate the beautiful from the almost beautiful. First Lady Nancy Reagan’s decision permanently damaged the...
American antique masterpieces in the White House. How did First Lady Barbara Bush come to the rescue? Shellac has been used in China for around 6000 years, but its use in the Eastern United States only began around 1820. What is shellac, and do you ever want to eat Rice Krispies again? To find out more, come on Friday, December 10, to meet Nicholas Kotula, furniture conservator, of Bloomfield. He works closely with the Hartford Art School and the University’s Art History Department, is an appraiser for the US Departments of Justice and Interior, and is former furniture conservator for the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Fridays at the Mortensen with Nick Kotula, December 10. $40 (Fellows $30), including dinner.

Thursday, November 4
An Evening with Antony and Cleopatra

Join us for dinner and a talk on Antony & Cleopatra by Chris Baker, senior dramaturg at Hartford Stage and lecturer in theater at the University of Massachusetts. Chris will talk about the play itself and about Hartford Stage’s sensational production, directed by Tina Landau and starring Kate Mulgrew and John Douglas Thompson. We will meet at the theatre, 50 Church Street, Hartford, and enjoy a catered meal together while listening to Chris’s talk and discussing the play with him.

Dinner and lecture: $35 (Fellows $30). 50 Church Street, Hartford, 6:00 pm. Please book your own tickets for November 4 online at www.hartfordstage.org or by calling the box office (860-527-5151). If you already have tickets for a different performance, please call the box office to change them to November 4.

Tuesdays, Nov. 9, 16, 23
From Frozen North to Sweltering South: The Exploration Business in the 19th Century

Whether it was looking for lost white tribes in Africa or searching for the Northwest Passage, Europeans and North Americans were constantly expanding the boundaries of their way of life through the expansionist nineteenth century. Their modes of exploration and their accounts of their journeys are not only interesting in themselves but also offer insight into the values of their age and the modes of social and economic interaction adopted to represent these values.

Michael Robinson is associate professor of history at Hillyer College, University of
Hartford. He is the author of *The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), which won the 2008 Book Award for the History of Science in America. Robinson has been invited to give lectures about his work to the American Museum of Natural History, The Explorers Club, and the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, among others. He serves as the advisory editor to the history of science journal *Isis* and writes a blog about the history of science and exploration called *Time To Eat the Dogs* ([http://timetoeatthedogs.com/](http://timetoeatthedogs.com/)), which was nominated for a 2008 Weblog Award.

**Programs Continued**

**Poet Alan Michael Parker to give Cardin Reading**

Alan Michael Parker is the author of five collections of poems, as well as a novel, *Cry Uncle*. Professor of English at Davidson College, he is recipient of a Pushcart Prize and the Medwick Award from the Poetry Society of America. The reading will take place on Thursday, November 11, in Wilde Auditorium, 12:15 pm. Free and open to the public.

**Upcoming Hartt events**

include the Hartt Chamber Winds (November 12, Millard Auditorium), the Lions Gate Trio (November 13, Millard), and the Fall Choral Concert at Immanuel Congregational Church (with works by American and Hungarian composers).

**Tuesdays, Nov. 9, 16, 23. 4:30-6:00. $65 (Fellows $45)**

**Mondays, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6**

**Kathleen McGrory on Irish Detective Novels**

Is it true that genre novels (mystery, romance and science fiction) are, by their very nature, always inferior to “literary novels”? Decide for yourself after reading some gems of the Irish mystery genre that combine “a good read” with intimate glimpses of Irish history, literature and human life. Our focus will be on four writers, but others will join them in discussion:

- **John Banville** (pen name, Benjamin Black), Wexford-born, Dublin resident-novelist, winner of the prestigious Man Booker Prize in 2005. His crime novel, *The Book of Evidence*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker in 1989. Our look at his Quirke Series (posted on Barnes & Noble website) will include his 2010 *Elegy for April*.

- **Peter Berresford Ellis** (pen name, Peter Tremayne), son of an Irish-born writer for the *Cork Examiner* and a Breton mother, is a Celtic scholar internationally honored for his history of the Cornish language. He is better known in the U.S. for his series of detective novels set in 7th century Ireland. His Sister Fidelma, a Catholic-but-not-Roman nun/Brehon lawyer/detective, the feisty but compassionate feminist heroine of *Hemlock at Vespers* and *The Council of the Cursed*, is often compared by American readers to Ellis Peters’ medieval monk/detective, Brother Cadfael.

- **Mark McGarrity** (pen name, Bartholomew Gill), author of a series of novels starring Dublin Garda detective Peter McGarr, combines academic satire with serious literary topics and Dublin settings in *Death of a Joyce Scholar* and *Death in Dublin*.

- **Tana French**, representing the younger generation of Irish writers in the genre, raises central questions about human identity in Irish settings, in *The Likeness, In the Woods* and *Faithful Place*.

**President’s College**

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Precedents for Life, November 1, 2010. Number 85 | The President’s College is a program of the University Libraries.
Discussions will include a look at the Irish backgrounds for each of the novels: Celtic historical background and 20th and 21st century Irish history, society and cultural changes. Readers are invited to argue for their own Irish favorites in three class discussions.

Kathleen McGrory is a specialist in the literature of the Middle Ages and in Irish literature. A former president of Hartford College for Women, she served as executive director of the Society for Values in Higher Education (Washington, DC) and as chair of the Department of Rhetoric, Language and Culture, at the University of Hartford. She now lives in Massachusetts and continues to teach on a part-time basis at Eastern Connecticut State University. She is well known to the President’s College crowd for her intellect, her humor, and her splendid teaching talent.

Kathleen McGrory on Irish Detective Novels, Mondays, November 22, November 29, December 6. 4:30-6:00. $65 (Fellows $45).

Tuesdays at Duncaster Lectures Slated for November, December

The President’s College and the Duncaster Retirement Community have joined forces for Tuesdays at Duncaster, with four distinguished speakers in the monthly dinner and lecture series.

On Tuesday, November 30, we will hear from Maria Esposito Frank, associate professor of Italian studies, and chair of the Foreign Languages Department. She recently conducted, to rave reviews, the Dante Book Club, a program of the President’s College, and she has taught for us several times in the past. Her particular area of expertise is the literature of the Italian Renaissance, and she recently co-edited a book, The Translator as Mediator of Cultures (Benjamins, 2010).

Tuesday, December 14, will be the date of the December talk – by Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford for the past eleven years, a distinguished educator with a particular passion for baseball. His interest in athletics has taken him to the upper reaches of the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletics Association, where he is known for his advocacy of academic standards and a balanced approach to scholarship and athletics. He has yet to announce the subject of his talk, but he says that he is thinking about a topic involving American baseball in a time of instant replay – along with American ideas of fair play.

Registration for each of the sessions in the Tuesdays at Duncaster series (including dinner and reception): $25 per session for Duncaster residents, $35 per session for others. All sessions will take place at Duncaster, 40 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield. Non-residents are welcome.
Please check relevant items and indicate amount paid at right.

☐ President's College Fellow, 2010-2011 (parking on campus, library privileges, discounts on courses, information about events). $100

☐ An Evening with Antony and Cleopatra. $35 ($30 Fellow)

☐ From Frozen North to Sweltering South. $65 ($45 Fellow)

☐ Irish Detective Novels. Kathleen McGrory. $65 ($45 Fellow)

☐ Fridays at the Mortensen (two sessions). $60 ($40 Fellow)
  ☐ Hartt Symphony Orchestra. Nov. 5. $40 ($30 Fellow)
  ☐ Furniture Conservation. Nicholas Kotula. Dec. 10. $40 ($30 Fellow)

Tuesdays at Duncaster

☐ Maria Esposito Frank. Nov. 30. $35 ($25 Duncaster Resident)


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