

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theatre

American Spring! Excerpts & Discussion of *Elmer Gantry*, *Machinal*, *Steps in the Street*, and *Fancy Free*.

OPERA - Excerpts from the thrilling world premiere of ROBERT ALDRIDGE'S "ELMER GANTRY" - Composer and Director of the MSU Cali School of Music, Robert Aldridge, in conversation with Mezzo-Soprano Jennifer Rivera, and Matthew Avery Sutton from Oakland (Michigan) University, critically-acclaimed author of the new book, *AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON AND THE RESURRECTION OF CHRISTIAN AMERICA*.

DRAMA - Excerpts from SOPHIE TREADWELL'S "MACHINAL" - Prof. Jerry Dickey from the University of Arizona/Tucson School of Theatre Arts (and foremost authority on journalist/playwright Sophie Treadwell) in conversation with Guest Director Rosemary Andress and the student cast of this starkly-impressionistic and controversial 1927 play coming to MSU in February.

DANCE - MARTHA GRAHAM'S "STEPS IN THE STREET" - Senior Artistic Associate Director of the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York City, Denise Vale (tutored by the legendary Graham herself) in spirited conversation with MSU dance professor Nancy Lushington and MSU student performers of this impeccably-restaged 1936 anti-war classic from an era when Graham had exclusively women in her company.

BALLET - JEROME ROBBINS' & LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S "FANCY FREE" - Best-selling author Amanda Vaill (*SOMEWHERE*, the biography of Jerome Robbins) will screen and discuss excerpts from the festive and dynamic 1944-1945 composition, share revealing and unprecedented insights gained from her exclusive access to Robbins' archives, and celebrate Bernstein's 90th Birthday. (Admission is free and open to the public.)

5:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theatre Lobby

American Spring! Reception

All audience members are most cordially invited to a reception in the Alexander Kasser Theatre Lobby immediately following the show. A wonderful opportunity to "continue the conversation" with our student performers and honored guests.

7:30pm

Montclair Public Library Auditorium

American Spring! **Round Table Discussion**

ELMER GANTRY-

LIFE IMITATES ART, ART ABSORBS HISTORY, HISTORY REFLECTS RELIGION,
& THE MUSIC SPEAKS TO US ALL

Panelists

Robert Aldridge Director, John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University; and composer, Elmer Gantry, an American Opera.

Herschel Garfein Instructor, The Steinhardt School, NYU; and librettist, Elmer Gantry.

Matthew Avery Sutton Assistant Professor, Oakland (Michigan) University; and author, Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America.

Moderator

Neil Baldwin Distinguished Visiting Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance, Montclair State University.

The Panel will discuss the social, political and religious implications of Professor Sutton's new book, Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America, within the contexts of retrospective and modern Christian America.

Following the panel discussion and Q&A with the audience, Professor Sutton will sign copies of his critically-acclaimed new book from Harvard University Press, offered by Watchung Booksellers.

Refreshments will be served.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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For more information contact Kathleen Reddington at [reddingtonk@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:redingtonk@mail.montclair.edu), or call 973 655 7071.