

PROGRAMS

To view the full schedule of programs presented by the Ransom Center, including lectures, Poetry on the Plaza readings, films, and curator-led tours, please visit www.hrc.utexas.edu/events.

EXHIBITIONS

The current exhibitions, *Fritz Henle: In Search of Beauty* and *The Persian Sensation: The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám in the West*, are on display in the Ransom Center Galleries through August 2, 2009. The First Photograph and the Gutenberg Bible are on permanent display. Exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Cover: Excerpt from first draft notebook, *Sugar and Rum*, Barry Unsworth papers.

Harry Ransom Center
21st and Guadalupe Streets
The University of Texas at Austin
512-471-8944
www.hrc.utexas.edu



HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

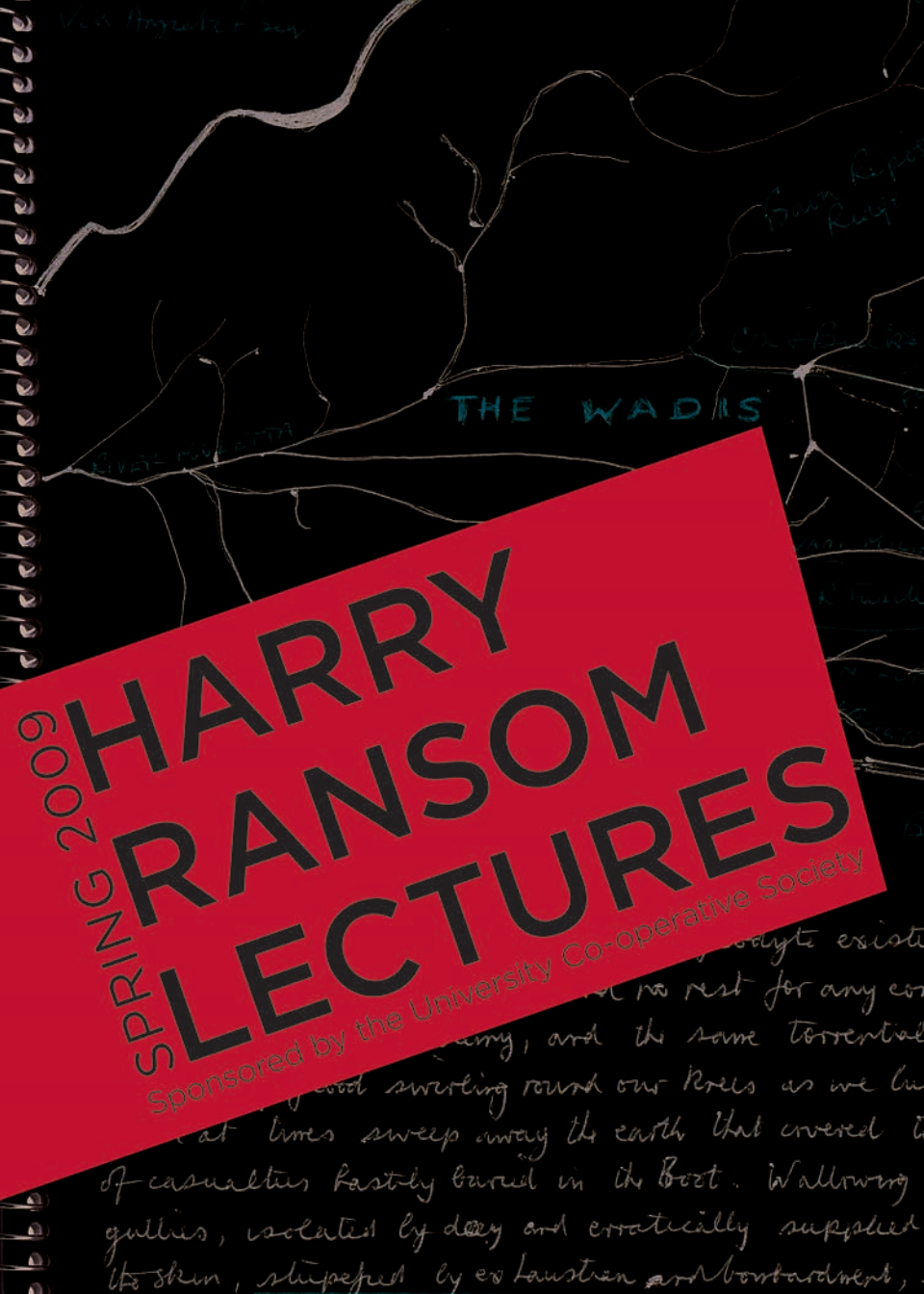
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SPRING 2009

HARRY RANSOM LECTURES

Sponsored by the University Co-operative Society

THE WADIS



...ways to exist
...no rest for any co
...any, and the same torrential
...good swirling round our knees as we lu
at times sweep away the earth that covered t
of casualties hastily buried in the Boer. Wallowing
gullies, isolated by deep and erratically supplied
the skin, stupefied by exhaustion and bombardment,

About the **HARRY RANSOM LECTURES**

The Harry Ransom Lectures honor former University of Texas Chancellor Harry Hunt Ransom and highlight the Ransom Center's vital role in the University's intellectual and cultural life. The program brings internationally renowned writers, artists, and scholars to Austin for a public event and conversations with University students. The lectures are made possible by the generous support of the University Co-operative Society (www.universitycoop.com).

HARRY RANSOM LECTURES

Sponsored by the University Co-operative Society

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 7 P.M.

PROTHRO THEATER, HARRY RANSOM CENTER

Writer **Barry Unsworth**, whose archive is housed at the Ransom Center, discusses his new book, *Land of Marvels*. A book signing follows.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7 P.M.

TEXAS UNION THEATRE

Playwright, writer, and film director **David Mamet** joins The University of Texas at Austin President William Powers Jr. for a conversation about *The Spanish Prisoner* (1997) and a screening of the film.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 7 P.M.

AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER AMPHITHEATRE

1900 University Avenue

Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, discusses the power of literature to influence culture. A book signing of *Things I Have Been Silent About* follows.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 7 P.M.

AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER AMPHITHEATRE

1900 University Avenue

Artist **Ed Ruscha** discusses his life and work.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. No reservations required, but seating is limited.

Barry Unsworth

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 7 P.M.

Prothro Theater

Harry Ransom Center

Barry Unsworth is a celebrated novelist who won the Booker Prize for *Sacred Hunger*, a novel about the eighteenth-century slave trade that is widely considered his masterpiece. Unsworth was a Booker Prize finalist for *Morality Play* and *Pascali's Island*, which was adapted into the film starring Ben Kingsley and Helen Mirren. He was nominated for the Booker Prize for *The Ruby in Her Navel*. His other works include *The Songs of the Kings*, *After Hannibal*, and *Losing Nelson*. He lives in Italy.

Barry Unsworth's papers are housed at the Ransom Center.



5 landscapes, each exemplifying
the mute literature encroachments
Archaeologist is sick.
3 comic characters representing diff

Deranged character wishes to
to share in his "Garden of Eden"

So sequence would be: first
reunion - meeting with Byron
es non: coms house - discovery
crime - first confrontation

Finds skull almost immediate

Images: Barry Unsworth, photo
by Aira Unsworth. Excerpt
from handwritten notebook
(1983-1987), Barry Unsworth
papers.

David Mamet

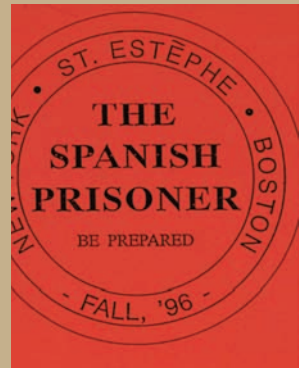
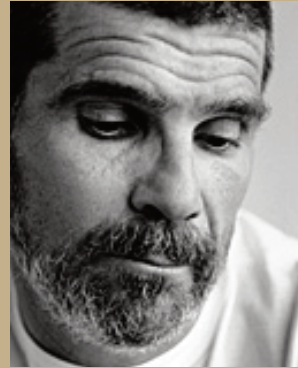
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7 P.M.

Texas Union Theatre

David Mamet is the author of the plays *Romance*, *Boston Marriage*, *Oleanna*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984 Pulitzer Prize), *American Buffalo*, *The Old Neighborhood*, *A Life in the Theatre*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Reunion* and *The Cryptogram* (1995 Obie Award), and *November*. His films include *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Verdict*, *The Untouchables*, *House of Games* (writer/director), *Oleanna* (writer/director), *Homicide* (writer/director), *The Spanish Prisoner* (writer/director), *Hoffa*, *The Edge*, *Wag the Dog*, *The Winslow Boy* (writer/director), *Hannibal*, *State and Main* (writer/director), and *Heist* (writer/director).

His most recent books include the acting books, *True and False* and *Three Uses of the Knife*, and *Bambi vs. Godzilla, On the Nature Purpose and Practice of the Movie Business*. His film *Redbelt* premiered in spring 2008.

David Mamet's papers are housed at the Ransom Center and will be available for research in spring 2009.



Images: David Mamet, photo by Brigitte Lacombe. Cover of production souvenir presented to David Mamet, David Mamet papers.

Azar Nafisi

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 7 P.M.

AT&T Conference Center

Amphitheatre

1900 University Avenue

Azar Nafisi is best known as the author of the national bestseller *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, a portrait of the Islamic revolution in Iran and how it affected one university professor and her students. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is an incisive exploration of the transformative powers of fiction in a world of tyranny.

Nafisi is the director of the Dialogue Project at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, where she is a professor of aesthetics, culture, and literature, and teaches courses on the relationship between culture and politics.

Azar Nafisi has written for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Her latest book, *Things I Have Been Silent About*, is a memoir about her mother.



Images: (Detail) Azar Nafisi, photo by S. J. Staniski. (Detail) *The Prosody of the Persians* by H. Blochman (1872).

Ed Ruscha

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 7 P.M.
AT&T Conference Center
Amphitheatre
1900 University Avenue

Born in 1937 in Omaha, Nebraska, Edward Ruscha moved to Los Angeles in 1956 to attend the Chouinard Art Institute. He had his first solo exhibition in 1963 at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles. He currently shows with the Gagosian Gallery in New York, Beverly Hills, and London.

Encompassing photography, drawing, painting, and artists' books, Ruscha's work has been the subject of retrospectives at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1983), the Centre Georges Pompidou (1989), and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (2000). In 2001, Ruscha was elected to The American Academy of Arts and Letters as a member of the Department of Art. The following year a major exhibition of Ruscha's work opened in Spain at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia.

Leave Any Information at the Signal, a volume of Ruscha's writings, was published by MIT Press in 2002.



Images: Ed Ruscha, photo by Gary Regester. Ed Ruscha, *UNTITLED*, 1986, oil and enamel on canvas, 64 x 64 inches. p.1986.18. © Ed Ruscha. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.