

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS

# WRITERS READING

(BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS FACULTY AND GUESTS READING SERIES)

## January 5–13, 2012

---

**Major Jackson  
Phillip Lopate**

**Thursday, January 5**  
7:00 pm

**Major Jackson** is the author of three collections of poetry: *Holding Company*, *Hoops*, and *Leaving Saturn*. He has published poems and essays in numerous journals, including *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and *Tin House*. He is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize and a Whiting Writers' Award. He serves as the Poetry Editor of the Harvard Review.

**Phillip Lopate's** three most recent books are *Two Marriages*, a pair of novellas; *Notes on Sontag*; and *At the End of the Day: Selected Poems*. Books of nonfiction include *Waterfront: A Journey Around Manhattan*; *Getting Personal: Selected Writings*; *Totally, Tenderly, Tragically*; and *Against Joie de Vivre*. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

**Askold Melnyczuk  
Larissa Szporluk**

**Friday, January 6**  
7:00 pm

**Askold Melnyczuk's** latest novel, *The House of Widows*, was an Editor's Choice selection of the American Library Association's *Booklist*. His second, *Ambassador of the Dead*, was a Los Angeles Times Best book for 2002. His first, *What is Told*, was a New York Times Notable Book. He received a three-year fellowship from the Lila Wallace Foundation and numerous grants from the NEA for his work as editor of *AGNI*, which he founded in 1972. He is also founder of Arrowsmith Press.

**Larissa Szporluk** is the author of five books of poetry, including, *Embryos and Idiots*, *The Wind*, *Master Cherry*, *The Wind*, *Isolato*, and *Dark Sky Question*. Her most recent book, *Traffic with Macbeth*, was published in 2011. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

**Martha Cooley  
Bob Shacochis**

**Saturday, January 7**  
7:00 pm

**Martha Cooley's** first novel, *The Archivist* was a national bestseller and has appeared in translation in eleven languages. Her second novel, *Thirty-Three Swoons* was published in the U.S. and Italy. Her short fiction, nonfiction, and translations of poetry have appeared in numerous journals, including *A Public Space*, *AGNI*, and *Washington Square*.

**Bob Shacochis's** collection of stories, *Easy in the Islands*, received the 1985 National Book Award for First Fiction, and his novel, *Swimming in the Volcano*, was a finalist for the 1993 National Book Award. He has published two nonfiction books: *The Immaculate Invasion*, which chronicled the U.S. military's occupation of Haiti, and *Domesticity*, a collection of essays on food and love.

**Benjamin Anastas  
David Daniel**

**Sunday, January 8**  
7:00 pm

**Benjamin Anastas** is the author of two novels, *An Underachiever's Diary* and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*, and his memoir *Too Good To Be True* will be published in the spring of 2013. His essays, journalism, short fiction and reviews have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *GQ*, the *Yale Review* and *Bookforum*.

**David Daniel's** collections of poems include *Seven Star Bird*, for which he won the Levis Reading Prize; *The Quick and the Dead*; and his latest, *Ornaments and Other Assorted Love Songs*. He is a regular contributor to *The American Poetry Review* as well as *Harvard Review*, *AGNI*, *Post Road*, *Witness*, *Boston Review*, and *Ploughshares*, where he served as the poetry editor from 1992 to 2007.

**Sven Birkerts  
Tracy K. Smith**

**Monday, January 9**  
7:00 pm

**Sven Birkerts** has been editor of *AGNI* since July 2002. His most recent book is *The Other Walk*. His other books include *Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*; *Reading Life: Books for the Ages*; *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*; *Readings*; and *My Sky Blue Trades: Growing Up Counter in a Contrary Time*. He has received grants from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation. He is Director of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

**Tracy K. Smith** is the author of three books of poetry: *Life on Mars*, *Duende*, and *The Body's Question*. She is the recipient of the 2002 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a 2004 Rona Jaffe Writers Award, a 2005 Whiting Award, and the 2006 James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets.

**Alice Mattison  
Rachel Pastan**

**Wednesday, January 11**  
7:00 pm

**Alice Mattison's** new novel, *When We Argued All Night*, will be published in June 2012. Her other books include *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten In Brooklyn* and *In Case We're Separated*, a collection of connected stories. Mattison's earlier novels include *The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman*, *The Book Borrower*, and *Hilda and Pearl*. She is also the author of three earlier collections of stories and a collection of poems.

**Rachel Pastan** is the author of two novels, *Lady of the Snakes* and *This Side of Married*. Her short fiction has been published in *The Georgia Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Mademoiselle*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. Rachel teaches writing at Swarthmore College and writes the blog *Miranda* for the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia.

**Jill McCorkle  
Mark Wunderlich**

**Thursday, January 12**  
7:30 pm  
(note later start time)

**Jill McCorkle** is the author of nine books—four story collections and five novels—five of which have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books. Two of the stories in *Going Away Shoes*, her most recent book, were included in the Best American Short Stories Series. She is the winner of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North Carolina Award for Literature.

**Mark Wunderlich** is the author of *The Anchorage*, which received the Lambda Literary Award, *Voluntary Servitude*, and *The Earth Avails*, forthcoming. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program, and others. His poems, interviews, reviews and translations have appeared in *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence* and *Tin House*, and his poems are widely anthologized.

**David Gates  
James Wood**

**Friday, January 13**  
7:00 pm

**David Gates** is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, and a collection of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World*. His fiction, articles, and reviews have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, among others, and frequently in *Newsweek*, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He's received a Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award.

**James Wood's** reviews and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, and the *London Review of Books*. He is author of two essay collections on criticism as well as of the autobiographical novel *The Book Against God*. His most recent book is *How Fiction Works*. He has won the British Press Young Journalist of the Year Award, the Academy Award for Literature, and the National Magazine Award for Criticism by the American Society of Magazine Editors.

**All readings will be held in Tishman Auditorium at Bennington College**

**For more information, please contact 802-440-4452 or [writing@bennington.edu](mailto:writing@bennington.edu)**

Location on campus and event dates and times are subject to change • These events are FREE and open to the public • [www.bennington.edu](http://www.bennington.edu)