



Final “Don’t Deny” Virtual Seminars



Terrance Hayes

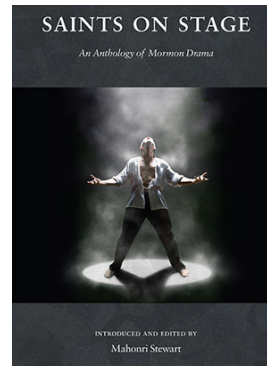


Natasha Trethewey

Distinguished Professor **Maryemma Graham** and **The Project on the History of Black Writing** strongly urge all members of the KU English community to join others around the country in supporting the last two virtual seminars associated with the NEH-sponsored “Don’t Deny My Voice: Reading and Teaching African American Poetry,” a fifteen-month program that had its physical incarnation and centerpiece as a summer institute in Lawrence for three weeks last summer. **Terrance Hayes**, the 2010 recipient of the National Book Award in Poetry, and **Natasha Trethewey**, current US Poet Laureate, will lead the seminars, scheduled for Tuesday, 26 November, and Wednesday, 4 December (see “Calendar”). Hayes, Professor of Creative Writing at Carnegie-Mellon University, won the Book Award for his collection, *Lighthouse*. He is the author of three other books of poetry. The Hayes seminar will be moderated by **Althea Tait**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Arizona. Trethewey, our 19th US Poet Laureate, is serving a second term in that role. She is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University. Trethewey won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for her third collection of poetry, *Native Guard*. Her fourth collection, *Thrall*, came out in 2012. The Trethewey seminar will be moderated by **Zanice Bond**, Assistant Professor of English at Tuskegee University. Graham observes that participation in these virtual seminars would constitute an ideal extra credit assignment. The seminars also provide KU students and faculty access to major writers/professors/speakers who might not ever visit the campus. Repeated attempts to bring Trethewey to Lawrence during her stint as laureate, for instance, have proven unsuccessful. Finally, numbers of participants are important to the Institute, the Project – and the NEH. Funding for future NEH grants is partly dependent on the level of involvement generated by earlier funded programs. Here are the steps to participate in the seminars:

- 1) On the day of the seminar, go to <https://desktopconnect.ku.edu/dont-deny/>.
- 2) Select the **Enter as a Guest** option
- 3) Type your name in the **Name** field
- 4) Click on the **Enter Room** button
- 5) Wait until an administrator allows you into the virtual meeting room. This will happen a few minutes prior to the start of the seminar.

Mormon Pioneer?



Robert Elliott

Lecturer **Robert Elliott**’s 1974 full-length play, *Fires of the Mind*, leads off the 600+-page *Saints on Stage: An Anthology of Mormon Drama*, a recent publication by Zarahemla Books, a Utah press. Press publicity describes the anthology as “the most comprehensive and important work on Mormon drama ever published.” The volume includes an introductory critical survey

Calendar

- S 23 Poetry Workshop**, “Writing from Strengths,” conducted by **Megan Kaminski**, English, 12:00-3:00 pm, The Writers Place, Kansas City, MO.
- N 24 Graduate Reading Series**, featuring creative writing graduate students **Harmony Hanson**, **Tim Lantz**, **Cam Lay**, and **Jason Goodvin**, 6:00 pm, Genovese, 941 Massachusetts.
- T 26 Virtual Seminar with Terrance Hayes**, English, Carnegie-Mellon University, 1:00 pm. To “attend,” see above.
- N 1 Poetry Reading** featuring **Megan Kaminski**, English, and **Jim McCrary**, 5:00 pm, Eighth Street Taproom, downtown Lawrence.
- T 3 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) Visit of Dean **Danny Anderson**, CLAS; 2) Diversity Recruitment and Retention Committee report.
- W 4 Virtual Seminar with Natasha Trethewey**, US Poet Laureate, Director of Creative Writing, Emory University, 3:00 pm. To “attend,” see above.
- R 5 Digital Humanities Seminar**, “We Don’t Already Understand the Broad Outlines of Literary History: Using Genre Classification and Topic Modeling to Trace Literary Trends in a Collection of 700,000 18th and 19th-century English-language Volumes,” **Ted Underwood**, English, University of Illinois, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Big Tent Reading Series Holiday Edition with poets **Stephen Meats**, English, Pittsburg State, **Charlotte Davis** (English B.A. 2013) and **Kale Humphrey** (B.S. 2013), 7:00 pm, Raven Bookstore, 6 E. 7th St.

of Mormon drama, performance histories and playwright biographies, and the texts of eleven plays written and produced over the last four decades. Elliott's play is characterized as a trailblazing work of dramatic literature that demonstrated a more thoughtful and nuanced approach to Latter-Day Saint subjects. *Fires of the Mind* has led off publications before. It was first printed in the inaugural issue of a Berkeley, CA journal called *Sunstone*. That periodical is now entering its fortieth year as a leading forum for analysis of the LDS subculture. The play has also stirred controversy. Its two Utah productions (1974, 1982) generated both generous praise and vehement condemnation. Bob has always appreciated the irony that, in a main-stage season where his work was bracketed by productions of two famously-bowdlerized plays, Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Moliere's *Tartuffe*, it was *Fires of the Mind* that hit hard enough that its producer and director felt obliged to soften the language and dramaturgy – and change the ending – without informing the playwright.

Publications

Hardin, Richard F.

"New Light on Jonson and Roman Comedy: *Volpone* and *Eunuchus*, *Magnetic Lady* and *Truculentus*," *Ben Jonson Journal* 20 (November 2013): 179-200.

Presentations

Mielke, Laura

"Staging the Imp of Discord in the Late-1850s US Theatre," Theatres of War Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, Dallas, TX, 8 November.

"Lydia Maria Child: Abolitionist, American Indian Rights Advocate, and Heroic Author," Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, 6 October.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• Donations for the annual **SAGE Silent Auction**, held at the Department of English holiday party (15 December, 7-9 pm) are being accepted by the SAGE Fundraising Committee. Please contact **Stefanie Torres**, **Charlene Summers**, or **Alex Zimmer** by 30 November with a brief description of what you plan to contribute to the auction.

• Nominations for 2014-15 Lecturers and Readers are due by 12/6. Send to bsantang@ku.edu.

KU and Regional Events

• **Latin American Seminar**, "Living Laboratories: Combating Tropical Diseases Through Human and Animal Experiments," Heather McRae, History, Kansas State University, 22 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **TGIF**, 22 November, 4:00-5:30 pm, Adams Alumni Association.

• **University Theatre** continues *Adding Machine: A Musical*, based on the play *The Adding Machine*, by Elmer Rice, 22-23 November, 7:30 pm, 24 November, 2:30 pm, Stage Too, Murphy Hall.

• **Early Modern Seminar**, "The Subversive Chorus in Sixteenth-Century French Tragedy," Brian Moots, French & Italian, 2 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series**, "Disability, Emancipation, and the US Civil War," David Roediger, History/African

American Studies, University of Illinois, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• **Faculty & Staff Appreciation Night**, 5 December, 5:30-7:30 pm, KU Bookstore, Kansas Union. Music, refreshments, discounts on KU merchandise, supplies and general books.

• **Idea Café: Shifting Viewpoints**, "Is Western Science an Indigenous Knowledge?" George Soberon, Senior Research Analyst, KU Biodiversity Institute, 6 December, 10:00 am, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• **Human Migration 2013 Lecture Series**, "Creole Languages and Migration," Anita Herzfeld, Latin American Studies, 6 December, 12:00-1:00 pm, 633 Fraser.

• **Peace, War, & Global Change Seminar**, "Combat Leadership in the AEF," Richard Spaulding, Military History, US Army Command & General Staff College, 6 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **University Theatre** presents "The Maderati," by Richard Greenberg, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 December, 7:30 pm, 8 December, 2:30 pm, Inge Memorial Theatre, Murphy Hall.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia, Etc. (Posted)

• **38th Annual Comparative Drama Conference**, 3-5 April, Baltimore, MD. Deadline: 3 December.

• **I-70 Review** is accepting submissions of poetry, and short fiction or nonfiction. Deadline: 31 January 2014.



Robert Elliott and Dorice Williams (not yet married) at the premiere of *Fires of the Mind*, November 1974