



NEWS RELEASE

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USI's 12th annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat offers public events

The University of Southern Indiana's 12th annual Ropewalk Writers Retreat begins Sunday, June 11 in New Harmony, and although registration is closed, the week-long event offers the public several free evening readings by visiting writers and day-time lectures on writing as a craft. Jared Carter will hold a pre-conference public reading at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 10. All public readings will be held at the Atheneum and the Rapp-Maclure Granary; craft lectures will be held in the Barn Abbey.

Pre-conference reading

Jared Carter, poetry, 7 p.m., Saturday, June 10, the Rapp-Maclure Granary

Carter's first collection of poems, *Work, for the Night is Coming*, won the Walt Whitman Award for 1980. His second, *After the Rain*, received the Poets' Prize for 1995. His most recent book, *Les Barricades Mysterieuses*, a sequence of villanelles, was published in 1999 by the Cleveland State University Poetry Center. In addition, Carter has published seven chapbooks of poems, including *Pincushion's Strawberry* and *Situation Normal*. His work has appeared in such magazines as *Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *TriQuarterly*, and *The Iowa Review*. Carter was a recipient of the Indiana Governor's Arts Award in 1985 and has twice served as writer-in-residence at Purdue University. His fellowships include grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Carter's appearance at RopeWalk marks the beginning of a planned series of appearances by Hoosier artists.

Conference readings and lectures

Heather McHugh, poetry, 7 p.m. Sunday, June 11, the Atheneum

McHugh is a core faculty member of the M.F.A. program for writers at Warren Wilson College. She has been Milliman Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at the University of Washington in Seattle two thirds of every year since 1984. Between visits to RopeWalk-this is her sixth-McHugh writes books of poetry including *Shades*, *Dangers*, and *Hinge and Sign: Poems 1968-1993* and essays, most recently *Broken English: Poetry and Partiality*. Her poetry also has been featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. McHugh's work can be sampled on the Academy of American Poets website www.poets.org/lit/poet/hmchufst.htm.

Victoria Redel, fiction, 7 p.m., Monday, June 12, the Atheneum

Redel's first collection of poetry *Already the World* received the Tom and Stan Wick award. Her second publication was a collection of short stories titled *Where the Road Bottoms Out*. She teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College and Vermont College. This, Redel's first visit to RopeWalk, follows a successful appearance in the RopeWalk Reading Series on the USI campus.

Craft lecture - 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, the Barn Abbey

Heather McHugh will present a lecture on poetry as a craft.

Craft lecture - 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, the Barn Abbey

Nikolai Popov, a Joyce scholar who teaches Comparative Literature and English at the University of Washington in Seattle, will hold a craft lecture.

Robert Wrigley, poetry, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, the Atheneum

Wrigley has published five books of poetry: *The Sinking of Clay City*; *Moon in a Mason Jar*; *What My Father Believed*; *In the Bank of Beautiful Sins*; and, most recently, *Reign of Snakes*. He is the recipient of two National Endowment of the Arts Fellowships, the Kingsley Tufts Award, the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize, the Frederick Bock Prize, the Wagner Award from the Poetry Society of America, and two Pushcart Prizes. Wrigley is the 1997 recipient of the Theodore Roethke Award from *Poetry Northwest* and received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1996. He is a professor of English at the University of Idaho where he teaches in the creative writing program. This is Wrigley's first visit to RopeWalk.

Kim Barnes, creative non-fiction, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, the Atheneum

Barnes' memoir, *In the Wilderness: Coming of Age in Unknown Country* was published in 1996. It won awards from PEN, the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, and was nominated for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Biography/Autobiography. A second memoir, *Hungry for the World*, will be published by Villard/Random House in 2000. Her work has appeared in anthologies including *The Georgia Review* and *Shenandoah*. Barnes also was co-editor, with Mary Clearman Blew, of *Circle of Women*, an anthology of contemporary women writers.

Craft lecture - 10:45 a.m. Thursday, June 15, the Barn Abbey

Kim Barnes will present a craft lecture on writing creative non-fiction.

Craft lecture - 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15, the Barn Abbey

Victoria Redel will hold a craft lecture on writing fiction.

Stephen Dobyns, 6 p.m. Friday, June 16, the Atheneum

Dobyns is the author of ten books of poems, twenty novels, and a book of essays on poetry: *Best Words, Best Order*. His latest book of poetry is *Pallbearers Envy the One Who Rides*, published in 1999; his most recent novel is *Boy in the Water*, also published in 1999. His 1997 novel, *The Church of Dead Girls*, was a bestseller. Two of his novels have been made into feature films. Dobyns is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. He is a guest writer for the San Diego Weekly Reader and has taught at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Iowa, Boston University, and Brandeis.