



HUMANITIES WEST

Exploring History. Celebrating the Arts.

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Public Info: Humanities West

www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400

www.cityboxoffice.com

Humanities West Announces its 2016-2017 Season

****Including its 100th Weekend Program since 1983***

***A Unique Lecture & Performance Series
Exploring History, Celebrating the Arts***

Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918) November 4–5, 2016

Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors February 24–25, 2017

****Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh May 5–6, 2017***

Humanities West's 100th 2-Day Program!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, XX July, 2016) Humanities West proudly announces its 2016-2017 Season featuring three diverse lecture/performance programs: *Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918)* on November 4 & 5, 2016; *Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors* on February 24 & 25, 2017; and **Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh*, celebrating Humanities West's 100th Weekend Program, on May 5 & 6, 2017, at the Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco. A detailed schedule with complete list of presenters and other resources is available online at:

www.humanitieswest.org. Single tickets for individual programs range from \$25 - \$80; discounted series tickets are available. For details contact City Box Office 415-392-4400 or info@cityboxoffice.com. Order tickets online at www.cityboxoffice.com.

Humanities West is a unique Bay Area arts organization dedicated to presenting multidisciplinary programs exploring history and celebrating the arts. The illuminating lectures and dynamic performances focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped and still inform modern culture. Each season Humanities West brings together leading scholars, musicians, and artists to entertain and educate a wide audience of the intellectually curious, arts lovers, travel buffs, students, teachers, and life-long learners. For the 2016-2017 Season the audience is invited to embark on a grand adventure that will explore the cultural contrasts of fin-de-siècle **Vienna**, the wanderlust of the far-ranging **Vikings**, and the turbulence of **Cleopatra's** Hellenistic Egypt.

In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Mechanics' Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures, salons, and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics. A schedule of related programs is available online at www.humanitieswest.org.

Season tickets for all three two-day programs are \$299 orchestra and \$210 balcony. A Fridays-only series is \$165 orchestra and \$129 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$225 orchestra and \$144 balcony. Series subscriptions offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$60 orchestra and \$45 balcony, and individual Saturday programs are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony; single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$90 balcony. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org). Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com.

2016-2017 SEASON BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Vienna on the Verge (1890-1918) November 4 & 5, 2016

By the end of the 19th century deep rifts had emerged in Central Europe's capital. Vienna's public life—its demographics and politics—had changed profoundly, and its cultural life—architecture, music, visual arts, and literature—both reflected and contributed to the upheaval. By 1900, the clash of polarities between tradition and the new had transformed Vienna from a proud and open metropolis to a city psychically troubled. Humanities West explores the modernist side of Vienna's split personality, when a conflicted Vienna gave birth to emergent modernism and some of Europe's greatest artistic treasures.

Presenters include Gary Cohen (*University of Minnesota Twin Cities*), David Luft (*Oregon State University*), Lisa Silverman (*University of Wisconsin Milwaukee*), Kayleen Asbo (*SF Conservatory of Music*) and Mitchell Schwarzer (*California College of the Arts*); with a special music lecture/performance by Bruce Lamott (*Philharmonia Baroque*) featuring chamber music by Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss, Anton Webern, and Oscar Straus, with Helene Zindarsian (soprano), Robert Howard (cello), and Keisuke Nakagoshi (piano).

Wanderlust: Viking Raiders Traders, Neighbors Feb. 24 & 25, 2017

From the sacking of Lindisfarne Abbey in 793 until the end of the 11th century, voyaging Scandinavian traders and warriors played a decisive role in the formation of European culture. Not merely fearsome sackers of coastal farming communities, these fearless travelers spread their cultural influence from Newfoundland to Russia and from Portugal to Byzantium, Baghdad and Sicily. In this program, Humanities West explores the legendary exploits of the Vikings, along with their advanced nautical knowledge, their proficiency in commerce, and their expertise in elaborate decorative arts.

Presenters include Fred Astren (*SF State University*), Patrick Hunt (*Stanford*), Jesse Byock (*UCLA*), Daniel Melleno (*University of Denver*), Deborah Loft (*College of Marin*) and Jonas Wellendorf (*UC Berkeley*). Acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Tim Rayborn provides a performance of Norse myth, poetry and music.

***Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh May 5 & 6, 2017 – Humanities West 100th!**

More than two millennia after her death, Cleopatra VII remains an enigma and an object of fascination. Her palace shimmered with onyx and gold, but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Until her ill-fated alliance with Mark Anthony, Cleopatra was the wealthiest ruler in the Mediterranean and the most influential woman of the Hellenistic Age. She lived dangerously and died sensationally. This program celebrates Cleopatra as an eternal iconic figure, continually re-imagined through the cultural prisms of successive ages.

Presenters include Stacy Schiff (*Pulitzer-winning author*), Susan Stephens (*Stanford*), Lisa Pieraccini (*UC Berkeley*), and Robert Gurval (*UCLA*). Kip Cranna (SF Opera) introduces Friday and Saturday musical performances featuring Sara Duchovnay (soprano) and Mariya Kaganskaya (mezzo-soprano), accompanied by piano.

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