PATRICK CASSIDY    
Co-Sponsor: Theatre, Music

The Department of Theatre has contracted Patrick Cassidy for a six-week residency in 2018 to direct our production of Jesus Christ Superstar, as well as offering a course in Acting for the Camera. He will work closely with 100 performers, designers, technicians and musicians from the Departments of Theatre, Dance and the School of Music. The opportunity for the students to share the creative process with such a gifted and experienced professional artist is immeasurable. He will also host a conversation with the community with expected attendance of 75. Patrick Cassidy is a celebrated film and Broadway star. The son of legendary actors Shirley Jones and Jack Cassidy, he has portrayed leading roles in feature films and on television and is an established star from Los Angeles to Broadway.

DATES: February 11, - April 8, 2018
HOST: Jay Berkow (jay.berkow@wmich.edu)

ZACK ROGOW
Co-Sponsors: World Languages & Literatures, English, University Center for the Humanities

Poet, playwright, and translator Zack Rogow will visit WMU on February 22, 2018. Rogow, who has English degrees from City University of New York and Yale, teaches in the University of Anchorage low-residency MFA writing program. He has been recognized for his translations from French and Japanese and for his own writing. His co-authored dramatic work, Colette Uncensored (a one-woman show on the French writer), had a five-month run in San Francisco and Berkeley. Rogow will give a talk at 1 p.m. in 3025 Brown Hall titled "Falling in Love with a Book: Literary Translation as an Intimate Relationship." At 7 p.m. he will give a reading in the University Center for the Humanities.

DATES: February 21 - 23, 2017
HOST: Molly Lynde-Recchia (molly.lynde-recchia@wmich.edu)

JEROME ROTHENBERG
Co-Sponsors: World Languages & Literatures, Spanish, English, University Center for the Humanities

Jerome Rothenberg is one of the most important American poets with over seventy published books. He is the foremost voice of ethnopoetics, a movement that seeks inspiration in the traditions of indigenous and developing cultures around the world. He is the editor many anthologies, including the influential, five-volume Poems for the Millennium, which brings together writing from all corners of the world. In addition, he is also a translator known for his own translations of Spanish, German, and Hebrew.

While at WMU, Rothenberg will give a reading of his own work and talk about ways that we as contemporary people might draw inspiration and knowledge from other cultures. He will visit classes to speak with students in multiple departments and language sections.

DATE: April 4, 2018
HOST: Jeffrey Angles (jeffrey.angles@wmich.edu)
Established in 1960, the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program (VSAP) significantly contributes to the intellectual life of Western Michigan University. This program provides funds for academic units to bring distinguished scholars and artists to campus. These visitors meet with faculty and students in their fields and address the community at large. Since the program began, it has supported over 600 visits by scholars and artists representing more than 50 academic disciplines. Following are biographical sketches of the scholars and artists participating in the 2017-18 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

Dates are subject to change. For information about specific topics, detailed schedules for each scholar or artist, and specific times and locations of events, please contact the corresponding host or the sponsoring departments as outlined below.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Elke Schoffers, Chair
Dr. Joan Herrington
Ms. Wendy Kershner
Ms. Tonya Dean

RUTH MAZO KARMAS
Co-Sponsor: History, Medieval Studies

Ruth Mazo Karras is professor of history at the University of Minnesota. A leading historian of gender, women, and sexuality in Middle Ages, her award-winning books have treated male adolescence, prostitution, “unmarriages,” and notions of sexuality. Her current work focuses on male friendship in the Middle Ages in military and non-military contexts. She has played a pivotal role in promoting gender studies and medieval studies in North America and is currently vice-president (and president-elect) of the Medieval Academy of America. During her visit to WMU, she will hold small group discussions with graduate students and faculty in History and Medieval Studies and will deliver a public lecture. September 30th at 11:15am in Kirsch Auditorium at the Fetzer Center on “Thou Art The Man: King David and Medieval Masculinities” in conjunction with the Midwest Medieval History Conference.

DATES: September 28 – October 1, 2017
HOST: Robert Berkhofer (robert.berkhofer@wmich.edu)

SHAWN SHEEHY
Co-Sponsor: WMU Libraries Special Collections and Rare Book Department, Frostic School of Art, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Shawn Sheehy has a B.S. in Education from Valparaiso University, an A.A. in Graphic Design from Madison College, and an MFA in Book Arts from Columbia College Chicago. He has been teaching book art courses and workshops on the national level—primarily in paper making and paper engineering—since 2001. His broadside and artist book editions have been collected by numerous prestigious universities, including Stanford, Carnegie Mellon, University of Chicago, Library of Congress, UCLA, and Harvard. His pop-ups have been featured twice in both Hand Papermaking magazine and Vintage magazine. Sheehy’s trade pop-up book Welcome to the Neighborwood (a mass-market version of his artist book) was released in 2015, winning numerous awards. He’s currently at work on his next trade book—a mass-market version of his artist book Beyond the Sixth Extinction—and it will be released through Candlewick in Autumn 2018. Visit him at shawnsheehy.com.

DATES: October 5 - 8, 2017
HOST: Susan Steuer and Jeff Abshear (susan.steuer@wmich.edu; jeffrey.abshear@wmich.edu)

RUTH MAZO KARMAS
Co-Sponsor: History, Medieval Studies

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XU ZONGXUE
Co-Sponsor: Geography, Haenicke Institute for Global Education

Dr. Xu Zongxue is a Distinguished Professor and Deputy Dean, College of Water Sciences, Beijing Normal University, and Director, Beijing Key Laboratory of Urban Hydrological Cycle and Sponge City Technology. He is considered a national authority on China’s hydrology and water resources engineering, hydrologic modeling, and flood forecasting and mitigations. He has published 10 books, over 320 refereed publications, including 150 SCI articles in leading international journals such as Journal of Geographical Research, Water Resources Research, and PlosOne. He has received numerous awards from Australian, Chinese, German, and Japanese institutions for his excellence in both research and education. He will give lectures on urban floods, forecasting and adaptation in China.

DATES: September 29, 2017
HOST: Chansheng He (he@wmich.edu)

CHARLES MILLS
Co-Sponsors: Philosophy Department, WMU Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, Graduate Student Association of Philosophers (RSO)

Dr. Charles Mills is a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Mills began his academic career studying physics at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, before eventually pursuing graduate work in philosophy at the University of Toronto. His research interests include social and political philosophy, critical philosophy of race, African American philosophy, Marxism, and feminism. Most recently, he authored Black Rights/White Wrongs: The Critique of Racial Liberalism, published in 2017 by Oxford University Press. Please join us for Dr. Mills’ keynote presentation at the 11th annual WMU Graduate Philosophy Conference at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, at 157 Bernhard Center.

DATES: December 7 - 9, 2017
HOST: Dale Brown (dale.m.brown@wmich.edu)