



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available at www.literary-arts.org/public/.

Poetry Downtown Presents Charles Simic

Portland, Ore. – Literary Arts is pleased to present **Charles Simic** reading and discussing his work in the final event of the 2007 Poetry Downtown series. Simic will appear on **Monday, April 9, 2007**, at **7:30 p.m.** at the **First Congregational Church** (1126 SW Park). Tickets are \$18 at www.literary-arts.org.

Charles Simic began writing poetry in high school when he discovered that one of his friends was “attracting the best-looking girls by writing them sappy love poems.” Throughout his career, Simic has stitched together poems with a playful lyricism that evokes this youthfulness. Since emigrating from Yugoslavia during World War II, he has published more than 60 books, including *The World Doesn’t End* (1989), winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and National Book Award finalists *Walking the Black Cat* (1996) and *The Voice at 3:00 a.m.* (2006). A two-time winner of the PEN International Translation Award, Simic has said that “poetry is not what is lost but what is retained in translation.” He has published four books of essays, most recently *Memory Piano* (2006).

Simic has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. A New Hampshire resident since 1973, he teaches at the University of New Hampshire.

This evening with Charles Simic is underwritten by **The Standard**, with additional support from Marylhurst University. The 2007 Poetry Downtown series is sponsored by Stoel Rives Litigation Group, Umpqua Bank and *Willamette Week*. For a schedule of Literary Arts events, please visit www.literary-arts.org.

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Poetry Downtown is a program of Literary Arts, a statewide, nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of Oregonians through language and literature. Other programs of Literary Arts are Oregon Book Awards, Oregon Literary Fellowships, Portland Arts & Lectures, Poetry in Motion®, Writers in the Schools and Delve: Readers’ Seminars. For more information about Literary Arts, please contact Barbara Verchot at 503.227.2583 or visit www.literary-arts.org.