



HUMANITIES WEST

Exploring History. Celebrating the Arts.

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Public Info: Humanities West

www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400

www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS

Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors

Friday & Saturday, February 24 & 25, 2017

Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 14 December, 2016) Humanities West's 2016-2017 Season continues with ***Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors***, a two-day program of lectures, discussion, and performance exploring the influence of the Viking Age on European culture as revealed in myth and music, poetry and language, fine art and craft, along with the Viking's impact on commerce, trade, and nautical exploration. The program takes place on Friday, February 24, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, February 25, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors*** are priced as follows: Individual tickets for the Friday program are \$60 orchestra and \$45 balcony and individual Saturday tickets are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$90 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25/day. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger; inquire at info@humanitieswest.org.

Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors will transport audience members back in time from the sacking of Lindisfarne Abbey in 793 until the end of the 11th century, when voyaging Scandinavian traders and warriors played a decisive role in the formation of European culture. Not merely fearsome sackers of coastal farming communities, these fearless travelers spread their cultural influence (and genes) from Newfoundland to Russia and from Portugal to Byzantium, Baghdad and Sicily. In this two-day program, Humanities West's panel of leading scholars brings to life the legendary exploits of the Vikings, along with descriptive narratives of their advanced nautical knowledge, their proficiency in commerce, and their expertise in elaborate

decorative arts and fine craft. A special lecture-performance of Norse myth, poetry and music and full panel discussion complete the program.

On Friday evening, **Fred Astren** (*Jewish Studies, SFSU*) introduces the program with ***Viking Journeys to the East*** offering a look at the Viking culture through the lens of Mediterranean Studies. **Patrick Hunt** (*Humanities & Archaeology, Stanford*) follows with ***Viking Legacies*** providing an overview of the rich Viking contributions to European cultural life and language derived from archeological findings.

The Friday evening program includes a musical lecture/performance ***Norse Myth, Poetry, Music***. Early music specialist **Tim Rayborn** delves into the ancient spiritual and cultural traditions of Northern Europe to present both reconstructed works and surviving musical fragments from the Viking Age, featuring voice, Saami drum, deerskin rattle, Baltic overtone flute, Nordic lyre, and bone flute.

On Saturday, **Jesse Byock** (*Old Norse & Medieval Scandinavian Studies, UCLA*) presents ***Viking Language and Archeology in Iceland: The Mosfell Archaeological Project***. In his talk, Byock considers two issues: Old Norse language and identity, and recent findings of the Mosfell Archaeological Project (MAP) in Iceland. The finds include a large longhouse from Iceland's early settlement period, a pagan cremation grave, a conversion-era stave church, and an early Christian graveyard with pagan features, all providing a wealth of new evidence about life in Viking Age Iceland.

Daniel Melleno (*History, University of Denver*) follows with ***From Frankish Altars to Scottish Fields: Trading, Raiding, and Gift-Giving in the Viking Age***. Melleno will discuss the popular image of Viking raiders while highlighting the variety of ways in which treasures great and small changed hands and what this tells us about peace and war in the Viking Age.

The presentations continue with ***Serpents and Dragons: Viking Art in the Medieval World*** by **Deborah Loft** (*Art History, College of Marin*). The motifs of interlaced vines and dragons, or serpents, were believed to have a protective power, with ancient origins. This lecture explores these motifs, both in woodwork and in the metalwork that produced distinctive jewelry and weaponry.

The two-day program culminates with ***The Lives and Deaths of the Norse Gods*** a talk by **Jonas Wellendorf** (*Old Norse, UC Berkeley*). This talk considers the emergence of the grand story of the lives and deaths of the Norse gods and discusses why the distinctively dark and gloomy gods of Scandinavian mythology faced such terrible ends.

A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience. Fred Astren moderates.

*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

About Humanities West

Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West Explores History and Celebrates the Arts through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco's Marines' Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Mechanics' Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors

Humanities West presents ***Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors*** a two-day program of lectures and discussions exploring the legendary exploits of the Vikings and their influence on European culture as revealed through myth and music, poetry and language, fine art and craft, along with the Vikings impact on commerce, trade, and nautical exploration. The program includes a special lecture-performance of Norse myth, poetry and music by early music specialist Tim Rayborn.

**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 24, 2017
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 25, 2017**

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

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

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

Related Events for *Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION with Lynn Harris
***The Age of Vikings* by Sanders Winroth**

When: 6:30pm, Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

TIX: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

FIRESIDE CHAT with George Hammond

***Wanderlust: Viking Raiders, Traders, Neighbors* – Preview**

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, February 21, 2017

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

Cost: Free

HUMANITIES WEST LECTURE: *The End of the Vikings?* Linda Rugg

When: 6:00pm, Thursday, February 23, 2017

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$20

Tickets: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

HUMANITIES WEST BOOK DISCUSSION with Lynn Harris
***The Prose Edda* by Jesse Byock**

When: 6:30pm, Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Where: Commonwealth Club of California
555 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

Tickets: www.commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700