Barry Gifford Reading

Prolific fiction writer, screenwriter, and poet Barry Gifford will be a guest of the KU English Department and his former professor, Jim Carothers, next week. Carothers taught Gifford in a creative writing course at Mizzou in the 1960s. They have remained friends since. While here, Gifford will visit Department fiction workshops and popular literature classes. He will also read from his new short fiction collection, *The Cuban Club*, on Thursday, 2 November, at 7:00 pm in the Centennial Room of the Kansas Union. According to a press release prepared for the event, “[Gifford] is best known for his Sailor and Luna novels, beginning with *Wild at Heart*, which was adapted by David Lynch into a film of the same title in 1990. Gifford and Lynch continued to collaborate, co-writing the screenplay for Lynch’s 1997 film *Lost Highway*.” Jonathan Lethem has described Gifford’s work as “William Faulkner by way of B-movie film noir, porn paperbacks, and Sun Records rockabilly.” His neo-noir style has been described as “equal parts hard boiled and Beat Generation.” The *Cuban Club* is part of Gifford’s linked coming-of-age series, “The Roy Stories.” Jayhawk Ink will feature Gifford’s works during his visit and will supply books for a signing following his reading and Q&A.

Transformation

KU Professor Emeritus of English and Grand Master of Science Fiction James Gunn continues to add to his formidable array of published work, this time with a new novel, *Transformation*, which completes his “Transcendental Trilogy” begun in 2013. Tor Books published the new work in June of this year. And Jim’s pen remains active. To put it lyrically, ‘at 94, Jim is gunning for more (though not, for the moment, from Tor)’. He has three books “in the works” with McFarland & Company. A memoir, *Star-Begotten*, is at the proofing stage. His 1951 thesis, *Modern Science Fiction*, has been, as he says, “dug out” and edited by a friend, and submitted for publication next spring. Also, an updated and revised edition of his *Alternate Worlds: An Illustrated History of Science Fiction* should see print in mid-to-late 2018. Watch this space for updates from and about the future according to James Gunn.

Publications

Bergeron, David

Cipri, Nino

Daldorph, Brian

Presentations

Devitt, Amy
Lecture/Workshop. “How to Choose the Genres You Use,” University of Rochester, 10 October.

Lecture/Workshop. “How to Use the Genres You Choose,” University of Rochester, 10 October. [Ed. note: Read those two titles carefully!]

Calendar

W 1 Megan Jones, MA Defense, 10:00 am, 3001A Wescoe.

Film Screening and Roundtable, Akira Kurosawa’s *Throne of Blood*, plus panel on medievalism in film with Jonathan Lamb, English, and Michael Baskett, Film & Media Studies, 6:00-8:30 pm, Divine Nine Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by newly-formed Medieval and Early Modern Studies Student Association (MEMSSA).

R 2 Gender Seminar, “Gentlewomen: Allegory, Gender, and Permeability,” Megan Kaminski, English, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Fiction Reading by novelist and screenwriter Barry Gifford, 7:00 pm, Centennial Room, Kansas Union.

W 8 Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop, “Lost Colonies and Strange Histories: The Irish Wilderness of Southern Missouri,” Adam Mills, English, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

R 9 Undergraduate Reading Series, 7:00 pm, Centennial Room, Kansas Union.

M 13 Colonialism Seminar, “Decolonizing Knowledge: A Project for a New Present and a Different Future,” Byron Santangelo, English/Environmental Studies, and Glenn Adams, Psychology, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

T 14 Voting Department Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.
Hall, Christopher
“Toward the Decolonization of Modernism: Progress and Development in Midcentury Nigeria,” Mid-America Alliance for African Studies Conference, University of Kansas, 20-21 October. (The paper also received the Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award at the conference.)

Announcements, Notes, & News

● The readers on the 9 November Undergraduate Reading Series program are Lily Grant, Holly Johnston, Aroog Khaliq, Brendan Mott, Hannah Magierski, Grace Claman, Jordan Hutchcraft, Anita Patel, Fengxue Zhang, and Hannah Smith.

KU and Regional Events

● Colonialism Seminar, “Where Enlightenment and Improvement End: The Bishop Martinez Compañón’s Efforts at Moderning the Montañá in the Late Eighteenth Century,” Ximena Sevilla, History, 30 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.


● Fiction Reading, “There Will Be No Miracles Here,” Goran Ferčec, Croatian novelist, playwright, and theatre artist, 1 November, 7:00 pm, East Gallery, Carnegie Building. Sponsored by Department of Slavic Languages and Literature.

● Medieval & Early Modern Seminar, “What’s the Matter with Medieval Historiography: Reading Saints Beyond Identity Politics,” Christine Bourgeois, French & Italian, 6 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● The Urban Experience Seminar, “School Desegregation/Resegregation in the Post-Dowell Era,” Doug Elmer, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, 9 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Fellowships, Scholarships, Awards, Contests, Etc. (Posted)

● Keeler Family Intra-University Professorships, for tenured faculty at mid-career. Deadline: 9 February 2018.

● Spencer Museum of Art’s IARI Research Fellowship, for research in conjunction with the Integrated Arts Research Initiative. $3000 research stipend. Deadline: 6 November.