

Anthony Abbott

Anthony Abbott has three poetry collections: *The Girl in the Yellow Raincoat*, *A Small Thing Like a Breath*, and *The Search for Wonder in the Cradle of the World*. His first novel, *Leaving Maggie Hope*, was published in 2003. Tony is past president of the Charlotte Writers' Club and the North Carolina Writers' Network, and a past Chairman of the North Carolina Writers Conference. Born in San Francisco, Abbot earned a bachelors from Princeton University and a PhD from Harvard. He has been honored by St. Andrews College with the Sam Ragan Award for his writing and service to the literary community of North Carolina. Co-sponsored by the N.C. Arts Council.
For more information: http://www2.davidson.edu/common/templates/news/news_tmp02.asp?newsid=5244. *March 27 2-4pm*



Jaki Shelton Green

Jaki Shelton Green is the author of several books of poetry, including *Dead on Arrival*, *Masks*, *Conjure Blue*, and *Breath of the Song: New and Selected Poems*. She wrote the play *Blue Opal* and was a contributing writer for *Pete and Shirley: The Great Tur Heel Novel*. Currently, she is working on her first novel and the "Juke Joint" project, documenting an African-American cultural phenomenon. Green received the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2003; her poetry has appeared in publications such as *The Crucible*, *The African-American Review*, and *Ms*.
For more information: <http://www.ncdcr.gov/NCAward2003/green.htm>. *March 27 2-4pm*



Mayda Del Valle

Slam poet Mayda Del Valle performed in the Tony Award-winning Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam on Broadway and traveled to Scotland with the show to perform at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The native of Chicago's South Side has been featured on the 1st and 3rd seasons of HBO's *Def Poetry*. She has also been featured in *El Diario*, *Urban Latino*, *Mass Appeal Magazine*, *Latina Magazine*, and the *New York Times*. Del Valle won the National Poetry Slam in Seattle in August of 2001 and also won the Individual National Poetry Slam title. She became the first poet from the internationally respected Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, the youngest poet, and the first Latina to win the title. She has performed at various colleges such as NYU and Columbia and has graced the stage of the world-renowned Lincoln Center. Del Valle is sponsored by the WCU Women's Center and Last Minute Productions.
For more information: <http://www.nuyorican.org/NewPoetry2001/mayda.html>. *March 29 9pm Illusions*



Dorothy Allison



Novelist Dorothy Allison's first novel, *Bastard Out of Carolina*, was one of five finalists for the 1992 National Book Award and has been translated into French, German, Greek, Spanish, Norse, Chinese and Italian. Her other works include the *New York Times* best-selling novel *Cavedweller*; a chapbook of Allison's performance work, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*, which was made into an award-winning documentary; *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class and Literature*; and *Trash*, a collection of short stories. Dorothy Allison

was proclaimed "one of the finest writers of her generation" by the *Boston Globe*. **For more information:** <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/litlinks/fiction/allison.htm>. *March 29 7:30pm*



Ayun Halliday

Ayun Halliday's nonfiction includes *Job Hopper: The Checkered Career of a Down-Market Dilettante*; *No Touch Monkey! And Other Travel Lessons Learned Too Late*; and *The Big Rumpus: A Mother's Tale from the Trenches*. She also publishes the zine *East Village Inky*. She is a former member of The Neo-Futurists, a Chicago theatre company notable for presenting 30 original plays in the course of 60 minutes. She also comments for NPR. Halliday is co-sponsored by the WCU Women's Center. **NPR Commentary:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1624530>

For more information: <http://www.ayunhalliday.com/store.html>. *March 30 2-4pm*



Randall Watson

Randall Watson's first full-length collection of poems, *The Sleep Accusations*, won the 2004 Blue Lynx Prize for Poetry. His work reveals "the tenderness in situations and perceptions so extreme, we would normally consider them hallucinatory." He teaches at the University of Houston. His poems have appeared in many journals, including *Chelsea*, *The Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Western Humanities Review*, and *Gulf Coast*.
For more information: <http://ewupress.wvu.edu/poetry/sleepaccus.htm>. *March 28 2-4pm*

Rick Bragg

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Rick Bragg, formerly with the *New York Times*, hit the bestseller charts with his first book, *All Over but the Shoutin'*, his account of breaking free from the poverty of his youth and finding success at the pinnacle of American journalism. His other works include *Somebody Told Me: The Newspaper Stories of Rick Bragg*; *Ava's Man*; *Hank Williams: Snapshots from the Lost Highway* (coauthor); and *I Am a Soldier, Too: The Jessica Lynch Story*. Co-sponsored by the Visiting Scholars Fund.
For more information: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/writers/writer.asp?cid=996862> *March 30 7pm*



Silas House

Novelist Silas House is the author of *Clay's Quilt*, *A Parchment of Leaves*, and *The Coal Tattoo*. House has received numerous honors for his work, including the Award for Special Achievement from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, Appalachian Book of the Year, the Chaffin Award, two Kentucky Novel of the Year prizes, and many other awards. In 2003 he was a finalist for the Southern Book Critics Circle Prize, the SEBA Book of the Year, and two Pushcart Prizes.
For more information: <http://www.silashouse.com/> *March 27 7:30pm*



Crystal Wilkinson

Crystal Wilkinson is the author of two books, a short-story collection called *Blackberries*, *Blackberries*, and *Water Street*, both published by Toby Press. Her work has appeared in several anthologies and journals. Wilkinson is the 2002 recipient of the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Literature and is a member of a Lexington-based writing collective, *The Appalachian Poets*. *Water Street* was recently a long-list finalist for the prestigious Orange Prize and short-listed for a Zora Neal Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Legacy Award in fiction.
For more information: <http://www.crystalwilkinson.com/>. *March 27 7:30pm*



Kathryn Byer



North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer is the author of several books of poetry, including *Catching Light* (Louisiana State University Press); *Black Shawl*, *Wildwood Flower*, which was the 1992 Lamont Poetry Selection of The Academy of American Poets; and *The Girl in the Midst of the Harvest*, which was published in the Associated Writing Programs award series. She is a recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts

Council. At the Literary Festival, Byer will introduce a panel of three North Carolina poets. This panel is sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council. *March 27 2-4pm*



Mark Smith-Soto

Costa Rican-American poet Mark Smith-Soto's first full-length volume of poems, *Our Lives Are Rivers* (University Press of Florida), is divided into three parts: "Ayer," "Hoy," "y Siempre"—"yesterday," "today" and "always." Smith-Soto is professor of romance languages at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has published two poetry collections: *Green Mango Collage*, winner of the North Carolina Writers' Network Persephone Chapbook Publication Prize, and *Shafis*, winner of the 2002 Randall Jarrell/Harperprints Poetry Chapbook Competition. Co-sponsored by the N.C. Arts Council.

For an interview: <http://www.menstuff.org/columns/overboard/Smith-Soto.html>. *March 27 2-4pm*

Shenandoah Shakespeare

By re-creating Renaissance conditions of performance, Shenandoah Shakespeare explores its repertory of plays for a better understanding of these great works and of the human theatrical enterprise past, present, and future. In *Much Ado about Nothing*, Shakespeare gives us the glittering wit of Beatrice and Benedick and the heroic bumbling of Dogberry and company. He gives us the joy of love won and the ache of love lost. In this magnificent comedy, Shakespeare makes you laugh, but also breaks your heart and magically puts it all back together again. Sponsored by the LCE Series.
For more information: <http://www.shenandoahshakespeare.com/> *March 28 7:30pm*



when & where

March 27-30, 2006

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| March 27 | 2-4pm | Poets Panel: Byer, Smith-Soto, Green, Abbott |
| | 7:30pm | Silas House & Crystal Wilkinson |
| March 28 | 2-4pm | Randy Watson |
| | 7:30pm | Shenandoah Shakespeare: <i>Much Ado</i> |
| March 29 | 7:30pm | Dorothy Allison |
| | 9pm | Mayda Del Valle |
| March 30 | 12-2pm | Authors Panel discussion |
| | 2-4pm | Ayun Halliday |
| | 5-7pm | Festival Banquet |
| | 7:30pm | Rick Bragg |

Western Carolina University

Except for the Shenandoah Shakespeare Company (\$10 general admission; \$7 WCU staff, non-WCU students; \$5 Students who present a valid student ID), all events are free and open to the public. All other events take place in the UC Theater (except Mayda Del Valle, which takes place in Illusions).

about

Western Carolina University's Visiting Writers Series, the oldest such series in North Carolina, has a long tradition of bringing the best of established and emerging literary talent to the mountains of Western North Carolina. While the area has a rich literary heritage all its own, the festival seeks to secure that heritage's place on the nation's literary stage by bringing local and national writers together.

Over the years, the series has hosted such distinguished local writers as Fred Chappell and Lee Smith; well-known American writers Li-Young Lee, Thomas Lux, Linda Hogan, Carolyn Chute, Leslie Silko, Luiz Rodriguez, Maxine Kumin, Sherman Alexie, and Clifton Taulbert; as well as internationally renowned authors like Eavan Boland and Nigel Jenkins.

For the past four years, WCU's Visiting Writers Series; the English Department; the Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series; and the Office of the Chancellor have sponsored the Spring Literary Festival. Local organizations and businesses work closely with festival coordinators to secure community involvement, and WCU students have the opportunity to work with nationally and internationally acclaimed authors. This year, two events have been co-sponsored by the WCU Women's Center. We are also proud to have received funding from the North Carolina Arts Council for our Poet Laureate's panel.

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CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Department of English
Cullowhee, NC 28723



Literary Festival

March 27-30, 2006

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

www.litfestival.org