

IT'S AN ART AFICIONADO'S A GO-GO

By ERIN
HARRINGTON



From left to right: Robert Reeves, Billy Collins, Frank McCourt, and Roger Rosenblatt –new faculty members of the proposed Stony Brook MFA in Writing and Literature.

Literary luminaries and some of the most notable names in film will converge on the Island this month for the Stony Brook Southampton Writers Conference and the Stony Brook Film Festival. The events promise art aficionados a smorgasbord unlike any other cultural feast brought to the table in recent memory. It's the first time the two offerings will be somewhat intertwined, packing a double punch.

At a glance, the Writers Conference, held at what was formerly LIU's Southampton campus for the last 26 years, has always attracted gifted and renowned writers. Attendees, typically both novice and more established writers, gather with them for an intense, five-day exploration of the craft. Because of the transition of LIU's Southampton campus to SUNY Stony Brook, the

Conference will be held, for the first time, at Stony Brook this year.

The Stony Brook Film Festival has, for the last decade, played host to some of the most important and creative cinematic offerings of the day. New, foreign, independent, and short films have consistently graced the screens in Stony Brook's Staller Center during the Festival. Special receptions, cocktail parties, and dinner events are also an integral part of this celluloid celebration.

Festival Director Alan Inkles notes that this year's program promises to be the strongest yet in terms of premiere screenings, seminars and panels. Festival pass holders will also be privy to an exceptional experience this year – "An Evening With Alan Alda." The Emmy winner, endeared to millions as Hawkeye Pierce in M*A*S*H, has amassed an amazing career and his memoir,

Never Have Your Dog Stuffed, and Other Things I've Learned, published last September, has become a *New York Times* bestseller. A long-time participant in the Writers Conference, Alda will speak on Friday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. on the Staller Center's main stage. This marks the first marriage of the two events, as it is open to both Writers Conference attendees and Film Festival pass holders.

It's a happy union, according to the Writers Conference Director Robert Reeves. An established writer and SUNY Stony Brook professor, Reeves says, "It's a great coming together. Alan Alda has been a frequent participant in the Writers Conference. He unifies the idea of writing and can draw it together with film. It's a good match."

Reeves himself has proven a good match for unifying Southampton's writing program with Stony Brook's curriculum and has been instrumental in creating the planned MFA Program in Writing in Literature targeted for the University's coming academic year. The author and professor of English at Stony Brook has also taught writing at Harvard and Princeton. He's quick to credit Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny, Provost Bob McGrath, English department Chair Peter Manning, and Staller Center Director Alan Inkles for their efforts in facilitating an MFA in Writing program on Long Island at the Stony Brook campus. The Writers Conference has surely helped to spearhead such a program. This year's Conference is another sure-fire attraction.



Hangin' with Hawkeye: An Evening with Alan Alda

Speaking at this year's Film Festival, on Friday July 28, as a guest of the Southampton Stony Brook's Writers Conference is icon Alan Alda. The actor/writer/director has been nominated, all in the same year, for an Oscar, a Tony, and an Emmy—and his memoir, *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed, and Other Things I've Learned*, made *The New York Times* bestseller list.

Alda's 2005 Emmy nomination was for his role on "The West Wing." His Tony nomination was in honor of his role in the Broadway hit "Glengarry Glen Ross." On film, he appeared in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," and received an Academy Award nomination and was also nominated for a British Academy Award. Alda's 2006 honors include the National Science Board's Public Service Award and induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His other credits include:

Films: "Crimes and Misdemeanors," "Everyone Says I Love You," "Flirting With Disaster," "Manhattan Murder Mystery," "And The Band Played On," "Same Time, Next Year" and "California Suite," "The Seduction of Joe Tynan" (which he also wrote); and "The Four Seasons," "Sweet Liberty," "A New Life," and "Betsy's Wedding," all of which he wrote and directed. He earned the D.W. Griffith Award, the NY Film Critics Award, and was nominated for a British Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor for his role in Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Broadway: "QED," "ART," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Jake's Women," "The Apple Tree," "The Owl and the Pussycat," "Purlie Victorious" and "Fair Game for Lovers."

Television: "Scientific American Frontiers" and "M*A*S*H," and Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors," for which he received an Emmy nomination. Alda won the Emmy award five times throughout his 11 years on M*A*S*H and is the only person to be honored by the TV Academy as top performer, writer and director. He's racked up 31 Emmy nominations including one in 1999 for his performance on "ER." He was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1994.

The New York City native has won the Director's Guild Award three times for his TV work, gleaned six Golden Globes from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, seven People's Choice Awards, and has been nominated for two Writer's Guild Awards. Alda served as a member of the board of the Museum of Television & Radio from 1989 to 1999, and was a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation. His legacy lives on, and can be captured, live and in person, on July 28 in Stony Brook, New York.

WRITERS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE FOR READINGS, PANELS, AND DISCUSSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Keynote Speaker:
E.L. Doctorow, Duke Lecture Hall

9 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Signing and Reception

THURSDAY, JULY 27

4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Reading: Frank McCourt

6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Signing and Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Reading:
Amy Tan and Billy Collins

9:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Signing and Reception

FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. An Evening with
Alan Alda, Staller Center, Stony Brook

SATURDAY, JULY 29

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Morning session:
Melissa Bank, Matt Klam, Ursula Hegi,
Julie Sheehan, Emerging Poets,
Marsha Norman

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Afternoon session:
Meg Wolitzer, David Rakoff,
Patricia Marx, Stefan Kanfer,
Robert Reeves

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. BBQ Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Reading:
Garry Trudeau and Roger Rosenblatt

9 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Signing and Reception

SUNDAY, JULY 30

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Success Stories:
Conference participants and members
of the MFA program

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Reading: Conference
participants and members of the
MFA program

To register, visit:

Southamptonwriters@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

SNEAK PREVIEWS TO THE FILM FESTIVAL: JULY 20 -29

Tim Hutton headlines on Opening Night with "Heaven's Fall" at 8 p.m. on July 20; "Pearl Diver" marks its New York premiere on the July 21 at 7 p.m., with accompanying short "Volare," directed by Tamela D'Amico. Other films being showcased at the Festival include "Johan" on July 22, "Manual of Love" on July 23, "Mojave Phone Booth" also on July 23, "Looking for Alexander" and "Coffee Date" on July 24, "Mario's War" and "U-Carmen eKhayelitsha" on July 25, and "Pope Dreams" and "Shanghai Dreams" on July 26. The Festival culminates with a closing night reception on July 29, when it will bestow both Jury and Audience Choice Awards on the winning feature and short films. Tickets to all movies and parties go on sale on July 10, and are subject to availability; visit (www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com).