



February/March 2012

# CCNY Literary Updates

*Literary Events & News*

Spring Series \* Publications & Reviews \* News \* Opportunities for Writers \* Readings & Events  
p. 1 pp. 2-3 pp. 4-5 p.6 pp. 7-11

## Spring Series

### The MFA Reading Series

*Students, faculty, and alumni read on Friday evenings once a month*

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

All readings are at Bar 82 (136 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave between 9<sup>th</sup> St & St. Mark's Place) and begin at 6:30pm.  
Look out for emails from [CCityLit@gmail.com](mailto:CCityLit@gmail.com) regarding themes and submission deadlines.

### The Graduate English Masters Series

*From Student to Professional*

Wednesday, February 22,  
7:00pm  
Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

Pursuing a Career in Academia  
CCNY Professor Renata Miller shares best practices for pursuing a job in academia. \*Co-sponsored by the Simon H. Rifkind Center

Monday, April 2, 7pm  
7:00pm  
Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

Literary Agent Mollie Glick  
Mollie Glick (Foundry Literary + Media) shares tips on finding & approaching a literary agent, with special emphasis on crafting a strong pitch letter. \*Co-sponsored by the Simon H. Rifkind Center

Questions? [CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com).

### The English Department Lecture Series

Thursday, February 23 Elizabeth Mazzola: "Goneril & Oswald: Shakespeare & the Early Modern Secretary"

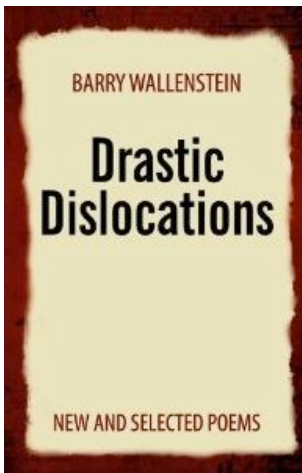
Thursday, March 8 Paul Oppenheimer: "Machiavelli and the Twenty-First Century."

Thursday, March 22 Keith Gandall: "Crises of Masculinity and War: A Scholarly Detective Story"

More lectures to come in April and May. All lectures begin at 12:30pm. Location TBA.

For more information or to add your event to the next update, contact Jessie Chaffee ([CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com))

## Publications & Reviews



### ***Drastic Dislocations* by Barry Wallenstein**

Professor emeritus Barry Wallenstein, a member of the Department for 40 plus years, and founder of City's Annual Spring Poetry Festival and the Poetry Outreach Center, has just come out with his 7th volume of poems, *Drastic Dislocations: New and Selected Poems*.

The late Bill Matthews, poet and former City College Professor, wrote about his poetry: "There is an off-handed canniness of phrasing about [his] poems, a way of registering both emotional freight and the time it takes to carry it, that identifies a Barry Wallenstein poem right away." Grace Schulman writes that this latest book offers "many pleasures, among them the capacity of joy despite the full knowledge of life's limitations." Barry Wallenstein reads on February 17th for the MFA Reading Series (see "Readings & Events").



### ***Meat Heart* by Melissa Broder**

MFA student Melissa Broder's second book of poems, *Meat Heart*, will be published by Publishing Genius Press in March. Of the collection, writer Dorothea Lasky says: "With her hallmark wit and brilliance, Melissa Broder has followed up her heralded *When You Say One Thing But Mean Your Mother* with *Meat Heart*, a book of poems that is at once apocalyptic, full of sorrow, and packed with images crystalline in their beauty and truth." You can read more about *Meat Heart* at [www.melissabroder.com](http://www.melissabroder.com).

There will be a publication party on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Cakeshop, and Melissa will be reading at Franklin Park on March 12 and with MFA alum Paula Bomer at WORD Bookstore on March 15 (see "Readings & Events").



### ***Sister Stop Breathing* by Chiara Barzini**

MFA alum Chiara Barzini's collection of short fictions, *Sister Stop Breathing*, was published by Calamari Press in January. Jonathan Ames describes the stories as "smashed mirrored jewels, which we look into, recognize ourselves and others, then look closely at again and realize we're staring at the delicate close markings of a flower." Gary Shteyngart writes, "The best thing to come out of Italy since espresso... [*Sister Stop Breathing*] opens your eyes and quickens your heart just as fast." Many of the 39 stories are paired with Cal A. Mari's collage art. Read more at [www.chiarabarzini.com](http://www.chiarabarzini.com).

Chiara reads at Franklin Park on February 13 (see "Readings & Events").



### **Elaine Equi in *The Best American Poetry 2012***

CCNY Poetry instructor Elaine Equi's poem, "A Story Begins," will be included in the *The Best American Poetry 2012* anthology, guest edited by Mark Doty. The poem was originally published in *New American Writing* ([www.newamericanwriting.com](http://www.newamericanwriting.com)).

## Publications & Reviews (cont.)

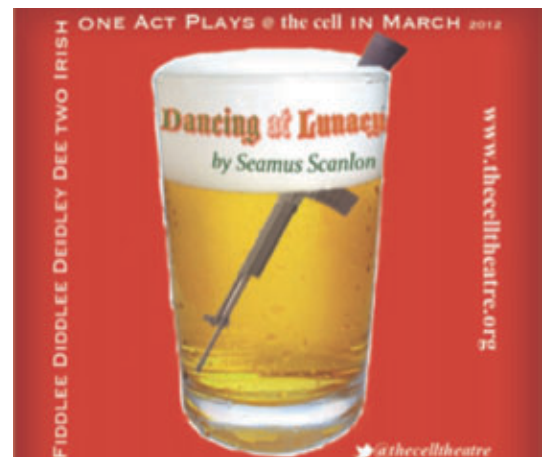
### CCNY Student/Alumni Publications in Literary Journal & Magazines

- ❖ MFA alum **Maryam Alikhani's** poem, "Celastrus Scandens," appears in the online magazine, *esque*.
- ❖ MFA student **Keisha-Gaye Anderson's** poem, "Witness," currently appears in *The Mom Egg*. Keisha's new blog, *The Door*, covers arts, culture, film, and literature.
- ❖ MFA alum **Jaime Shearn Coan's** poetry appears in the *L.E.S. Review* and *The Portland Review*.
- ❖ MFA alum **Laurel Kallen's** poem, "Shopping Trip," will appear in the Spring 2012 issue of *Atlanta Review*. Her review of Professor Paul Oppenheimer's volume of poetry, *In Times of Danger*, appears in the Winter 2012 edition of *Pleiades*.
- ❖ MFA alum **Seamus Scanlon's** *Overlooking Galway Bay* was published in *Narrative Magazine* and his story *My Beautiful Brash Beastly Belfast* won *Gemini Magazine's* short story contest.
- ❖ MFA student **Pamela Stenberg's** story, *Tea for Mommy*, appears in issue #26, the "Hearsay" issue, of the online journal *This Great Society is Going Smash*.
- ❖ MFA student **Rachael Warmington's** poetry appears in the most recent issue of *The Tower Journal*.

### On Stage: Seamus Scanlon's *Dancing at Lunacy*

MFA alum Seamus Scanlon's one-act play, *Dancing at Lunacy*, will be performed alongside Larry Kirwin's *Blood* at the Cell Theater on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings in March. *Dancing at Lunacy* was developed in a drama workshop that Seamus took while a student in the MFA Program. Set in 1984, Belfast, the fictionalized story centers on an IRA internal security investigation.

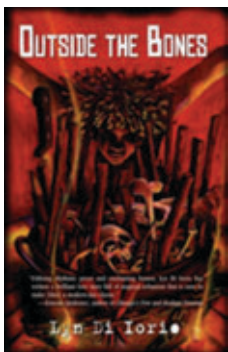
Read more about the play and purchase tickets at [www.thecelltheatre.org/theirishcellmar2012](http://www.thecelltheatre.org/theirishcellmar2012) (use the code "seamus" to get \$2 off the \$12 ticket price).



### Pushcart Prize Nomination for CCNY MFA Student

CCNY MFA student Mike Dressel's story, "All Apologies," which originally appeared in *metazen*, was nominated for a 2011 Pushcart Prize. You can read the story at [www.metazen.ca/?p=8819](http://www.metazen.ca/?p=8819)

### Praise for Lyn Di Iorio's *Outside the Bones*



Professor Lyn Di Iorio's *Outside the Bones*, published this past fall, was named the Best Latino Debut Novel by Marcela Landres, who says of the book: "If a novel were like a Latina, it would be *Outside the Bones*: alluring, with deep roots in the earth but permeable boundaries to the supernatural."

Professor Di Iorio was selected by LatinoStories.com as #2 among the 2012 Top Ten "New" Latino Authors to Watch (and Read). The editors of the site wrote, "Sometimes it's impossible to tell whether a book is an author's first. And in this case, Lyn Di Iorio writes as if she has a dozen novels to her credit. There is an appealing darkness to this novel as it draws the reader into a world of black magic."

## News

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reading of *The Adventures of Mao on the Long March*

*Frederic Tuten addresses the crowd at The Jane Hotel*

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, over 400 people gathered at The Jane Hotel for a marathon reading of CCNY Professor emeritus Frederic Tuten's novel, *The Adventures of Mao on the Long March*. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the publication of Tuten's first novel. The afternoon was a memorable and moving tribute to the novel and its author. The more than 60 readers included CCNY Professor Linsey Abrams; alumni Oscar Hijuelos, Ernesto Quiñonez, Walter Mosley, Douglas Light, and Iris Smyles; as well as A.M. Homes, Lydia Davis, Wayne Koestenbaum, Deborah Eisenberg, and Wallace Shawn. You can read more about the event at [www.maomathon.com](http://www.maomathon.com).

Frederic Tuten earned his undergraduate degree at City College, where he later taught and, for 15 years, served as the Director of the CCNY Graduate Program in Creative Writing.

### MFA Alumni Launch New Literary Journals

CCNY alumni have founded two new literary journals, *Lyre Lyre* and *The Poydras Review*. *Lyre Lyre*, created by alum Gregory Crosby with another poet, Jillian Brall, just celebrated its second issue, which includes work by CCNY Lecturer Pamela Laskin and alum David King. *Lyre Lyre* features visual art, and video and audio poems. Visit <http://lyrelyre.com> to read the journal and submit your work.

*Poydraw Review*, founded by alum Sarah Rae Fruchnicht, publishes poetry, art, fiction, nonfiction, and theory using a variety of mediums, including an online blog, a biannual print journal, and ebooks. The mission of the journal is to help gifted and emerging authors and artists add their voices to the creative community. Read *Poydras Review* and submit your work at [www.poydrasreview.com](http://www.poydrasreview.com).



Lyre Lyre



Poydras Review

## News (cont.)

### **The English Department's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lecture Series**

Last year, the English Department launched a lecture series designed to provide an on-campus forum in which full-time faculty in the CCNY English department could share their critical scholarly work with their colleagues and students. On February 23, Elizabeth Mazzola will kick off this year's series with a discussion of "Goneril and Oswald: Shakespeare and the Early Modern Secretary." On March 8, Paul Oppenheimer – whose book, *Machiavelli: A Life Beyond Ideology*, recently had its U.S. release – will present on "Machiavelli and the Twenty-First Century." On March 22, Keith Gandal will discuss "Crises of Masculinity and War: A Scholarly Detective Story."

The spring series will also include talks by Renata Miller, Carla Cappetti, and Joshua Wilner – stay tuned for information about those, and see "Readings & Events" for more details.

### **Update: Word Up Community Bookshop to Remain Open**

Word Up, the community bookshop in Washington Heights founded by MFA alum Veronica Liu, will remain open through May 2012. With support from the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, the volunteer collective behind Word Up signed an agreement with the landlord in January to keep the store open.

In addition to distributing books, the bookshop hosts events almost every evening, including readings, film screenings, music concerts, theater productions, art shows, and educational workshops. To read about upcoming events and ways that you can help support Word Up, visit [www.wordupbooks.com](http://www.wordupbooks.com).



### **English Student Awarded Prestigious Fellowship**

Graduating English major Jeannette Jackson was chosen as one of 25 students nationwide to receive the Woodrow Wilson-Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color, created to recruit, support, and retain individuals of color as public education teachers and administrators. Jackson says that the fellowship will allow her to "live out my passion for teaching every day." Nicole Caldwell, a Political Science and Black Studies major at City College, was also selected as a Fellow.

### **Spring Dramatic Reading Series at CCNY**



The undergraduate club English Students Voice is organizing a Dramatic Reading Series in the tradition of Public Radio International's "Selected Shorts." The event, scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, is designed to merge the talents of undergraduate and graduate creative writers and the CCNY Theater Department, and will consist of entertaining interpretations of original literary works. Be it poetry, autobiographical fiction, or sci-fi sonnets, the

Dramatic Reading Series is meant to bring literature back to its storytelling roots. The mission of English Students Voice is "to foster an environment of like-minded people passionate about literature and creative writing...and to give book-lovers a voice on the CCNY campus." You can read more about the club at <http://englishstudentsvoiceccny.wordpress.com>.

## Opportunities for Writers

**The National Black Writers Conference at Medgar Evers College, 3/29-4/1:** This annual conference, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, provides writers, scholars, literary professionals, students, and the general public with a forum for engaging in conversations, panel discussions, readings, workshops, and performances. This year's conference focuses on themes related to migration, cultural memory, popular culture, and the natural environment. Visit [www.nationalblackwritersconference.org](http://www.nationalblackwritersconference.org) for more information and to register.

**EARSHOT Seeking Readers:** The EARSHOT reading series is dedicated to the work and presence of the most gifted and exciting emerging writers in the greater New York City area. The series is currently open to MFA submissions for the Spring 2012 season. For more information and to submit: [www.earshotnyc.com](http://www.earshotnyc.com).

### February/March Writing Competitions and Contests by Deadline (*complete list at [www.pw.org/grants](http://www.pw.org/grants)*)

- **2/15, Georgetown Review Press Poetry Manuscript Contest:** \$1000 & publication for a poetry collection. \$20 entry fee. [www.georgetowncollege.edu/georgetownreview](http://www.georgetowncollege.edu/georgetownreview)
- **2/17, The Poetry Foundation's Emily Dickinson First Book Award:** \$10,000 & pub (Graywolf Press) for first poetry collection by a U.S. poet age forty and older. No fee. [www.poetryfoundation.org/foundation/awards](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/foundation/awards)
- **2/18, Stacherone Books Prize for Innovative Fiction:** \$1500 & publication of a novel, short story collection, or work of hybrid prose. Up to 400pp. \$35 entry fee. [www.stacherone.com/prize.htm](http://www.stacherone.com/prize.htm)
- **2/28, Fence Books Modern Poets Series:** \$1000 & pub for a poetry collection. \$28 fee. [www.fenceportal.org](http://www.fenceportal.org)
- **2/28, Fourth Genre Michael Steinberg Essay Prize:** \$1000/pub for essay. \$20 fee. [www.msupress.msu.edu/journals/fg](http://www.msupress.msu.edu/journals/fg)
- **2/28, The Ledge Fiction Award:** \$1000 & publication for a short story. \$12 fee. [www.theledgemagazine.com](http://www.theledgemagazine.com)
- **2/28, Wag's Review Winter Writers' Contest:** \$1000/pub for poem/short story/essay. \$20 fee. [www.wagsrevue.com](http://www.wagsrevue.com)
- **2/29, Glimmer Train Short Story Award for New Writers:** \$1200 & publication for a short story by a writer whose fiction has not appeared in a print publication with a circulation of over 5,000. \$15 fee. [www.glimmertrain.org](http://www.glimmertrain.org)
- **2/29, Omnidawn Publishing Chapbook Competition:** \$1000/pub for poetry chap. \$15 fee. [www.omnidawn.com](http://www.omnidawn.com)
- **2/29, Tupelo Press Snowbound Chapbook Award:** \$1000 & pub for poetry chapbook. \$23 fee. [www.tupelopress.org](http://www.tupelopress.org)
- **3/1, Atlanta Review International Poetry Competition:** \$1000 & pub for poetry. \$5 fee. [www.atlantareview.com](http://www.atlantareview.com)
- **3/1, Lotus Press Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award:** \$500 & pub for a poetry collection by an African American poet. No entry fee. [www.lotuspress.org](http://www.lotuspress.org)
- **3/1, The Pinch Literary Awards:** \$1000/\$1500 & pub for a poem/short story. \$20 fee. [www.thepinchjournal.com](http://www.thepinchjournal.com)
- **3/1, St. Petersburg Review Poetry Contest:** \$1000 & pub. \$20 fee. [www.stpetersburgreview.com](http://www.stpetersburgreview.com)
- **3/1, James Jones Literary Society First Novel Fellowship:** \$10,000 and a selection published in *Provincetown Arts* for a U.S. writer who has not published a novel. \$25 fee. [www.wilkes.edu/pages/1159.asp](http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/1159.asp)
- **3/1, Writers at Work Fellowship Competition:** \$1000 and pub in *Quarterly West* for a poem, short story or novel excerpt, or essay for writers who have not yet published a book. \$20 fee. [www.writersatwork.org](http://www.writersatwork.org)
- **3/2, Symphony Space Stella Kupferberg Memorial Short Story Prize:** \$1000 for a short story on the theme "Object of Desire.": \$25 fee. [www.symphonyspace.org](http://www.symphonyspace.org)
- **3/10, Colorado Review Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction:** \$2000 & pub. \$15 fee. <http://nelliganprize.colostate.edu>
- **3/15 Carolina Wren Press Doris Bakwin Award:** \$1000 & pub for short story collection, novel, or memoir by a woman. \$20 fee. [www.carolinawrenpress.org](http://www.carolinawrenpress.org)
- **3/15, Bellingham Review Literary Awards:** \$1000 & pub for poetry/fiction/nonfiction. \$18 fee. [www.bhreview.org](http://www.bhreview.org)
- **3/15, Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation:** \$1000 for a poem. \$10 fee. [www.torhouse.org](http://www.torhouse.org)
- **3/15, Enizagam Literary Awards:** \$1000 & pub for poems/short story. \$20 fee. <http://enizagam.org>
- **3/15, Tusculum Review Writing Contest:** \$1000/pub for poem/short story. \$15 fee. [www.tusculum.edu/tusculumreview](http://www.tusculum.edu/tusculumreview)
- **3/30, South Loup Review Creative Nonfiction Contest:** \$1000 & pub for an essay or a memoir in lyric and experimental forms. \$20 fee. <http://colum.edu/southloopreview>
- **4/1, The Coffin Factory Poetry Contest:** \$100 & pub. \$5 fee. <http://thecoffinfactory.com/poetry-contest>
- **4/2, Ploughshares Emerging Writer's Contest:** \$1000 & pub for poem/story/essay by writers who have not published in the genre. \$20 fee. [www.pshares.org/submit/emerging-writers-contest.cfm](http://www.pshares.org/submit/emerging-writers-contest.cfm)

## Readings & Events



English Department Events

MFA Reading Series

Rifkind Center Events

Masters Series (co-sponsored by Rifkind Center)

Readings by CCNY Faculty, Students, & Alumni

**Wednesday, February 1**  
6:00-8:00pm  
The Cohen Library  
The City College of New York

**2nd Annual Black Studies Fine Art Exhibition Panels: Artists on Their Art**  
Opening and reception of this art exhibit organized as a part of Black History Month at CCNY. See the exhibition and join the artists for a discussion of their work.

**Thursday, February 2**  
12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

**Pizza and Film Thursdays**  
Screening of "A Night at the Opera" (1935). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

**Thursday, February 2**  
6:30pm  
The Red Horse Café  
497 6th Ave. @12th St., Brooklyn

**Jaime Shearn Coan at the Red Horse Café**  
MFA alum Jaime Shearn Coan reads with Ken L. Walker in the POD Reading Series at the Red Horse Café in Park Slope.

**Thursday, February 2**  
7:00pm  
Housing Works Bookstore Cafe  
126 Crosby St., NYC

***The Coffin Factory's Issue Two Launch***  
Launch party and reading for issue two of *The Coffin Factory*, the "magazine for people who love books" founded by former MFA students Randy Rosenthal, Laura Isaacman, Brendan Kiely and Jessie Chaffee. Readings by Adam Wilson, Justin Taylor, Jeannie Vanasco, and Carlos Labbé.

**Friday, February 3**  
6:00-10:00pm  
Bar 82  
136 2nd Ave. @9th St.

**Graduate English Semester Kick-Off Party**  
Stop by Bar 82 to catch up with friends and to toast the beginning of the spring semester with current students, new students, and alumni. We will be in the front from 6-7pm, and in the "back room" beginning at 7pm.

**Friday, February 3**  
7:00-9:00pm  
Lolita Bar  
266 Broome St. @Allen St., NYC

***Lyre Lyre Issue Two Poetry Reading/Party***  
A poetry reading/party to celebrate issue two of *Lyre Lyre*, the online poetry journal founded by Jillian Brall and CCNY alum Gregory Crosby. Readers will include CCNY alum David King, Erika Lutzner, Seth Graves, Leah Umansky, and more. (See "News" for more on *Lyre Lyre*.)

**Sunday, February 5**  
4:00pm  
Lounge at Hudson View Gardens  
116 Pinehurst Ave. @W. 183rd  
NYC

**Douglas Light at the Sunday Best Reading Series**  
CCNY alum Douglas Light reads with Jonathan Baumbach and Janice Eidus in the Lounge at Hudson View Gardens in Washington Heights. A suggested donation of \$7 includes the reading and reception, at which refreshments will be served.

**Tuesday, February 7**  
6:00-8:00pm  
The Cohen Library  
The City College of New York

**2nd Annual Black Studies Fine Art Exhibition Panels: Artists on Their Art**  
Art exhibit organized as a part of Black History Month at CCNY. See the exhibition and join the artists for a discussion of their work.

## Readings & Events (cont.)

**Tuesday, February 7**  
8:00pm  
Cameo Gallery  
93 North 6th St., Brooklyn

**David King at Cameo Gallery**  
Alum David King performs with his band, David King + The Confirmed Bachelors. More info: [www.facebook.com/events/281349928590021](http://www.facebook.com/events/281349928590021)

**Thursday, February 9**  
TBA

**Writer/Actor Mixer for Dramatic Reading Series**  
The undergraduate club, English Students Voice, is organizing a Dramatic Reading Series. The event, scheduled for March 15th, is designed to merge the talents of CCNY's creative writers with the CCNY Theater Department. On 2/9, writers whose work has been accepted meet with selected actors.

**Thursday, February 9**  
12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

**Pizza and Film Thursdays**  
Screening of "Brother to Brother" (2004). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

**Friday, February 10**  
7:00-9:00pm  
McNally Jackson Books  
52 Prince St., NYC

**David Unger Reading at McNally Jackson**  
David Unger reads from his book, *Para mi, eres divina*. He will be introduced by Jaime Manrique.

**Friday, February 10**  
7:30pm  
Mustard Beak  
1670 Gates Ave., #102, Brooklyn

**Gregory Crosby Reading for Moonshot**  
MFA alum Gregory Crosby will be reading with other poetry and prose writers for *Moonshot's* Cavity Search Party. More info: <http://bit.ly/xwqtUs>

**Monday, February 13**  
8:00pm  
Franklin Park Bar  
618 St. John's Place, Brooklyn

**Chiara Barzini Reading at Franklin Park**  
MFA alum Chiara Barzini (whose collection of short stories, *Sister Stop Breathing*, was recently published – see "Publications") reads at the Franklin Park Reading Series, along with Ben Marcus, Martha Southgate, Kate Zambreno, and Will Snider. The evening's theme is "Unconventional Love."

**Tuesday, February 14**  
1:00-7:00pm  
The Great Hall in Shepard Hall  
The City College of New York

**"Confronting the Carceral State II" Symposium**  
Symposium on the American prison-industrial complex with the Innocence Project, two exonorees and Khalil Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Part of Black History Month at CCNY.

**Thursday, February 16**  
12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

**Pizza and Film Thursdays**  
Screening of "Rushmore" (1998). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

**Friday, February 17**  
12:00-2:00  
Shepard Hall 250, CCNY

**Reading and Book Signing of Sugar Hill**  
Author and City College alum Terry Baker Mulligan reads from and signs copies of her memoir about growing up in Sugar Hill during the '50s & '60s.

**Friday, February 17**  
6:30pm  
Bar 82  
136 2nd Ave. @9th St.

**MFA Reading Series: "If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On"**  
CCNY MFA students and alumni and headliner Barry Wallenstein read work on the theme "If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On," accompanied by musicians. See "Publications" for information on Barry Wallenstein's recent poetry collection, *Drastic Dislocations: New and Selected Poems*.

## Readings & Events (cont.)

- Tuesday, February 21**  
6:00-8:00pm  
The Cohen Library, CCNY
- 2nd Annual Black Studies Fine Art Exhibition Panels: Artists on Their Art**  
Art exhibit organized as a part of Black History Month at CCNY. See the exhibition and join the artists for a discussion of their work.
- Wednesday, February 22**  
7:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)  
The City College of New York
- Masters Series Event: Pursuing a Job in Academia**  
CCNY Professor Renata Miller shares best practices for pursuing a job in academia. Topics will include building a resumé, researching opportunities, writing a strong cover letter, and the interview process.  
*\*Co-sponsored by the Simon H. Rifkind Center*
- Thursday, February 23**  
12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)
- Pizza and Film Thursdays**  
Screening of "La Haine (Hate)"(1996). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.
- Thursday, February 23**  
12:30pm  
TBA
- The English Department Lecture Series: Elizabeth Mazzola**  
Professor Elizabeth Mazzola discusses "Goneril and Oswald: Shakespeare and the Early Modern Secretary." (See "News" for more on the lecture series)
- Thursday, February 23**  
4:00-5:30pm  
TBA
- A Reading and Conversation with poet Tom Pow**  
Tom Pow, one of Scotland's foremost contemporary poets, reads his poetry and discusses his writing and his career with CCNY Lecturer Michelle Valladares.
- Friday, February 24**  
7:00pm  
Aaron Davis Hall, CCNY
- Dance: Through the African Diaspora**  
A dance performance in honor of Black History Month with KowTeff African Dance Co. & Asase Yaa African-American Dance Theatre Co. Tickets: \$20.00
- Friday, February 24**  
7:30pm  
NAC Ballroom, CCNY
- George Brandon and The Blue Unity Orchestra**  
Legacy Concert featuring the Panamanian-born jazz composer Jorge Sylvester and the Afro-Caribbean Experimental Collective.
- Sunday, February 26**  
10:00am & 1:00pm  
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church  
134<sup>th</sup> Street @7<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Professor Gordon Thompson Lecture and Panel Discussion**  
Dr. Gordon Thompson discusses assimilationist impulse among African American literary figures. Reception and panel discussion to follow. Lecture, 10 - 11 a.m.; panel discussion in the undercroft, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Monday, February 27**  
5:30-7:30pm  
Aaron Davis Hall  
The City College of New York
- Ben Vereen on Bert Williams**  
Actor Ben Vereen, who portrayed "Chicken George" in the historic television mini series "Roots," discusses blackface minstrelsy and his personal contribution to this controversial theatrical phenomenon with a screening of his portrayal of Bert Williams, the early 20th Century vaudevillian.
- Tuesday, February 28**  
6:00-8:00pm  
The Cohen Library, CCNY
- 2nd Annual Black Studies Fine Art Exhibition Panels: Artists on Their Art**  
Art exhibit organized as a part of Black History Month at CCNY. See the exhibition and join the artists for a discussion of their work.
- Wednesday, February 29**  
6:30-8:30pm  
CUNY Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Ave. @34<sup>th</sup> St., NYC
- Turnstyle Reading Series**  
CCNY Lecturer Michelle Valladares and Ben Lerner read alongside CUNY MFA students Masha Udensiva-Brenner (CCNY), Nathan Schiller (CCNY), Katie Byrum, Kim Davies, and Sean Hembrick. The Turnstyle series features faculty and students of the four CUNY graduate creative writing programs.

## Readings & Events (cont.)

### Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays in March

The Cell Theater  
338 W. 23rd St., NYC

### Performances of Seamus Scanlon's play *Dancing At Lunacy*

MFA alum Seamus Scanlon's play, *Dancing At Lunacy*, is performed alongside Larry Kirwin's *Blood* at the Cell Theater. Purchase tickets at [www.thecelltheatre.org/theirishcellmar2012](http://www.thecelltheatre.org/theirishcellmar2012) and use the code "seamus" to get \$2 off the \$12 ticket price. (Read more about the play in "Publications.")

### Thursday, March 1-Saturday, March 3

Chicago

### The AWP Conference in Chicago

The annual AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Conference and Bookfair is in Chicago this year. Graduate students who are planning to attend, contact Jessie Chaffee ([CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com)) who is helping to organize a CCNY contingent.

### Thursday, March 1

### Deadline to apply for June Graduation

Apply at: [www1.cny.cuny.edu/current/registrar/application-for-graduation.cfm](http://www1.cny.cuny.edu/current/registrar/application-for-graduation.cfm)

### Thursday, March 1

12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

### Pizza and Film Thursdays

Screening of "Tabloid" (2011). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

### Thursday, March 8

12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

### Pizza and Film Thursdays

Screening of "Rango" (2011). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

### Thursday, March 8

12:30pm  
TBA

### *The English Department Lecture Series: Paul Oppenheimer*

Professor Paul Oppenheimer – whose book, *Machiavelli: A Life Beyond Ideology*, recently had its U.S. release – will present on "Machiavelli and the Twenty-First Century." (See "News" for more on the lecture series.)

### Sunday, March 11

4:00pm  
Cake Shop  
152 Ludlow St., NYC

### *Meat Heart Release Party*

Release party for MFA student Melissa Broder's second book of poems, *Meat Heart*. (Read about *Meat Heart* in "News")

### Monday, March 12

8:00pm  
Franklin Park Bar  
618 St. John's Place, Brooklyn

### Melissa Broder Reading at Franklin Park

MFA student Melissa Broder reads at the Franklin Park Reading Series.

### Thursday, March 15

12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

### Pizza and Film Thursdays

Screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

### Thursday, March 15

TBA

### The CCNY Dramatic Reading Series

This Dramatic Reading, organized by English Students Voice, is designed to merge the talents of CCNY's undergraduate and graduate creative writers with the CCNY Theater Department. Inspired by PRI's (Public Radio International) "Selected Shorts", the evening will consist of entertaining interpretations of original literary works.

## Readings & Events (cont.)

**Thursday, March 15**  
6:30-8:30pm  
CUNY Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Ave. @34th St., NYC

**Turnstyle Reading Series**  
CUNY faculty Kimiko Hahn and Patrick McGrath read alongside MFA students Coriel O'Shea Gaffney (CCNY), Kate Lutzner (CCNY), Meghan Daniels, Chris Slaughter, Katie Blakely, David Appelgate, and Sarah Stetson.

**Thursday, March 15**  
Time TBA  
Housing Works Bookstore Cafe  
126 Crosby St. @Houston, NYC

**Fiction Magazine Reading at Housing Works**  
Recent contributors to *Fiction* read their work.

**Thursday, March 15**  
7:00pm  
WORD Bookstore  
126 Franklin St., Brooklyn

**Paula Bomer & Melissa Broder Reading at WORD Bookstore**  
MFA student Melissa Broder and alum Paula Bomer read with John Dermot Woods and Edward Mullany.

**Monday, March 19**  
6:00pm  
Housing Works Bookstore Cafe  
126 Crosby St. @Houston, NYC

**Open House for the CCNY MFA in Creative Writing Program**

**Thursday, March 22**  
12:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)

**Pizza and Film Thursdays**  
Screening of "Quest for Fire" (1981). Free pizza. Presented by the Simon H. Rifkind Center.

**Thursday, March 22**  
12:30pm  
TBA

**The English Department Lecture Series: Keith Gandal**  
Professor Keith Gandal discusses "Crises of Masculinity and War: A Scholarly Detective Story." (See "News" for more on the lecture series.)

**Friday, March 23**  
7:00pm  
56 Bogart St., Brooklyn

**Melissa Broder Reading at Bogart at Studio 10**  
MFA student Melissa Broder reads with Mark McKee.

**Monday, March 26**  
5:00pm

**Deadline to Submit for the 2011-2012 English Awards**  
Submit your work in the English Office (NAC 6/219) by 5:00pm. The booklet with descriptions of this year's awards will be available in mid-February.

**Tuesday, March 27**  
6:30-8:30pm  
CUNY Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Ave. @34th St., NYC

**Turnstyle Reading Series**  
CUNY faculty Nicole Cooley and Meera Nair read with MFA students Nicole Treska (CCNY), Linda Lui (CCNY), Krystal Sital, Cecilia Donohue, Jess Grover, Katie Assef, Deborah Fried-Rubin, and Jason N. Fishedick.

**Monday, April 1**  
7:00pm  
The Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316)  
The City College of New York

**Masters Series Event: Literary Agent Mollie Glick**  
Mollie Glick (Foundry Literary + Media) shares tips on finding & approaching a literary agent, with special emphasis on crafting a strong pitch letter.  
\*Co-sponsored by the Simon H. Rifkind Center

For more information or to add your event to the next update, contact Jessie Chaffee:  
[CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:CityMFACoordinator@gmail.com)