

# Friday, April 11

- 10:00-12:00**     **Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute**  
***Documenting the Folk I***  
(CUNY Graduate Center)  
John and Alan Lomax's early southern field recording trips and subsequent recording trips by Alan in the American South and the Caribbean. With Gage Averill, Manu El Bey, David Evans, Stetson Kennedy, and Nolan Porterfield.
- 11:00-1:45**  
**(FREE)**     **Read-In:**  
**Gilgamesh** (Bowery Poetry Club)  
David Johnson joins David Ferry to host a public reading of one of the world's first epics set in what is now Iraq. (FREE)
- 12:30- 1:30**  
**(FREE)**     **Reading:**  
**The Poetry of Youssef & Darwish** (Baruch College, Center for the Performing Arts, Engleman Recital Hall)  
Hear the words of two of the leading poets of Arab literature: Carolyn Forché, translator of the poetry of Palestinian writer Mahmoud Darwish and Khaled Mattawa, translator of the poetry of Iraqi writer Saadi Youssef, present the work of the poets they have translated.  
  
Saadi Youssef is an Iraqi poet in exile and the author of thirty volumes of poetry and seven books of prose. Mahmoud Darwish is "the premier poetic voice of the Palestinian people" [Naomi Shihab Nye] and a living legend whose poetry readings fill stadiums. Carolyn Forché is an acclaimed poet with four published collections of poetry, most recently *The Blue Hour*, and the editor of *Against Forgetting: Twentieth-Century Poetry of Witness*. Khaled Mattawa is the author of the poetry collection *Ismailia Eclipse* and the translator of several volumes of contemporary Arabic poetry.  
(FREE) 55 Lexington Ave. 25th Street entrance.
- 12:30- 2:00**     **Panel:**  
***From Song to Stanza: The Ballad in Poetry*** (Poets House)  
Looking at traditions from the East and West, this panel explores the evolution of the ballad, from its populist roots in folk song to recent post-modern experimentation. With John Balaban, Lee Ann Brown, Hal Cannon, John Foley.
- 1:00-3:00**     **Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute**  
***Promoting the Folk*** (CUNY Graduate Center)  
Explore Alan Lomax's work in NYC during the 1940s as a radio and record producer, as promoter of folk musicians Woody Guthrie, Josh White, and Leadbelly, and as folk music advocate via the people's folk song movement. With Ed Cray, Kip Lornell, Irwin Silber, Elijah Wald, and Henrietta Yurchenco.
- 2:00-3:30**  
**(FREE)**     **Reading/Performance:**  
**The Tablets: A Tribute to Armand Schwerner** (Bowery Poetry Club)  
A reading from Schwerner's modern masterpiece, loosely inspired by the epic of

Gilgamesh. *The Tablets* "translate" invented fragments of Sumero-Akkadian clay tablets that are thought to be over 4,000 years old. With Jane Augustine, Charles Bernstein, Norman Finkelstein, Willard Gingerich, Michael Heller, Jackson MacLow, Jerome Rothenberg, and Anne Tardos. (FREE)

2:15-3:45

**Panel:**

***Epic Proportions: Documenting History and Culture with Long Poems*** (Poets House)

This panel examines the epic, a form traditionally used to describe historical events (often war, conquest, or a heroic quest), and explores its relevance in a contemporary context. With Benjamin Bagby, John Foley, Glyn Maxwell, Anne Waldman and C.K. Williams.

3:15-5:00

***Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute Documenting the Folk II—The European, Caribbean, and later Southern Field Trips*** (CUNY Graduate Center)

With Matthew Barton, Ken Bilby, Judith Cohen, Dominique Cyrille, and Goffredo Plastino.

4:00-5:30

**Panel:**

***A Feminist Quest: Revisioning the Epic Hero*** (Poets House)

The prototypical warfaring impulse of the epic and its conquering male heroes is re-examined. With Dianne Dugaw, Carolyn Forché, Marilyn Hacker, Nathalie Handal, Maureen Owen, Stephanie Strickland and Anne Waldman.

4:00-4:45

**Performance/Participation:**

***Corridos with Juan Barco*** (Bowery Poetry Club)

The Mexican *corrido* is a narrative ballad that gained popularity during the Mexican Revolution with stories of folk heroes like Pancho Villa. Guitarist Juan Barco is accompanied by accordionist Indalescio Gonzalez.

5:00-5:45

**Reading/Performance:**

***Lower East Side Epic*** (Bowery Poetry Club)

An epic tale of the Lower East Side as written and performed by members of the Lower East Side Girls' Club.

5:00-6:00

***Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute Alan Lomax Song Swap*** (CUNY Graduate Center)

With the Guy Carawan, New Lost City Ramblers, and Barbara Dane.

5:00-7:00  
(FREE w/  
reservation)

**Tribute Reading/Book Party:**

***Celebrating the Legacy of June Jordan (1936-2002)***

(Hunter College, President's Conference Room, 17th floor) **(FREE-reservation only)**

Book Party for *Some of Us Did Not Die: New and Selected Essays of June Jordan*.

With Hilton Als, Suheir Hammad, Jan Heller Levi, Donna Masini, and others.

Please call 212/772-5185 to make a reservation.

**6:15-  
7:30**

## **Poetry Gathering Opening Sampler and Celebration: Epics from Around the World**

(Washington Square United Methodist Church)

**\*FREE\***

Hear invocations from the epic poems and ballads of ancient Sumeria (Gilgamesh), Finland, (Kalevala), the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. With Almasbek Almatov, David Ferry, Aili Flint, Tuomas Hiltunen, Julian Kystasty, and Ulla Suokko.

**6:30-7:30**

**Folk Music in the American Century: An Alan Lomax Tribute Reception/Book Launching Party for *Alan Lomax: Selected Writings 1934-1997*** edited by Ronald Cohen (CUNY Graduate Center)

**7:30-8:30**

**Panel:**

**The Poet in the World: Words in Community** (Poet's House)

International panel discusses the role of the poet in society. Moderated by Ammiel Alcalay

\*With Etel Adnan, Carolyn Forché, Abdelletif Laâbi, Semezdin Mehmedinovic, and Kishwar Naheed.

**7:30-8:45**

**Performance:**

**Ralph Lee's Mettawee Theater: Conversations from a  
Cockroach** (Bowery Poetry Club)

The Mettawee River Theatre company presents a hand-held puppet production of the tales of Don Marquis.

**Tribute Reading:**

**Langston Hughes** (Cooper Union, Great Hall)

A tribute to Langston Hughes, featuring readings by David Mills, a talk by Daryl Pinkney, and music by composer Ricky Ian Gordon. (\$20.00, no passes accepted)

**7:30-8:30  
(FREE)**

**Reading/Booksigning:**

**Martín Espada** (Barnes & Noble at Astor Place) **FREE**

**7:45-9:00**

**Film Screening :**

**Something Wonderful May Happen: The New York School  
Poets And Beyond** (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)

Dir. by Lard Movin and Niels Plenge 57 min, 2001 An engaging look at the "New

York School of Poets," a name that was meant to be satirical, but which stuck. Wonderful readings and off the cuff commentary by John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch, remarkable footage of Frank O'Hara, poems and analysis by David Lehman, Charles Bernstein and Jordan Davis, interviews with Larry Rivers, Jane Freilicher and others. Wonderful, witty, subtle techniques tease out a poetry image track and a lucky collision of people, poetry, buildings, pigeons, and New York itself. A treat for audiences who've never heard of the poets, a party for those who have. With winning films from the Zebra International Poetry Film Festival, Berlin, July, 2002.

### **15th of February (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)**

6.30 min., 1995 Tim Webb, filmmaker. Peter Reading, poet (Great Britain), animation & live action. Love didn't turn out too well. A symbolic rejection and its aggressive outcome. Winner of the 2002 Zebra International Poetry Film Festival (literaturWERKstaat, Berlin):

### **Poem by Ernst Jandl (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)**

2.31 min., 1989 Eku Wand, filmmaker. Ernst Jandel, poet (German, Austrian). A version of the Viennese group (dada) poet's "Beastiarium" using an Atari and a 5x5 mouth matrix. Winner of the 2002 Zebra International Poetry Film Festival (literaturWERKstaat, Berlin):

**8:00-9:30**

Pre-performance talk @ 7:15

#### **Performance:**

***Beowulf*, by Benjamin Bagby** (Angel Orensanz Center for the Arts)

Taking the role of the chieftan's bard, Benjamin Bagby recreates the chilling and blood-thirsty tale of *Beowulf*. Performed in Anglo-Saxon with supertitles.

**Professor Mark C. Amodio will give a pre-performance talk at 7:15.** (\$35 premium seats, \$30 rear and side, no passes accepted)

**8:30-9:30**

#### **The Poet in the World: Words in Community (Poet's House)**

International panel discusses the role of the poet in society. Moderated by Ammiel Alcalay

\*With Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore, Kamau Brathwaite, Ferida Durakovic, Marilyn Hacker, and Jerome Rothenberg.

**9:00-9:45**

#### **Performance/Panel:**

**Expanding the Boundaries of Rap: Toni Blackman, Baba Israel, Nimesh (Nimo) Patel, and KT of Latin Empire** (Bowery Poetry Club)

Performance and discussion on pushing the limits of rap as a poetic form as artists experiment with freestylin'.

**9:45-11:00**

#### **Film Screening:**

##### **Guimba the Tyrant (Two Boots Pioneer Theater)**

Dir. by G. Sissoko (Mali, 1995, 93 min.) The tale of Guimba is adapted to film from two traditional Malian types of poetic discourse: *Kotéba*, a form of satiric street theater, and *baro*, a virtuoso public oratory. Though concerned with language, Guimba is perhaps the most visually ravishing of African films.

- 10:00-10:45**      **Performance:**  
**Drinking Ballads** (Bowery Poetry Club)  
 Take a mug of drunken poems and drinking songs and join us as we make a boisterous toast to the raucous history of English drinking songs. With Tony Barrant, John Roberts, Heather Wood.
- 10:30-11:45**      **Tribute Reading:**  
**Helen Adam's Ballads** (St. Mark's Poetry Project)  
 Kristin Prevallet presents an evening of supernatural ballads by Helen Adam, who was integral to the San Francisco Renaissance and the poetics of Allen Ginsberg. An archival film made by Adam in 1964 will be accompanied by a biographical slide presentation and poets and musicians performing Helen Adam's ballads.
- (Admission includes a discounted coupon for copies of Helen Adam's books that will be for sale. General Admission \$10, \$5 Members, and **Free for Gathering Passholders**)
- 10:30-  
midnight**      **Competition:**  
**Nuyorican Poetry Cafe Slam** (Nuyorican Poets Cafe)  
 (\$5, no passes accepted)
- 11:00-12:30**      **Reading:**  
**Forbidden Lullabies: Erotic Poetry** (Bowery Poetry Club)  
 Another *Gathering* tradition, our Erotic Poetry reading follows appropriately on the heels of the drinking songs. Singer Heather Wood adds bawdy English songs into the naughty late-night mix. Emceed by Regie Cabico.
- Late-Nite All  
Nite  
(FREE)**      **Poetry Pajama Jam & Open Mic** (Bowery Poetry Club)  
 Hosted by Capt. Nick Jones of the Jolly Ship the Whizz-Bang. Includes a reading of *Gilgamesh* by Bob Lewis (Free)