



Western Arts & Humanities

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Department of English & Writing Studies

Join us in celebrating the launch of the new Theatre Studies!

The formal launch of the new Theatre Studies program will include an extraordinary performance of *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, adapted and directed by Paul Van Dyck and presented by Rabbit in a Hat Productions.

Evocative puppets, stunning computer animation energized by a Rock n' Roll soundscape, and the skills of a master storyteller weave together to bring to life Milton's astonishing tale.

Created, adapted and performed by multi-talented Montreal actor/director/playwright Paul Van Dyck, PARADISE LOST won Best Production at the New York Frigid (Fringe) Festival and the Atlantic Fringe Festival. Van Dyck and the production were awarded with the prestigious 'Revelation of the Year' Award by the Montreal English Critics Circle (MECCA).

Before the show on March 3rd, **M.J. Kidnie** and **John Leonard** will lead a lively discussion on performance, creativity and adaption for modern stage. Both nights, stay back for a Q&A with the creative team of PARADISE LOST, Paul van Dyck and Sara Rodriguez.

Launch Reception: March 3rd at 7:00pm

Performances: March 3rd and 4th at 8:30pm

Tickets: \$15 general admission or \$12 for students and seniors. Available online through [the Arts Project](#), calling the box office 519-642-2767 or at the door.

Location: The Arts Project– 203 Dundas Street, London, ON



Please visit [the Arts Project](#) for more information about *Paradise Lost* and upcoming events.

Terence Green will be a featured reader as part of the Chiaroscuro Reading Series at the Round Venue, in Toronto's Kensington Market Area.

The Chiaroscuro Reading Series (ChiSeries) is open to the public and offers readings from authors of science fiction, fantasy and horror as well as live music between sets. They provide a casual environment for fans of genre material to discover new authors and meet with old favourites. Beginning in Toronto in 2010, the ChiSeries has now spread to include active events in Guelph, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Peterborough and Ottawa with two more branches opening soon in Montreal and Halifax.

Chiaroscuro Reading Series

Wednesday, February 17

8:00pm

Round Venue:

152A Augusta Avenue

Toronto, ON



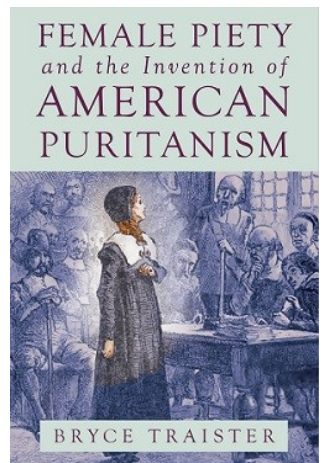
VICTORIAN REVIEW WELCOMES NEW EDITOR

Christopher Keep will be assuming the role of Editor for the Victorian Review, one of the leading journals in the field of Victorian Studies. Following the enormous success of hosting the North American Victorian Studies Association's 2014 conference in London, the arrival of a major journal in the field will help consolidate Western's reputation at the forefront of this field, and will provide many professionalization opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. His first issue for the journal, now published by Johns Hopkins University Press, will appear in Spring 2017.

FEMALE PIETY AND THE INVENTION OF AMERICAN PURITANISM

Bryce Traister's book *Female Piety and the Invention of American Puritanism* was officially published this month by Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2016. The book reconsiders the standard critical view that women's religious experiences were either silent consent or hostile response to mainstream Puritan institutions.

This new approach to American Puritanism asks how gendered understandings of authentic religious experience contributed to the development of seventeenth-century religious culture and to the "post-religious" historiography of Puritanism in secular modernity. He argues that women were neither marginal nor hostile to the theological and cultural ambitions of seventeenth-century New England religious culture and, indeed, that radicalized female piety was in certain key respects the driving force of New England Puritan culture.



GLOBALIZING INDIAN ENGLISH DRAMA

Nandi Bhatia's essay "'Provincializing English,' Globalizing Indian English Drama" was published in *Postcolonial text*. Vol. 10, Nos 3&4, 2015. Through a discussion of Mahesh Dattani's *Seven Steps Around the Fire*, the first full-length play about hijras that was initially commissioned by the BBC as a radio play in 1999 and was performed in Mississauga in September 2013, this essay highlights the contribution of Indian English drama in attempting to raise global awareness about socially marginalized groups such as the hijra across international sites and contexts.

SOLACE YOUR LAST MILLION LAST MOMENTS

On January 23, **Andrew Wenaus** gave a talk and ran a breakout room discussion titled "Solace Your Last Million Last Moments: Language, Violence, and Modern Literature" at the Social Science Academic Conference on Pursuing Peace in an Age of Insecurity.

The lecture considers a couple ways that non-representational art and literature in the 20th Century expresses histories of traumatic violence by speaking *after* and *around* the violent event itself. Looking primarily at the work of Samuel Beckett and Toni Morrison, the discussion considers different approaches to articulating a paradox: that which is unacceptable to recall and, at the same time, unacceptable to relegate to silence.

Jonathan Ball interviewed **Kathryn Mockler** about her poem "Serials Killers" from her second collection *The Saddest Place on Earth*. They spoke about how film influenced her poetic writing and how Kathryn came up with the concept of the poem. The full interview is available here, as well as her second collection.

Serial Killers

Humanity is stopped in its tracks when everyone is sterilized to eliminate the human race. Basically it's mass suicide.

Wow that's a good idea.

They've decided to let the plants and animals take over to see if they fare any better.

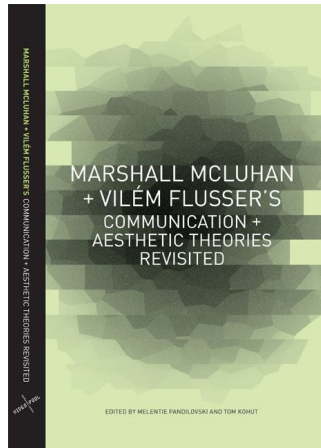
So in this scenario getting pregnant is the worst thing you could do for mankind.

Yes, it's worse than serial killers.

This sounds romantic. This sounds too good to be true.

ASEMIC WRITING: BACKWARDS INTO THE FUTURE

Peter Schwenger's essay "Asemic Writing: Backwards into the Future" was published in *Marshall McLuhan and Vilém Flusser's Communication and Aesthetic Theories Revisited*, ed. Melentie Pandilovski and Tom Kohut (Winnipeg: Videopool, 2015). 183-202.



The scholarly book includes discussions McLuhan and Flusser's influence on media and communication theory as it applies to contemporary and new media art, film, philosophy and politics. This book would be of immediate interest to readers and researchers interested in: distributed consciousness and telematics; cinema and causality; collective evolution; media and theology; digital culture; Occupy Wall Street and other political movements; cybernetics; contemporary technological art; the ideologies of clinical practice; asemic writing; institutional critique and many other topics.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Raphael, Jackie, Deb, Basuli, and **Shrivastava, Nidhi** (eds.) *Bridging the Gaps Between Celebrity and Media*, Waterhill Publishing. (Forthcoming February 2016)

Shrivastava, Nidhi. "The Power of Celebrity Culture and its Response to Rape and Sexual Violence against Women in Post-2012 India." *Bridging the Gaps Between Celebrity and Media*, Waterhill Publishing. (Forthcoming February 2016)