

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE NEWSLETTER



SUMMER CLASSES 2008

FILM ACROSS CHINA

Sheldon Lu will offer a new course, "Shanghai and Hong Kong: Chinese Cinema, Culture, and Society." Students will explore Chinese cinematic tradition, spending two weeks in Shanghai and two weeks in Hong Kong.

EXPATRIATES IN PARIS

Marc Blanchard and Raquel Scherr will teach "Americans in Paris." Readings will include Hemingway, James Baldwin, and Gertrude Stein, and students will visit sites that were important for American expatriates.

BERLIN'S WEIMAR CULTURE

Gail Finney will teach "Weimar Culture: Defeat, the Roaring Twenties, the Rise of Nazism" in Berlin.

RENAISSANCE IN FLORENCE

Brenda Schildgen will offer "Renaissance Florence and the Birth of Modern Europe" in Florence. Through readings including Dante and Boccaccio, the course will focus on developments in modern institutions, government, the arts and architecture.

FANATICISM IN SWEDEN

Kari Lokke will be teaching a course in Lund on representations of fanaticism in Europe and America since the Enlightenment.

Faculty, alumni, and students:

Welcome to the program!

This marks the first issue of the Comparative Literature quarterly newsletter. Whether you found it on our website or in print, we hope that this publication will keep you updated on what's up and coming in the program, as well as allowing us to share our accomplishments.

If you have any suggestions for a news item or questions about something we've printed, please let us know! Editor Michael Graziano can be reached at mrgraziano@ucdavis.edu.

Opportunities for faculty and students Prizes and Honors

The year has been an eventful one for Comparative Literature at Davis. Students and faculty alike have won recognition for their work.

Megan Macklin, peer adviser in Comparative Literature, won an award and was published in UC Davis' *Prized Writing* (Fall 2007) for her essay "From Tricking the Protagonist to Tricking the Reader," written in Comparative Literature 141 for Neil Larsen.

Davis resident Brian Regan gave the program a gift of books in recognition of Seth Schein's teaching. This gift made it possible to purchase the MLA teaching series for the Comparative Literature library.

Gail Finney received a Distinguished Teaching Award for Graduate and Professional Teaching for 2007.

In 2007 Marc Blanchard was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor.

Seth Schein is currently enjoying a residency at Scuola Normale in Pisa for Fall and Winter of 2007-08.

Archana Venkatesan received a fellowship award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for 2007-08 for

her work, *Performance and Ritual Culture at Vishnu's Temple in Alvar Tirunagari, South India*.

Sheldon Lu won Choice's Award for "Outstanding Academic Title of 2005" for the book *Chinese-Language Film: Historiography, Poetics, Politics*, which he co-edited.



In memory of a dedicated teacher The Amy Lee Prize

The program is proud to announce the Amy Lee Annual Prizewinning Essay Award in Comparative Literature. Instituted on November 12, this contest will reward outstanding undergraduate essayists in the Comparative Literature 1-4 courses with a \$100 annual prize.

The contest is held in memory of Amy Lee, a graduate student of Comparative Literature who died of cancer in September 2007 following a brief illness. Amy was a passionate teacher and a dedicated scholar, and this prize is intended to reward the type of superlative students she loved to teach.

Graduate students teaching COM I-4 should select and submit essays to the Prize Committee by May 15, 2008. These essays should be of superior quality, surpassing the usual criteria for an A. Each instructor should normally submit no more than one essay per quarter for consideration. The Prize Committee that will determine the winning essay will be comprised of the Graduate Advisor, the TA Supervisor, a graduate student Associate-Instructor in his or her fourth year or later, and a third-year graduate student. The winning essay will be announced at the Spring Comparative Literature undergraduate honors award meeting. The essay will be published in the Spring Newsletter and archived on the Comparative Literature website as an "Amy Lee Prizewinning Essay in Comparative Literature."



Upcoming Speaker

David Román to Visit

Comparative Literature will bring David Román, Professor of English and American and Ethnic Studies at the University of Southern California to UCD this spring for a lecture on Monday, May 5 and a graduate student seminar on Tuesday, May 6. Co-sponsors for the visit are the Cultural Studies Graduate Group, the Davis Humanities Institute, the English Department, the Performance Studies Research Cluster and the Department of Theatre and Dance.

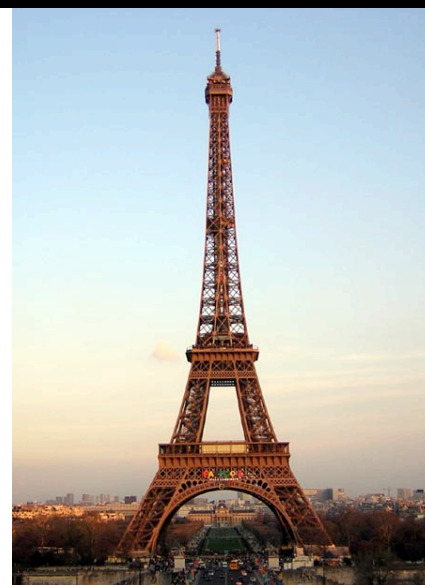
The talk, "A Streetcar Named Deseo" is from Professor Román's current work on the cultural politics of American theatre in the 1940s and 50s. It examines the casting of Mexican-born Anthony Quinn

as the replacement for Marlon Brando in the role of Stanley Kowalski in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The talk takes a historical approach to this comparative study of two iconic men--Quinn and Williams-- is based upon significant archival work, and foregrounds questions of gender and ethnicity.

The grad student seminar will focus on his most recent book, *Performance in America: Contemporary US Culture and the Performing Arts* (Duke UP, 2005). Graduate students (and any interested faculty) will read sections of the book and then meet and discuss the work for a couple of hours. Professor Román will speak about the book, how it came about, his methodological choices, and its key themes and argument, and then open the seminar up for questions and discussion about scholarship in theatre and performance studies. Copies of *Performance in America* will be available in the Comparative Literature library.

Professor Román's research focuses on theatre and performance studies, with an emphasis on contemporary US culture; American studies, with an emphasis on race, sexuality, and the performing arts; Latino studies with an emphasis on popular culture; and queer studies with an emphasis on archival practices, subcultural histories, and artistic production, primarily in twentieth-century America. He has written and edited books about AIDS and the arts, Latino studies, and contemporary US culture and performance. His current projects include a book on the racial politics of American theatre in the 1940s; a study of the memoirs of pre-Stonewall gay and lesbian activists; and a historical project on AIDS and cultural production in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Professor Román's earlier publications include *O Solo Homo: The New Queer Performance* (Grove Press, 1998) and *Acts of Intervention: Performance, Gay Culture, & AIDS* (Indiana UP, 1998). As a former editor of *Theatre Journal*, Professor Román will also be a source of useful information and advice for graduate students and new faculty on the publication process in his fields of expertise: theatre and performance, Latino studies, and queer studies.



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For more info, including complete listings of competitions, faculty and upcoming courses and events, visit the Comparative Literature website at <http://complit.ucdavis.edu>.