

Media Contact: Genevieve Antaky
510/482-3553, gantaky@comcast.net

Public Info: Humanities West
www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: Marines' Memorial Theatre 415/771-6900
<http://marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com/>

Humanities West Announces its 2012-2013 Season
Interdisciplinary Programs Celebrating History & Culture
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

***Paris: American Expatriate Genius* October 19–20, 2012**

***Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London* February 22–23, 2013**

***Bernini's Rome: Art & Architecture of the Baroque* April 26–27, 2013**

*****Plus a Special Sunday Afternoon Program*****

***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?* September 16, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 21 June, 2012) Humanities West, a Bay Area non-profit devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts, launches its 2012-2013 Season at a new venue, the Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco, with a special Sunday program exploring piracy on the high seas, *Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?* (September 16, 2012). The lecture/performance series continues with *Paris: American Expatriate Genius* (October 19 & 20, 2012); *Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London* (February 22 & 23, 2013) and *Bernini's Rome: Art & Architecture of the Baroque* (April 26 & 27, 2013). A detailed schedule with complete list of presenters and other resources are available online at: www.humanitieswest.org. Single tickets for individual programs range from \$20 - \$75; series tickets are available; contact Marines' Memorial Theatre 415-771-6900 or marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com.

Humanities West transports its audience across time and around the globe for colorful perspectives on the many sources of our modern cultures. The 2012-2013 lecture/performance series illuminates people and places that mark significant points in history, fine art, the performing arts, social history, politics, and philosophy of the arts. Designed to both entertain and educate, the programs bring together regional, national, and international scholars and artists to present lectures, performances, readings, and discussions. The new season launches its armchair journey with a special introductory presentation exploring the fascinating history of piracy on the high seas. The two-day programs begin with a visit to Paris during the 1920's and '30's to examine the remarkable creativity of American Expatriate Geniuses; then on to 17th-century London to revel in the reign of Charles II – an era rich with pomp, intrigue, and innovation, and finally the season ends its travels in 17th-century Rome to enjoy the splendor of Bernini's triumphant masterworks of Baroque art and Architecture.

With the support of collaborating organizations, each two-day event is complemented by ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues. A schedule of ancillary programs is available online at www.humanitieswest.org.

Season tickets for all three two-day programs are \$275 orchestra and \$165 balcony (includes *Piracy*, special Sunday program). A Fridays-only series is \$130 orchestra and \$80 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$200 orchestra and \$115 balcony. Series subscriptions offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$50 orchestra and \$35 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$75 orchestra and \$45 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$115 orchestra and \$65 balcony, single tickets for the special Sunday program are \$50 orchestra and \$35 balcony. Individual tickets for teachers and students are available for \$20/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org). All seating must be reserved in advance. Order direct from the Box Office at Marines' Memorial Theatre at 415/771-6900 or <http://marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com/>.

2012-2013 BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

-Special Sunday Afternoon Program-

Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession? September 16, 2012

Piracy on the high seas is the stuff of ancient legends and today's headlines. Homer and Thucydides told of pirates roaming the Mediterranean. Julius Caesar himself was ransomed. Augustus Caesar's fleets vanquished them and the Byzantines kept them at bay. The Ottoman Turks unleashed the Barbary Coast pirates, while European rivals in trade and at war preyed on one another through state sponsored privateering. The long history of piracy has been immortalized, and sometimes romanticized, in the world's artistic heritage.

Speakers include Ian Morris (Stanford), Tyler Stovall (UC Berkeley), and Andrew Jameson (USC). Musical performance by Skip Henderson and the Starboard Watch.

-Two-Day Programs-

Paris: American Expatriate Genius October 19 & 20, 2012

Postwar Paris, with its tolerant and cosmopolitan atmosphere (and its low cost of living), attracted a startling number of America's cultural icons to live and work among the European *avant-garde* in a moveable feast of creativity. The exhilaration of Paris in the 1920s and 1930s inspired talented American expatriates crossing national, cultural, and artistic boundaries to create innovative modern forms of their art. Gertrude Stein's "*Une generation perdue*", this "lost" generation of American artistic geniuses exuberantly and profoundly influenced literature, art, filmmaking, music, dance, and theater, reshaping twentieth-century American and European culture.

Speakers include Donald W. Faulkner (NY State Writers Institute), Wanda M. Corn (Stanford), Deborah Loft (Marin College), and Tyler Stovall (UC Berkeley). Luciano Chessa (SF Conservatory of Music) introduces a musical performance with Heidi Sali (soprano) and Benjamin Kreith (violin). Actress Laura Sheppard performs Paris Portraits, with direction and design by Suzanne Stassevich; pianist Karen Rosenak provides accompaniment.

Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London February 22 & 23, 2013

The restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660 helped London emerge from civil war and Puritanism. Fueled by the Merrie Monarch's patronage, Restoration London burst with creative energy. Theatres reopened and women appeared on stage for the first time; accomplished musicians gave the first public concerts. A thriving public sphere also emerged, with Court antagonists spewing forth in clubs, coffee houses and newspapers. This artistic and lusty exuberance was matched by scientific and architectural advances, spurred by Charles's sponsorship of the prestigious Royal Society for Improving Natural Knowledge. In rebuilding London after the Great Fire of 1666, society luminaries fostered a more rational and spacious city that gave rise to the first political parties, a relatively free press, public arts patronage, an explosion of scientific knowledge, and other hallmarks of modernity. It may be that Restoration London invented the Modern world.

Speakers include Robert Bucholz (Loyola U Chicago), Tim Harris (Brown), Blair Hoxby (Stanford), and Julia Marciari-Alexander (San Diego Museum of Art). Performance by Gilbert Martinez (harpsichord), Rita Lilly (soprano) and Joshua Lee (viola da gamba), introduced by Clifford (Kip) Cranna (SF Opera).

Bernini's Rome: Art and Architecture of the Baroque April 26 & 27, 2013

Enjoying the patronage of Popes and the wealth of the resurgent Counter-Reformation Church, Gian Lorenzo Bernini used his immense talents as an architect, painter, and especially as a sculptor to help define the unique visual style of the Baroque Age. In seventeenth-century Rome, designed by far-sighted urban planners in the shape of a star, Bernini and his collaborators and rivals restored a monumental grandeur to the Eternal City that survives to this day.

Speakers include Theodore Rabb (Princeton), Max Grossman (University of Texas, El Paso), Deborah Loft (Marin College), Thomas Dandeleit (UC Berkeley), and Paula Findlen (Stanford). Performance by Corey Jamason (harpsichord), with Richard Savino (lute), introduced by Clifford (Kip) Cranna (SF Opera).

###

ABOUT HUMANITIES WEST:

A non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West is devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts. The only independent non-profit offering humanities and arts programs of this scale, Humanities West presents a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These multidisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern culture.

#30#