

The *Othello* Project

One Book
One Northwestern

For the first time ever, the entire Northwestern community will be encouraged to join in the reading, exploration, and enjoyment of a single, great book. This fall 2006, the "One Book, One Northwestern" program will bring to life William Shakespeare's classic play *Othello* through an array of coordinated seminars, lectures, performances, readings, dance workshops, and film screenings. These events will display the fascinating ways that *Othello* has been staged, adapted, filmed, and read all over the world in the last four hundred years. Events on the Evanston campus will include:



Thursday, September 21 8:00 P.M. Norris Center East Lawn

Outdoor Screening of "O" an update of *Othello*, set in a high school, starring Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles and Josh Hartnett. Free popcorn.

Tuesday, September 26

4:30 P.M., Hagstrum Room, University Hall 201, 1897 Sheridan Road

"*Othello in Different Contexts*": A Roundtable with NU Faculty - Wendy Griswold, Ed Muir, and Wendy Wall: "How Does a Sociologist, an Historian, and a Literary Scholar Read *Othello*?"

Thursday, October 5

7:00-9:00 P.M., Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road, reception to follow

Opening Keynote Address



Marjorie Garber, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and American Literature and Language and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, will present a lecture entitled "**Black and White and Read All Over: *Othello* and Modern Culture?**" Professor Garber is an eminent scholar of literature and the humanities as well as a distinguished public intellectual and shrewd cultural commentator. She is a prizewinning teacher and author of twelve books including *Vested Interests*, *Vice Versa*, *Symptoms of Culture*, *Quotation Marks*, *Sex and Real Estate*, and *Dog Love*. Her four books on Shakespeare include, most recently, *Shakespeare After All*, awarded the 2005 Christian Gauss Book Award by Phi Beta Kappa and chosen by *Newsweek* as one of 2004's five best nonfiction books.

Wednesday, October 11

8:00 P.M., Block Cinema, 40 Arts Circle Drive

Screening of **Orson Welles's *Othello***, with Theatre and English Department Professor Tracy Davis introducing the film. *There is also a screening separate from these list of events on Wednesday, July 19, 9:00 P.M.*



Thursday, October 19

5:00 P.M., University Hall 102, 1897 Sheridan Road

"*Othello in Film Around the World*": A Roundtable with NU Faculty Scott Curtis, Kevin Bell, and Olateju Adesida, who will discuss a German silent version of *Othello*, a British update of the play set in the age of jazz entitled *All Night Long*, and a Nigerian film version called *Thunderbolt*.

Saturday, October 28

7 P.M. McCormick Tribune Center Forum, 1870 Campus Drive

In "*Othello Kabuki Style*," **Shozo Sato** will discuss connections between Shakespeare's western text and Kabuki's eastern and Zen themes. Sato's talk will be accompanied by performed scenes from his mesmerizing play, "**Kabuki *Othello***," which will have its world premiere this fall. With training in fine arts, the Japanese tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and classical dance, and recipient of numerous international awards including the First Cultural Achievement Award from the Japan Society of America in 2003, Sato is Professor emeritus of the Art and Design Faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He directed Kabuki *Lady Macbeth* for the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre in Spring 2005.



Monday, October 30

5:00-7:00 P.M., Hagstrum Room, University Hall 201, 1897 Sheridan Road

"*Othello as Literary Progenitor*": A Roundtable with NU Faculty Nasrin Qader, Christine Froula, and Evan Mwangi, who will discuss Tayeb Salih's gripping novel, *A Season of Migration to the North*. In adapting the *Othello* story, Salih's bestselling 1967 Arabic novel explores cultural dissonance between Africa and Europe.

Wednesday, November 1

5:00 P.M., Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road, reception to follow

Nigerian writer, political activist, and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, **Wole Soyinka** will present a talk entitled "***Othello's Dominion, Immigrant Domain***." Soyinka one of the world's most eloquent interpreters of the staggering quality of human endurance. His plays, novels, poems, essays, and memoirs draw on the astonishing beauty and tragic politics of his native country and on his own experiences of protest, imprisonment, and exile. By turns elegiac, exuberant, satirical, compassionate, witty, and outraged, Soyinka's political intensity and prodigious literary talent have earned him a reputation as the voice and face of African democracy.



Monday, November 6

7:00-9:00 P.M., University Hall 102, 1897 Sheridan Road

"*Othello in Three Moments, Three Modes*": This event will explore three very different adaptations and interpretations of *Othello*: Verdi's opera *Otello*, presented by NU musicologist Jesse Rosenberg; Jose Limon's dance theatre work, "The Moor's Pavane", presented by Susan Manning; and Fred Wilson's 2003 installation at the Venie Biennale, presented by DePaul faculty member Francesca Royster.

Tuesday, November 7

2:00 to 3:20 P.M. in the Ballroom, Theatre and Interpretation Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive

"**Limon Movement Workshop**": Learn or watch the Jose Limon dance technique, with Instructor James Moreno. Movers and observers are both welcome on a first-come, first-seated basis.

FINALE: Thursday, November 9

7:00 P.M., TBA

"*Othello in Performance*": Distinguished director, choreographer, and playwright David Bell will show how a single scene from *Othello* can be performed in strikingly different ways. Bell's work includes productions with the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and with the Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., premiers on- and off-Broadway, and *Irving Berlin's American Vaudeville* at Northwestern. He has earned numerous awards for his work, including a nomination for the Laurence Olivier award. This presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with Barbara Gaines, founder and director of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Gaines serves on the artistic directorate of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and has received Jeff awards for many of her impressive Chicago performances. Hollywood and stage actor Harry Lennix, who has starred in Julie Taymor's *Titus* and recently in the television show *Commander in Chief*, has been invited to participate in this event. Rehearsals for the performance will be open to the public on this day.

Funded by the Northwestern English Department, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, The Kaplan Humanities Institute and the Alumnae of Northwestern

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 847/491-7294.

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