

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 Sinclair 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*

8:00 PM-10:00 PM

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 Callalway, 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*

Speakers & Readers

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.

HAILE GERIMA, born in Ethiopia, is a filmmaker, whose most popular film is *Sankofa* (1993), which he wrote, produced, and directed. His other films include *Bush Mama* (1976), *Perfect Journey* (1994), *Adwa: An African Victory* (1994), and *Teza* (2008). He has won numerous international awards for his films, more than seven for *Teza* alone, from France, Italy, Austria, Canada, the Netherlands, and Greece. For more than twenty years, he taught at Howard University, where he made an indelible impact on young filmmakers. He is the founder of the Sankofa Bookstore, located in Washington, DC.

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.

TYEHIMBA 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 lavery 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).

GREG TATE is currently a visiting professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University in Providence, RI. From 1981 to 2005, he wrote for the *Village Voice*, and he also wrote for *VIBE Magazine* from 1994 to 2003. He is author of five books: *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America*, *Brooklyn Kings: New York City's Black Bikers* (with Martin Dixon), *Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and the Black Experience*, *Flyboy 2: The Greg Tate Reader Writings from 1981-2001*, and *James Brown's Body and the Revolution of the Mind* (forthcoming from Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux in 2013). He is also editor of *Everything But the Burden: What White People Are Taking from Black Culture*.

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.

DAGMAWI WOUBSHET is an assistant professor of English at Cornell University, where he teaches courses in African American and comparative Diaspora literature and culture, 1980s culture, and AIDS literature. His essays have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Transition*, *Art South African*, and *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*. He co-edited (with Salamishah Tillet and Elizabeth Wolde Giorgis) *Ethiopia: Literature, Art, and Culture*, a special issue of *Callaloo* (33.1, 2010). Currently he is completing a book-length manuscript entitled "Looking for the Dead: AIDS, Poetics and Politics," a comparative study of AIDS writing in the United States, South Africa, and Ethiopia. A true itinerant, he splits his time among three cities—Ithaca, New York City, and Addis Ababa.