CALLALOO
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

presents

LOVE
THE 2012 CALLALOO CONFERENCE

hosted by

The Center for African American Studies
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

October 11-13, 2012

Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey
LOVE

THE 2012 CALLALOO CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Love in the Poetics of Movement
Richardson Auditorium
Alexander Hall
Princeton University

Welcome
Valerie Smith
Dean of the College
Princeton University

Comments
Eddie Glaude, Jr.
Director Center for African American Studies
Princeton University

Significance of the Occasion
Charles Henry Rowell
Editor of Callaloo & Professor of English
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Moderator
Régine Michelle Jean-Charles
Assistant Professor
Romance Languages & Literatures
Boston College
An Excerpt from Walter Rutledge’s

“On the Block: After Bearden”
A Dance Performance

The Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theatre, New York City

Respondents

Tsitsi Jaji  Assistant Professor of English & Africana Studies
           University of Pennsylvania

Maaza Mengiste  Ethiopian American Novelist
                 New York City

Gregory Pardlo  Instructor of Creative Writing
                 New York University

Jay T. Jenkins  Professor of Mason Gross
                School of the Arts
                Rutgers University

Ifa Bayeza  Visiting Artist in Residence
            Africana Studies
            Brown University
FRIDAY OCTOBER 12, 2012

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Sacred Love and Society
McCosh Hall, Room 10

Speakers

Corey D. B. Walker  Chair & Associate Professor of Africana Studies
                    Brown University

Marla F. Frederick  Professor of Religion & African & African American Studies
                    Harvard University

Respondents

Michelle M. Wright  Associate Professor of Black European & African Diaspora Studies and African American Studies
                    Northwestern University

James B. Peterson  Director of Africana Studies & Associate Professor of English
                    Lehigh University

Hermine Pinson  Associate Professor of English
                    The College of William & Mary

Traci C. West  Professor of Ethics & African American Studies
                    Drew University

Moderator

Judith Weisenfeld  Professor of Religion
                    Princeton University
11:00AM-12:30 PM
Writing Love in the African Diaspora
McCosh Hall, Room 10

Speakers

Keith D. Leonard  
Associate Professor of Literature  
American University, Washington, DC

Michael Stone-Richards  
Professor of Critical Theory & Literature  
College for Creative Studies, Detroit

Respondents

Edwin C. Hill  
Assistant Professor of French & Italian and of Comparative Literature  
University of Southern California

Carter Mathes  
Assistant Professor of English  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Anthony Reed  
Assistant Professor of English & African American Studies  
Yale University

Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon  
Associate Professor of English  
Cornell University

David Wright  
Associate Professor of English  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Moderator

Simon Gikandi  
Robert Schirmer Professor of English  
Princeton University
2:00 PM-3:30 PM

Love Visual

A Conversation with Haile Gerima
McCosh Hall, Room 10

Speakers

Haile Gerima
Ethiopian American Filmmaker
Washington, DC

Sarah Lewis
Critic
Yale University

Dagmawi Woubshet
Assistant Professor of English
Cornell University

Respondents

Chika Okeke-Agulu
Assistant Professor of Art History
Princeton University

Vievee Francis
Independent Writer, Detroit, MI

Shona Jackson
Assistant Professor of English
Texas A&M University

Maaza Mengiste
Ethiopian American Novelist
New York City

Moderator

GerShun Avilez
Assistant Professor of English & African American Studies
Yale University
4:30 PM-6:00 PM
Queering Love
McCosh Hall, Room 10

Speakers
Sharon Holland  
Associate Professor of English &
African & African American Studies
Duke University

Marlon B. Ross  
Professor of English
University of Virginia

Respondents
Jafari Sinclaire Allen  
Assistant Professor of African American Studies & Anthropology
Yale University

Mukoma wa Ngugi  
Assistant Professor of English
Cornell University

Francesca T. Royster  
Professor of English
DePaul University

Salamishah Tillet  
Assistant Professor of English &
Africana Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Dagmawi Woubshet  
Assistant Professor of English
Cornell University

Moderator
Koritha Mitchell  
Associate Professor of English
The Ohio State University
Love’s Lyricism
Nassau Presbyterian Church
61 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

Performance

Intercession (meditation on Romans 8)
Come Away, My Beloved (meditation on Song of Songs)

Ekmeles Vocal Ensemble
A chorus: Rachel Callaloway, Patrick Flennig, Jeffrey Gavette, Avery Griffin, Matthew B. Hensrud & Mary Elizabeth MacKenzie)

(Mediation on Love)
Courtney Bryan
Columbia University

Respondents

Daphne A. Brooks
Professor of English & African American Studies
Princeton University

Brent Hayes Edwards
Professor of English & Comparative Literature
Columbia University

George Lewis
Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music
Columbia University

Ifa Bayeza
Visiting Artist in Residence
Africana Studies
Brown University

Moderator

Scott Heath
Assistant Professor of English
Georgia State University
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012
10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Love Beyond Borders
Dodd Auditorium, Robertson Hall

Speakers

Nnedi Okorafor
Assistant Professor of English
Chicago State University

Greg Tate
Visiting Professor of Africana Studies
Brown University

Respondents

Gregory Jerome Hampton
Associate Professor of English
Howard University

Scott Heath
Assistant Professor of English
Georgia State University

Dawn Lundy Martin
Assistant Professor of English
University of Pittsburgh

Imani Perry
Professor, Center for African American Studies & Faculty Associate, Program in Law & Public Affairs
Princeton University

Nelly Rosario
Assistant Professor of English
Texas State University

Corey D. B. Walker
Chair & Associate Professor of Africana Studies
Brown University

Moderator

Alexandra Vazquez
Assistant Professor of African American Studies & English
Princeton University
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2012

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Readings
Dodd Auditorium, Robertson Hall

Speakers

Christopher Abani  
Professor of Creating Writing  
University of California, Riverside

Thomas Sayers Ellis  
Poet  
New York City

Tyehimba Jess  
Assistant Professor of English  
The City University of New York

Tracy K. Smith  
Assistant Professor of Creative Writing  
Princeton University

Moderators

Tsitsi Jaji  
Assistant Professor of English  
University of Pennsylvania

Gregory Pardlo  
Instructor, Creative Writing  
New York University, NYC

Statement / Eddie Glaude, Jr., Director, Center for African American Studies, Princeton University

Final Remarks / Charles Henry Rowell, Editor of Callaloo, Texas A&M University
CHRIS ABANI, a native of Nigeria, is author of a number of books of fiction and poetry, including *Song for Night*, *Masters of the Board*, *Sanctificum*, *Hands Washing Water*, *Virgin of Flames*, and *Graceland*. For his work he has received a number of fellowships and awards—e.g., the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award, a California Book Award, the 2001 Prince Claus Award, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship. He is a professor of English at the University of California at Riverside.

COURTNEY BRYAN is a composer, pianist, and arranger, whose work ranges broadly—European classical, jazz, film scores, and collaborations with various kinds of artists, including dancers, writers, and others. In addition to performing at Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro and Sweet Lorraine’s Jazz Club in her native New Orleans, Louisiana, she currently makes appearances in New York and nearby cities, often performing with the Courtney Bryan Trio. In 2010, she released *This Little Light of Mine*, which follows her first CD of nine original compositions, *Quest for Freedom*. She is a Faculty Fellow at Columbia University, where she is studying for the doctorate in music composition.

THOMAS SAYERS ELLIS, poet and photographer, is author of two books of poems, *The Maverick Room* and *Skin, Inc.*, both of which were published by Graywolf Press. He is also author of three chapbooks, *The Good Junk* (*Take Three* #1), *The Genuine Negro Hero*, and *Song On*. His work has also appeared in journals and anthologies, such as *Poetry*, *Grand Street*, *Tin House*, *The Nation*, *The Baffler*, *Ploughshares*, *Callaloo*, and *The Best American Poetry*. In 2005 he received a Mrs. Giles Whiting Writers’ Award, and he won the John C. Zacharis First Book Award in 2006. He teaches at The The Lesley University low-residency M.F.A. Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

MARLA F. FREDERICK is Professor of African and African American Studies and the Study of Religion at Harvard University. She is the author of *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith*, and co-author of *Local Democracy Under Siege: Activism, Public Interests and Private Politics*, winner of the 2008 Best Book Award from the Society for the Anthropology of North America.
SHARON P. HOLLAND, an associate professor of English at Duke University, is author of *The Erotic Life of Racism and Raising the Dead: Readings of Death and (Black) Subjectivity*, which won the Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize from the American Studies Association (2002); and co-editor (with Tiya Miles) of *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: The African Diaspora in Indian Country*. She has also published critical texts in such periodicals as *GLQ*, *PMLA*, *Signs*, *Callaloo*, and other journals.

TYE Himba Jess is an assistant professor of English at the College of Staten Island, NY. He is author of a book of poems, *leadbelly*, and a book of nonfiction prose, *African American Pride: Celebrating Our Achievements, Contributions, and Enduring Legacy*. His poems have also been published in such periodicals as *Indiana Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Callaloo*.

KEITH D. LEONARD, Associate Professor at American University (Washington, DC), is author of *Fettered Genius: The African American Bardic Poet from Slavery to Civil Rights* and a number of articles on African American literature and culture in periodicals and anthologies—e.g., *MELUS*, *Writers of the Black Chicago Renaissance*, *Cambridge History of African American Literature*, *Blackwell’s Companion to African American Literature*, *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, *Twentieth Century Literature*, *African American Review*, and *Callaloo*.

SARAH LEWIS, curator and writer, has served as critic in painting at Yale University since 2007. She has also worked at London’s Tate Modern and at New York’s Museum of Modern Art in painting, sculpture, and photography. Her critical work has appeared in publications for the Venice Biennial (2007), Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, Studio Museum of Harlem, Phaidon, *Art in America*, the Smithsonian, the Museum of Modern Art (NYC), and *Callaloo*. The *Dissolve*, which she co-authored, was published in 2010, and Simon & Schuster will soon release her *Rise: The Power of Failure in Pursuit of Success*. 
NNEDI OKORAFOR, a Nigerian American, is author of six books of science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction—the most recent being *Iridessa and the Secret of the Never Mine, Akata Witch*, and *Who Fears Death*. The Hurston-Wright literary award, the Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa, The World Fantasy Award, Macmillan Writers Prize in Africa, and the Carl Brandon Parallax Award are some of the honors she has received for her fiction. A Recipient of the PhD degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago, she teaches at Chicago State University.

MARLON B. ROSS, Professor of English at the University of Virginia, is author of *Manning the Race: Reforming Black Men in the Jim Crow Era* and *The Contours of Masculine Desire: Romanticism and the Rise of Women’s Poetry*. He has also published critical articles in various journals, including *Transatlantica: revue d’études américaines, The Wordsworth Circle, English Literary History, Keats-Shelley Journal, New Literary History*, and *Callaloo*.

TRACY K. SMITH is an assistant professor of creative writing at Princeton University. She is the author of three books of poems: *The Body’s Question, Duende*, and *Life on Mars*. She has received a number of accolades for her books of poems, including Literature Protégée, Rolex Mentor & Protégé Arts Initiative (2009-2011), James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets (2006), Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Writers’ Award (2005), and Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award (2004). Most recently, she received the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2012.

MICHAEL STONE-RICHARDS is the Interim Chair of the Department of Liberal Arts at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, MI. He is author of *Logics of Separation: Exile and Transcendence in Aesthetic Modernity* and *Beyond the Subject: Approaching the Vision of Ben Frank Moss*. His work has also appeared in a number of periodicals and anthologies, including *Journal of Visual Culture, Equinoxe: Revue internationale d’études françaises, Modernism/Modernity, Art Criticism since 1900, Art History, Giacometti: Critical Essays, Cambridge Companion to Du Bois, Surrealism and Architecture*, and *Black, Brown and Beige: Surrealist Writings from Africa and the Diaspora*. He has also taught at Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) and the University of York (England).

THE NANETTE BEARDEN CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE was founded in 1976 by dancer and choreographer Nanette Rohan Bearden (1927-1996), who in 1954 married the internationally acclaimed artist Romare Bearden (1911-1988), who would later collaborate with her in the design and production of dance performances. When she passed in 1996, the dance company disbanded, but in 2004, Shelia Rohan (dancer, choreographer, instructor), one of Nanette’s seven sisters, revived the Dance Theatre. In Shelia’s hands as Director, the Dance Theatre has become a new artistic force, touring throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe, with Walter Rutledge as Associate Artistic Director.

COREY D. B. WALKER is author of A Noble Fight: African American Freemasonry and the Struggle for Democracy in America and a number of articles in such periodicals as Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Political Theology, and boundary 2. He is also editor of a special issue of Political Theology, devoted to “Theology and Democratic Futures,” associate editor of SAGE Encyclopedia of Identity, and associate editor of The Journal of the American Academy of Religion. He is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University.