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Public Info: Humanities West www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London
Friday & Saturday, February 22 & 23, 2013
Marines' Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

Humanities West presents ***Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and performances exploring 17th-century London to revel in the reign of Charles II – an era rich with pomp, intrigue, and innovation, along with dramatic transformation in both the arts and sciences. The program takes place on Friday, February 22, from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm and Saturday, February 23, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, in San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London*** are priced as follows: Single tickets for the Friday program are \$50 orchestra and \$35 balcony; single tickets for the Saturday program are \$75 orchestra and \$45 balcony, single tickets for both days are \$115 orchestra and \$65 balcony. Special Student/Teacher tickets are available at \$20 balcony for single day admission. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. A limited number of free tickets for students age 25 and under are available; contact info@humanitieswest.org.

Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London brings together an engaging panel of scholars and performers to examine the exuberant power, pomp, and pleasure of 17th-century London. 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 enthusiasm 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.

On Friday evening, **Robert Bucholz** (History, Loyola University Chicago) provides the opening lecture on ***Power, Pomp and Pleasure in the Restoration Court***. Professor Bucholz describes the personality and predilections of the Merrie Monarch, his cultural and social patronage, and why the Restoration Court became synonymous with scandal and fun. A musical performance ***Music of Seventeenth-Century London*** follows, introduced by Clifford (Kip) Cranna (SF Opera). Performers include **Gilbert Martinez** (Artistic Director, MusicSources), harpsichord, **Rita Lilly**, soprano, and **Joshua Lee**, viola da gamba.

On Saturday, **Tim Harris** (History, Brown University) presents a lecture, ***London in the Reign of Charles II***. This was a period of recovery and resurgence, but also a period of coming to terms with the past, and of dealing with the legacy of the mid-century revolution. Professor Harris explores the political and religious divisions that were to tear Restoration London apart, divisions that were to crystallize around the formation of the first political parties in the modern world. **Blair Hoxby** (English, Stanford University) follows with a presentation, ***How I Learned to Love Restoration Theater***, examining the innovations and contradictions of the Restoration stage and its display of unconcealed human passions. A new age demanded new theater. Modern libertine sex comedies and high-flown heroic tragedies lay bare human motivation with bracing objectivity.

The program continues with an illustrated lecture by **Julia Marciari-Alexander** (Deputy Director, San Diego Museum of Art) on ***Mistresses, Maidens, and Noble Pictures in Restoration England, 1660-1685***, examining some of the spectacular portraits of the most famous women at the court of Charles II of England. These paintings were highly significant within the cultural production at the Restoration court, and, as objects, they reflect both the spirit of the age as well as the individual characters of the women portrayed.

Robert Bucholz rejoins the panel for the closing talk, ***How Strong Coffee and Free Conversation Restored London after Plague and Fire***. As the Restoration Court began to decline into insolvency and political isolation, Restoration London saw the rise of new forms of sociability and patronage. Coffee houses, clubs and pleasure-gardens offered all that the Court could (food, drink, entertainment, conversation and networking) without the formality or constraint of a court. Professor Bucholz discusses how these venues promoted free conversation abetted by the rise of the newspaper and essay magazines.

A panel discussion with all the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

Humanities West, a non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, 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 and performing 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.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London*

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**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 22, 2013
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 23, 2013**

**WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco**

TICKETS: \$20 - \$75

Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com

Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

Free Tickets for students 25 years old and younger: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

RELATED EVENTS for *Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

A Pepys Anthology. Samuel Pepys. Edited by Robert and Linnet Latham (UC Press, 1988)

Join a book discussion about selections from Samuel Pepys's famous diary. Robert and Linnet Latham's edited anthology shows Pepys the man of fashion, the booklover, the musician and theatergoer as well as Pepys the husband and Pepys the public servant. Through descriptions of the everyday and of historic events like the Fire and the Plague, Pepys's life and times are revealed in all their richness and variety. This discussion is led by Lynn Harris.

When: **5:30pm, Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Fireside Chat with George Hammond –*Restoration London Preview*

When: **6:30pm, Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

Where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Cost: Free

Join a Fireside Chat previewing Humanities West's upcoming presentation ***Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and performances exploring 17th-century London to revel in the reign of Charles II – an era rich with pomp, intrigue, and innovation, along with dramatic transformation in both the arts and sciences.

Lecture: Aphra Behn: Restoration Spy, Poet, Dramatist, Novelist, Abolitionist with Patricia Lundberg

Join Patricia Lundberg, Emerita Professor of English and Women's Studies, Indiana University Northwest, and Executive Director, Humanities West for a presentation about Aphra Behn. The earliest known British woman to earn her living as a writer, Aphra Behn traversed the rowdy literary and political landscape of the Restoration Era in England. Living from 1640 to 1689, she dedicated her life to pleasure and poetry. She wrote plays, novels, and poems in the same bawdy vein as her male peers, using her spy moniker, Astraea. At once famous and infamous, Aphra Behn is credited by Virginia Woolf as the one who earned women the right to speak their minds.

When: **6pm, Thursday, February 21, 2013**
Where: Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA
Cost: \$20
RSVP: 415.597.6700 or commonwealthclub.org
Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

***The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World* by Edward Dolnick**

Join a book discussion about the great thinkers of late 17th-century, including the fascinating personalities of Newton, Leibniz, and Kepler. In a world of chaos and disease, one group of driven, idiosyncratic geniuses envisioned a universe that ran like clockwork. They were the Royal Society, the men who made the modern world. Edward Dolnick's *The Clockwork Universe* captures these monolithic thinkers as they wrestled with nature's most sweeping mysteries. This discussion is led by Lynn Harris.

When: **5:30pm, Wednesday, February 27, 2013**
Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA
Cost: \$5
RSVP: commonwealthclub.org
Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

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