John Updike led the most charmed life in the history of American letters. So why has his reputation slipped in recent years? Is Updike a major American writer worthy of his seat in the pantheon, or a master stylist hamstrung by “puffy lyricism” and “puerile misogyny,” as his critics charge?

THE GUESTS
Adam Begley is the author the acclaimed literary biography Updike. He has been a Guggenheim fellow and a fellow at the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Laura Miller is a co-founder of Salon.com, where she is currently a staff writer. She is the author of The Magician’s Book: A Skeptic’s Adventures in Narnia and editor of The Salon.com Reader’s Guide to Contemporary Authors.


Moderated by literature faculty member Benjamin Anastas

For more information visit www.bennington.edu.

PHOTOGRAPH BY IRVING PENN/CONDÉ NAST