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Public Info: Humanities West www.humanitieswest.org
Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
Pompeii & Herculaneum:
Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture
Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28, 2012
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Humanities West completes its 2011-2012 season with the presentation of ***Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the archaeological treasures uncovered in the buried ruins Pompeii and Herculaneum providing fresh insights into ancient Roman life and culture. The program takes place on Friday, April 27, from 7:30 pm to 10 pm and Saturday, April 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture*** are priced as follows: Single tickets for the Friday program are \$50 orchestra/dress circle and \$35 balcony; single tickets for the Saturday program are \$75 orchestra/dress circle and \$45 balcony, single tickets for both days are \$115 orchestra/dress circle 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. For more information on the 2011-2012 season call Humanities West at 415/391-9700 or visit www.humanitieswest.org for complete program descriptions and related programs.

Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture brings together a panel of noted scholars and performers to delve into ancient cultural riches buried –and preserved in time– by a massive volcanic eruption in 79CE. At the height of the Roman Empire, the long-silent Mount Vesuvius erupted, tragically destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum, and created an archaeological snapshot of everyday life in two very different towns. Buried, lost, and forgotten for centuries, the ruins of the bustling city of Pompeii and the nearby seaside resort of Herculaneum were accidentally rediscovered in the eighteenth century, triggering a wave of popular excitement about Roman art and culture and providing an inexhaustible resource for archaeological research. The talks and presentations of this two-day program explore the findings of ongoing scientific excavations and art historical investigations and will offer fresh insights into ancient Roman daily life and culture, how we understand the distant past, and how that past influences the modern world.

The Friday evening program opens with a presentation by **Gary Devore** (Classic, Stanford) on ***The Re-Discovery and Excavation of Pompeii and Herculaneum***, providing an account of the 79CE destruction of both cities and the momentous discovery of the remains in the 18th century. Devore will discuss how developments in archaeological methodology and nationalistic goals united to bring a deeper understanding of the art and culture of the ancient Roman world.

The evening culminates with a double performance celebrating ***The Scarlattis*** - Italian composer Alessandro Scarlatti and his composer son Giuseppe Domenico Scarlatti. The performers include **Anne-Kathryn Olsen** (Soprano), **Danielle Reutter-Harrah** (Mezzo-Soprano), **Susie Fong** Harpsichord), **Hallie Pridham** (Violoncello).

Cantatas of Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725) will be introduced by **Clifford (Kip) Cranna** (SF Opera). ***Sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti*** (1685 -1757), arranged by the Italian Cultural Institute will be introduced by **Luciano Chessa** (SF Conservatory of Music).

On Saturday, **Theodore (Ted) Peña** (Classics, UC Berkeley) presents ***The Economic Life of Pompeii***, a lecture providing an introductory overview of the economy of Pompeii, and focusing on three topics chosen to illustrate some of the more important aspects of economic activity in the town and its surrounding territory. These include the export of wine, the production of craft goods, and banking and finance, all evidenced in archaeological findings.

Michael Anderson (Classics, SFSU) follows with a presentation on ***Ongoing Archaeological Research in Pompeii and Herculaneum: Perspectives from the Via Consolare Project***. Anderson's talk introduces current archaeological research at Pompeii and Herculaneum, especially from the perspective of recent results of the Via Consolare Project in Pompeii, a project run from San Francisco State University.

The Saturday program includes **Stephanie Pearson** (UC Berkeley) demonstrating a unique visual Altair4 reconstruction of ***The House of Julius Polybius in Pompeii***, a house that is still "alive", just a minute before the catastrophe. With digitally restored frescos and tridimensional techniques the demonstration takes viewers on a leap in time to explore the rooms of a typical Pompeian house, with all the details precisely as they would have been found then.

The final presenter, **Lisa Pieraccini** (Art History, UC Berkeley) provides a talk, ***If These Walls Could Speak: The Paintings of Pompeii***. This presentation reveals the vibrant and expressive world of interior décor and Pompeian painting. Pieraccini provides an analysis of a select group of both private and public paintings that reveal the competitive and intricate world of "display" in Pompeii.

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 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.

This program is presented in collaboration with Consul General of Italy, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Classics Department, and San Francisco State University.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture*

Humanities West presents *Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and music exploring the archaeological treasures uncovered in the buried ruins at Pompeii and Herculaneum, providing fresh insights into ancient Roman life and culture. Speakers include Gary Devore, Kip Cranna, Luciano Chessa, Theodore (Ted) Peña, Michael Anderson, Stephanie Pearson, and Lisa Pieraccini; musical performance by Anne-Kathryn Olsen (Soprano), Danielle Reutter-Harrah (Mezzo-Soprano), Susie Fong (Harpsichord), Hallie Pridham (Violoncello).

**WHEN: 7:30pm to 10:00pm, Friday, April 27, 2012
10am to 12noon and 1:30pm to 4pm, Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**WHERE: Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Avenue, 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 *Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture

Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event.

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

***The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost & Found* by Mary Beard**

Destroyed by Vesuvius in 79CE, the ruins of Pompeii offer the best evidence we have of life in the Roman Empire. In *The Fires of Vesuvius*, acclaimed historian Mary Beard explores what kind of town it was and what it can tell us about "ordinary" life there. From sex to politics, food to religion, slavery to literacy, Beard offers both the big picture and the tiny details of daily life of the inhabitants of the lost city.

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, April 4, 2012

**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 – A Notre Dame Paris Preview

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, April 24, 2012

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

Cost: Free

Lecture: A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist at Pompeii with Stephanie Pearson (History of Art, UC Berkeley)

Understanding the archaeological process by which we gain knowledge about the ancient Roman world is as important as understanding the remains themselves. The process profoundly affects our

interpretation of the ancient evidence. In this talk Ms. Pearson explains and illustrates the steps involved in conducting an excavation by drawing on her own experience working with the Via Consolare Project in Pompeii.

When: **6pm, Thursday, April 26, 2012**

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

Cost: \$20

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

***The Last Days of Pompeii* by Baron Edward Bulwer Lytton**

From the author famous for his opening line "It was a dark and stormy night . . ." Harris will lead a discussion examining the classic Victorian tale of the last days of Pompeii, the doomed city that lay at the feet of Mount Vesuvius. From poets to flower-girls, gladiators to Roman tribunes, here is a plausible story of their lives, their loves, and the tragic fate that awaited them.

When: **5:30pm, Wednesday, May 9, 2012**

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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