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

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?
1-4pm, Sunday, September 16, 2012
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

Humanities West launches its 2012-2013 Season at a new venue, the Marines' Memorial Theatre, with a program exploring piracy on the high seas, ***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?*** This special Sunday afternoon presentation plunges into the fascinating history of piracy with a series of lectures, discussions, and music. The program takes place on Sunday, September 16, from 1pm to 4pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Individual tickets for ***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?*** are \$20-\$50. Tickets are available by calling the box office at Marines' Memorial Theatre 415/771-6900 or online at marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com.

Season subscription tickets are also available and offer a significant savings. Season subscription tickets are \$275 orchestra and \$165 balcony, and include ***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?*** plus all three two-day programs in the 2012-13 Season: ***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 Fridays-only series is \$130 orchestra and \$80 balcony, and a Saturdays-only series is \$200 orchestra and \$115 balcony. Order direct from Marines' Memorial Theatre 415/771-6900 or marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com. For more information call Humanities West at 415/391-9700 or check the website for complete program descriptions and related programs at: www.humanitieswest.org.

Humanities West presents ***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?*** a special Sunday afternoon program exploring the fascinating history of piracy, immortalized—and often romanticized—in the world's artistic works. 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 program opens with a talk by **Ian Morris** (Classics, Stanford University) proving an overview of the three Golden Ages of piracy—the 1st century BCE in the Mediterranean, the 16th-17th centuries CE in the Caribbean, Atlantic, Mediterranean, and South China Sea, and our own century in the Indian Ocean. Morris explores the connections of these eras, how piracy was able to thrive in each era and the conditions that contribute to its collapse, as well as the lessons that can be learned by the patterns revealed.

Tyler Stovall (History, UC Berkeley) follows with a lecture on how popular culture has closely identified piracy with the Caribbean in the era of European colonial rule over the Americas. Stovall explains how certain key themes in the history of piracy resonate with the shape of Caribbean society and culture during the modern era.

Andrew Jameson (USC) will discuss how seventeenth-century pirates have become popularized as romantic 'outlaws' of the seas, yet contemporary sea piracy flourishes as a real threat to the world's economy. An unprecedented increase of piratical hijackings has occurred in modern times, especially along the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. Professor Jameson himself was a lecturer on a cruise ship attacked by pirates in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa.

The program closes with a musical performance by **Skip Henderson and the Starboard Watch**. Henderson and his fellow musicians perform a colorful collection of pirate songs and sea chanties.

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

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: Humanities West's 2012-2013 Season opens with ***Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?*** a program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the fascinating history of piracy, immortalized—and often romanticized—in the world's artistic works. Speakers include Ian Morris (Stanford), Tyler Stovall (UC Berkeley), and Andrew Jameson (USC). Musical performance by Skip Henderson and the Starboard Watch.

WHEN: 1- 4pm, Sunday, September 16, 2012

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

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