

**SMART TALK ABOUT
STUFF THAT MATTERS**



PITTSBURGH HUMANITIES FESTIVAL 20 17

**INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS OVER
3 DAYS** IN THE CULTURAL DISTRICT

**EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE HUMAN**

MARCH 24-26, 2017

TRUSTARTS.ORG/SMARTTALK

**412-456-6666 | GROUPS 10+ 412-471-6930
BOX OFFICE AT THEATER SQUARE**



WELCOME

The **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** and the **Humanities Center at Carnegie Mellon University** welcome you to the 2017 Pittsburgh Humanities Festival.

This three-day gathering in the Cultural District brings together internationally-renowned academics, artists, and intellectual innovators offering interviews, intimate conversations, and select performances focused on art, literature, music, science, policy, politics, and more—all helping us to explore what it means to be human. It's smart talk about stuff that matters.

SPECIAL THANKS

90.5 WESA | 91.3 WYEP

Andy Warhol Museum

Carnegie Mellon
International Film Festival

Carnegie Museums
of Pittsburgh

Center for the Arts in
Society, Carnegie Mellon
University

City of Asylum

Crazy Mocha

Eventioneers

The Heinz Endowments

Humanities Center,
University of Pittsburgh

Humanities Scholars
Program, Carnegie Mellon
University

Institute for the Arts
and Humanities,
Penn State University

NEXT Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania
Humanities Council

Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures

Gary and Valerie Schaffer

World Affairs Council



THE WRITERS OF THE ONION FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | BYHAM THEATER

The award-winning satirical news organization is “arguably the most popular humor periodical in world history” (*The New Yorker*).



BASSEM YOUSSEF: THE JOKE IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD SATURDAY, MARCH 25 BYHAM THEATER

The “Jon Stewart of the Arab World” was the host of *AlBernameg*, the first-of-its-kind political satire show in the Middle East.



KATHLEEN NEAL CLEAVER & DENISE OLIVER-VELEZ SUNDAY, MARCH 26 AUGUST WILSON CENTER

These history makers (and former Black Panther Party members) will speak to issues facing women and people of color today.



CORE CONVERSATIONS MARCH 25 & 26

At the heart of the Festival are 25 intimate conversations helping us to explore what it means to be human. Find the schedule and speaker biographies on following pages.

PARTNER EVENTS (MORE INFO AT TRUSTARTS.ORG/SMARTTALK)

Diversity in Dance | Dance Theatre of Harlem & Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
MARCH 19 | AUGUST WILSON CENTER

Zeyba Rahman: Managing Art and Social Impact
presented by CMU Center for the Arts and Society
MARCH 23 | CMU: HAMBURG HALL, A301

Anthropocene
in partnership with Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival & Carnegie Nexus' Strange Times series
MARCH 24 | CMOA THEATER, CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART

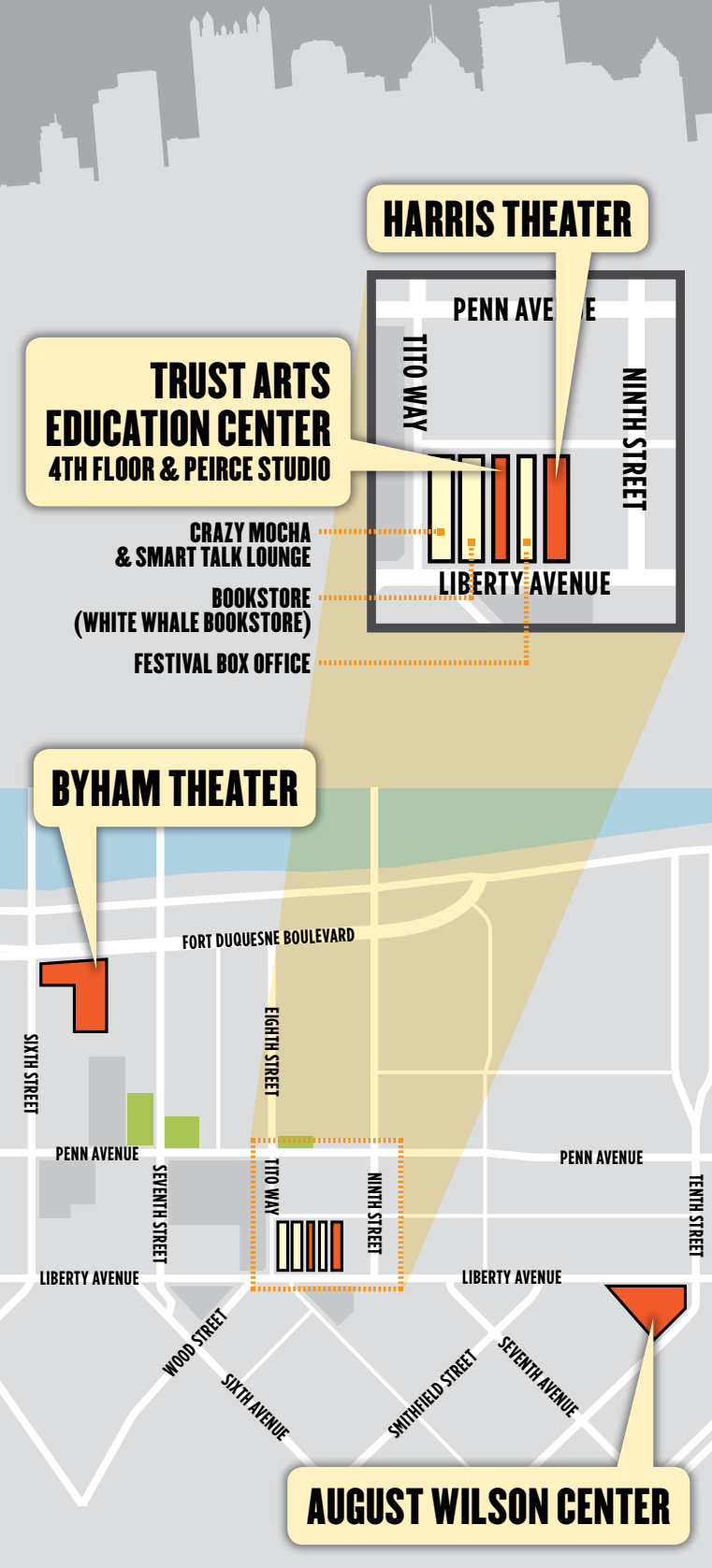
Abacus: Small Enough to Jail in partnership with Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival
MARCH 24 | HARRIS THEATER (CULTURAL DISTRICT)
MARCH 25 | CMU MCECONOMY AUDITORIUM

Field Recordings: The Bang On a Can All Stars
presented by Carnegie Nexus' Strange Times series and as part of The Warhol Sound Series
MARCH 25 | CARNEGIE LECTURE HALL (OAKLAND)

PRICING

	GENERAL ADMISSION	STUDENT RATE
CORE CONVERSATIONS PASS 25 intimate conversations, interviews, & performances on Saturday and Sunday	\$20	\$10
FEATURED EVENTS (PER SHOW) The Writers of the Onion, March 24 Bassem Youssef, March 25 K. N. Cleaver & D. Oliver-Velez, March 26	\$50 (best seats) \$25 (best value) \$20 (best price)	\$45 (best seats) \$20 (best value) \$15 (best price)
ALL ACCESS All Core Conversations + All Featured Events	\$120 (best seats) \$70 (best value) \$60 (best price)	\$105 (best seats) \$55 (best value) \$45 (best price)
PARTNER EVENTS Dance Theatre of Harlem w/ PGH Ballet Theatre, Zeyba Rahman, Anthropocene, Abacus: Small Enough to Jail & Field Recordings	Tickets Sold Separately	Tickets Sold Separately

TRUSTARTS.ORG/SMARTTALK
BOX OFFICE AT THEATER SQUARE
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HARRIS THEATER

TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR & PEIRCE STUDIO

CRAZY MOCHA & SMART TALK LOUNGE
BOOKSTORE (WHITE WHALE BOOKSTORE)
FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

BYHAM THEATER

AUGUST WILSON CENTER

SCHEDULE

4TH FLOOR

PEIRCE STUDIO

HARRIS THEATER

TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

10:00 AM

Michael Bérubé:
Life as Jamie Knows It
PAGE 8

Demeatria Boccella
in Conversation with
Karin Legato **PAGE 8**

Dana Gioia:
Can Poetry Matter?
PAGE 9

11:30 AM

Martín Espada: An Interview
with Jim Daniels
PAGE 9

Suzie Silver
PAGE 10

Mark Clayton Southers:
Producing Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh
Playwrights Theatre Company
PAGE 10

1:30 PM

Virginia Johnson:
Art in Our Time
PAGE 11

Elizabeth Watkins:
On the Pill
PAGE 11

James Livingston:
The End of Work
PAGE 12

3:00 PM

Steve James:
Documentary Filmmaker
PAGE 12

Libby Otto: Teaching Bauhaus to the
Children of Theresienstadt Concentration
Camp — Friedl Dicker-Brandeis
PAGE 13

Lisa Tetrault:
The Myth of Seneca Falls
PAGE 13

4:30 PM

More Just Communities
-From Stories to Action
PAGE 14

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

12:00 PM

Yona Harvey in Conversation
with Ed Piskor
PAGE 14

Elaine Frantz Parsons: The
Ku Klux Klan in the History
of White-on-Black Violence
PAGE 15

Ambassador John F. Maisto
in Conversation with
Ambassador Dan Simpson
PAGE 15

1:30 PM

Have-A-Chat for Humanity:
PJ Gaynard
PAGE 16

Have-A-Chat for Humanity:
Bergita Bugarija
PAGE 16

Have-A-Chat for Humanity:
David Bennett
PAGE 16

3:00 PM

Robert Christgau:
"The Dean of Rock Critics"
PAGE 17

Sharon Dilworth
PAGE 17

Chris Potter in Conversation with
Patrick Doyle: Journalism in the
Age of Social Media
PAGE 18

4:30 PM

Osama Alomar
PAGE 18

Aaron Steinfeld: Human Reactions
to In/Appropriate Robot Behavior
PAGE 19

Linn Meyers
PAGE 19

FEATURED EVENTS

FRIDAY,
MARCH 24
8 PM

THE WRITERS OF THE ONION

Members of the creative staff offer an intimate glimpse
inside the writers' room of America's Finest News Source.
PAGE 20

SATURDAY,
MARCH 25
8 PM

BASSEM YOUSSEF: THE JOKE IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

Dubbed the Jon Stewart of the Arab World, Youssef was
the host of the popular TV show *AlBernameg* - which was
the first of its kind, political satire show in the Middle East.
PAGE 21

SUNDAY,
MARCH 26
7 PM

A CONVERSATION WITH KATHLEEN NEAL CLEAVER & DENISE OLIVER-VELEZ

Former members of the Black Panther Party and other
organizations, participating in human rights, Civil Rights,
women's rights, and AIDS activism movements since the
late 1960s. **PAGE 22**

CORE CONVERSATIONS



MICHAEL BÉRUBÉ: LIFE AS JAMIE KNOWS IT

supported by the Institute
for the Arts and Humanities,
Penn State University

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
10–11 AM
HARRIS THEATER**

Michael Bérubé will read from and discuss his new book, *Life as Jamie Knows It*, a sequel to *Life as We Know It*, which introduced Jamie Bérubé to the world as a sweet, bright, gregarious little boy who loves the Beatles, pizza, and making lists. At four, he is like many kids his age, but his Down syndrome prevents most people from seeing him as anything but disabled. Twenty years later, Jamie is no longer little, though he still jams to the Beatles, eats pizza, and makes endless lists of everything. In *Life as Jamie Knows It*, Michael Bérubé chronicles his son's journey to adulthood and his growing curiosity and engagement with the world.

michaelberube.com



DEMEATRIA BOCCELLA IN CONVERSATION WITH KARIN LEGATO

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
10–11 AM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR**

Demeatria Boccella is the founder of FashionAFRICANA—one of the leading African-inspired Fashion and Art events in Pittsburgh. Established in 2001, FashionAFRICANA celebrates the beauty and diversity of the African Diaspora through

design, dance, music and curated exhibitions. The intent of FashionAFRICANA has always been to share the breadth and richness of African textures, ethos and history through the language of fashion.

Karin Legato, together with her late husband James, “were” *Emphatics*. They traveled the world seeking the most innovative and cutting edge designers. *Emphatics* brought them to Pittsburgh, becoming one of the country’s premier and internationally-respected high-fashion designer retailers.



DANA GIOIA: CAN POETRY MATTER?

supported by the
Humanities Center,
University of Pittsburgh

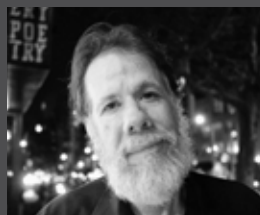
**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
10–11 AM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO**

**Dana Gioia will be interviewed by
Susan Balée, Journalist and Doctoral
Student at the University of Pittsburgh.**

Gioia is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning poet. Former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Gioia is a native Californian of Italian and Mexican descent. He received a B.A. and a M.B.A. from Stanford University and an M.A. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. The current Poet Laureate of California, Gioia will take part in conversation about the state of poetry, literature, and the arts in contemporary American society.

Gioia has published five full-length collections of poetry, most recently *99 Poems: New & Selected*. His poetry collection, *Interrogations at Noon*, won the 2002 American Book Award. An influential critic as well, Gioia’s 1991 volume *Can Poetry Matter?*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award, is credited with helping to revive the role of poetry in American public culture. In 2014 he won the Aiken-Taylor Award for lifetime achievement in American poetry.

danagioia.com



MARTÍN ESPADA: AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM DANIELS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
10:30–12:30 PM
HARRIS THEATER**

**Martín Espada will be interviewed by Jim Daniels, Poet and
Screenwriter, Carnegie Mellon University.**

Espada has published almost twenty books as a poet, editor, essayist and translator. His latest collection of poems from *Norton is Vivas to Those Who Have Failed* (2016). Junot Díaz writes that this book represents “Espada at his brilliant best, the poet laureate of our New America, with a voice that breaks heart, gives courage and burns all illusions.” His honors include the Shelley Memorial Award, the National Hispanic Cultural Center Literary Award, the PEN/Revson Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. *The Republic of Poetry* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His book of essays, *Zapata’s Disciple* (1998), was banned in Tucson as part of the Mexican-American Studies Program outlawed by the state of Arizona, and reissued in 2016 by Northwestern University Press. A former tenant lawyer in Greater Boston’s Latino community, Espada is a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

martinespada.net



SUZIE SILVER supported by the Center for the Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
11:30-12:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR**

Suzie Silver, a Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University, will

present works from the *Fairy Fantastic!* series including *The Sausage*, *Stinkhorn*, and *Better Out Than In*.

Created by Suzie Silver and Hilary Harp, *Fairy Fantastic!* is a fairy and folk tale video series that celebrates and promotes gender diversity. By showing a wide variety of gender expressions within visually beautiful, complex and ancient tales, *Fairy Fantastic!* supports children of all ages in the discovery of their true selves.

Additionally she will provide a brief intro to her other collaborative projects in queer media and performance TQTV and TQ Live. TQTV is a playful and provocative video variety show reveling in the diversity of genders and sexualities.

TQ Live in an annual queer variety show presented at the Andy Warhol Museum and created in collaboration with Scott Andrew.

suziesilver.com



**VIRGINIA JOHNSON:
ART IN OUR TIME**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
1:30-2:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO**

People are often skeptical of, if not surprised by, the notion of classical ballet in Harlem but, for the past 48 years, Dance Theatre of Harlem has been a shining example of exactly how powerful such an unexpected flowering can be. Sometimes providing an alternate view on a traditional perspective is just what is needed to bring a venerated art form like ballet into the present moment and by so doing define the role of art in our time.

Virginia Johnson is the Artistic Director of Dance Theatre of Harlem.

dancetheatreofharlem.org



**MARK CLAYTON
SOUTHERS: PRODUCING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE
PITTSBURGH PLAYWRIGHTS
THEATRE COMPANY**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
11:30-12:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER I PEIRCE STUDIO**

Stage Director Mark Clayton Southers will be interviewed by *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* senior theater critic Chris Rawson about his work with the August Wilson canon of plays.

Southers is an award-winning playwright, photographer, scenic designer, theatrical producer and stage director. He and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is the founder and producing artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced over 140 full-length and one-act plays, including August Wilson's complete ten-play Pittsburgh Century Cycle. Mr. Southers is a published poet and playwright as well. His play "Ma Noah" was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago. His poem play "Angry Black Man Poetry" had a successful run at Teatr Śląski in Katowice, Poland in 2009.

markclaytonsouthers.com



**ELIZABETH WATKINS:
ON THE PILL**

supported by the Humanities Scholars Program, Carnegie Mellon University

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
1:30-2:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR**

This talk traces the arc of the history of the birth control pill, from life-changing and revolutionary to life-enhancing and commonplace. In its first decade, the pill extended the reach of pharmacy beyond the treatment or prevention of disease and brought about a contraceptive revolution by changing the ways people thought about, discussed, and used birth control. By the 1990s, the pill had become part of the contraceptive establishment in America, prescribed and used more often than any other method. The transition in the pill's status reveals sweeping changes in the trajectories of women, birth control, and pharmaceutical use over the last six decades.

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD, is Dean of the Graduate Division, Vice Chancellor of Student Academic Affairs, and Professor of History of Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. She lived in Squirrel Hill for 12 years, from 1992 to 2004.



JAMES LIVINGSTON: THE END OF WORK

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
1:30–2:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO

For centuries we've believed that work was where you learned discipline,

initiative, honesty, self-reliance—in a word, character. A job was also, and not incidentally, the source of your income: if you didn't work, you didn't eat, or else you were stealing from someone. In recent decades, through everyday experience, these beliefs have proven spectacularly false. In his new book, *No More Work*, James Livingston explains how and why Americans still cling to work as a solution rather than a problem—why it is that both liberals and conservatives announce that “full employment” is their goal when job creation is no longer a feasible solution for any problem, moral or economic.

Livingston is professor of history at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. He is the author of six books on topics ranging from the Federal Reserve System to *South Park*.



STEVE JAMES: DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

presented in conjunction
with the Carnegie Mellon
International Film Festival

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
3–4 PM
HARRIS THEATER

*Abacus:
Small Enough to Jail*

Steve James will be interviewed by Joseph L. Lewis, III, a television producer, journalist, and media specialist. He's worked on several documentary projects that aired on NBC, Bravo, PBS, and the A&E Network. Joe is the acting director of the Black Bottom Film Festival.

James (*Hoop Dreams*, *The Interrupters*, *Life Itself*) will be interviewed about his newest film, *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail*. *Abacus* tells the incredible saga of the Chinese immigrant Sung family, owners of Abacus Federal Savings of Chinatown, New York.

Accused of mortgage fraud by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., Abacus becomes the only U.S. bank to face criminal charges in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. The indictment and subsequent trial forces the Sung family to defend themselves – and their bank's legacy in the Chinatown community – over the course of a five-year legal battle.

See *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail* (USA, 2016, 88 min). Entry fee applies.

Friday, March 24 | 6 pm | Harris Theater

Saturday, March 25 | 5:30 pm | Carnegie Mellon University's
McConomy Auditorium (University Center)

The screening is presented by the CMU International Film Festival.



LIBBY OTTO TEACHING BAUHAUS TO THE CHILDREN OF THERESIENSTADT CONCENTRATION CAMP: FRIEDL DICKER-BRANDEIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
3–4 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, a multitalented artist and designer and a gifted teacher, was deported to Theresienstadt Ghetto and Concentration Camp in 1942; there she employed her Bauhaus methods in her teaching of hundreds of the camp's young students to observe, draw, feel, and find light in one of the century's darkest places. As a school dedicated to training a generation of young people from around the world to unite art and craft and to design their uses for a new, utopian society, the Bauhaus (1919-1933) was the twentieth century's most influential art institution. With the Bauhaus's closure under the Nazis, its members went on to start Black Mountain College and Chicago's New Bauhaus, and to teach at Yale and Harvard. Less well known is that many Bauhaus members stayed in Europe, and some were victims of the Nazi persecution and genocide. Elizabeth Otto, art historian and Executive Director of the University at Buffalo Humanities Institute, gives a fresh look at a little-known side of the Bauhaus.

art.buffalo.edu/faculty-staff/elizabeth-otto



LISA TETRAULT: THE MYTH OF SENECA FALLS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
3–4 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO

Lisa Tetrault, Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of U.S. women and gender. Her research and teaching interests focus on the nineteenth-century, the history of political economy, the history of social movements (particularly feminism), women's health, narrativity, and the politics of memory. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of History.

Her first book, *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014) won the Organization of American Historians' inaugural Mary Jurich Nickliss women's history book prize.

MORE JUST COMMUNITIES —FROM STORIES TO ACTION

presented by
the Pennsylvania
Humanities Council

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
4:30–6 PM
HARRIS THEATER



Explore storytelling and conversation, artmaking and artviewing as intentional processes that bring people together to take action and build a better shared future. Panelists will describe their work in documentary film, creative placemaking, and humanities-based resident engagement in a conversation moderated by *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Columnist and Associate Editor **Tony Norman**.

Panelists include:



Chris Ivey, a seasoned filmmaker in Pittsburgh, created the *East of Liberty* documentary series, which explores issues of race and class and addresses resident's fears about gentrification.



Jason Schupbach oversees design and creative placemaking grantmaking and partnerships at the National Endowment for the Arts, including Our Town and Design Art Works grants, the Mayor's Institute on City Design, the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design, and the NEA's federal agency collaborations related to community development.



Lindsay Houpt-Varner, a historian, directs Greater Carlisle Heart & Soul, an initiative to strengthen Greater Carlisle through storytelling and community engagement, using the Orton Family Foundation's nationally recognized Community Heart & Soul® method.



YONA HARVEY IN CONVERSATION WITH ED PISKOR

supported by the
Humanities Center,
University of Pittsburgh

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
12–1 PM
HARRIS THEATER

Yona Harvey, poet and writer, will discuss current comics projects and experiences with comic illustrator Ed Piskor.

yonaharvey.com
edpiskor.com



ELAINE FRANTZ PARSONS: THE KU KLUX KLAN IN THE HISTORY OF WHITE-ON-BLACK VIOLENCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
12–1 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER | 4TH FLOOR

While the Ku Klux Klan is often seen as bizarre or mysterious, the Klan's violence has long been just a particularly sensational example of violence white racist individuals and groups have consistently brought against black people since the middle of the 19th century. This talk explores how the Klan's terrorism, in the 1860s, 1920s, 1960s, and recently, has mirrored and shaped this much broader culture of white-on-black violence.

elainefrantzparsons.com

AMBASSADOR (RET.) JOHN F. MAISTO IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DAN SIMPSON: FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHALLENGES PAST AND PRESENT —A WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PERSPECTIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
12–1 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER | PEIRCE STUDIO

Ambassador (ret.) John F. Maisto is a former Foreign Service Officer (33-year career) born, raised, and public school-educated in a Monongahela Valley steel town—Braddock. He reflects on how that life helped craft a diplomatic career in Latin America and Asia. Plus, experience a free-wheeling discussion of the issues then and now, satisfactions and regrets, and how to learn from experience (maybe) as we face foreign affairs dangers, conundrums, and opportunities in the Trump era.

Ambassador Dan Simpson is a former American diplomat, with service at home and abroad, including as U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with assignments also to Nigeria, Libya, Burundi, South Africa, Bulgaria, Iceland, Lebanon, Bosnia-Herzegovina and as deputy commandant of the U.S. Army War College and the National Defense University. He is current Associate Editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, writing daily editorials and a column on international affairs, U.S. politics, and economics.



HAVE-A-CHAT FOR HUMANITY

Have-A-Chat for Humanity was a YouTube-based open call to the community to participate in the Pittsburgh Humanities Festival. These Core Conversations were selected by a Festival panel.

PJ GAYNARD

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
1:30-2:30 PM
HARRIS THEATER

Gaynard considers how much philosophy lies within every tiny decision. For example, how far we can tease out what's involved in making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

BERGITA BUGARIJA

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
1:30-2:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER | 4TH FLOOR

Bugarija's presentation is an insightful dive into the migrant journey. She explores what migrants learn along their way and how this can infuse a sense of humanity with fresh hope, helping us to see it all in a different light. Bugarija will flesh these ideas out using a compelling framework and vivid verbatims from interviewed individuals.

DAVID BENNETT

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
1:30-2:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER | PEIRCE STUDIO

Bennett explains that we know Bach mainly through his monumental organ pieces and large choral works. By examining his solo cello repertoire, we can become acquainted with a more personal side of Bach - a man struggling with the tragic loss of his beloved wife of 13 years, Maria Barbara. The presentation is a discussion of some of the personal details from Bach's life that influenced his beautiful unaccompanied cello suites and a live performance of four movements.



ROBERT CHRISTGAU: "THE DEAN OF ROCK CRITICS"

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
3-4 PM
HARRIS THEATER

Robert Christgau will be interviewed by David Shumway, Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies, Carnegie Mellon, and author of *Rock Star: The Making of Cultural Icons from Elvis to Springsteen*.

The interview will focus on rock criticism's beginnings during the 1960s and its evolution through the punk and hip-hop years into the a present where it takes many different forms--some explicitly commercial, others anything but, almost all beset by the economic challenges of journalism in the internet age.

robertchristgau.com



SHARON DILWORTH

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
3-4 PM
**TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR**

Sharon Dilworth will be interviewed by John Allison, Editorial Page Editor for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. They will talk about fiction and writing about Pittsburgh and other places.

Dilworth is an award-winning fiction writer and Director of Carnegie Mellon University's Creative Writing program. She's the author of three short story books including *Year of the Ginkgo*, *Women Drinking Benedictine*, and *The Long White*. Her work is also featured in the collection of short stories, *Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula*.

John Allison, Editorial Page Editor for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* will interview Dilworth. They will talk about fiction and writing about Pittsburgh and other places.

sharondilworth.com



CHRIS POTTER supported by
90.5 WESA
**IN CONVERSATION
WITH PATRICK DOYLE:
JOURNALISM IN THE
AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26
3-4 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter Chris Potter will be in discussion with writer, editor, and Director of Digital and Feature Content for WESA Patrick Doyle, regarding journalism in the age of social media.



**AARON STEINFELD:
HUMAN REACTIONS
TO IN/APPROPRIATE
ROBOT BEHAVIOR**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26
4:30-5:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
4TH FLOOR**

People expect robots to behave appropriately and competently. There has been progress in meeting these expectations but this is not always feasible or desired. How humans react to robots that violate these expectations reveals how we view ourselves in relation to other intelligent entities.

Aaron Steinfeld is a Professor of Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University specializing in human-robot interaction. The central themes of his work are what he prefers to term constrained user interfaces and operator assistance.



OSAMA ALOMAR

in partnership with
City of Asylum and
the World Affairs Council

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26
4:30-5:30 PM
HARRIS THEATER**

Osama Alomar will be interviewed by Ross Harrison, faculty member at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and scholar at The Middle East Institute in Washington, DC. He also teaches a

course in Middle East politics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Born in Damascus, Syria in 1968 and now living in Chicago, Osama Alomar is one of the most well-respected Arabic poets writing today, and a prominent practitioner of the Arabic al-qisa al-qasira jiddan, the "very short story." He is the author of *Fullblood Arabian* in English, and three collections of short stories and a volume of poetry in Arabic. Alomar's first full-length collection of stories, *The Teeth of the Comb*, will be published by New Directions in April. His short stories have been published by *Newyorker.com*, *Noon*, *Conjunctions.com*, *The Coffin Factory*, *Electric Literature*, and *The Literary Review*. He also performs as a musician.



LINN MEYERS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26
4:30-5:30 PM
TRUST ARTS EDUCATION CENTER
PEIRCE STUDIO**

Linn Meyers will be interviewed by Jessica Beck, Associate Curator of Art at the Andy Warhol Museum.

Linn Meyers will show slides of her paintings, drawings, and site-specific installations, and discuss her practice.

Hammer Museum Senior Curator Anne Ellegood characterized Meyers's work as "evidence of an action; they are traces or indexes of an event requiring intense stamina and patience." She notes that "Meyers shares Pollock's fascination with 'baseness,' with the most fundamental of human behaviors... She is after a purity of making... a directness wherein the materiality of the work is evident..."

FEATURED EVENTS



THE WRITERS OF THE ONION

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
8 PM
BYHAM THEATER



Seena Vali is a New Jersey native who began contributing to *The Onion* in 2011 and now serves as both sports editor and senior writer. He is a graduate of Fordham University and prefers short, concise bios.



Matt Spina is a New Jersey native and staff writer who has been with *The Onion* since 2015. He is startled by loud noises and crowds and should only be approached with the assistance of a certified handler.

The Onion is an award-winning satirical news organization, delivering unrivaled journalism and reaching millions of fans through print, broadcast, radio, online, and mobile outlets.

Founded in 1988 as a student newspaper at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, *The Onion* now has a devout following of 2 million readers per week in print and has been described as “arguably the most popular humor periodical in world history” by *The New Yorker*. Its 23-time Webby Award-winning website, *TheOnion.com*, described by *TIME* as “the funniest site on the Internet,” averages 40 million page views per month.

The Onion brings humor and intellect into every live engagement. A typical presentation features two members of the creative staff offering the audience an intimate glimpse inside the writers’ room of America’s Finest News Source, as well as behind the scenes access to its video and television arm, the *Onion News Network*. The talented writers and editors walk the audience through the history of the satirical news behemoth, taking them beyond its famous headlines, and—provided the proper headset mics—they dance. Topics can range from an overview of *The Onion’s* year in news to a harsh analysis of today’s corporate landscape to what new media means for the publishing industry.



BASSEM YOUSSEF

THE JOKE IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
8 PM
BYHAM THEATER

Dubbed the “Jon Stewart of the Arab World,” Bassem Youssef was the host of the popular TV show *AlBernameg* – which was the first of its kind, political satire show in the Middle East. Originally a 5-minute show on *YouTube*, *AlBernameg* became the first online to TV conversion in the Middle East and the most watched show across the region with 30 million viewers every week. It received global acclaim with coverage in major media outlets, topped off by Youssef’s appearance on the *Daily Show with Jon Stewart* twice and, later, his hosting of Jon Stewart on *AlBernameg* in Cairo.

Throughout its three seasons *AlBernameg* remained controversial through its humorous yet bold criticism of the ruling powers, which led to tens of lawsuits being filed against the show and its host. Youssef was even issued an arrest warrant in 2013 and turned himself in the next day where he was questioned for five hours and released on bail. In recognition of his success, in 2013, Youssef was named among *Time Magazine’s* most influential list, was awarded the International Press Freedom Award by the CPJ, and was chosen by *Foreign Policy* magazine as a Leading Global Thinker.

Youssef’s most recent projects include *Democracy Handbook*—a ten-part series exploring topics of democracy on *fusion.net*, and the launch of a new book, *Revolution for Dummies: Laughing Through the Arab Spring* in the spring of 2017.

Youssef majored in cardiothoracic surgery, passed the United States Medical License Exam (USMLE) and is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS).



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