Hofstra Cultural Center

presents

A PEN OF LIGHT: THE FILMS OF JEAN COCTEAU

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1-4, 2003

IN COOPERATION WITH RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN • CULTURAL SERVICES OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN NEW YORK • THE FLORENCE GOULD FOUNDATION • THE FRENCH INSTITUTE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE • CINEMA ARTS CENTRE • NEW COLLEGE AT HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY • HOFSTRA MUSEUM
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HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER

presents

A PEN OF LIGHT:
THE FILMS OF JEAN COCTEAU

Wednesday through Saturday
October 1-4, 2003

Conference Co-Director
David S. Pushkin
Assistant Professor of Fine Art
New College, Hofstra University

Conference Co-Director
Michael Fink
Professor of Liberal Arts
Rhode Island School of Design

Conference Coordinator
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Jean Cocteau claimed that he composed his cinematic poems "with a pen of light." He was concerned that the elegance of early filmmaking would turn into the barbarism of sophisticated production. At our conference we are enlightened by the presence of those who worked with their amateur artist companion in crafting a group of movies that not only go back to the origins of the form, but also looked forward like a beacon to the new wave of youthful cinematographers. They in turn inspired the indies, the students, who are here with us from and at Hofstra, Rhode Island School of Design, School of Visual Arts, as well as from across the country and around the world. We welcome you all, our distinguished guests, our scholars and critics, our students and colleagues, to consider what has been written "with a pen of light."

Cocteau celebrated the popular arts of the late 19th century and watched over the births of 20th-century genres, those infernal machines with the delight of discovery and the youthful zest that never left his spirit. If he can be called a classicist with a devotion to French and other European traditions, he has certainly earned also the label of an innovator. We focus upon his films for a number of reasons. First, they combine these contradictions, using cameras instead of quills to "tell" a tale of yore visually, technically, concretely. Second, such a style requires the mutual efforts of a team of collaborators, friends, who inspire each other, who take fire from one another. Finally, in the turmoil of the events of the 20th century, questions rise up about the public issues of a private life. What are the moral, poetic, political and psychological components of an artist's career and vocation?

Hofstra University has established an honorable tradition of bringing the great figures of the recent past back before us, among us, for our celebration. Our conference on the cinema of Jean Cocteau offers us a wonderful opportunity to join hands with our partner in poetry, la belle France, in touching the boundaries of Cocteau’s life, holding hands with the hand that held the pen of light and the star of hope in the night of the soul.

Nicole Stéphane and Carole Weisweiller in Paris encouraged our design and promised their support. The world of Jean Cocteau in celluloid is a marvellous territory, whose first explorers are here, now, in this room. Thank you all for sharing this occasion with us, who are proud and happy to have been able to bring you to this time and place.

We thank The Florence Gould Foundation, Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York, the Liberal Arts and Film Departments at Rhode Island School of Design, New College at Hofstra and the Hofstra Museum, the French Institute Alliance Française, and the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington, Long Island.

We thank Mr. John Young of the Florence Gould Foundation, whose support made this conference possible. We thank President Stuart Rabinowitz and New College Dean David C. Christman for supporting an interdisciplinary approach toward the study of art and culture, and all of our conference participants mentioned in this program.

Special appreciation goes to Natalie Datlof, Athelene Collins, Bob Spiotto, Deborah Lom, Lauren Capo and Marjorie Berko at the Hofstra Cultural Center; the Film and Liberal Arts Departments of Rhode Island School of Design; the Film Archive at Brown University; Catherine Henry Hall of the French Institute Alliance Française; everyone at the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington, Long Island; and Marie Bonnel, the real champion of this event, from Cultural Services at the French Embassy in New York.

We thank Professors Louis Kern, Barbara Lekatsas, Denis Jean, Johan Åhr, David Powell and many more: Dean Daniel Rubey, Ann Gilmartin and Maggie Burke of the Hofstra Libraries for their early help; David C. Christman, Karen Albert, Heather Johnson, Eleanor Rait, Camille Marryat, and the rest of the staff from the Hofstra Museum; Vicki Dwyer, Kelvin Fonville, Heather Rysanek, Dana Siljander, Elvia Reynolds and Maureen Miniter from the Hofstra Publications Office; Melissa Connolly and Ginny Greenberg of University Relations; Martin Gonzalez, Shawn Saylor and the Conference Services Staff; and David Dapogny and the staff at Media Services.

There are so many names that deserve ample recognition for their contributions to this conference that we can only fail to mention them all. Thank you Shirley Hazzard, Edgardo Cozarinsky, Dudley Andrew, Claude Arnaud and Susan Sontag for their spiritual support.

David S. Pushkin
Assistant Professor of Fine Art
New College, Hofstra University
Conference Co-Director

Michael Fink
Professor of Liberal Arts
Rhode Island School of Design
Conference Co-Director
2-8 p.m.  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**  
Student Center Theater Lobby  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

3-5:15 p.m.  
**FILM SCREENING AND PANEL I**  
Student Center Theater  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

Film:  
**LE SANG D’UN POÈTE** (1933/b&w/c.60 min.)  
scr/dir: Jean Cocteau

Moderator:  
Peter O’Neill  
Chair, Film Department  
Rhode Island School of Design

Panel:  
“Cocteau’s Personal Vision in Le Sang d’un Poète”  
Jean Howe Andra-Miller  
Professor Emerita  
Weber State University, UT

“The Blood of a Poet: Cocteau and Surrealism”  
Raymond Spiteri  
Assistant Professor of Art History  
University of North Dakota

5:15-6:15 p.m.  
**Dinner** (on your own)

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**LE SANG D’UN POÈTE**

An artist paints, then erases, a mouth upon a white canvas. The lips stick to the palm of his hand. A thousand absurd images, subjectively linked, guide the viewer- voyeur through this interior-exterior journey, a promise of Cocteau’s future film career.
Wednesday, October 1, 2003

6:15-8 p.m.  
ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION AND WELCOME RECEPTION*  
Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th Floor  
South Campus

Moderator:  
David S. Pushkin  
Assistant Professor of Fine Art  
New College, Hofstra University  
Conference Co-Director

Participants:  
Lucien Clergue  
Arles, France

Manfred Kirchheimer  
School of Visual Arts  
New York, NY

Peter O’Neill  
Chair, Film Department  
Rhode Island School of Design

Carole Weisweiller  
Paris, France

Slide Presentation:  
“Jean Cocteau: The First Half, 1889-1929” (DVD)  
Randy Roark, Boulder, CO

*Sponsored by New College at Hofstra University
Wednesday, October 1, 2003

8:15-10:30 p.m.  FILM SCREENING AND PANEL II
Student Center Theater
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center
North Campus

Film:  LE TESTAMENT D’ORPHÉE (1960/b&w/c.83min.)
scr/dir: Jean Cocteau

Moderator:  Carole Weisweiller
Paris, France

Panel:
“The Previsions of a Poet: Remediations Between Blood of a Poet and The Testament of Orpheus”
Catherine Mary Lord
University of Amsterdam
The Netherlands

“The Making of The Testament of Orpheus: Behind the Scenes”
Anne M. Caillaud
Associate Professor of French
Grand Valley State University, MI

Commentator:  Lucien Clergue
Arles, France

10:30 p.m.-
12:10 a.m.  LATE-NIGHT FILM SCREENING
Student Center Theater
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center
North Campus

LE BARON FANTÔME (1943/b&w/99 min.)
scr/dir: Serge de Poligny

Introduction:  David S. Pushkin
Assistant Professor of Fine Art
New College, Hofstra University
Conference Co-Director

LE TESTAMENT D’ORPHÉE

With a cast drawn from his fellow artists, artisans and cinema collaborators, the filmmaker poet reviews his vocation. The superbly visual memoir mixes movie sets with the scenery of his actual enduring friendships.
Thursday, October 2, 2003

8 a.m.-5 p.m.  **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**  
Student Center Theater Lobby  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

8:15 a.m.-  **FILM SCREENINGS AND PANEL II**  
12:30 p.m.  
Student Center Theater  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

Film:  **L'AIGLE À DEUX TÊTES** (1947/b&w/c. 90 min)  
scr/dir: Jean Cocteau

Moderator:  **Marie Losier**  
Film Programmer  
French Institute Alliance Française  
New York, NY

Panel:  **“Cocteau’s Romantic Imagination: Romantic Drama in L’Aigle à Deux Têtes”**  
Victoria S. Steinberg  
Assistant Professor of French  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

**“Les Parents terribles: Figuring Jean Marais as Cocteau’s Star”**  
David Aldstadt  
Assistant Professor of French  
Southern Methodist University, TX

Film:  **LES PARENTS TERRIBLES** (1948/b&w/105 min.)  
scr/dir: Jean Cocteau

12:30-1:30 p.m.  **Lunch (on your own)**

**BOOK STORE RECEPTION**  
Visit the Hofstra University Bookstore located in the Atrium of the Student Center for conference related books.

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**L'AIGLE À DEUX TÊTES**

Repudiating lavish production and romantic formula, Cocteau with his pen of light “tells” the taut tragedy of a lonely love between a queen bereft — the austerely elegant Edwige Feuillere — and a desperate anarchist — the uniquely gifted Jean Marais.

**LES PARENTS TERRIBLES**

Michel (Jean Marais) loves Madeleine (Josette Day), without realizing she is also his father’s mistress. His obsessively devoted, diabetic mother (Yvonne de Bray) takes her own life rather than give him up. A close-up celebration and translation of the Cocteau play, homage to the actors, and a study in the tragicomic depths of family and childhood.
Thursday, October 2, 2003

1:30-2 p.m.  OPENING CEREMONY  
Student Center Theater  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center, North Campus

Greetings:  
Stuart Rabinowitz  
President and  
Andrew M. Boas and Mark L. Claster  
Distinguished Professor of Law  
Hofstra University

David S. Pushkin  
Assistant Professor of Fine Art  
New College, Hofstra University  
Conference Co-Director

Michael Fink  
Professor of Liberal Arts  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Conference Co-Director

2-5:30 p.m.  FILM SCREENING AND PANEL IV  
Student Center Theater  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

Film:  
ORPHÉE (1949/b&w/109 min.)  
scr/dir: Jean Cocteau

Moderator:  
Michael Fink  
Professor of Liberal Arts  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Conference Co-Director

Panel:  
“The Mirror Cracked: Identity and Intervention in the Films of Jean Cocteau”  
Edward D. Powers  
Queens, NY

“Orphic Delights in Orphée”  
Robert M. Hammond  
Professor Emeritus  
State University of New York at Cortland

“Classicism in the Cinema of Jean Cocteau”  
H. Dwight Page  
Assistant Professor of French and Spanish  
Hiwassee College, TN

ORPHÉE  
An adulated poet (Jean Marais), both cursed and blessed by fame, attempts to redeem from Hades the wife that he has carelessly condemned and consigned to the underworld. The disturbing update of the classic legend recalls in hints and in props the era of the Occupation and Resistance, as well as a postwar existential eruption.
Thursday, October 2, 2003

6-8 p.m.  BANQUET
Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference
and Exhibition Hall
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th Floor
South Campus

Greetings:
Stuart Rabinowitz
President and
Andrew M. Boas and Mark L. Claster
Distinguished Professor of Law
Hofstra University

Special Guests:
Ned Rorem
New York, NY

Nicole Stéphane
Paris, France
Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Artist

Carole Weisweiller
Paris, France

Performances:
“Anna la bonne”
written by Jean Cocteau
composed by Ned Rorem
piano: Morton Estrin
voice: Elisa Castiglione

“Memoirs”
Ned Rorem and Carole Weisweiller

Drawing by Jean Cocteau
8:15-8:45 p.m. | **ART RECEPTION**

David Filderman Gallery  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, Ninth Floor  
South Campus

“By the Hand of Jean Cocteau: Works From the Hofstra Museum Collection”

Greetings:  
**David C. Christman**  
Dean, New College and School for University Studies  
Director, Hofstra Museum

9-10:30 p.m. | **PERFORMANCE AND ARTISTIC PRESENTATION**

Leo A. Guthart Cultural Center Theater  
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, First Floor  
South Campus

“A Conversation Between Jean Cocteau and William Fifield”*

**Alex Szogyi**  
Professor Emeritus  
Hunter College, CUNY  
and  
**Jeanne Fuchs**  
Professor Emerita  
Hofstra University

The William Fifield Collection: Books, Essays, and Recordings  

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Thursday, October 2, 2003

Artistic Presentation: "Cocteau Cento" (DVD)
Luis Valdovino
Associate Professor of Art
University of Colorado at Boulder

10:30 p.m.- LATE-NIGHT FILM SCREENING
12:10 a.m.
Student Center Theater
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center
North Campus

LES DAMES DU BOIS DE BOULOGNE
(1945/b&w/90 min.)
scr/dir: Robert Bresson
dialogue: Jean Cocteau

Introduction: Robert Hammond
Professor Emeritus
State University of New York at Cortland
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**  
Student Center Theater Lobby  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus

8:15 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**FILM SCREENINGS AND PANEL V**  
Student Center Theater  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center  
North Campus  

Film:  
**L’ETERNEL RETOUR** (1943/b&w/100min.)  
scr: Jean Cocteau  
dir: Jean Delannoy

Moderator:  
Jerome H. Delamater  
Professor of Audio/Video/Film  
School of Communication  
Hofstra University

Panel:  
“Le Son d’un poète: The Theater ‘Voice-Box’ in Cocteau’s Cinema”  
Andrew W. Ade  
Department of English  
Westminster College, PA

“Le film, surnaturel ... : Virtual Filmic Experiencing in Cocteau’s Early Writing”  
Christophe Wall-Romana  
Department of French  
University of California at Berkeley

Film:  
**THOMAS L’IMPOSTEUR** (1964/b&w/90 min.)  
scr: Jean Cocteau  
dir. Georges Franju

1-2 p.m.  
**Lunch** (on your own)
Friday, October 3, 2003

2-4:30 p.m.  FILM SCREENING AND PANEL VI
Student Center Theater
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center
North Campus

Moderator:  Elliott Stein
Film Critic
The Village Voice
New York, NY

Panel:
“Poetry for God: A Cocteau/Maritain Correspondence”
Cornelia Tsakiridou
Associate Professor of Philosophy
La Salle University, PA

“DeChirico and Cocteau: Different Modernities”
Angela Dalle Vacche
Associate Professor of Film Studies
Georgia Institute of Technology

Film:
COCTEAU CINÉASTE (2002/color/90 min.)
dir: Sandrine Treiner and François Chaye

4:30-5:15 p.m.  Dinner (on your own)
Friday, October 3, 2003

5:30-10 p.m. BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY
(reservations required)
Chartered bus will transport conference participants round-trip between Hofstra University and the French Institute Alliance Française. Return trip will make stops at the designated hotels.

7 p.m. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION HONORING NICOLE STÉPHANE
French Institute Alliance Française
New York, NY

8 p.m. FILM SCREENING
LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES (1950/b&w/105 min.)
scr: Jean Cocteau
dir: Jean-Pierre Melville

Introduction: Jacqueline Chambord
Artistic Director
French Institute Alliance Française
New York, NY

Special Guest: Nicole Stéphane
Paris, France
Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Artist

11:30 p.m.-1 a.m. LATE-NIGHT FILM SCREENING
Hospitality Suite
Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Uniondale, NY

8x8 (1957/color/69 min.)
dir: Hans Richter

LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES
Elizabeth (Nicole Stéphane) is very protective of her teenage brother Paul (Edouard Dermithé), who was just injured at school and has to stay in bed to rest. The siblings are inseparable, but bring some of their friends into their unusual relationship.
Saturday, October 4, 2003

9 a.m. **BUS TRIP TO HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND**
(reservations required)
Bus will transport conference participants round-trip between designated hotels and the Cinema Arts Centre. Return trip will make stops at the designated hotels.

10-11 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
Cinema Arts Centre
Huntington, Long Island

11 a.m. **FILM SCREENING AND PANEL VII**

**Film:**  
*LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE* (1946/b&w/93 min.)
sr/d: Jean Cocteau

**Moders:**
- Michael Fink  
  Professor of Liberal Arts  
  Rhode Island School of Design  
  Conference Co-Director

- Angela Dalle Vacche  
  Associate Professor of Film Studies  
  Georgia Institute of Technology

**Panel:**
- "The Beauty and the Beast: A Turning Point in French Film History"  
  Caroline Eades  
  Assistant Professor of Filmic Studies and  
  Contemporary French Culture  
  University of Maryland

- "Cocteau and *le conte de fée*: Fairy Tales for Adults"  
  Naomi Greene  
  Department of French and Italian  
  University of California at Santa Barbara

- Shield or Sword/Beauty or Beast?: An Interpretation of Vichy France"  
  Johan Åhr  
  Assistant Professor  
  New College, Hofstra University

**LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE**

The enchanting Josette Day is Belle, the virtuous daughter who takes the place of her father as a prisoner in the mysterious house of the Beast, where candelabras are made from living "arms" and statues watch her every move. Jean Marais gives an unforgettable, visceral performance as the sensitive Beast.
HOFSTRA MUSEUM CONFERENCE EXHIBITIONS

David C. Christman, Director
David S. Pushkin, Guest Curator

By the Hand of Jean Cocteau: Works From the Hofstra Museum Collection
Tuesday, September 2, 2003 through Friday, January 23, 2004

David Filderman Gallery
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, Ninth Floor, South Campus

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
Closed holiday weekends

Jean Cocteau in the Eye of the Camera
Photographs by Lucien Clergue and Carole Weisweiller
Tuesday, May 27 through Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10 Floor, South Campus

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
Closed holiday weekends

For further information please call:
Hofstra Museum
(516) 463-5672

Double-Masque aux Feuilles, 1958
Ceramic
Gift of Louis Shorenstein

Jean Cocteau in the courtyard of his house, Milly-la-Forêt
ADDITIONAL FILMS AVAILABLE FOR VHS SCREENING

Office of the Dean of Library Services
Room 901
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, Ninth Floor, South Campus

Hours: Thursday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

JEAN COCTEAU PORTRAIT D’UN INCONNU (1983/color/90 min.)
dir: Edgardo Cozarinsky

COCTEAU CINÉASTE (2002/color/90 min.)
dir: Sandrine Treiner and François Chaye

LA VILLA SANTO SOSPIR (1952/color/30 min.)
dir: Jean Cocteau

LA PRINCESSE DE CLÈVES (1961/b&w/110 min.)
scr: Jean Cocteau; dir: Jean Delannoy

L’AMITIE NOIR (1946)
scr: Jean Cocteau; nar: Jean Cocteau

ANNA DE NOAILLES (1997/color/44 min.)
dir: Françoise Giroud and Antoine Gallien

RUY BLAS (1948/b&w/90 min.)
scr: Jean Cocteau; dir: Pierre Billon
1997 Edward Peters, Scholar
Conference: Pope Innocent III and His World

1997 Mario Lavista (México), Composer
Conference: The Hispanic Connection: Spanish and Spanish-American Literature in the Arts of the World

1998 Oren Lyons (Iroquois), Scholar
Conference: Native American Experience: Long Island, New York and Beyond

1998 Will Friedwald, Writer and Frank Sinatra Historian

1999 Jon C. Teaford, Scholar
Conference: Nassau County: From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis

1999 Michele Luzzati (Italy), Scholar
Conference: The Most Ancient of Minorities: History and Culture of the Jews of Italy

1999 David B. Ruderman, Scholar
Conference: The Most Ancient of Minorities: History and Culture of the Jews of Italy

1999 Blanche Wiessen Cook, Historian
Conference: The Vision of Eleanor Roosevelt: World Citizen Ahead of Her Time

1999 Donald Spoto, Author
Conference: Alfred Hitchcock: In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Alfred Hitchcock

1999 Michael A. Morrison, Scholar
Conference: Millennial Shakespeare: Performance/Text/Scholarship

2000 Peter Riddell, Associate Editor, The Times (London)
Conference: The Thatcher Years: The Rebirth of Liberty?

2000 Walter Isaacson, Managing Editor, Time
Symposium: The Leadership Difference: Rating the Presidents

2000 Jackson R. Bryer, Scholar
Conference: A Robert Anderson Retrospective: Theater and Film

2000 Carlisle Floyd, Composer, Susannah
Conference: Contemporary Opera at the Millennium

2001 Kenneth T. Jackson, Scholar
Conference: Redefining Suburban Studies

2001 Bill Michaelis, Scholar

2001 E.L. Doctorow, Author
Conference: Moby-Dick 2001

2001 Richard A. Falk, Scholar
Conference: 2001: A Peace Odyssey

2001 George Wein, Producer
Symposium: Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong: A Celebration of Jazz

2002 John Seelye, Scholar
Conference: John Steinbeck’s Americas

2002 Gwen Kirkpatrick, Scholar
Symposium: Spanish and Spanish-American Poetry: Transition 2000 and Beyond

2002 Howard Zinn, Scholar
Symposium: Representing Sacco and Vanzetti

2002 Ian Thomson, Scholar
Conference: “If This Is a Man”: The Life and Legacy of Primo Levi

2002 Gary Giddins, Biographer
Conference: Bing! Crosby and American Culture

2003 Robert Kimball, Author and Historian of Musical Theatre
Conference: The Broadway Musical: 1920-2020

2003 Carl R. Gunther, Historian and Archivist
Conference: From Autogiro to Gyroplane: The Past, Present and Future of an Aviation Industry

2003 Nicole Stéphane, Actress
Conference: A Pen of Light: The Films of Jean Cocteau
The Hofstra Cultural Center was founded in 1976 by the late Joseph G. Astman, Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages at Hofstra University, and has evolved into a dynamic instrument for fostering scholarly exchange and intellectual debate. In its 27-year history as an integral part of Hofstra University, it has sponsored more than 100 international conferences that have brought together thousands of scholars from throughout the United States and all over the world. The Cultural Center has solidified its role as a forum for the interdisciplinary exploration of a wide range of topics. Its conferences range from highly specialized inquiries (e.g., *The Trotsky-Stalin Conflict in the 1920s* and *Inscription as Art in the World of Islam*) to subjects of general cultural interest (*Chocolate: Food of the Gods; Baseball and the “Sultan of Swat.” Commemorating the 100th Birthday of Babe Ruth*; and *Frank Sinatra: The Man, The Music, The Legend*), from matters of local and regional concern (*Long Island Studies Conferences Robert Moses and Long Island Women: Activists and Innovators*) to issues of international and global significance (*New Directions in Worker/Management Relations: US/USSR; The United Nations at Fifty; and Africa 2000*).

The Hofstra Cultural Center operates primarily through the medium of the international scholarly conference, traditionally enriched by exhibitions, performances and various supplemental events, but it also sponsors other cultural activities. Its conference activities fall under three headings: conferences dedicated to monographic study of world historical figures (Einstein, James Joyce, Trotsky, Stalin, Goethe, George Sand, Van Gogh, C. G. Jung, Tchaikovsky and Sarah Bernhardt); conferences dedicated to historical, cultural, political or artistic problematics (*Heritage: An Appraisal of the Harlem Renaissance; Bamboo and Oak: The Impact of East Asia on American Society and Culture; and Avant-Garde Art and Literature*); and a series of conferences dedicated to the presidents of the United States. The “presidential series,” inaugurated in 1982, has so far examined the presidencies of Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush. Employing a pioneering format, these conferences have attempted to examine the presidencies in a critical way by inviting former members of the administrations and White House staffs to enter into discussion with political scientists, historians and economists.

“Since the Hofstra Cultural Center presented its first scholarly conference more than a quarter of a century ago, the world’s most distinguished scholars, scientists, government leaders, artists, musicians, authors, journalists and newsmakers have shared their expertise and talents with our students, faculty and guests. A university should provide a forum to share ideas and increase knowledge. With each new event presented by the Cultural Center our universe of ideas and knowledge grows,” said Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz.

Pellegrino D’Acierno
Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages
Hofstra University
Hofstra Cultural Center

Conference and Symposium Schedule and Publications Listing

- George Sand Centennial November 1976
- Heinrich von Kleist Bicentennial November 1977
+ The Chinese Woman October 1977
- George Sand: Her Life, Her Works, Her Influence April 1978
- William Cullen Bryant and His America October 1978
+ The Trotsky-Stalin Conflict in the 1920s March 1979
* Albert Einstein Centennial November 1979
+ Renaissance Venice Symposium March 1980
+ Sean O’Casey March 1980
* Walt Whitman April 1980
* Nineteenth-Century Women Writers November 1980
* Feodor Dostoevski April 1981
* Gotthold Ephraim Lessing November 1981
* Franklin Delano Roosevelt: The Man, the Myth, the Era March 1982
* Johann Wolfgang von Goethe April 1982
* James Joyce October 1982
* Twentieth-Century Women Writers November 1982
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