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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 2010-2011 Season
Three Interdisciplinary Programs Celebrating Mediterranean Culture
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Venice: Queen of the Adriatic
October 22 & 23, 2010

Toledo: Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain
February 4 & 5, 2011

Minoan Crete: Dawn of European Civilization
April 29 & 30, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 25 August, 2010) Humanities West, a Bay Area non-profit devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts, announces its 2010-2011 Season featuring three unique lecture/performance programs: *Venice: Queen of the Adriatic* (October 22 & 23, 2010); *Toledo: Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain* (February 4 & 5, 2011) and *Minoan Crete: Dawn of European Civilization* (April 29 & 30, 2011), at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue near McAllister in San Francisco. A detailed schedule with complete list of presenters is available online at: www.humanitieswest.org. Single tickets for individual programs range from \$20 - \$65; series tickets are available; contact City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com

Now in its twenty-sixth season Humanities West continues to bring together regional, national, and international scholars and artists to present lectures, performances, readings, and discussions. Designed to both entertain and educate, the 2010-2011 Season programs take audiences on a departure through time, first to Venice to explore the history of her magnificent art, architecture, music, and fashion; then to the dynamic city of Toledo to examine its reputation as the Medieval center of *Convivencia*, the tolerant co-existence of Muslims, Christians, and Jews; and finally to the prosperous and powerful maritime society of Minoan Crete. 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. Collaborators include the Consuls General of Greece and Italy, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, Mechanics' Institute, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, Italian Cultural Institute, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music. A schedule of ancillary programs is available online at www.humanitieswest.org.

Season tickets for all three two-day programs are \$220 orchestra/dress circle and \$140 balcony. A Fridays-only series is \$115 orchestra/grand tier and \$75 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$175 orchestra/grand tier and \$105 balcony. Series subscriptions offer significant savings over single-ticket prices. Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$45 orchestra/dress circle and \$30 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$65 orchestra/dress circle and \$40 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$100 orchestra/dress circle and \$55 balcony. All seating must be reserved in advance. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com.

2010-2011 BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Venice: Queen of the Adriatic October 22 & 23, 2010

Venice, poised regally on the Adriatic coast, dominated the Eastern Mediterranean from the twelfth century. This program explores how Venice—with its unique political system, commercial and technical prowess, and tolerant cultural environment—became the most prosperous city in Europe and a showcase of magnificent art, architecture, music and fashion.

Speakers include **Joanne Ferraro** (San Diego State University), Clifford "Kip" Cranna (SF Opera), Maureen C. Miller (UC Berkeley), Sally McKee (UC Davis), Max Grossman (University of Texas El Paso), Herb Myers (Stanford), and Luciano Chessa (Italian Cultural Institute).

Musical performances by Allison Zelles Lloyd (soprano), David Morris (viola da gamba, gittern and voice), Gilbert Martinez (harpsichord), Shira Kammen (violin and voice), Alessandro Palmeri (cellist), and Richard Savino (lutenist).

Toledo: Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain February 4 & 5, 2011

For centuries under both Moorish and Spanish rule, Toledo thrived as a cultural, religious, and political center for its Muslims, Christians, and Jews. This program examines Toledo's reputation of *Convivencia*, the relatively tolerant and synergistic co-existence of these three major religious communities.

Speakers include Teofilo Ruiz (UCLA), Clifford "Kip" Cranna (SF Opera), Mary Elizabeth Perry (UCLA), and Deborah Loft (College of Marin).

Musical performances by Susan Rode-Morris (Soprano), Peter Maund (Percussion), David Morris, (viola-da-gamba), Shira Kammen (vielle/violin), and Richard Savino (guitar).

Minoan Crete: Dawn of European Civilization April 29 & 30, 2011

A prosperous and powerful maritime society flourished on Crete from ~2700 to ~1400 BCE, and is considered Europe's first civilization. This presentation explores the magnificence of Minoan culture, its art and architecture, its economy and politics, and its influence on the European continent.

Speakers include Xenia Stefanidou (Ambassador of Greece to the Philippines), Eleni Hatzaki (University of Cincinnati), Clifford "Kip" Cranna (SF Opera), Ian Morris (Stanford), Vance Watrous (SUNY Buffalo), Andrew Jameson (Harvard and UC Berkeley), and Kim Shelton (UC Berkeley).

Musical performance by Lauren Groff (mezzo soprano).

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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 interdisciplinary 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.

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