

MEDIA ALERT

June 19, 2006

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Photos available at <http://literary-arts.org/public/>

Literary Arts Announces the Portland Arts & Lectures 2006-2007 Series

Portland, Ore. - Portland Arts & Lectures is pleased to announce its twenty-third season of acclaimed writers and cultural figures giving original talks at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. For more information about these lectures and other special events, please visit www.literary-arts.org and watch for the Portland Arts & Lectures brochure due out in July.

Joan Didion, Thursday, October 5, 2006

Joan Didion is the author of five novels and eight books of nonfiction including *The Year of Magical Thinking*, which won the National Book Award in 2005 and chronicles the year following the death of her husband, writer John Gregory Dunne. (Didion and Dunne appeared together on the Portland Arts & Lectures stage in 1992.) Didion's collected nonfiction, *We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live*, will be published in September.

Frank Rich, Sunday, November 5, 2006

Frank Rich is an Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times* and the author of *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*, forthcoming in September. The book will be Rich's first collection of political writings and offer a provocative retelling of the stories of America since 9/11. Rich has also published a memoir, *Ghost Light*, and a collection of drama reviews, *Hot Seat: Theater Criticism for The New York Times, 1980-1993*.

Frank McCourt, Monday, November 20, 2006

Frank McCourt is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Angela's Ashes*, 'Tis and a new memoir, *Teacher Man*, which explores how 30 years of teaching high-school English in New York City shaped his career as a writer and storyteller.

Suzan-Lori Parks, Thursday, February 8, 2007

Suzan-Lori Parks was the first African-American woman to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize in theater for *Topdog/Underdog*, a darkly comic tale featuring two brothers with the adversarial names of Lincoln and Booth. Parks's other plays include *In the Blood*, *Venus* and *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*. She has written feature films, including *Girl 6*, which was directed by Spike Lee, and a novel, *Getting Mother's Body*.

Mary Gaitskill and George Saunders, Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mary Gaitskill is the author of two novels, most recently the 2005 National Book Award finalist, *Veronica*, and two books of short fiction, including the story upon which the film *Secretary* was based. George Saunders has published several collections of stories, including *In Persuasion Nation* and *Pastoralia*, a political novella, and *The New York Times* children's bestseller *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip*. Both authors regularly appear in *Harper's* and *The New Yorker*, as well as in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*.

Jonathan Lethem, Thursday, April 12, 2007

Jonathan Lethem has published nearly a dozen works of fiction, including *Motherless Brooklyn*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *The Fortress of Solitude*, which follows two boys, one black and one white, growing up as best friends in 1970s Brooklyn. Lethem's recent releases include the short-story collection *Men and Cartoons* and *The Disappointment Artist*, a book of essays. In 2005, he received a MacArthur "genius grant."

Series Tickets: Patron \$235 — Reserved \$165

General Admission \$120 — College Students/Seniors \$100

Order tickets by calling Literary Arts at 503.227.2583 or online at www.literary-arts.org.

Note: Tickets for single events go on sale in early September.

General Admission \$26; College student/Senior(60+) \$20; Youth \$5.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Stephen King, Thursday, November 2, 2006—A Benefit Event for Literary Arts

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall—1037 SW Broadway (at Main)

TICKETS: Gold \$60; Silver \$40; General \$30.

Open seating within sections. Benefit event—no discounts.

Scott Turow, Tuesday, November 14, 2006

First Congregational Church—1126 SW Park (between Main & Madison)

TICKETS: General \$12; College student/Senior(60+) \$10; Youth \$5.

David Sedaris, Sunday, April 22, 2007—A Benefit Event for Literary Arts

Keller Auditorium

TICKETS: Gold \$60; Silver \$40; General \$30.

Open seating within sections. Benefit event—no discounts.

Will Shortz, Thursday, May 10, 2007

First Congregational Church—1126 SW Park (between Main & Madison)

TICKETS: General \$25.

Portland Arts & Lectures is a program of **Literary Arts**, a statewide, nonprofit organization that promotes the importance of language as a means to express, explore and experience the world in which we live. The other programs of Literary Arts are the **Oregon Book Awards & Author Tour**, **Oregon Literary Fellowships**, **Poetry Downtown**, **Poetry in Motion**[®], **Writers in the Schools** and **Delve: Readers' Seminars**.

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