

SPRING 2009

FEBRUARY 5

## **Jane Moss**

FRANCOPHONE AFRO-CANADIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

225 Friedl Building, 4:00 pm

"From the African translator who accompanied French explorers in 1606 and the slave woman hanged for setting fire to much of Montreal in 1734 to the first Black woman appointed Governor General of Canada, the history of the Black Francophone Experience in Canada deserves to be told. This presentation will explore how people of African descent came to Canada from different places and for diverse reasons and the enormous contributions they have made to French-language Canadian culture."

Jane Moss is Director of the Center for Canadian Studies at Duke.

She is Editor-in-chief of Québec Studies and winner of the 2002 Prix du Québec.

FEBRUARY 23

## **Morton Weinfeld**

McGill University

Like Everyone Else But Different: Understanding the Success and Challenges of Canadian Jewry

4:30 PM Freeman Center for Jewish Life/Library

"Canada is considered a model multicultural society. And Jews are a poster child for multicultural ideals: strong participation in their wider communities combined with as strong sense of cultural identity. But Canadian Jews, while comparing well to Jews in other societies and to other Canadian minorities, still face challenges. In a sense their experience can teach us about the limits and possibilities of cultural pluralism."

Professor Weinfeld holds the Chair in Canadian Ethnic Studies and is the Chair of the Sociology Department at McGill. Among his recent publications are *Like Everyone Else But Different: The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jews* (McClelland and Stewart, 2001), *Still Moving: Recent Jewish Migration in Comparative Perspective*, with Daniel Elazar (Transaction, 2000); *Ethnicity, Politics, and Public Policy*, with Harold Troper (University of Toronto Press, 1999), and *Who Speaks for Canada?* with Desmond Morton (McClelland and Stewart, 1998). He has published *Old Wounds: Jews, Ukrainians and the Hunt for Nazi War Criminals in Canada* with Harold Troper (Viking/Penguin, 1988), a case study of ethnicity and public policy. In 1989 he published *Trauma and Rebirth: Intergenerational Effects of the Holocaust* (with John J. Sigal), Praeger. In 1993 he co-edited *The Jews in Canada* (Oxford University Press, Canada).

MARCH 16

## **Miléna Santoro**

Georgetown University

The Roles of Girls and Women in Québec Film History

4:15 PM, Romance Languages Building, Room 305

Miléna Santoro is an Associate Professor in the French Department at Georgetown University, with specializations in Québec Studies and French and Francophone women writers. She has published articles on Hélène Cixous, Jeanne Hyvrard, Nicole Brossard, Madeleine Gagnon, and Esther Rochon, and has translated excerpts of works by Jeanne Hyvrard and Michèle Sarde. She produced and introduced a video of Québec feminist writers entitled *La Théorie un dimanche: Sweet Suite* (ACQS and *Le Conifère tête*, 2002). Her first book, *Mothers of Invention: Feminist Authors and Experimental Fiction in France and Québec*, was published in 2002 by McGill-Queen's University Press. Her current book project focuses on *américanité* and Americanization in Québec films since the Quiet Revolution. Santoro is currently Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Canadian Studies* and for the *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

MARCH 19

## **Norm Ravvin**

Concordia University

*The Myths of Montreal: Leonard Cohen, A.M. Klein and the Rest of the Canadian Jewish Writers*

4:30 PM, Freeman Center for Jewish Life/Library

Norman Ravvin is a writer, critic and teacher. He presently Chairs the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. His publications include *A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory*, the novel *Lola by Night*, which was recently published in Serbian translation, the story collection *Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish*, and *Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue*. He is the editor of *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories* and he co-edited, with Richard Menkis, *The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader*. He is a native of Calgary who has also made his home in Vancouver, Toronto and Fredericton before moving to Montreal. Present projects include a novel set in contemporary Poland entitled *The Typewriter Girl*, edited volumes on Mordecai Richler and A.M. Klein, and a book length study on Canadian Jewish writing lives.

## **2009 Québec Cinema Festival**

We are pleased to present these films in association with the Duke Film/Video/Digital Program's Spring 2009 Screen/Society film series.

Free and open to the public.

Each film will be shown at **Duke's Griffith Theater** in the Bryan Center beginning at 7:00 pm.

MARCH 23

**Familia(2005)** directed by Louise Archambault.

A contemporary family drama shot by ace cinematographer Andre Turpin *Familia* explores the question of how value systems are passed on from mother to daughter and asks: Is it possible to avoid passing on to our children those traits that we despise in our parents? Michele (Sylvie Moreau), a 30-something aerobics instructor addicted to on-line

gambling, loses her job and is forced to seek refuge with a childhood friend, Janine (Macha Grenon), who lives in a seemingly comfortable middle-class suburban home. Michele's teenage daughter, Marguerite (Mylene St-Sauveur), and Janine's daughter of a similar age, Gabrielle (Juliette Gosselin), become friends, leading to unforeseen tensions that force both generations to reassess their values.

Winner of the Claude Jutra Award (2006).

MARCH 25

**Maman est chez le coiffeur (2008)** directed by Léa Pool, written by Isabelle Hébert.

A 1960s-era teenager discovers that the adult world is neither what she hoped nor what she expected it would be after sparking her mother's tempestuous departure and subsequently being forced to step up and take care of her father and brothers. Elise's father is a respected doctor, and her mother an unsatisfied career woman and part-time journalist. It's been some time since Elise and her mother shared a kind word, so when the frustrated girl is disciplined, she resorts to meddling as a means of lashing out. That meddling proves the breaking point in the relationship between daughter and mother, prompting the mother's hasty and stormy departure from the family. The result of her absence is no less than devastating to the family, and life-altering for Elise, who must now sacrifice her youth in her struggle to keep the family together in their darkest hour.

Shown at Film Festivals in Toronto, Vancouver, San Sebastian, Denver, etc.

MARCH 30

**Congorama (2006)** written and directed by Philippe Falardeau.

Blood diamonds, world expos, electric cars, long-lost fathers and emus. Such is the stuff of the unlikely world of surefire crowd-pleaser Congorama. Michel, an underachieving inventor trading on the name of his famous and ailing father, leads a life of unremitting frustration. So when said father reveals to Michel that he is not Belgian, but is instead an adopted Canadian, Michel finally uses one of his well-intentioned yet ultimately pointless inventions as cover for a quest to find his biological family. Ostensibly trying to sell cable deicers to the government of Québec, Michel lights in the rural hamlet of Saint-Cécile, where a series of chance encounters will change his fortunes forever. Director Philippe Falardeau's second feature playfully interweaves the implausible with the poignant to produce a uniquely satisfying wry comedy. Unlike other films that use intersecting, engineered narratives to offer pedantic views of politics or culture, Congorama uses the form towards a richer aim—humor—with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

Shown at Film Festivals in Cannes, San Francisco, Seattle, Palm Springs, Toronto, etc.

Winner of 5 Jutra Awards and a Canadian Genie Award.

APRIL 1

We are honored to welcome Director, **Philippe Falardeau** for Q& A following his film.

**C'est pas moi, je le jure! (2008)** directed by Philippe Falardeau, based on the autobiographical books by Bruno Hébert.

At the beginning of the 1968 summer, a young 10-years-old boy, named Léon Doré, almost killed himself, accidentally, by hanging. His mother saves him in extremis. The past summer, she saved him in the pool and, two years ago, from a freezer. Léon has quite the imagination. At home, his parents are always fighting. There also are the neighbours and Léa, the irritating neighbour who is always right. When his mother quits the family to start a new life in Greece, Léon will try everything to escape his pain: steal, lie... and fall in love with Léa.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

## **PHILIPPE FALARDEAU**

b. 1968 in Hull, Québec

**Philippe Falardeau** is an award-winning screenwriter and director. He studied political science at the University of Ottawa before travelling around the world making twenty short films. He co-wrote and was assistant director with Jacques Godbout's *Le Sort de l'Amérique*, after which he directed his own documentary, *Pâté chinois*. His first feature film, *La Moitié gauche du frigo* won Best Canadian First Feature at the Toronto International Film Festival and a Best Screenplay nomination at the Quebec-based Jutra Awards. His 2006 film, *Congorama* nearly swept the prestigious Jutra Awards.

We have enjoyed having **Joan Sangster, Ph.D.**, Trent University as our newest Fulbright Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies. She is professor of History and Women's Studies. Her courses include Canadian Women's History and Working-Class History. She is currently researching a book on women and paid labour from the end of World War II to the 1970s, as well as pursuing a project on 'Modernizing Colonialism', examining images of the First Nations in the post World War II period.

Other activities this semester

by **Steve Kelly**

**Rear Admiral (ret.) Roger Girouard**, Royal Canadian Navy, visited Durham from Feb. 28-March 3. He was scheduled to speak to my class the morning of March 2, but classes were canceled because of an alleged snowfall. Nonetheless, four of my students wanted to come anyway, and Roger did his presentation for them. A reporter from WXDU also managed to brave the half-inch blizzard and interviewed Roger and me on the value and meaning of public service (this aired March 17; you can download it on iTunes from WXDU). We then had lunch with Vice Provost Gil Merx; Scott Silliman, Professor of the Practice of Law and Executive Director, Center on Law, Ethics and National Security, Duke Law School; and the Honorable John Thompson. The discussion focused in part on possible linkages between Duke and Royal Roads University, where Roger is creating a new Centre on Governance and Conflict Resolution. In the afternoon Roger conferred with Carolyn Pumphrey of the Triangle Institute of Security Studies about his center, and then addressed a class of some 200 students at UNC-Chapel Hill in Prof. Joe Caddell's "History of Sea Power." Finally, he spoke to a small group of students organized by TISS in Perkins 317 (once we found it) on peacekeeping operations.

**Edward Alden**, the Bernard Schwartz Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and author of *The Closing of the American Border*, visited March 30. He spoke to my class about the status of U.S. efforts to make its Canadian and Mexican borders more secure while still supporting legitimate travel and trade. We then had lunch with David Schanzer, director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, Noah Pickus, Director of the Kenan Institute for Ethics, Jenny Snead Williams, executive director of the Program in Latino Studies, and Prof. Thompson. In the class and during the luncheon, immigration reform was a major topic. Ted is the director of a working group for the CFR on immigration, and Noah Pickus is doing the same for the Brookings Institution, so they compared notes. Ted is also returning on April 16 as a guest of David Schanzer to take part in an immigration panel as part of a Duke conference, "National Security under a New Administration." Ted then addressed Jenny's class on Latino studies, and met with a group of Duke Engage students who will take part in a service project on the U.S.-Mexican border this summer, or who did so last summer.